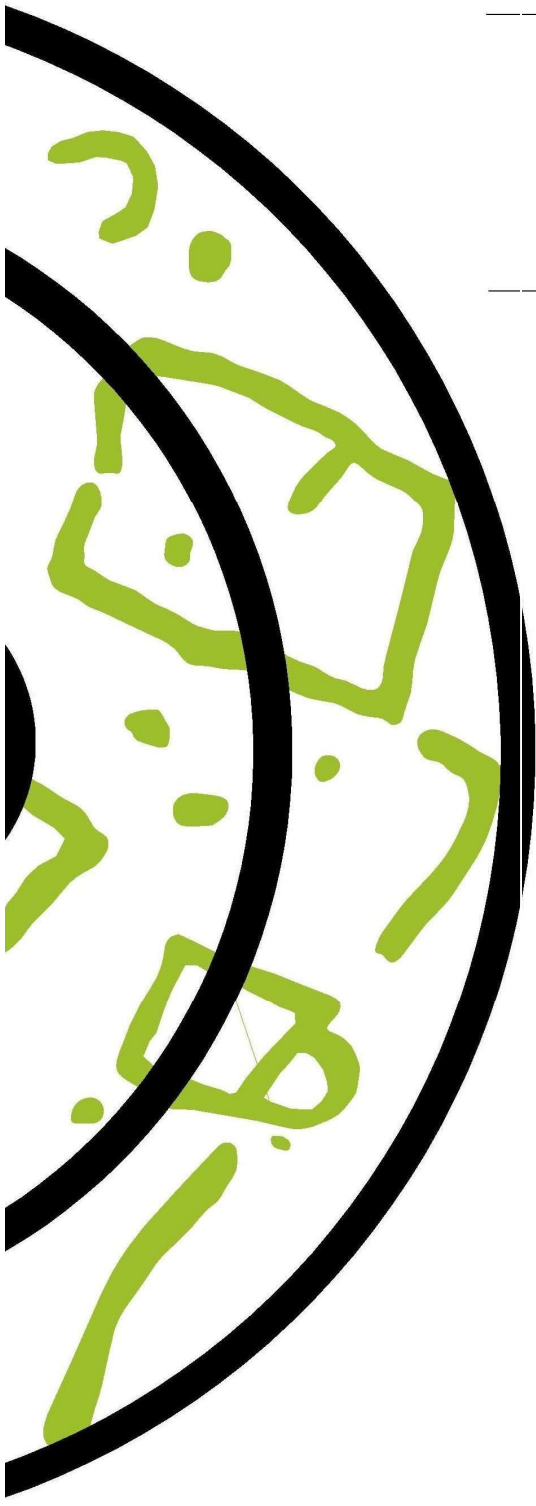




Land South of Poplar Terrace
Congerstone Leicestershire

WRITTEN SCHEME OF
INVESTIGATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING

Planning Application No: 23/00332/FUL
Grid Ref: SK 37015 05555
Site Code: PTCS23
Accession No: X.A105.2023

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Contour Archaeology.

Land South of Poplar Terrace, Congerstone, Leicestershire.

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Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

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SUMMARY

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken in January 2024 on land south of Poplar Terrace, Congerstone, Leicestershire. The work was commissioned by Corporate Architecture Ltd in connection with the erection of an additional dwelling and associated groundworks, approved under planning application 23/00332/FUL.

