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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION



Land East of Kennel Lane Wetherley Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd
standard operating procedures

**Land East of Kennel Lane
Witherley
Leicestershire**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
Archaeological Evaluation**

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Land East of Kennel Lane, Witherley, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation

Written Scheme of Investigation

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been prepared by CFA Archaeology on behalf of Hollins Strategic Land and details the methodology for undertaking an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Land East of Kennel Lane, Witherley, Leicestershire (NGR SP 32832 97370, the Site).
- 1.2 An outline planning application has been approved (Application No. 22/01190/OUT) for the erection of up to 50 residential dwellinghouses with associated access at land east of Kennel Lane Witherley.
- 1.3 An initial archaeological consultee response to the above-mentioned planning application had required that a desk-based assessment (DBA), geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation be undertaken prior to determination of the application. Subsequently, a geophysical survey was undertaken by SUMO in March 2023 (SUMO 2023, Appendix 1), and a Heritage Desk Based Assessment was undertaken by SLR Consulting Ltd in November 2022 (SLR 2022).
- 1.4 Condition 5 of the approved outline application states the following:

'As part of the first reserved matters submission a written scheme of investigation (WSI) shall be submitted in writing to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing for the first phase of archaeological works. Further WSI/s would be needed for Mitigation stage/s. For land that is included within the WSIs, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and;

- *The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works*
- *The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme as set out in the WSI.*

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation, recording, dissemination and archiving in accordance with the requirements of Policies DM11, DM12 and DM13 of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2016).

- 1.5 As part of satisfying the first part of Condition 5, this WSI is submitted for approval.

2 Site Background

- 2.1 The site is located on the eastern side of the village of Witherley in Leicestershire. It comprises a roughly rectangular parcel of agricultural land measuring 3.2ha. The site is located east of Kennel Lane off the A5 and is defined by trees and shrubs around the boundaries. The site is bound by residential dwellings to the west and agricultural fields to the north, east and south.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the Site is recorded as mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 247.1 and 237 million years ago in the Triassic period. Superficial deposits of clay, silt and sand of the Lacustrine Deposits are recorded across the site, a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period (BGS 2024). Soils of the site are characterised as loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater (LandIS 2024).

3 Archaeological and Historic Background

- 3.1 An archaeological and historical background of the site and the area within a 1km radius was undertaken in a previous Heritage Desk Based Assessment (SLR 2022). The following is a summarised from this report as well as informed by further research.
- 3.2 A brief summary of the archaeological background by date period follows.

Prehistoric

- 3.3 There are few sites of prehistoric date recorded in the HER in the 1km vicinity of the Site. However, findspots of artefacts dating to this period have been noted.
- 3.4 A fragment of a Neolithic or Bronze Age axe was found 450m north-west of Crab Tree Farm, located c.600m to the south of the Site.
- 3.5 Prehistoric flint was recovered during a fieldwalking exercise by the Shepshed Fieldwork Group in 2002 c.500m to the north of the Site, where a flint scatter dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age was recorded.

Roman

- 3.6 The Scheduled Monument of Manduessedum Roman Villa, located c.450m to the south-west of the Site, comprises the buried and earthwork remains of a Roman villa, settlement and industrial complex at Manduessedum in Mancetter. It is of particular importance due to the survival of a large number of Roman features, including a villa, a defended settlement, and industrial complex, Roman road, a

port or ferry settlement, early field systems and human burials. Research suggests that the town at Manduessedum was likely a centre for the production and trade of the regions pottery industry (Historic England 2024a).

