



**Archaeological Evaluation
Written Scheme of Investigation
Land at Mulberry Farm
High Street
Stoke Golding
Leicestershire**

Final

Heritage Consultancy and Planning Services Ltd T/A Groundworks Archaeology.
8 Mercia Business Village, Torwood Close, Coventry, CV4 8HX

Company Registration: 11534563 VAT number: 304037842

Client Name: Mr Ken McEwen Smith

Document Title: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording, Written Scheme of Investigation, Land at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stole Golding, Leicestershire

Issue No.	Report Type:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date Approved:
1	Draft for LA Review	Aimie Roberts	Michael Blake	12/11/2025
2	Final Issue	Aimie Roberts	Michael Blake	25/11/2025

National Grid Reference: SP 3972 9743

Planning Reference: 22/00661/FUL

Site Code: MFS25

Accession No: X.A136.2025

Author: James Roberts

Disclaimer: This document has been prepared for the titled project or part thereof. It should not be relied upon for any other project or purpose without an independent check as to its suitability. Prior written authority from Groundworks Archaeology must also be obtained. No responsibility or liability is accepted by Groundworks Archaeology for consequences arising from this document being used for a purpose other than that for which it has been commissioned. Groundworks Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned. Any person/party who uses or relies on the document without the express consent of Groundworks Archaeology will, by such use, be taken as confirming their agreement to indemnify Groundworks Archaeology against any and all losses or damage arising as a result.

© Groundworks Archaeology

Heritage Consultancy and Planning Services Ltd T/A Groundworks Archaeology.
8 Mercia Business Village, Torwood Close, Coventry, CV4 8HX

Company Registration: 11534563 VAT number: 304037842

List of Contents

	Non-technical Summary	1
1.	Introduction	2
2.	Site Location and Description	2
3.	Aims and Objectives	3
4.	Methodology	4
5.	Monitoring Arrangements	7
6.	Post-fieldwork Methodology	7
7.	Reporting Procedures	8
8.	Copyright	9
9.	Insurance	9
10.	Bibliography	9

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Proposed trench plan

S. Non-technical summary

- S1 A planning application (22/00661/FUL) has been approved by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for the “demolition of the existing Mulberry Farm buildings, retention of Mulberry Farmhouse and proposed erection of 25no. residential units with associated parking facilities, amenity space, landscaping, village green, pond and paddock” at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stoke Golding.*
- S2 Groundworks Archaeology have produced an overarching archaeological management plan (AMP) which covers all aspects of the project. This written scheme of investigation presents the methodology for phase 2 of the project, the archaeological evaluation of the proposed development area.*
- S3 On the completion of the investigation, a report will be produced.*

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A planning application (22/00661/FUL) has been approved by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for the “demolition of the existing Mulberry Farm buildings, retention of Mulberry Farmhouse and proposed erection of 25no. residential units with associated parking facilities, amenity space, landscaping, village green, pond and paddock” at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stoke Golding.
- 1.2 Consultee advice provided by Mr William Kelly (dated 17th July 2024) recommended a staged programme of archaeological mitigation under the overarching principle of an archaeological mitigation plan (AMP).
- 1.3 An AMP was subsequently produced by Groundworks Archaeology (2025) which includes a fully detailed planning background, historical and archaeological background and details regarding resourcing, data management and archive protocol etc. This WSI is intended to provide the detailed methodology for the phase 2 evaluation and should be read in conjunction with the AMP.

2. Site location and description

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located in Stoke Golding, in the administrative district of Hinckley and Bosworth. It is situated approximately 4km north-north-west of Hinckley and c.7km north-north-east of Nuneaton. The site is approximately 1.1 hectares and presently occupied by a number of farm buildings. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 3972 9743 at an approximate height of 106m AOD (figure 1).

Geology

- 2.2 The British Geological Survey records the bedrock geology as the Gunthorpe Member, a mudstone sedimentary bedrock formed between 247.1 and 237 million years ago during the Triassic period.
- 2.3 Superficial deposits are recorded as the Wigston Member, a sand and gravel sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period. The northern corner of the site is recorded as the Bosworth Clay Member. A sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.

3. Aims and objectives of the project

3.1 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) defines field evaluation as “a programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which seeks to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts. It may form a single or final phase of work within a defined area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or under water.” (CIfA 2023).