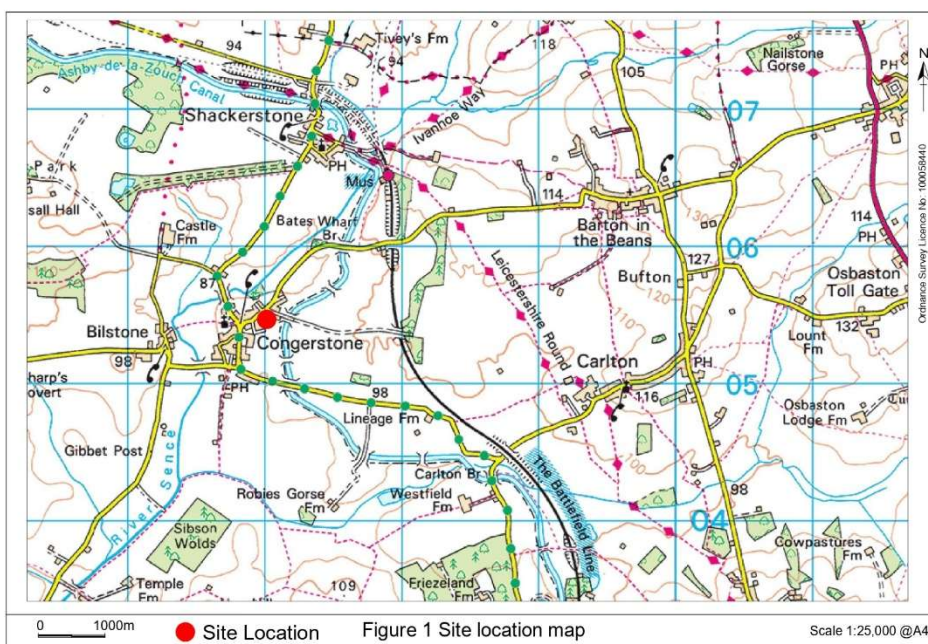
The monitored groundworks exposed topsoil and a thin subsoil overlying weathered mudstone natural geology. No archaeological features, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts were identified.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken in January 2024 on land south of Poplar Terrace, Congerstone, Leicestershire (NGR SK 37015 05555). The work was commissioned by Corporate Architecture Ltd in connection with the erection of an additional dwelling and associated groundworks, approved under planning application 23/00332/FUL. The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Contour Archaeology Ltd and approved by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

The information presented in this report is based on the evidence available at the time of its preparation, with the proviso that further information may subsequently emerge. Contour Archaeology Ltd cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising from the use of this report. The work was undertaken and this report prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Fig. 1)



Congerstone is located approximately 4.5km northwest of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. The site is situated on the eastern edge of the village, to the south of Poplar Terrace and Dovecot Close, at National Grid Reference SK 37015 05555 (Fig. 1).

The site lies at an elevation of approximately 93m above Ordnance Datum. The ground is broadly level, with a gentle fall towards the north and east.

The underlying solid geology comprises mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member, part of the Mercia Mudstone Group. These sedimentary rocks formed during the Mid-Triassic Period. No superficial geological deposits are recorded at the site by the British Geological Survey.

3.0 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Early Medieval

The place-name Congerstone derives from the Old English *cyning-tūn*, meaning ‘the king’s farm or settlement’. This linguistic evidence suggests that the settlement may have originated during the Anglo-Saxon period. However, no securely dated early medieval archaeological remains have been identified within the immediate vicinity of the site.

Medieval

The site lies on the eastern side of the historic settlement of Congerstone. Approximately 400m west of the site are earthworks associated with the medieval village. These comprise three possible building platforms and a fishpond, which may have formed part of the gardens associated with a former manor house.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin lies approximately 335m west-southwest of the site and is a Grade II* listed building (NHLE 1074210). A church is reported to have been present at Congerstone by 1179, although the surviving building is principally of 16th-century date. It was subsequently restored during the 19th century, with the chancel rebuilt in 1884.

Post-Medieval

An archaeological evaluation undertaken approximately 350m west of the site comprised two trial trenches. The investigation identified ditches dated to the 17th century. These features may represent former boundaries, drainage features or evidence of agricultural activity associated with the post-medieval development of Congerstone.

Archaeological Events

A two-trench archaeological evaluation undertaken approximately 250m southwest of the site identified two linear features. No dating evidence was recovered from these features, and their date and function remain uncertain.

A separate archaeological evaluation comprising six trenches was undertaken elsewhere within Congerstone. Two undated gullies were identified during the investigation. In the absence of associated artefactual evidence, their date and function could not be established.

Overall, the available evidence indicates that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential associated principally with the medieval and post-medieval development of Congerstone. However, the previously recorded archaeological remains are located outside the development site, and no archaeological remains have previously been recorded within the site itself.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording was to identify and record any archaeological remains exposed during the development groundworks.

The specific objectives were to:

- monitor all relevant groundworks and ensure that any archaeological deposits, features, artefacts or ecofacts encountered were investigated, interpreted and recorded to an appropriate standard;
- determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the monitored area;
- establish, where possible, the date, character, extent, condition and function of any archaeological remains encountered;
- record the stratigraphic sequence of deposits across the site and assess the potential for reconstructing its development and use;
- contribute to an understanding of medieval and post-medieval activity within Congerstone;
- consider any archaeological remains within the context of the relevant regional research agenda and framework; and
- produce an appropriate project archive for deposition with the relevant receiving repository and to facilitate any future study or research.

