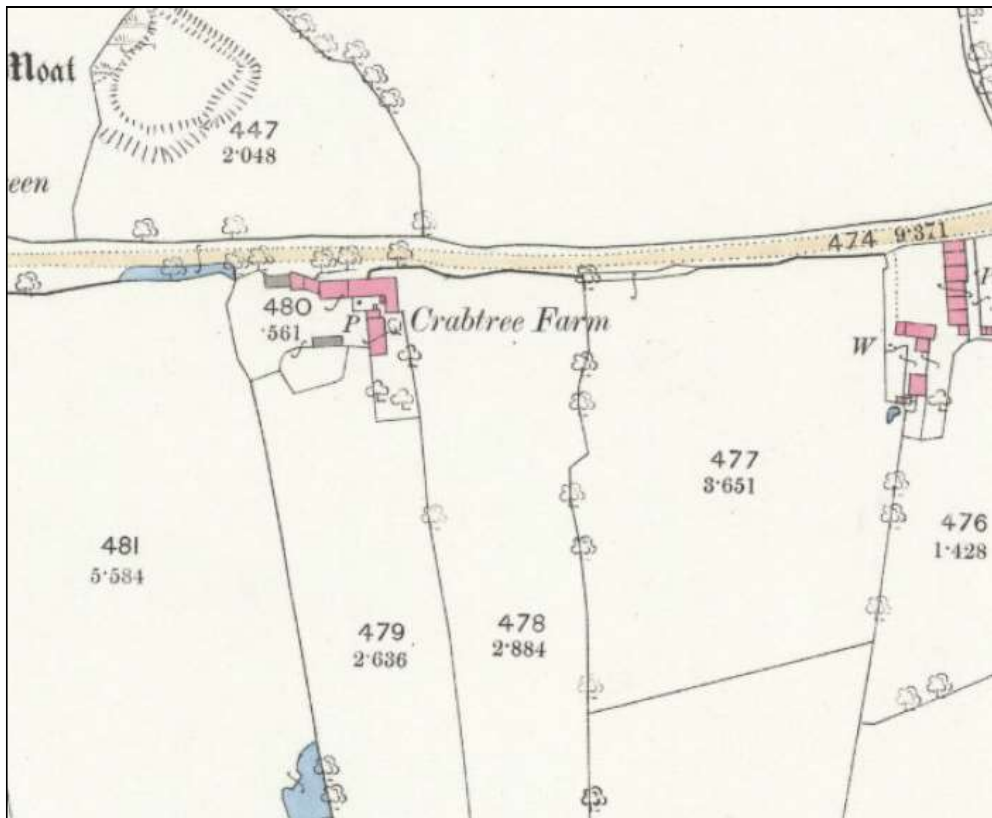


**Land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road,
Barwell, Leicestershire**

(NGR: 443773 296225)



Project Design for a programme of Archaeological Strip,
Map and Sample Excavation 2023

Planning Refs: 21/00695/FUL and APP/K2420/W/3308175

Museum Accession No. X.A26.2023



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For:

Fort Estates Limited

Reporting: Richard Cherrington

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Cover Image: Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1888

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Summary

Benchmark Archaeology (BA) has been commissioned by Fort Estates Limited to undertake a programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation (ASMSE) on land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, Leicestershire (NGR: 443773 296225, Figures 1 - 4)

Planning permission (Refs: 21/00695/FUL and APP/K2420/W/3308175) has been granted by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HaBBC) for residential development comprising 51 dwellings with associated access and parking on the site. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential where recent Archaeological Field Evaluation has recorded probable Anglo-Saxon and Medieval features as well as possible Mesolithic activity.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Archaeological Advisor (AA), to HaBBC has recommended that a targeted programme of ASMSE be undertaken ahead of development.

This document specifies the methodology to be employed during the ASMSE and is produced and submitted as a condition of planning permission.