- 3.7 Towards the south of the site is the 'Burgus', a defended settlement occupying land either side of the roman road of Watling Street. The Burgus comprises an embanked rectangular enclosure, and associated ribbon development dating to the 3rd century. Limited excavations at the site suggest a long period of occupation, possibly dating back to the 1st century AD. To the northwest of the Burgus are the remains of the villa, which included multiple decorated buildings with hypocaust structures. Of note, further buildings comprising Roman shops, houses and a surgery were recorded during excavations north of Watling Street, though these are not included within the Scheduling (SLR 2022).
- 3.8 The industrial complex of Menduessedum lies further to the south of the villa and Watling Street, where at least 70 kilns and associated structures have been excavated, dating to the 2nd century, with continued use into the 4th century AD. Also within the vicinity are cropmarks of ad-hoc field systems of Roman or Iron Age date (Historic England 2024a).
- 3.9 The Roman Vexillation Fortresses and Camps are located further south of the site, also within Mancetter. Roman vexillation fortresses are rectangular enclosures with rounded corners which were implemented as part of Roman military strategy immediately following the conquest in 43 AD. The fortresses would be occupied by a campaigning army of between 2500 to 4000 men comprising varying proportions of legionary and auxiliary troops. The vexillation fortresses at Mancetter survive as buried structures covering an area of at least 9ha. Documentary evidence of the time indicates that this area of the country was the front line of military strategy during the early years of Roman occupation in Britain, and pottery from the site dates from 45-71AD. (Historic England 2024b).
- 3.10 Located c.750m to the north-west of the Site is the location of another Roman villa complex of a likely high-status building. Fieldwalking and metal detecting survey of this area have recorded evidence for a large amount of building materials, pottery (including some imported wares) and metal finds such as coins and brooches. The finds suggest a villa with mosaics and a heating system.
- 3.11 Fieldwalking in 2002 at the site recovered 7 coins and two brooches, including a 'Polden Hill' type (c. 1st/2nd AD) and a trumpet brooch with one c.1st-2nd AD and six 3rd-4th century AD types, along with 179 sherds of pottery, with significant amounts of CBM including tegulae and tesserae also recovered. Later fieldwalking by the Hinckley Fieldwork Group in 2010 recovered a further c. 642 pieces of pottery, 80 pieces of CBM, 15 pieces of flue tile, 4 pieces of opus signinum and 35 tesserae.
- 3.12 In 2013 metal detectorists discovered a late Roman burial, apparently a wealthy female child, in the vicinity of the villa, with the presence of nails suggesting that

the body was interred in a wooden coffin. Later excavation by Archaeology Warwickshire revealed that the coffin had been lead lined from two individual sheets of lead. The only skeletal remains were a handful of bone fragments, although recovered alongside these were two jet or shale bangles/bracelets (Archaeology Warwickshire).

- 3.13 Other findspots in the vicinity of the Site include two cremation urns of Roman date found 450m north of Crab Tree Farm and a large quantity of Roman 2nd-4th century AD pottery, a coin, a fragment of lead pipe and some tile fragments recovered from a site south of Barn Farm during fieldwalking in 1998.

Early Medieval

- 3.14 There are few sites of this period noted within the HER in the surrounding area.
- 3.15 A findspot of an Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch dating to the Migration Period was found 350m north of Kenilworth Farm, located c.500m to the south-east of the Site.

Medieval

- 3.16 The modern-day origins of Witherley are unclear, though the placename 'Witherley' is derived of the Old English personal name Wighthryth/Wigtryp, and a wooded area 'lea'. However, there is no settlement recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 at Witherley, with only a few households recorded in the nearby rural settlements of Atherstone, Ratcliffe Culey and Fenny Drayton (SLR 2022).
- 3.17 The village of Witherley developed around the point at which Watling Street crosses the River Anker. The earliest records of activity in the village pertain to the Church of St Peter (NHLE 1188486) of which the current building dates to the 14th century, with significant renovations being undertaken in the 15th century. However, there are records of a church at this site since at least 1173 (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council 2024). The church is located to the west of the site and the village of Witherley and is the focal point of the village and its historic core.
- 3.18 A Medieval pottery scatter was recorded from fieldwalking in 2002 from fields to the west of the Roman villa site located c.500m to the north of the Site. 12 sherds of Medieval pottery and 7 sherds of late-medieval pottery were recovered from the exercise, along with sherds of early-post-medieval pottery.

Post-Medieval to Modern

- 3.19 A post-medieval windmill is recorded in the HER, north-west of Drayton Barn Farm c.800m to the north-east of the Site.

- 3.20 During the post-medieval period, the settlement of Witherley appears to have grown slowly, with houses being constructed along the River Anker, on the fringes of the larger settlement of Atherstone (SLR 2022).

4 Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.1 A Geophysical Survey was undertaken across the entirety of the site in March 2023 (SUMO 2024). The Geophysical Survey did not identify any areas of archaeological interest, though anomalies relating to agricultural land use (ridge and furrow) were identified.

5 Project Objectives

- 5.1 The aims of the excavation are:
- To undertake a trial trench evaluation to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits.
 - To identify and locate any archaeological remains of significance and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.
 - To establish the potential impacts of the proposed development and associated infrastructure and to allow mitigation measures to be proposed, where appropriate.
- 5.2 Research questions will be derived from the East Midlands Regional Framework (Regional Frameworks 2024) during the course of the project, dependent on the results.