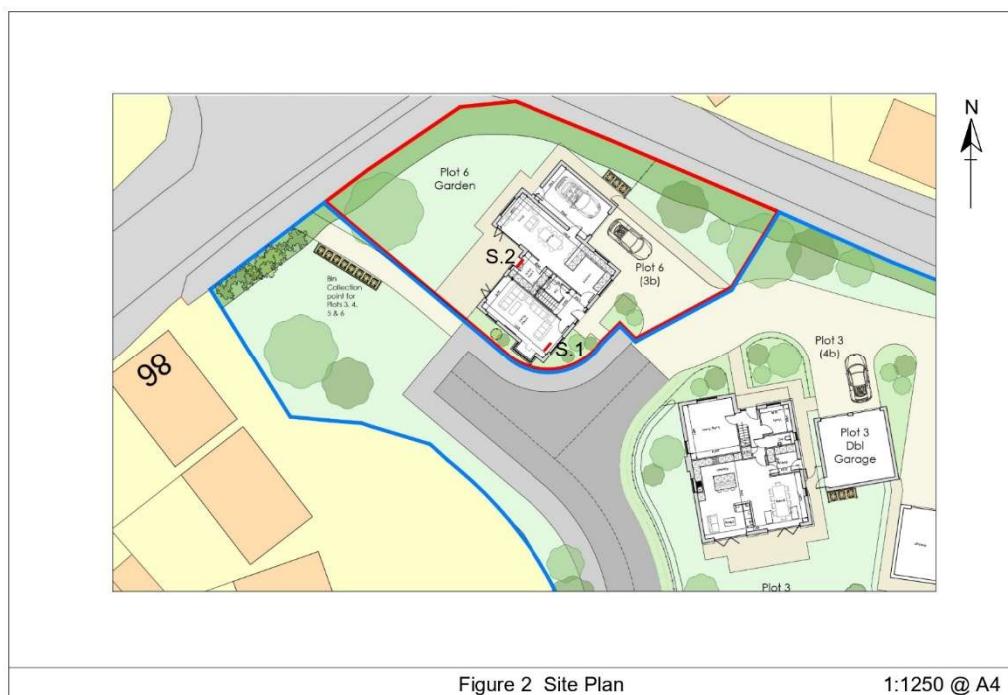
5.0 METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2)

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken in January 2024 in connection with the erection of an additional dwelling on land south of Poplar Terrace, Congerstone. The archaeological work was required by Condition 9 of planning permission 23/00332/FUL and was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Contour Archaeology Ltd and approved by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

The archaeological monitoring was intended to identify and record any archaeological features, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts exposed during the development

groundworks. Provision was made for work to cease within any affected area to allow archaeological remains to be investigated and recorded appropriately.

A single-context recording system was employed. Exposed surfaces and sections were examined for archaeological features and changes in the natural geological deposits. Written descriptions of the deposits encountered were compiled on pro forma recording sheets. Provision was made for sections to be drawn at a scale of 1:10 and any archaeological features exposed in plan at a scale of 1:20.



A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the investigation. This included:

- general views of the site and the monitored groundworks;
- the principal stages of excavation;
- representative sections and stratigraphic sequences; and
- any archaeological features or deposits encountered.

Provision was made for any artefacts recovered to be appropriately bagged, labelled and retained for specialist assessment. Suitable archaeological deposits would also have been subject to targeted environmental sampling where it was safe and appropriate to do so. No archaeological features, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts were encountered. Consequently, no finds were retained and no environmental samples were collected.