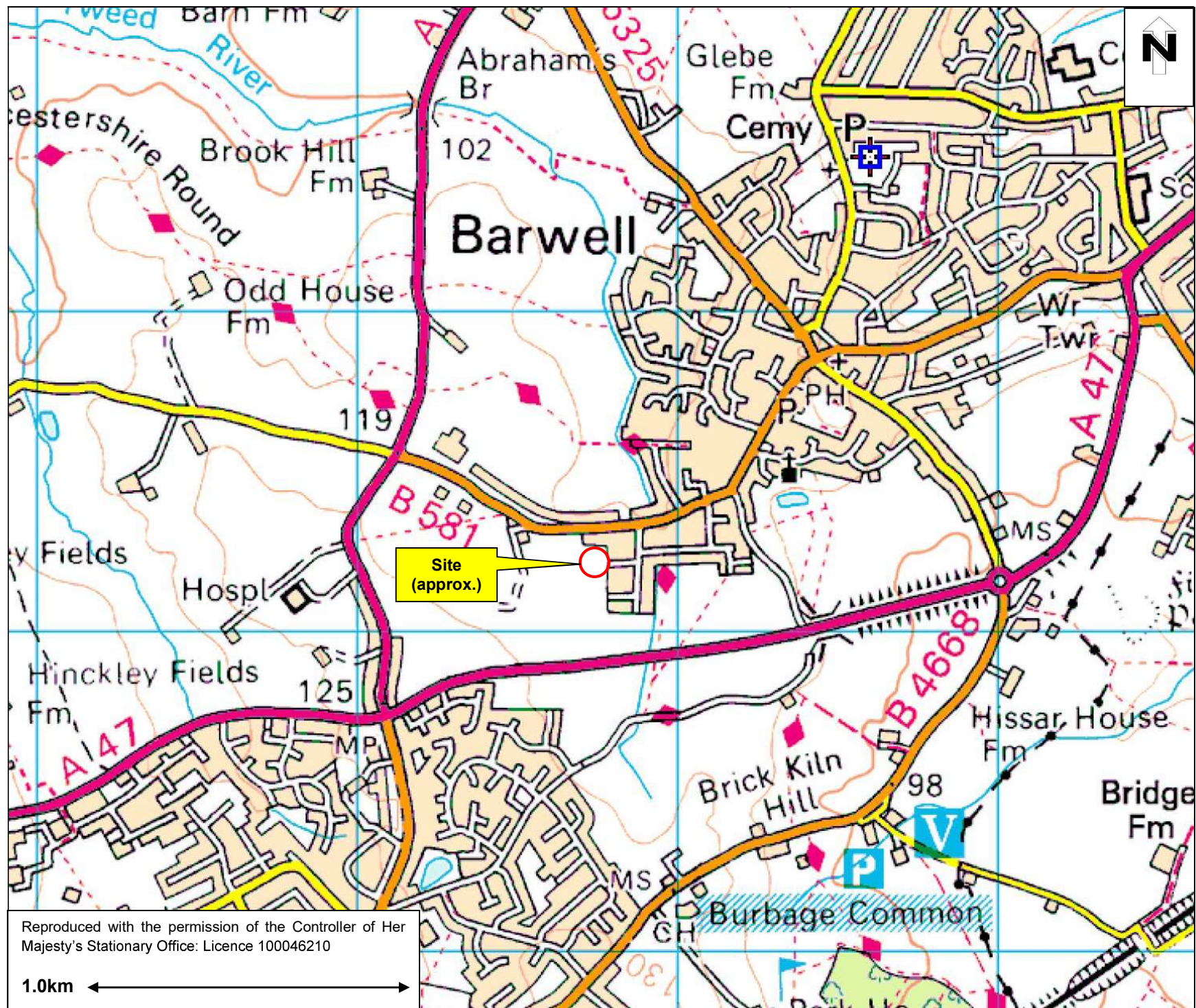


Figure 1: Site Location

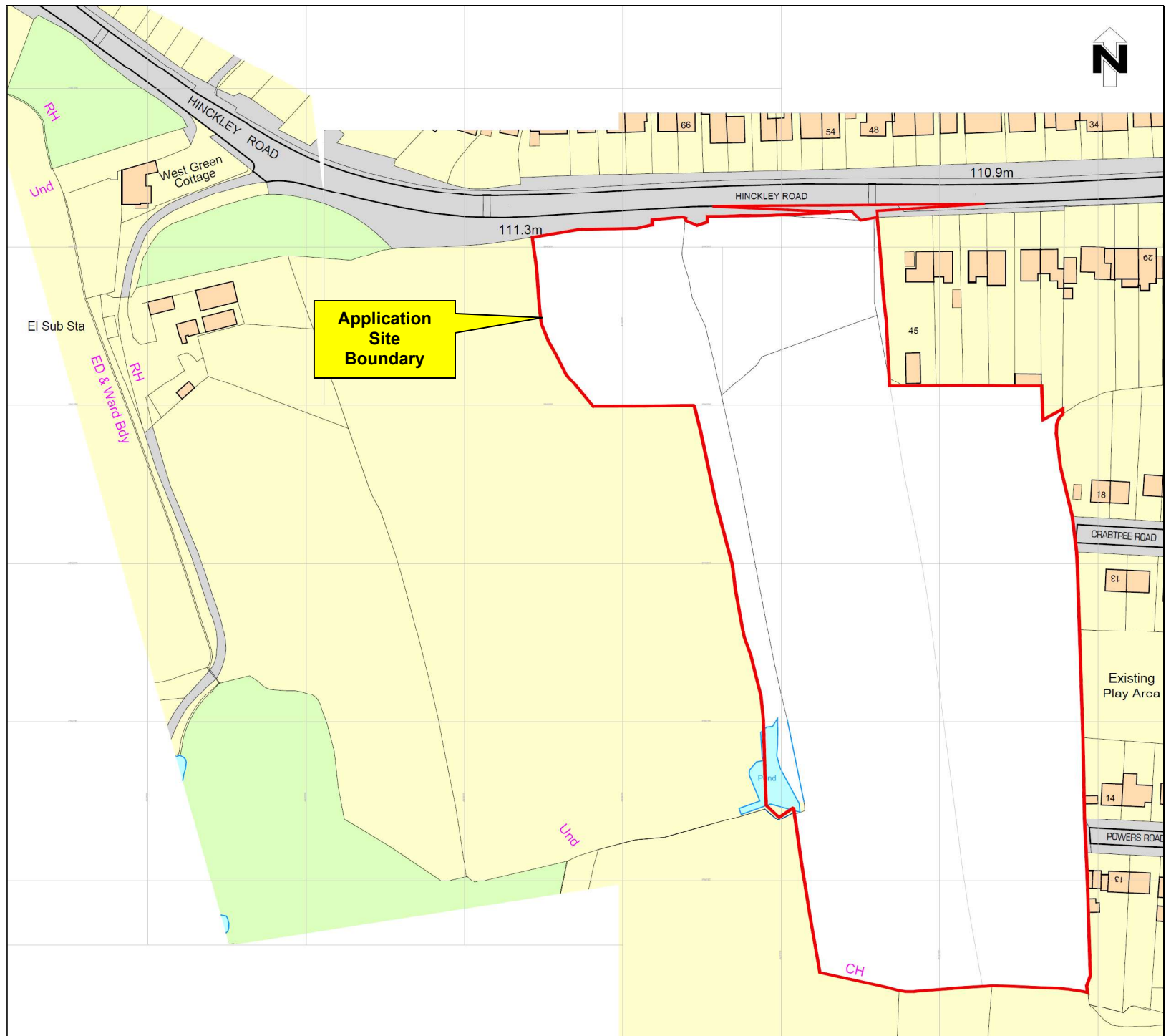


Figure 2: Application Site (not to scale)



Figure 3: Proposed Development (not to scale)



Figure 4: Proposed ASMSE Area (after William Kelly, not to scale)

1.0 INTRODUCTION (Figures 1 - 4)

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Benchmark Archaeology (BA) has been commissioned by Fort Estates Limited to undertake a programme of Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation (ASMSE) on land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, Leicestershire (NGR: 443773 296225, Figures 1 - 4)

1.1.2 Following an appeal decision, planning permission (Refs: 21/00695/FUL and APP/K2420/W/3308175) has been granted by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HaBBC) for residential development comprising 51 dwellings with associated access and parking on the site. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential where recent Archaeological Field Evaluation has recorded probable Anglo-Saxon and Medieval features as well as possible Mesolithic activity.