6 Archaeological Methods

- 6.1 CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Work will be conducted regarding the Institute's Standards documents (CIfA 2020 and 2023a-b), relevant Historic England guidance documents (Historic England 2011, 2015a and 2015b), and this WSI. Recording of all elements will be done following established CFA procedures. The archaeological works will be undertaken in liaison with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC).
- 6.2 Should there be unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries that warrant more detailed recorded than is described in this WSI, the archaeological contractor, CFA Archaeology Ltd., will contact the monitoring archaeologist for LCC Archaeology with the relevant information.
- 6.3 A visual inspection of the Site will be undertaken before the commencement of works, including identification of any surface features of potential archaeological interest, areas of potentially significant disturbance, and any hazards or constraints in undertaking further archaeological work on site.

Method of Excavation

- 6.4 21no. 30m x 1.8m trenches, have been proposed across the Site to assess the potential for surviving archaeological remains and depths of overburden. The trenches have been located in order to test any geophysical anomalies and geophysical blank areas. The locations of these trenches and test pits are depicted on Figure 1.

Trench No.	Trench Size	Target/Archaeological Potential
1	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
2	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
3	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
4	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
5	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
6	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation, Uncertain Origin Trend
7	30m x 1.8m	Standard Trench Array
8	30m x 1.8m	Standard Trench Array
9	30m x 1.8m	Standard Trench Array
10	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
11	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
12	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
13	30m x 1.8m	Standard Trench Array
14	30m x 1.8m	Ferrous Anomaly
15	30m x 1.8m	Ferrous Anomalies
16	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
17	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation
18	30m x 1.8m	Ferrous Anomaly
19	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation, Ferrous Anomaly
20	30m x 1.8m	Ferrous Anomalies, Uncertain Origin Trend
21	30m x 1.8m	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation

Table 1: Summary of Trenches and Potential Archaeology

- 6.5 Trenches will be set out using a Trimble R12 GPS unit which allows for precise position capture and RTK level precision.
- 6.6 The trenches and the test pits will be machine excavated using a wide toothless ditching bucket operated under direct archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil will be removed to the level of the natural substrate or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever is reached first., in successive level spits of a maximum 0.2m thickness. Machine excavation will be halted if archaeological deposits are encountered and any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation will be carried out by hand, unless otherwise agreed with LCC Archaeology.
- 6.7 Samples of all features of archaeological interest will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner to establish their likely

date, nature, extent, and condition. The complete stratigraphic sequence, including natural geological deposits, will be excavated and all inter-relationships and intersections between features will be investigated.

- 6.8 A minimum 20% sample will be taken of any linear features, such as ditches or trackways, and all ditch, gully, and other feature termini will be investigated. Each sample section should be at least 1 metre long and, where possible, located and recorded adjacent to the trench edge.
- 6.9 A minimum 50% sample of discrete features, such as pits, postholes, stakeholes, and kilns will be excavated. Where possible, sample sections will be located and recorded adjacent to the trench edge.
- 6.10 Built structures such as walls and floors will be 100% excavated to determine their form, phasing, and construction technique. Should complex structural features, or where complex stratigraphy is identified, be present, then an appropriate methodology will be discussed with the LCCSPA for suitable evaluation. All intersections will be investigated fully.
- 6.11 Samples of all features of archaeological interest will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner to establish their likely date, nature, extent, and condition. The complete stratigraphic sequence, down to natural geological deposits, will be excavated and all inter-relationships and intersections between features will be investigated.
- 6.12 The trenches and the test pits will be machine backfilled on completion of excavation once sign-off has been received from the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC)

Method of Recording

- 6.13 All excavation and on-site recording will be carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography, and completing standard CFA record forms.
- 6.14 The location of the trenches and test pits will be recorded using industry standard surveying equipment and tied to the OS National Grid. Vertical survey control will be tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum.
- 6.15 Sections will be recorded by means of a measured drawing at an appropriate scale, typically at 1:10. The height of a datum on the drawing will be calculated and recorded. The locations of sections will be recorded on the site plans, relative to the site grid.
- 6.16 Cut features will be recorded in profile, planned at an appropriate scale, normally 1:20, and their location accurately identified on the appropriate trench and site plans.