3.2 Its purpose is to “gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource;
- the formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource;
- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

3.3 Specific objectives of the project are:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.
- To determine the type, extent, condition, nature, character, quality, function, and date, of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To gain information about heritage assets identified within the area of the proposed development site.
- To mitigate potential threats.
- To interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national context.
- To provide sufficient data to formulate a suitable archaeological mitigation plan.

3.4 For the purposes of this project, archaeologically significant remains and contexts are defined as relating to pre 19th century human use of the area.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 It is proposed to excavate ten 30m x 1.8m archaeological trial trenches across the proposed development site. This equates to an approximate 5% sample of the site.
- 4.2 The proposed trench layout is presented in figure 2. The trench locations will be semi flexible and will take into account both above and below ground constraints and/or hazards including trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance and if necessary, may be relocated. The trenches will be surveyed in via DGPS and related to the National Grid.
- 4.3 The evaluation trenches will be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m or to natural geology if archaeology is not encountered first. If the trench is required to be excavated to a deeper depth, discussions will be held with the client to ensure a safe manner of working, e.g. trench supports. A financial contingency will be required in this case.
- 4.4 All work will be carried out according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards and will comply with CIfA (2023) *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation*. The evaluation will be undertaken by James Roberts and Michael Blake; other staff may be appointed as necessary. It is anticipated that the evaluation will take approximately 4 days.
- 4.5 A risk assessment will be prepared for the site and all work will be undertaken following statutory health and safety requirements and legislation in operation at the time of the fieldwork.
- 4.6 At the start of work, immediately before fieldwork commences an OASIS online record will be initiated and key fields completed on details, location and creators forms (<https://oasis.ac.uk/>).
- 4.7 The removal of overburden will be undertaken by a tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. This will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision in no more than 100mm level spits. Following the removal of topsoil and/or other overburden, the nature of the exposed and underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation. The trenches will then be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of any archaeological features and/or deposits exposed. All spoil heaps and trenches will be scanned by metal detector to aid recovery of finds.
- 4.8 Archaeological excavation may sometimes require the use of manual work by mattock and shovel, or by the occasional further use of a mechanical

excavator. This will only be employed to remove homogeneous and/or non-archaeological layers.

- 4.9 The hand excavation of any exposed archaeological features and/or deposits will be undertaken to determine their date, form and function etc. This work will consist of the half sectioning or a 50% sampling of discrete individual archaeological features, the hand excavation of at least 15% by length of discrete linear features (with particular attention to terminals and intersections) and the sectioning of discrete individual archaeological layers as required to ensure that sufficient sampling is undertaken. Structural remains such as stakeholes, postholes, gullies, masonry foundations and associated features such as hearths will be fully sampled. Should archaeological features be located, which are deemed to be worthy of preservation in situ or are better dealt with in a further investigation, then hand excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum necessary to interpret the form, function, date etc. of the features. Apparently natural features such as tree throws will be sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. However, if significant or complex features are identified that would be better investigated under full excavation conditions, then investigation will be limited to minimal intrusion sufficient to establish the stratigraphic sequence.
- 4.10 All archaeological features and/or deposits will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets using a single context recording system.
- 4.11 All archaeological features and/or deposits will be drawn at an appropriate scale, generally 1:20, and sections (including representative sections of deposit sequences within each trench) at a scale of 1:10.
- 4.12 A high quality un-interpolated digital photographic record will be maintained throughout the project. This will include all features along with working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork. Scale bars and a north arrow will be used in all photographs as appropriate (with vertical scales against deep sections in combination with horizontal scales). A high resolution digital SLR of not less than 12 megapixels with an APS-C or larger sensor will be utilised set to the highest quality setting. The images will be saved as Tiffs for archive purposes. Site photography will follow the Historic England guidance document 'Digital Image Capture and File Storage' (2015). All digital data will be downloaded to secure servers on a daily basis with appropriate backups.
- 4.13 The precise location of each trial trench and any archaeological features therein will be tied into the National Grid.