1.1.3 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Archaeological Advisor (AA), to HaBBC has recommended that a targeted programme of ASMSE be undertaken ahead of development.

1.1.4 This document specifies the methodology to be employed during the ASMSE and is produced and submitted as a condition of planning permission.

1.2 Planning Conditions

1.2.1 Following appeal (Ref: APP/K2420/W/3308175) planning permission has been granted by HABBC for the erection of 51 Plots with associated access and parking at land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, in accordance with the application Ref: 21/00695/FUL, dated 9 July 2021 and subject to the schedule of conditions attached to the Decision.

1.2.2 Condition No. 3 (Ref: APP/K2420/W/3308175) relates to archaeological works and states the following:

No development, including groundworks or preparatory work shall take place until a programme of archaeological work, including a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The WSI shall:

- include the statement of significance and research objectives, and*
- a programme and methodology of site investigation, and*
- recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.*
- A programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication and dissemination and deposition of resulting material.*

Thereafter on land that is included within the WSI, no development shall take place other than in accordance with the approved WSI. This condition shall not be fully discharged until the approved WSI has been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.

1.3 Benchmark Archaeology

1.3.1 Benchmark Archaeology (BA) is an independent archaeological organisation providing a wide range of archaeological services carried out to the highest professional standards. They carry out watching briefs, evaluations, excavations, surveys, desk-based assessments, historic building recording and church archaeology, in addition to other specialist and logistical services. BA offers a cost-effective service, whilst itself maintaining the highest professional standards, and enhancing the archaeological record. All projects are carried out in accordance with NPPF (2021), the guidance of the Treasure Act (1996), and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Historic England.

1.3.2 Richard Cherrington is Principal Archaeologist at BA. He has over 20 years' experience as a commercial archaeologist working independently and for university and local authority archaeological units in the UK and overseas. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ancient History & Archaeology, a PG Cert in Environmental Management, and a PG Diploma in Practical Archaeology. Richard is an Associate of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ACIfA), a member of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), Vernacular Architecture Group (VAG), and the British Brick Society (BBS).

2.0 **SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND GEOLOGY** (Figures 1 - 4)

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The site comprises land at Crabtree Farm, Hinckley Road, Barwell, Leicestershire (NGR: 443773 296225, Figures 1 - 4). Barwell is a civil parish and large village in Leicestershire. It was originally known as Borewell, but later became "Barwell", the name in use today. The brook is now called the River Tweed, and is a tributary of the River Trent.

2.2 Description

2.2.1 The ASMSE area is currently under grass (pasture) cover and was subject to evaluation trenching in 2021.

2.3 Geology

2.3.1 The underlying geology of the site comprises mudstone deposits of the Mercia Mudstone Group overlain by Diamicton deposits of the Oadby Member (www.bgs.ac.uk).

- 2.3.2 The local soilscape is described as slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage and of moderate fertility. The soilscape typically supports seasonally wet pasture and woodland habitats. Landcover is grassland and arable with some woodland. General cropping is mostly suited to grass production for dairying or beef; some cereal production often for feed. Timeliness of stocking and fieldwork is important, and wet ground conditions should be avoided at the beginning and end of the growing season to avoid damage to soil structure. Land is tile drained and periodic moling or subsoiling will assist drainage (www.landis.org.uk).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND SUMMARY

- 3.1 Programmes of Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (BWB 2021) and Archaeological Field Evaluation (Allen Archaeology Ltd. 2021) for the proposed development were undertaken in 2021. Summaries of the results of these projects appear below:

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (BWB 2021)

- *The archaeological desk-based assessment has established that there is low potential for archaeological remains, given its undeveloped nature and uninterrupted use as agricultural land away from known settlement. Archaeological investigation undertaken within the eastern part of the site found evidence for activity dating between the Saxon and post-medieval period although the extent of this was limited. Further investigation will be undertaken within the northeastern part of the site to provide more detail on the archaeology encountered.*