- 6.17 Photographs will include an appropriate scale, an arrow to indicate the direction or north, and a photo information board. All photographs will be recorded on a photographic register detailing subject, location, and direction of shot. Photographs taken will adhere to Historic England's guidance '*Digital Image Capture and File Storage*' (Historic England, 2015). Photographs should be taken with a high-resolution digital SLR camera with sensors exceeding 12 Mega pixels and taken using the highest quality setting. Images will then be converted, adjusted, and saved as 8-bit TIFFs for archive purposes. All digital photographs should have metadata embedded into the file that includes date taken, location, photographer's name, and copyright restrictions.

Artefact and Environmental Recovery

- 6.18 Spoil heaps are to be scanned for ferrous and non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination and operated by a capable metal detectorist. Modern (c. 20th century onward) artefacts are to be noted but not retained.
- 6.19 All artefacts, including faunal remains, will be retained for analysis. Post-excavation storage requirements will be assessed. Modern finds (c. 20th century onward) will be recorded but not retained. Collection and post-excavation work on artefacts will follow current ClfA guidance (ClfA 2020).
- 6.20 If any finds are uncovered which may fall under the purview of the Treasure Act 1996, the terms of the aforementioned Act will be followed. Any finds will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner. Where removal cannot be affected on the same day as discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 6.21 Any human remains encountered will be reported to the appropriate authorities and left *in situ*, covered, and protected. Any discovery of human remains should be promptly reported to the LCC planning archaeologist. Additionally, it is advised to inform the coroner immediately upon their discovery. If removal is deemed necessary, a Ministry of Justice Burial License will be obtained, and excavation will comply with the relevant regulations and government guidance (CFA internal policy, *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England [APABE] 2017).
- 6.22 CFA's Palaeoenvironmental specialist will: assess the environmental potential of the site; advise on whether the deposits have potential for conducting palaeobotanical or other soil analysis; and assess the potential for the preservation of faunal remains. Environmental sampling will be carried out in accordance with current guidelines (Historic England 2011), namely that bulk samples will be taken from all securely stratified deposits using a strategy of systematic and judgement sampling.

- 6.23 Samples will consist of 40 litres of environmental material recovered from, at a minimum, the basal deposits of any archaeological features. Environmental samples will not usually be recovered from intersections or unclear relationship sample sections.

7 Analysis and Reporting

Artefact and Environmental Sample Analysis

- 7.1 All finds, if appropriate, will be retained, washed, and assessed in accordance to accepted professional standards. For all categories of material recovered, including finds, paleoenvironmental, industrial, and other specialist samples, an assessment by an appropriately experienced specialist will be undertaken. Samples will be processed and sorted, and any artefacts recovered provided to the appropriate specialist(s) to be considered alongside the hand-recovered material. Basic stratigraphic information will be supplied to the project specialists.
- 7.2 All finds are to be treated in accordance with current best practice guidance (Campbell et al. 2011). Finds will be cleaned and marked according to accepted principles and in line with appropriate period/material guidelines.
- 7.3 For ceramic assemblages, recording shall be carried out in a manner compatible with existing typological series in local pottery reference collections. The guidelines for the standards of pottery recording in archaeology (HE 2016)
- 7.4 Environmental samples will be processed to aid in the recovery of artefactual material, including ceramics, animal and fish bones, human remains, industrial residues, charcoal, and mineralised plant remains. Specialist samples such as monoliths or cores will be processed separately, as appropriate.
- 7.5 Where material suitable for scientific dating is recovered, such as charcoal or bone, sufficient dating will be undertaken to meet the aims of the excavation. These materials will be identified to species and assessed for suitability prior to submission to a dating laboratory.
- 7.6 Artefact assessment reports will include the production of a descriptive catalogue including quantification of finds by context and discussion or interpretation, if appropriate. Finds critical for dating or interpretation will be illustrated or digitally photographed. Environmental assessment reports will include the identification of the remains, a quantification by context, appropriate discussion or interpretation, and a description of the processing methodology.

Reporting

7.7 A report will be produced which includes background information on the project, a description of the methodology, and a full description and interpretation of the results.

