



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**
Environment

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

WELLOW

**Prepared
for**



ENGLISH HERITAGE
Extensive Urban Survey Programme

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

WELLOW

GILL STROUD, 2001

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Assessment

This assessment has been produced through the Extensive Urban Survey Programme, an English Heritage funded initiative to assist local planning authorities with the conservation of their urban archaeological resource. Wellow is one of 18 small towns in Nottinghamshire selected for such assessment.

The assessment is a desk-based survey, the scope of which includes both above and below ground archaeological remains of all periods, using information from the County Sites and Monuments Record, local histories, early maps and plan form analysis, with the results presented as a series of maps generated by GIS. It provides a foundation for the development of an archaeological management strategy that could be adopted by the local planning authority as supplementary planning guidance.

1.2 Overview of the town

Wellow lies a little to the north of the centre of Nottinghamshire on the A616, about 12 miles from Newark to the south-east. It is also connected via a minor road with Eakring to the south. Although now no more than a village, Wellow is thought to have originally been a planted town, created in the 12th century. As such it is of considerable archaeological and historical importance, being one of only two planted towns known from Nottinghamshire. The new town was surrounded by a substantial earthwork, of which a part survives, and had a central market place surrounded by regulated plots. This medieval layout is still visible today, the form of the market place having survived as a village green around which most of the houses lie. On the green stands a maypole for which Wellow is perhaps best known today. Although some new development has recently taken place within the area enclosed by the earthwork, Wellow has remained relatively unspoilt, despite its proximity to an important coal-mining area.

2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The village of Wellow lies on the Mercia Mudstone towards its western boundary with the sandstones of the Nottingham Castle Formation. The western margin of the village is at c. 57m AOD, with the ground rising to the east, so that the eastern margin is some 10m higher.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

Wellow originally lay in Bassetlaw Wapentake. After the wapentake of Oswaldbeck had been united to Bassetlaw, Wellow came into the South Clay Division of the enlarged area. It is now in Newark & Sherwood District.

4. SOURCES

4.1 Primary sources

Nottinghamshire Archives holds a variety of material relating to Wellow. This includes constables' accounts from the 17th century, land tax assessments, deeds, some manor court papers, and a variety of parish records. The earliest parish register is of 1703; as well as the original registers, the Archives Office keeps a printed transcript. In addition, it holds a collection of estate and personal papers belonging to the Savile family of Rufford, which was deposited in 1957. The Saviles were lords of the manor of Wellow for a considerable length of time, and the collection includes title deeds from the mid-16th century onwards, manor court papers from 1640-1858 and a number of surveys and rentals from the mid-17th century. The Duke of Newcastle was also a major landowner in the parish, and Nottinghamshire Archives holds some papers relating to his estate there, mostly concerning parliamentary enclosure. Primary documents were not consulted for this report, with the exception of a brief look at a survey of Wellow dated 1657 and a few papers relating to non-conformist chapels.

4.2 Secondary sources

No general histories of Wellow appear to have been published, beyond a very short pamphlet by T W Swift entitled '*A short history of the parish of Wellow*', and a few newspaper articles. The only well-researched, referenced and detailed publication about Wellow is an article by Barley (1957), which deals specifically with the origins of the settlement.

4.3 Cartographic evidence

Land to the immediate south of Wellow is shown on a map of the Lordship of Rufford, surveyed in 1637, while the earliest known plan of the village itself, albeit in a somewhat stylised form, is to be found on a large map of Thoresby Park dated 1738. A plan of 1813 in Nottinghamshire Archives entitled 'Rough Plan of Wellow Parish' proved to be incomplete, only showing some of the northern part of Wellow village and concentrating on ownership of properties rather than on depicting every building. Sanderson's map of 1835, while useful, is drawn at a small scale and consequently the earliest clear, accurate large-scale map of Wellow is the Enclosure Award Map of 1842, followed by the Tithe Map of 1845.

4.4 Archaeological evidence

There are thirteen sites recorded on the Nottinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within the area of Wellow under consideration in this report. Almost all of these relate to earthworks. There are no records of any archaeological work having taken place prior to 1993 apart from a brief reference to two partial excavations of Gorge Dyke about which no information is currently available. Since that time, however, three watching briefs have been carried out and a test pit excavated. Records on the SMR for the surrounding area are derived from a variety of sources, including documentary evidence, stray finds and cropmarks identified from aerial photographs.

5. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

5.1 Prehistoric

A number of finds of prehistoric date have been found in the vicinity of Wellow, although none come from the settlement itself. Their distribution is shown on Figure 1.

To the north-west, a number of flints have been found in a garden at Ollerton, including a barbed and tanged arrowhead (SMR 4145, 4145a). Further north, a bronze looped palstave of Bronze Age date was found c. 1 mile north of Ollerton prior to 1925 (SMR 5516).

To the west, a number of cropmarks have been recorded in several fields. These appear to represent a range of features, including rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures, a possible ring ditch, a pit alignment and several linear boundaries. No dating is available for these features; however, their morphology suggests they may be of prehistoric date (SMR 4094, a, b).

Mesolithic implements are reported to have been found at Ollerton before 1950 (SMR 5513). However, no information exists as to the types of implement or to their exact findspot, and consequently the site is not shown on Figure 1. Similarly, the only locational information regarding a disc-shaped flint scraper is that it was found 'at Wellow' some time before 1980 (SMR 4112).