Archaeological Field Evaluation (Allen Archaeology Ltd. 2021)

- *Archaeological remains were exposed in two of the seven trenches, consisting of linear ditches and furrows, and potentially representing several different phases of activity. Ditches [612] and [614] at the east end of Trench 6 appear in plan to possibly form one corner of a rectangular enclosure, with ditches [704] and [706] at the southeast end of Trench 7 forming another corner. A Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint bladelet, very likely to be residual, was recovered from the fill of ditch [704] and a sherd of possible Anglo-Saxon pottery from ditch [706]. If this interpretation is correct, most of the enclosure is likely to extend beyond the site boundary to the east. Environmental samples from the features were limited in composition, containing only small amounts of charred cereal grains, likely to be scattered, wind-blown refuse, rather dumping directly into the features. Several of the linear features in Trench 6 were orientated north-northwest to southsoutheast, consistent with previous recording of furrows at the site (BWB 2018). A wide, shallow ditch in Trench 7 produced a single sherd of medieval pottery. This is on a different alignment to the ridge and furrow previously identified and may represent a different period of land division, but little can be inferred from a single sherd. The evidence suggests a negligible archaeological potential for much of the site, but a focus of possible activity has been identified in the northeastern part of the site, around Trenches 6 and 7, potentially dating to the Anglo-Saxon to medieval periods.*

4.0 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY (Figure 4)

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The general aim of the work is to carry out a programme of ASMSE in the specified area (Figure 4) prior to development on the site. The ASMSE work will sample excavate, record and plan any features of archaeological significance and collect finds and samples for analysis as appropriate. ASMSE falls within the category of Archaeological Excavation as defined by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a).

4.2 Archaeological Excavation (ASMSE)

- 4.2.1 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) defines an Archaeological Excavation as *'a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design'* (ibid).

- 4.2.2 The CIfA defines the purpose of an Archaeological Excavation thus (ibid):

- *The purpose of excavation is to examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them.*

4.3 Aims and Methodology

- 4.3.1 The footprint of the ASMSE areas (Figure 3) will be mechanically stripped to the level of the first significant archaeological layer or to natural (mineral) deposits (whichever is achieved first) under archaeological supervision. Archaeological features / deposits will be planned, recorded and sample excavated by hand in order to determine the date, character etc. of features / deposits encountered.

- 4.3.2 The following excavation, recording, finds / sampling and other methodologies will be followed as appropriate:

Excavation

- *Any tarmacadam, concrete and other hardstanding present will be stripped using a mechanical excavator fitted with a suitable bucket. It may be necessary to utilise a breaker, toothed bucket or other plant to remove any hardstanding, but for archaeological purposes a toothless ditching bucket will be used below this horizon. This machine excavation will be carried out under archaeological supervision.*

- *Mobile plant will be operated in manner aimed at minimising impacts on the archaeological resource. Existing haul routes will be utilised if possible. Any new haul routes will take the presence / absence of archaeological deposits into account.*
- *Mechanical excavation will take place to the level of either natural deposits or when archaeological horizons are encountered. This machine excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision.*
- *If archaeological horizons are encountered then subsequent excavations will be undertaken by hand as appropriate.*
- *Discrete features will require a minimum of a 50% sample excavation of the deposits from each feature, but a 100% sample may be necessary should significant assemblages of finds be present; linear features (eg, ditches / gullies, paths / tracks) will require a minimum of a 20% sample of the deposits from each feature in 1m wide slots. Smaller features such as post-holes will be 100% sampled.*

Recording

- *Features will be surveyed and located to an accuracy of 0.1m or greater using GPS, tapes, plane table or EDM equipment.*
- *Plans will be drawn at a scale of 1:2500, 1:100, 1:50 and 1:20 as appropriate and located on an overall site plan. Individual sections and plans will be drawn at scale 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate.*
- *Registers will be maintained of all photographs, levels, plans, sections, finds and samples taken, made or gathered in the field.*
- *Photography will be carried out using 35mm SLR cameras, supplemented by digital images. Archaeological deposits and features will be photographed on monochrome film. Digital images in TIFF format will be taken with a Nikon D3500 DSLR which includes a 24 megapixel sensor.*
- *A detailed context record will be maintained on individual pro-forma record cards. Each archaeological layer, fill, cut, etc., will be individually numbered and described.*