7.8 Specifically, the report will contain:

- A concise non-technical summary of the project results;
- The site location given as an 8-figure grid reference;
- A front cover/frontispiece which includes the planning application number and the national grid reference of the site;
- The dates on which the work was undertaken;
- A description of the site location and geology;
- A description of the historic and archaeological background of the site, including the results from an updated HER search of the Site and surrounding area;
- An explanation of any agreed variations from the WSI, including justification for any work not undertaken;
- A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken, and the results obtained.
- Contexts and feature descriptions;
- Maps and other illustrations at an appropriate scale including sections and detailed plans of all excavated features;
- A specialist assessment report for all finds materials including palaeoenvironmental and other samples;
- A description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and outline of the results obtained;
- A selection of photographs of work in progress;
- Recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work;
- A discussion of how the work contributed to the aims and objectives set out in the project design;
- A bibliography;
- A context index;
- An archive index;
- An OASIS summary sheet

7.9 A draft copy of the report will be issued to the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) for comment before being finalised. A copy of the report (PDF-A format) will be sent directly to the Leicestershire County Council, Historic Environment Record (LCC HER). One digital copy (PDF-A format) and one unbound hard copy of the final report will be deposited with an appropriate museum within a suitable timescale following the completion of fieldwork. This will ensure that the report is made available as a public document as part of the Historic Environment Record.

7.10 If significant remains are encountered, then arrangements will be made for the publication of results within an appropriate journal.

Archive Preparation and Deposition

- 7.11 Archiving should be prepared in accordance with the LMS current guidelines in addition to other appropriate guidelines (ClfA 2020b). Arrangements should also be made with LMS for deposition of the archive and an appropriate repository.
- 7.12 As a minimum a summary of findings should be submitted to the 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society (LAHS). The Accession number for this project is X.A159.2024
- 7.13 It is expected that Leicestershire Museum will accept the complete excavation archive, including primary site records, research archives, and finds. CFA Archaeology will prepare the excavation archive to meet the selected museum's deposition requirements.
- 7.14 The Leicestershire County Historic Environment Record (HER) will be provided with spatial data of the evaluation trenches and test pits which will be submitted in a suitable GIS format.
- 7.15 CFA are ISO 9001 accredited, with all our internal archiving and digital record systems being fully compliant with ClfA Standards and Guidance, particularly the guidance on Planning and Data Management Plans for Archaeological Projects (2022). The digital archive will be subject to a selection process, depending on the results of the works, and the resulting digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). All digital deposition will be undertaken in line with guidance from ADS (2023) and ClfA (2022).
- 7.16 Consent for full transfer of title of finds to the recipient museum will be agreed in principle with the landowner at the outset. Confirmation of transfer of title from the landowner, and confirmation of assignment of copyright, along with a full archive inventory, will be submitted with a project completion form to the recipient museum. The Leicestershire County Historic Environment Record (HER) officer will be provided with a copy of the completion form, including the assigned accession number.
- 7.17 The recipient archive will be licensed to use the deposited material in perpetuity, without restrictions; this licence will allow the archive to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.
- 7.18 The requirements of the repository will be adhered to, and the Leicestershire County HER will be notified in advance. Contact will be made with the archiving museum prior to the start of any fieldwork to confirm their acceptance of the archive and to receive an accession number. The nominated museum will be notified at set stages of the project, including at project initiation (comprising a project initiation form), a mid-point review, and completion stages, to discuss archaeological archiving requirements.

- 7.19 An online OASIS form will be completed within three months of the completion of the work. An appropriately formatted copy of the report will also be uploaded to OASIS within three months of the completion of the work.

8 Resources and Programming

8.1 Key Personnel

- 8.2 Phil Mann (BA MA MCIfA) is the Regional Manager for CFA Archaeology Milton Keynes. Martin has project managed numerous archaeological projects of all periods throughout the country including those undertaken for large and complex infrastructure projects.

- 8.3 A Field Director from CFA will be selected from CFA's pool of Field Officers, depending on availability, all of whom have appropriate experience. The CV for the selected Field Officer can be forwarded prior to the start of the project.

- 8.4 Dr Shelly Werner (BSc MPhil PhD) is CFA's Graphics Manager, responsible for the organisation and management of all GIS, CAD and Illustrative material. She is an experienced illustrator with specialist knowledge in GIS consultancy and standing building survey and has worked on a variety of projects in Scotland and England.

- 8.4.1 Post-excavation and environmental coordination will be managed by CFAs post excavation and archiving manager **Christina Hills**; CVs for CFA's 'in house' specialists or external consultants can be supplied on request.