- 4.14 Any and all artefacts found during the monitoring and thought to come under the provisions of the *Treasure Act* (1996), will be removed from the site to a secure location, and will be promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 4.15 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left in situ and reported to the planning archaeologist. It is not intended that such remains will be excavated at the evaluation stage, but should removal be required, the appropriate Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained prior to the removal of the remains. In addition, any remains will be reported to the local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.
- 4.16 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled according to the individual context from which they were recovered for later washing and further analysis. All relevant finds will be ordered into an archive with appropriate conservation and analysis e.g. X radiography for appropriate items. Most modern material will not be retained, although notes will be made of the appropriate context. An appropriate sample of materials such as ceramic building materials will be made. Appropriate provision will be made for the application of scientific dating techniques such as radiocarbon dating, dendrochronology, OSL and thermoluminescence. The advice of the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor will be sought in advance of the application of these techniques.
- 4.17 Environmental sampling will be undertaken (where appropriate) of the fills of relevant archaeological features and/or significant archaeological deposits as well as to allow the characterisation of soil profiles, plant remains, molluscs, faunal remains and pollen sequences. Where deposits are dry, bulk samples for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds, will be taken from sealed and datable features such as pits, ditches, hearths and floors. Each context will normally be sampled. The size of the sample is expected to be in the range of 40 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features. Where deposits are wet, waterlogged or peaty, monoliths will be taken along cleaned vertical surfaces for the retrieval of pollen, diatoms, ostracods and foraminifera. For wet, waterlogged or peaty deposits, bulk samples of 20 litres will be taken from visible layers or spits for the retrieval of plant macro-remains and insects. Environmental samples from dry deposits will normally be processed by flotation following the excavation fieldwork and the residues will be sorted to retrieve small bones, small finds and charcoal that have not floated. The samples will be extracted and recorded in accordance with Environmental Archaeology (Historic England) and in consultation with the appointed specialist and Historic England.

- 4.18 In the event of discoveries of unexpected or exceptional importance being made during the evaluation, the archaeologist will signal the discovery immediately to the Planning Applicant or Agent, and the planning archaeologist in order to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy.

5. Monitoring arrangements

- 5.1 The planning archaeologist will be kept regularly informed of the project progress and provision will be made for monitoring of the works during the fieldwork stage and any other aspect of the archaeological project as required including the post fieldwork analysis and report preparation stages of the project.
- 5.2 The contractor will give the planning archaeologist a minimum of one week's notice prior to the commencement of fieldwork and notification when it has been completed.

6. Post-fieldwork methodology

- 6.1 On the completion of phase 2, all of the written, drawn and photographic records produced by the archaeological monitoring will be checked, ordered, labelled (where appropriate) and catalogued to compile a distinctive site archive. A stratagraphical matrix of the archaeological features and/or deposits present on the site will be compiled.
- 6.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed and packaged according to the individual context from which they were recovered. They will also be ordered into (and form part of) the final site archive.
- 6.3 It is intended that all material will be collected, and a discard policy agreed with the specialists and other stakeholders in line with the ClfA toolkit for Recording Archaeological Materials. The ClfA toolkit for selecting archaeological archives will be applied to the physical and digital records generated by the project and agreement sought for discard at the final archive stage following phase 2 and phase 3
- 6.4 The documentation and records generated by the archaeological investigation will be sorted and ordered in line with *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections* (LCC, 2024). The process will also conform to MoRPHE (HE 2015) and the ClfA document "Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives" (2020b). The physical archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council Museums Service under accession number X.A136.2025. The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

- 6.5 An electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the OASIS project (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations)
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/index.cfm>.

7. Reporting procedures

- 7.1 A report detailing the findings of the archaeological evaluation will be completed immediately following the on-site work. This will include a detailed description of the stratigraphy and any archaeological features identified.

- 7.2 The report will consist of:

- A title page, with project name and location, National Grid reference, planning reference, site code, accession number, client name, author and date;
- A contents page listing report sections, illustrations and appendices;
- A non-technical summary of the results of the monitoring;
- An introduction, site description and location;
- Planning background to the project;
- A section on the archaeological and historical background to the project;
- A description of the methodology used in the project;
- A section describing the results of the evaluation;
- A consideration of the effectiveness of the project methodology and a confidence rating of the results;
- Location plan of excavated areas and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site shall be given 10 figure grid references;
- Illustrations including plans and sections of all archaeological features;
- Appendices comprising appropriate photographs of the site and of specific and significant archaeological features and representative

sections, a list of contexts, any specialist reports on finds from the site and a photographic register.

8. Copyright

- 8.1 Copyright will remain that of the author. Licence will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

9. Insurance

- 9.1 Public indemnity of £2,000,000 with Towergate Insurance.