Finds / Sampling

- *All finds and samples will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Guidelines 2. Advice will be taken on an appropriate environmental sampling strategy, where appropriate.*
- *If appropriate, environmental samples will be taken from features to enable their date, nature, extant and condition to be described and analysed. Environmental sampling guidelines provided by English Heritage (2011) will be adhered to. Bulk environmental samples from dateable deposits will recover 40 litres of material with the aim of processing the samples within two weeks of recovery. Where smaller volumes of dateable deposits are encountered, sampling will aim to recover the maximum amount possible. Smaller samples may be appropriate for particularly rich / waterlogged deposits. Sampling procedures will be carried out in line with English Heritage guidelines (2011) and the advice of the nominated project specialist.*
- *Where deemed appropriate the advice of the relevant Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be sought in relation to the collection of*

palaeoenvironmental material, industrial residues or other relevant scientific material. Sampling will be in accordance with Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post excavation (Historic England, 2011).

- *Where appropriate, specialist analysis of artefacts will be carried out by recognised experts.*
- *Generated spoil will be subject to rapid visual and manual scanning for unstratified finds.*
- *Finds will be collected, recorded and retained in line with the ClfA 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives' (ClfA 2019a) and guidance described in Preparation of Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections (2010) and the ClfA documents Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014b).*
- *Pottery reports will refer to the appropriate county (Staffordshire) type series.*
- *Finds comprising treasure will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act 1996.*
- *Guidance will be followed from the following Historic England documents as appropriate: Animal Bones and Archaeology (2019); Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record (2015); Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on Their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation (2018b); and Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recovery, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood (2010).*
- *Guidance in the following document will be followed: 'Generic Brief For Archaeological Investigation (Strip, Plan and Record Excavation) – (Leicestershire County Council 2023)'.*

Human Remains

- *All human remains will initially be left in-situ. Where it is necessary to remove human remains, then this will be carried out in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations and any exhumation licence issued. It will also be carried out in accordance with relevant health and safety legislation pertaining to the removal of human remains.*
- *Guidance from the following documents will be sought: The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project (2018); the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) documents Science and the Dead: A guideline for the destructive sampling of archaeological human remains for scientific analysis (2013), Large Burial Grounds Guidance on sampling in archaeological fieldwork projects (2015), and Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England (2017); and the ClfA guidelines, Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains (ClfA, 2017).*

General

- *The work will be conducted in accordance with the relevant ClfA Standard and Guidance documents and Historic England guidance.*
- *The archaeological work will be undertaken in accordance with, and fulfil the requirements of, any archaeological brief issued by the AA, HaBBC.*

- *If, during the course of excavation, items are found that may be potentially defined as 'Treasure' under the Code of Practice for the Treasure Act 1996, BA will be responsible for ensuring that the County Coroner is informed.*
- *A diary record of the progress of the archaeological work must be kept, including details of liaison and monitoring meetings, visits, and a record of staff on site.*
- *All archaeological work will follow relevant Health and Safety legislation.*
- *All work will be carried out in accordance with relevant ClfA standards and guidance.*
- *All stages of the project will be carried out in accordance with the requirements established in the English Heritage volume entitled 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide'.*
- *The project will be carried out in accordance with recommendations made by the following Chartered Institute for Archaeologists documents: "Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation" (2014a), 'Code of Conduct' (2019) and Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material' (2014b).*

Project Management

- *All stages of the project will be carried out in accordance with the requirements established in the English Heritage volume entitled 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide'.*
- *The project will be carried out in accordance with recommendations made by the following Chartered Institute for Archaeologists documents: "Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation" (2020), 'Code of Conduct' (2019) and Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material' (2014b).*
- *Contingency funding to deal with finds and scientific analysis has been built into the approved quotation.*

Flora and Fauna

- *Due consideration will be paid to the welfare of wildlife / flora during the fieldwork and wildlife egress from excavated features will be taken into account.*

4.4 Research Objectives

- 4.4.1 Several of the research objectives contained within the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/>) may be relevant to this project. The relevant research objectives relate to the Mesolithic (c.9500 – c.4000 cal BC), Early Medieval (c. AD 410–1066) and High Medieval (1066–1485) periods. Further research objectives may also be of relevance depending upon results.