8.5 Project Specialists

Archaeobotany	Mhairi Hastie BSc MSc ACIfA (CFA Archaeology)
Archaeozoology	Joshua Toulson BA MSc ACIfA (CFA Archaeology)
Ceramic building material	Jamie Walker BA MCIfA (CFA Archaeology)
Clay pipes	Peter Hammond
Conservation laboratory	Ian Panter (York Archaeological Trust)
Dendrochronology	Ian Tyers
Industrial residue	Gerry McDonnell PhD
Leather	Quita Mould
Mollusca and fish remains	Hannah Russ MA PhD FSA
Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery	Alex Gibson PhD
Osteoarchaeology	Malin Holst MSc
Palynology	Robert McCulloch BA PhD (University of Stirling)
Post-medieval small finds	Gail Drinkall
Post-Roman pottery	Paul Blinkhorn BA PhD

Roman and Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery	Jamie Walker (CFA Archaeology)
Roman glass	Hilary Cool
Soil micromorphology	Clare Ellis BA PhD MCIfA
Worked bone	Joshua Toulson BA MSc ACIfA (CFA Archaeology)
Worked Flint and Stone	Ann Clarke

Table 2: List of Artefact and Ecofact Specialists

- 8.5.1 The above list is not exhaustive, should unusual or locally specific archaeological materials be discovered; appropriate specialists will be sought on the advice of the regional Historic England scientific advisor.

9 Health and Safety and the Environment

- 9.1 All CFA staff have been inducted into CFA's Health and Safety Policy and will operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. All work for the project will be subject to Risk Assessment procedures and a Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) will be produced, disseminated, and agreed with all staff on site.
- 9.2 CFA's ISO14001:2015 certification is a sign that we take environmental matters within the company seriously; we are mindful of our environmental footprint and are constantly looking for ways in which to limit our environmental impact without compromising the quality of our work or the service we provide to our clients. Copies of our environmental policies are available on request.

10 Monitoring

- 10.1 Close contact will be maintained with the client and Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) for the purposes of monitoring the project. Important or unexpected discoveries will be communicated to them, and a monitoring visit will be arranged if appropriate. Any monitoring visit will include a site tour and overview by the senior archaeologist present and the opportunity will be afforded to view all trenches, test pits, artefactual finds still on site, and any records that are not in immediate use.
- 10.2 The Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) will be provided with a minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of on-site works. contact numbers for the site will be forwarded in advance of the work starting.

11 References

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FIGURES

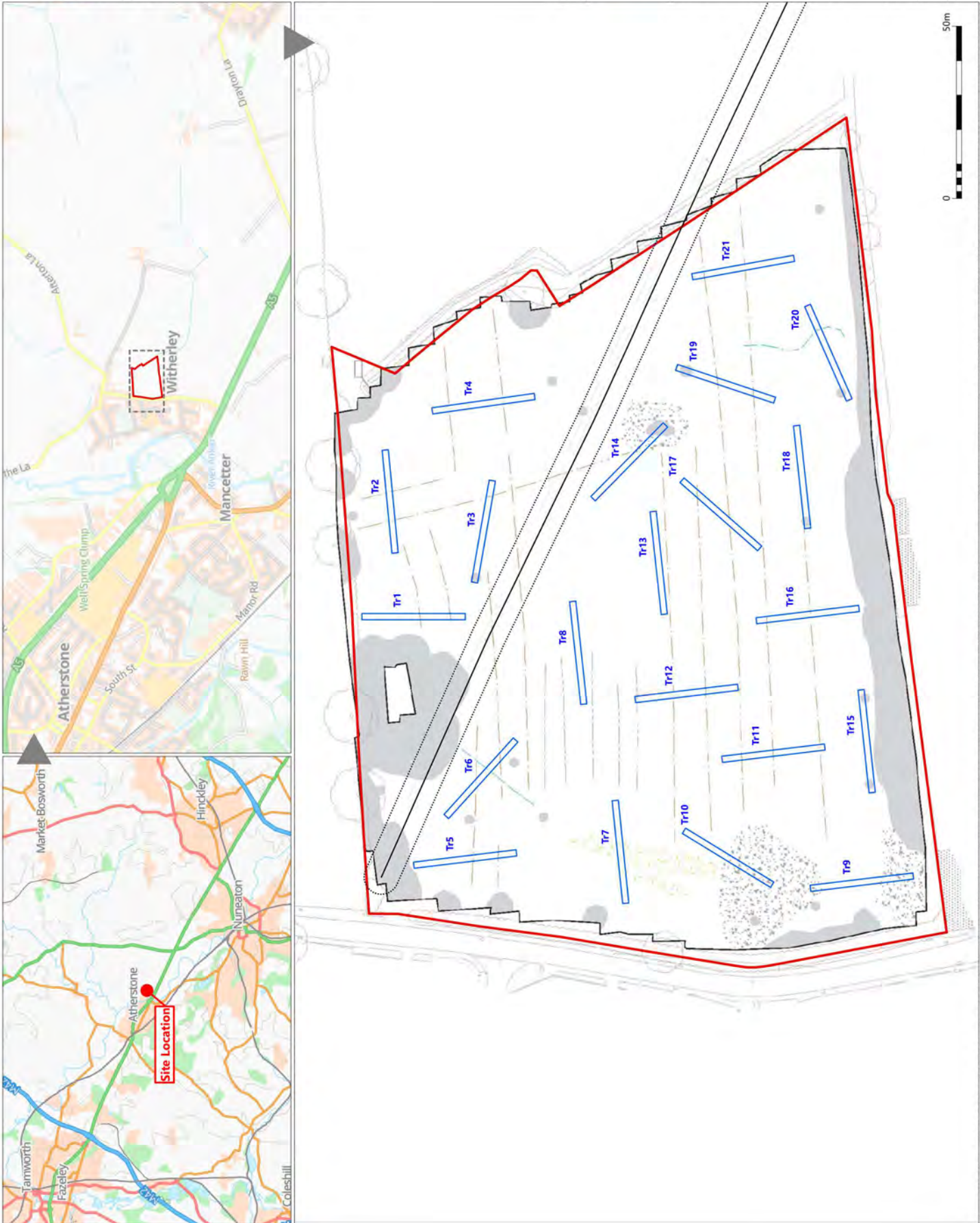
Key:

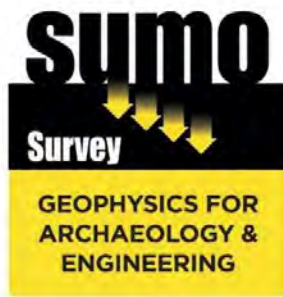
- Red Line Boundary
- Trench
- Overhead Service
- 5m Service Buffer
- Geophysics interpretation
- Uncertain Origin (trend)
- Agriculture (ridge and furrow)
- Land drain
- Natural (e.g. geological / pedological)
- Magnetic disturbance
- Ferrous

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Title: Site Location and Proposed Trench Layout		Project: Land East of Kennel Lane, Witherley, Leicestershire		Client: Hollins Strategic Land	
Scale at A3: 1:1,000		Drawn by: CA/SB	Checked: SW	Date: 13/01/2025	Report No: n/a
				Fig. No:	1





GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

Kennel Lane, Witherley, Leicestershire

Client

Hollins Strategic Land Ltd

Survey Report

11481

OASIS Ref. No.

sumogeop1-514021

Date

29 March 2023



Survey Report 11481: Kennel Lane, Witherley, Leicestershire

Survey dates	10 March 2023
Field co-ordinator	Liam Brice-Bateman BA
Field Team	Simon Lobel BSc Joshua Retter BA MA
Report Date	29 March 2023
CAD Illustrations	Rebecca Fradgley BSc (Hons) ACIfA
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Appendix A	Technical Information: Magnetometer Survey Methods, Processing and Presentation
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Appendix C	OASIS Data Collection Sheet

3 SURVEY TECHNIQUE

- 3.1 Detailed magnetic survey (magnetometry) was chosen as the most efficient and effective method of locating the type of archaeological anomalies which might be expected at this site. All survey techniques followed the guidance set out by CIFA (2014, updated 2020), Historic England (2008), and the European Archaeology Council (EAC) (2016).

Bartington Grad 601-2

Traverse Interval 1.0m

Sample Interval 0.25m

The only processes performed on data are the following unless specifically stated otherwise:

Zero Mean Traverse	This process sets the background mean of each traverse within each grid to zero. The operation removes instrument striping effects and edge discontinuities over the whole of the data set.
Step Correction (De-stagger)	When gradiometer data are collected in 'zig-zag' fashion, stepping errors can sometimes arise. These occur because of a slight difference in the speed of walking on the forward and reverse traverses. The result is a staggered effect in the data, which is particularly noticeable on linear anomalies. This process corrects these errors.

4 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 4.1 A detailed magnetometer survey conducted over approximately 3 hectares of land at Witherley has not identified any anomalies of definite archaeological interest. Former ridge and furrow cultivation patterns exist underground. Weak linear trends of uncertain origin have been detected, though an archaeological explanation is thought to be unlikely; they are probably natural or agricultural.