10. Bibliography

British Geological Survey online viewer (accessed 30/05/2025)

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

ClfA 2020a Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials. Reading, ClfA

ClfA 2020b Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives. Reading, ClfA

ClfA 2022a Code of Conduct. Reading, ClfA

ClfA 2022b Regulations for Professional Conduct. Reading, ClfA

ClfA 2023 Universal Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation. Reading, ClfA

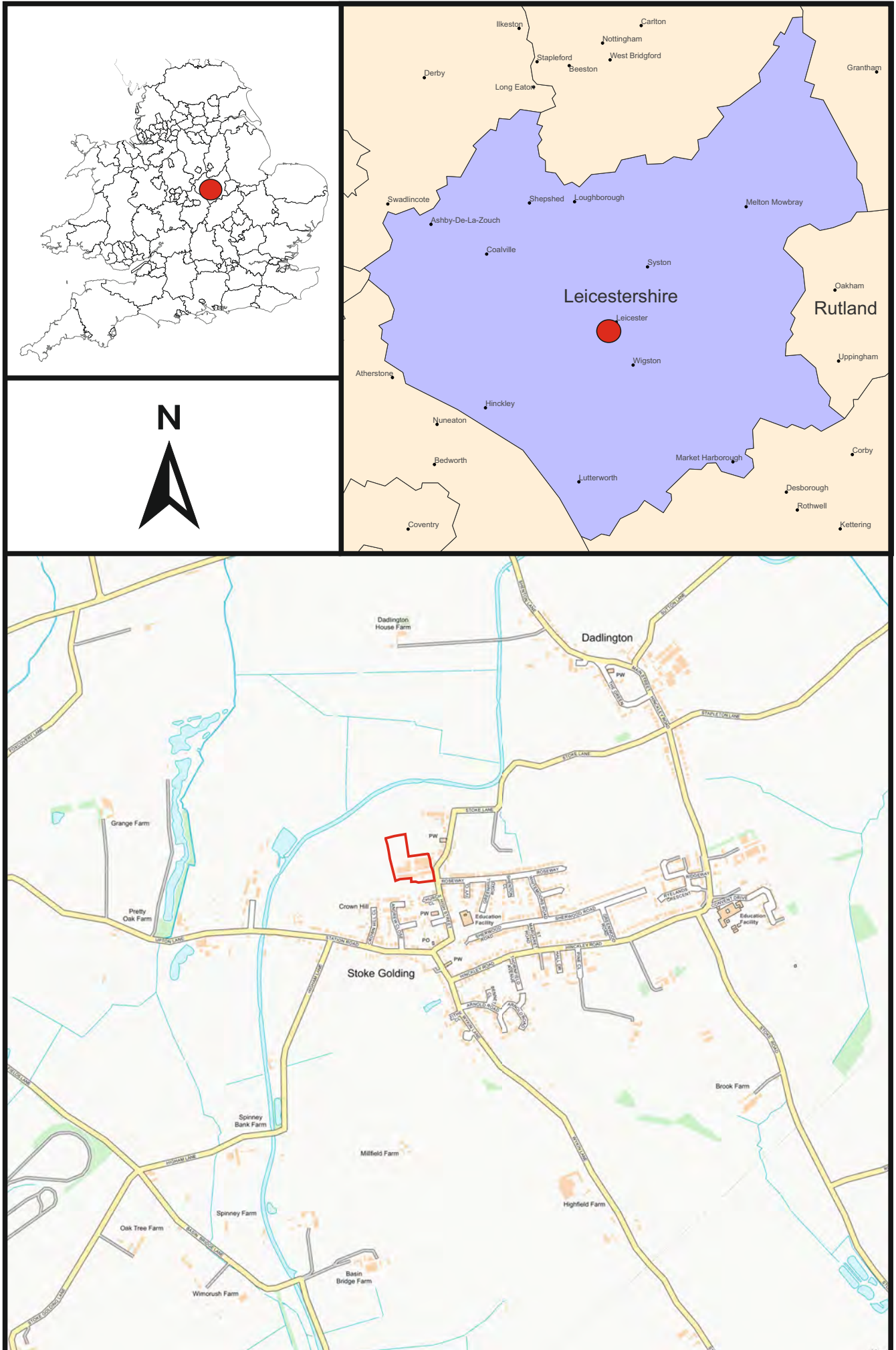
English Heritage 2011 Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition). Portsmouth, English