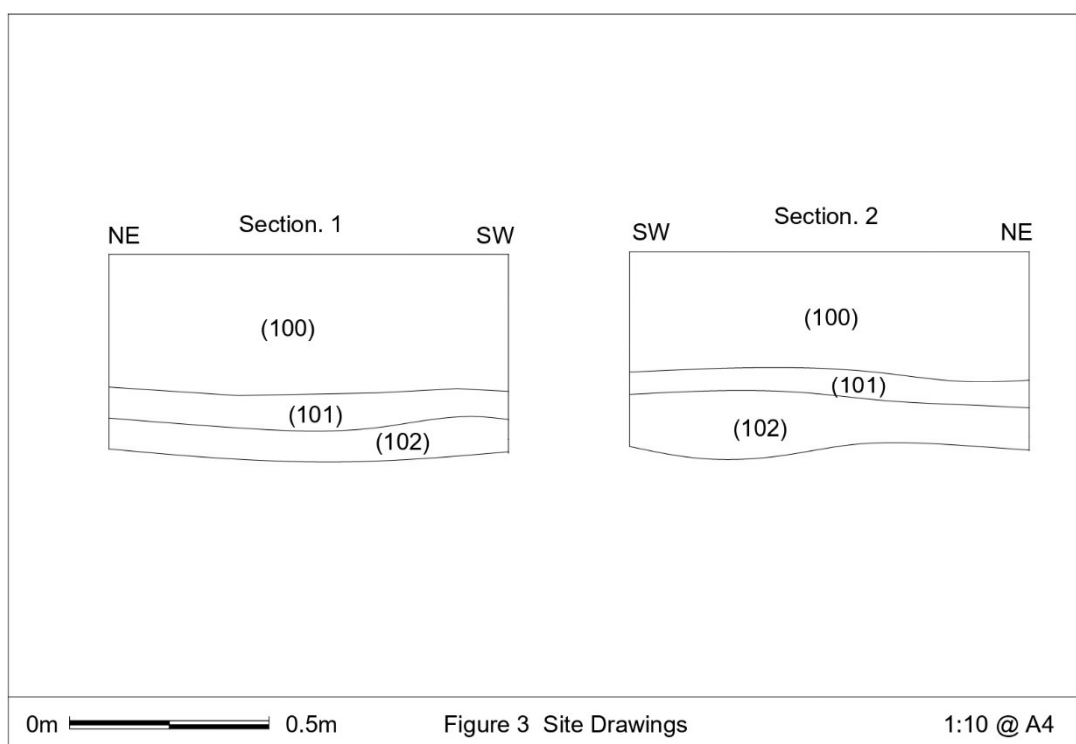
Had human remains been encountered, work within the affected area would have ceased and the archaeological advisor would have been consulted. Any necessary excavation or removal would have been undertaken in accordance with the relevant

legislation and subject to an appropriate Ministry of Justice licence. No human remains were encountered.

The investigation was undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation and the following professional standards and guidance:

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*;
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*;
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, *Code of Conduct: Professional Ethics in Archaeology*;
- Historic England, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*;
- English Heritage, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation*;
- the relevant archaeological archive requirements for Leicestershire;
- the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974*; and
- the *Treasure Act 1996* and its accompanying Code of Practice.

6.0 RESULTS (Fig. 3)



Full context descriptions are provided in Appendix A. The monitored groundworks exposed approximately 0.30m of mid-greyish-brown clayey sand topsoil (100), overlying approximately 0.10m of mid-greyish-brown silty clay subsoil (101). This sealed the natural geology (102), comprising mid reddish-orange weathered mudstone with clayey areas.

No archaeological features, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts were identified during the archaeological monitoring. Consequently, no finds were retained and no environmental samples were collected.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The monitored groundworks exposed topsoil (100) overlying a thin subsoil deposit (101), beneath which was the natural weathered mudstone geology (102). No archaeological features or deposits were identified at the surface of the natural geology.

Although the site was considered to have archaeological potential due to its location near the historic settlement of Congerstone, no archaeological features, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts were recorded during the monitored works.

The absence of archaeological remains relates specifically to the location and depth of the monitored groundworks and does not necessarily demonstrate an absence of archaeology across the wider development site. Nevertheless, the monitoring successfully established the stratigraphic sequence within the investigated area and confirmed that no archaeological remains were affected by the monitored works.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Contour Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Corporate Architecture Limited for its cooperation and assistance in bringing the archaeological monitoring and recording project to a successful conclusion.

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: PTCS23

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 23/00332/FUL

FIELDWORK DATE: January 2024

FIELD OFFICER: Neil Jefferson

NGR: SK 37015 05555

ACCESSION No: X.A105.2023

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological monitoring and recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Corporate Architecture Ltd.

10.2 Archive Details

The documentary and digital project archive is currently held by:

PRESENT LOCATION:

Contour Archaeology,
Serenity
Lawnwood Lane,
Elkesley,
Retford,
DN22 8AD

No finds or environmental archive was produced. The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the relevant archaeological archive requirements.

APPENDIX A: PHOTO PLATES AND CONTEXT REGISTER.



Plate 1: Working view of the monitored groundworks, looking North.



Plate 2: Representative section showing topsoil (100), subsoil (101) and natural (102), looking Southeast.



Plate 3: Representative section showing topsoil (100), Subsoil (101) and natural (102), facing Northwest.

Context Register:

Context Number	Description
(100)	Topsoil – mid-greyish-brown clayey sand, approximately 0.30m thick.
(101)	Subsoil – mid-greyish-brown silty clay, approximately 0.10m thick.
(102)	Natural geology – mid reddish orange weathered mudstone with clayey areas.