5 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 **SUMO Geophysics Ltd** were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for residential development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **Hollins Strategic Land Ltd**.

5.2 Site Details

NGR / Postcode	SP 327 973 / CV9 3LJ
Location	The site is located in the village of Witherley, which lies on the Leicestershire-Warwickshire border. Kennel Lane forms the western boundary of the site, with private property and gardens to the north, agricultural buildings to the south and open fields to the east.
HER	Leicestershire
OASIS Ref. No.	sumogeop1-514021
District	Hinckley and Bosworth
Parish	Witherley CP
Topography	Mostly level
Land Use	Pasture
Geology	Bedrock: Gunthorpe Member – mudstone.
(BGS 2022)	Superficial: River Terrace Deposits, 1 – sand and gravel.
Soils (CU 2022)	Soilscape 20: loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater.
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	c. 3 ha

5.3 *Archaeological Background*

- 5.3.1 Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (LHER 2023) does not identify any designated or non-designated heritage assets within the boundaries of the site. The medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Witherley (MLE8929) is recorded immediately adjacent to the west and, the 19th Century, Atherstone Hunt Kennels (MLE24332) are located immediately to the south. Approximately 350m to the north, fieldwalking and metal-detecting has revealed a large amount of Roman building materials and metal finds, while excavation found a Roman burial in the same location; they are thought to be suggestive of a Roman villa site. Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (WHER 2013) identifies the Roman villa at Mandeusdum (MWA8130) roughly 400m to the south of the survey area, which lies adjacent to Watling Street Roman Road.

5.4 *Aims and Objectives*

- 5.4.1 To locate and characterise any anomalies of possible archaeological interest within the study area.

6 RESULTS

6.1 ***Probable / Possible Archaeology***

- 6.1.1 No magnetic responses have been recorded that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest.

6.2 ***Uncertain***

- 6.2.1 Two weak linear trends have been detected in which have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*; they generally lack the defined morphology of anomalies that would usually be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. They are likely to be due to natural or agricultural processes.

6.3 ***Agricultural – Ridge and Furrow / Land Drains***

- 6.3.1 Weakly magnetic, widely spaced, slightly curved, parallel linear anomalies can be seen running approximately east-west across the majority of the site, with further linear anomalies on a north-south alignment. These responses are indicative of former ridge and furrow cultivation regimes, cropmarks of which are observed on modern aerial imagery of the site (Fig. 05).
- 6.3.2 Weakly linear anomalies comprising positive and negative components have been identified near the centre of the area and are typical of the responses associated with modern land drains.

6.4 ***Natural / Geological / Pedological / Topographic***

- 6.4.1 A weak band of magnetic enhancement has been identified in the west of the survey area and is thought to have a natural explanation, i.e., reflecting localised variations in the underlying geology or superficial deposits.

6.5 ***Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance***

- 6.5.1 Areas of magnetic disturbance have been identified in the centre and west of the site; these probably have a modern origin and could represent areas of consolidation, with the responses in the west possibly indicative of infilled ponds that are not visible on historic Ordnance Survey maps.
- 6.5.2 Ferrous responses close to boundaries are due to adjacent fences and gates. Smaller scale ferrous anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data and are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris (or brick / tile) in the topsoil; they are commonly assigned a modern origin. Only the most prominent of these are highlighted on the interpretation diagram.

7 DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Historic England guidelines (EH 2008) Table 4 states that the typical magnetic response on the local soils / geology is variable. The results from this survey indicate the presence of former ridge and furrow; as a consequence, there is no *a priori* reason why archaeological features would not have been detected.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 A detailed magnetometer survey conducted over approximately 3 hectares of land at Witherley has not identified any anomalies of definite archaeological interest. Former ridge and furrow cultivation patterns exist underground. Weak linear trends of uncertain origin have been detected, though an archaeological explanation is thought to be unlikely; they are probably natural or agricultural. Areas of natural magnetic variation and modern ferrous disturbance have also been mapped.

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10 ARCHIVE

- 10.1 The minimally processed data, data images, XY traces and a copy of this report are stored in **SUMO Geophysics Ltd.**'s digital archive, on an internal RAID configured NAS drive in the Midlands Office. These data are also backed up to the Cloud for off-site storage.
- 10.2 The Grey Literature will be archived with OASIS and the relevant HER within a period of 12 months.