Historic England 2015 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: the MoRPHE project managers' guide. Swindon, Historic England

Historic England 2015 Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record. Swindon, Historic England

LCC 2024 The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections, Leicestershire County Council

Roberts, J 2025 Archaeological Mitigation Plan, Land at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire. Groundworks Archaeology



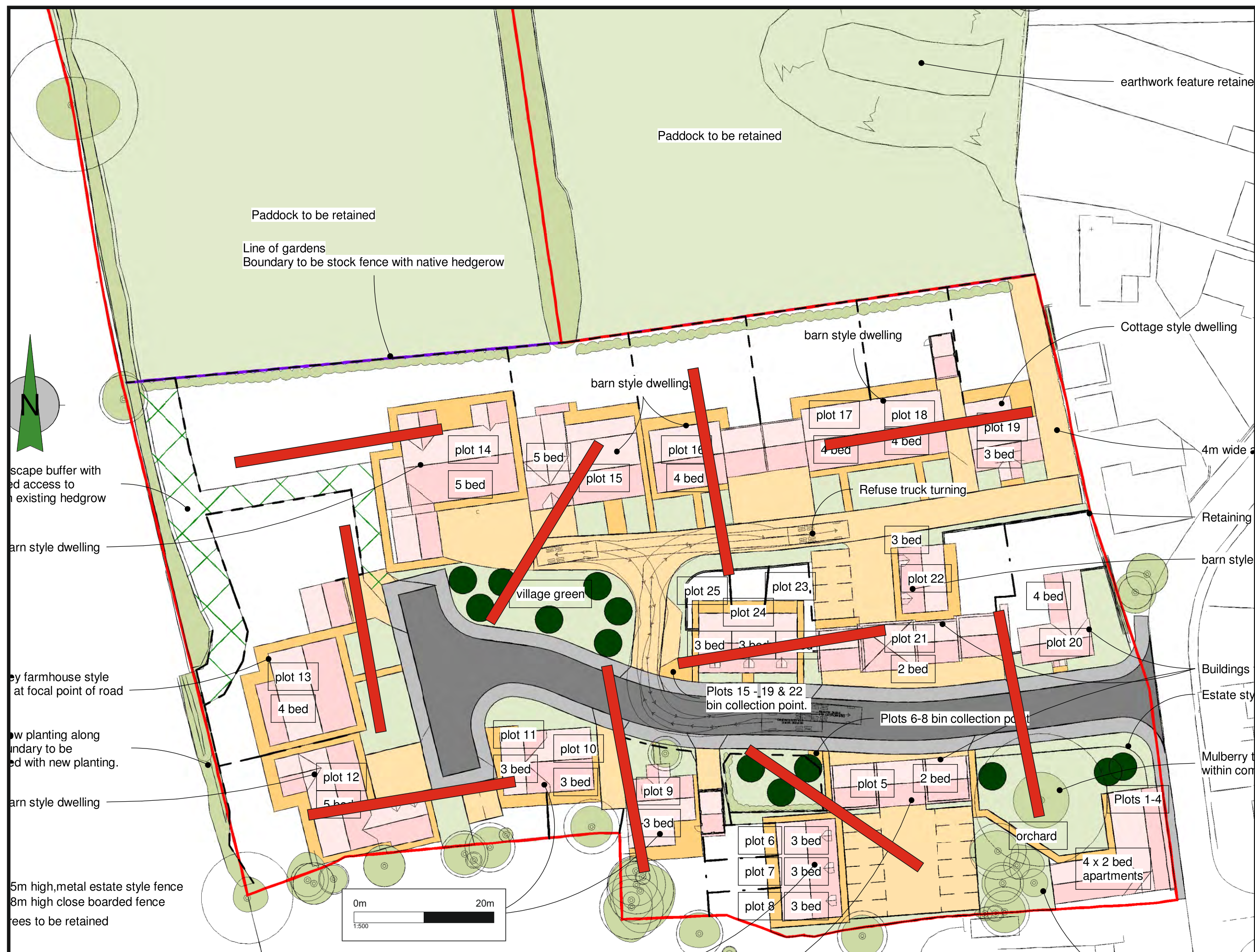


Figure 2: Proposed Trench Layout