5.0 MONITORING

- 5.1 The ASMSE will be monitored by the AA, HaBBC on behalf of the local planning authority. Curatorial monitoring will include reviewing of fieldwork, progress of excavation reports, archive preparation and final deposition.
- 5.2 The AA, HaBBC will be given due notice of the commencement of the archaeological programme. Prior to the start of works, BA will provide a timetable of proposed works and ensure that the AA, HaBBC is kept regularly informed regarding progress of the project including any significant discoveries.
- 5.3 The AA, HaBBC will be informed of any significant variation to the agreed programme of works and will be supplied with appropriate justification or explanation for doing so.

6.0 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

- 6.1 An illustrated report on the findings of the archaeological work will be presented to the AA, HABBC upon the completion of the fieldwork. The report will seek inform the research cycle taking into account local, regional and national research frameworks and consultation with appropriate specialists. The report will be submitted to the LHER in PDF/A format.
- 6.2 A digital copy in PDF format will be sent to the AA, HABBC for approval before formal submission into the County Historic Environment Record. Upon approval a PDF/A copy of the report will be lodged with the County Historic Environment Record within three months of completion of fieldwork. A digital copy will also be deposited with OASIS (<http://www.oasis.ac.uk/>) the Historic England's Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations website. A summary of the results will be submitted to '*Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*'.
- 6.3 The archive will be prepared in line with UKIC guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long term storage (1990). All physical archival material shall be deposited with the appropriate county museum. The digital archive will be deposited with the archaeological data service. It is envisaged that the archive will be deposited within 12 months of the completion of the fieldwork.
- 6.4 Guidance in the following documents will also be followed: '*The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections*' (Leicestershire County Council 2014), '*Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections*' (MGC 1992) '*Guidelines for the preparation of site archives*' and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) and

'Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation' (Brown 2007). The museum accession No. is X.A26.2023.

7.0 RESOURCES AND TIMETABLE

7.1 The project will be under the management of Richard Cherrington BA, PG Cert, PG Dip Archaeol, ACIfA, Principal Archaeologist, Benchmark Archaeology, who will also supervise and carry out the archaeological work. Jack Cook will provide assistance (as required). Logistical assistants undertaking non-archaeological tasks may also be commissioned. If necessary, specialists will be commissioned for post-excavation analysis, subject to the approval of the AA, HABBC Use of the following specialists is envisaged for this particular project:

- **Environmental Analysis:** Val Fryer
- **Roman Pottery:** Dr. Phil Mills
- **Post-Roman Pottery:** Paul Blinkhorn
- **Lithics:** Rebecca Devaney
- **Human Remains:** Gaynor Western
- **Industrial Residues:** David Dungworth
- **Animal Bone Analysis:** Jennifer Wood MA, BSc, MCIfA

7.2 The client has expressed the wish to commence the ASMSE at the earliest opportunity subject to the approval of the AA, HABBC.

8.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

8.1 BA operates to the highest professional standards, in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) codes of conduct, adhering to Health and Safety legislation and also following the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) guidelines on health and safety in archaeology.

8.2 BA will follow any proper instruction given by the Site Foreman, Clerk of Works, Site Manager, security personnel or advisors to the client, for the purposes of project health and safety.

9.0 INSURANCE

9.1 Richard Cherrington T/A Benchmark Archaeology holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £2,000,000, Employers Liability Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000, and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £250, 000.

9.2 No claims have been made or are pending against these policies.

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Benchmark Archaeology is an independent archaeological organisation providing a wide range of commercial archaeological services. We are committed to ensuring that the client receives a cost-effective service, whilst maintaining the highest professional standards in archaeology.

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- Surveys
- Desk-Based Assessments
- Consultancy
- EIA's
- Heritage Statements

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