5.2 Roman

Archaeological evidence of Roman date has been recovered from two, or possibly three, sites in the vicinity of Wellow, as shown on Figure 1.

To the east of Wellow, three sherds of Roman-British grey ware were found halfway down the south-eastern slope of Grimston Hill (SMR 4113).

To the north-east, there used to be a rectangular earthwork, with well-formed ramparts and a wide ditch, together with some traces of interior works (SMR 4097), although much of the site has now been built over. This earthwork is likely to have been of 1st or 2nd century date. About 20 yards to the north-east of the earthwork, a Roman *tegula* tile and some fragments of white jug, probably also Roman, were recovered from a rabbit scrape in the 1930s and another piece of tile was found on a mole heap in the interior of the earthwork (SMR 4097a).

To the north-west, examination of aerial photographs has revealed an uneven cropmark which appears to be part of two parallel linear features, c. 40-50m across and 800m long (SMR 4144). This may represent a section of Roman road, with a possible further small section included among the large area of cropmarks to the west of Wellow (SMR 4094a). This interpretation needs to be confirmed by excavation.

5.3 Early Medieval

No archaeological evidence of the early medieval period has been recovered either at Wellow or from the surrounding area. However, three settlements once existed in the vicinity which are known to have had their origins in the early medieval period. Their supposed sites, identified from documentary evidence, are shown on Figure 1. Two of the villages are thought to be been depopulated either at or shortly after the foundation of Rufford Abbey in the 1140s; the other experienced a slow decline. The two former, Cratley and Rufford, are believed to have been situated to the south-east and south-west of Wellow respectively (SMR 4109 and SMR 4117). Both had the same Saxon lord, Ulf, and became part of the estate of Gilbert de Gaunt after the Conquest. They are recorded in Domesday Book as follows:

M. In CREILEGE Ulf had 2½ c. of land taxable. Land for 4 ploughs. Gilbert has 2 ploughs and 22 villagers and 2 smallholders who have 9 ploughs. Meadow, 26 acres; woodland pasture ½ league long and ½ wide. Value before 1066 £6; now £3.

M. In RUFFORD Ulf had 12 b. of land taxable. Land for 4 ploughs. Gilbert has in lordship 1 plough and 10 villagers who have 3 ploughs. Meadow, 20 acres; woodland pasture 1½ leagues long and 1 league wide. Value before 1066 £6; now 60s. (Domesday Book, Phillimore edition)

Closer to Wellow, on its western side, is the supposed site of the pre-Conquest and medieval village of Grimston (SMR 4114). The field names of Grimston Green, Great Grimston and Grimston Mow Croft, all named on the Wellow Enclosure map, have allowed the approximate site of the village to be identified. Earthworks were formerly visible on the ground but have now been ploughed out (Barley 1957). Grimston formed part of the king's estates both before and after the Conquest. There are three entries for the village

in Domesday Book, as a manor with five other properties attached to it, as sokeland and as a berewick of Mansfield:

M. In GRIMSTON 4 b. of land ... taxable. Land for 2 ploughs. Outlier in Mansfield. 3 Freeman and 3 smallholders have 2 ploughs. Meadow, 2 acres; woodland pasture ½ league long and 4 furlongs wide.

S. There also 1½ b. of land taxable. Land for 2 oxen. 2 Freeman have ½ plough.

B. In GRIMSTON 4 b. of land taxable. Land for 2 ploughs. Outlier. The King has 1 plough and 8 villagers and 1 smallholder who have 2 ploughs. Woodland pasture 6 furlongs long and 4 wide. Outlier. (Domesday Book, Phillimore edition)

The first and the third entries, of Grimston as a manor and as a berewick, appear to be duplicates, although the numbers of villagers are not exactly the same. This suggests that two separate documents of different dates were used to compile the Grimston record, and also that Grimston had undergone a change in status prior to 1086. It had originally been part of the large royal multiple estate of Mansfield, but had then split off to become a separate manor, itself at the centre of a small multiple estate (Bishop 1981).

Wellow itself is not mentioned by name in Domesday Book, although the Phillimore edition of 1977 includes it, apparently assuming that it was the same place as *Creilege*. However, there is no reason for thinking that this was the case.

5.4 Medieval

5.4.1 Place-name evidence

Gover *et al* (1940) give the earliest reference to Wellow as being in 1207, when it is written as *Welhag*. The place-name is thought to be derived from a compound of OE **wielle** and **haga**, meaning an enclosure of some kind near a spring. The enclosure referred to in the name is most likely to be that surrounding the village, while there are two springs nearby, at least in the present day, one emerging to the south-east of the village, the other on its northern side.

5.4.2 The manor

When Wellow first appears in the records, it seems to have passed with the manor of Grimston, at least in the 13th and 14th centuries. The Foliot family were lords of the manor by 1228, and probably for a time before that. In 1330 it came by marriage to Hugh de Hastings and remained with the Hastings family throughout the remainder of the medieval period.

5.4.3 Communications

According to Barley (1957) the early line of the main road north from Nottingham, the 'great way of Blyth' of medieval records, originally lay further east than the present line of the road as it passed through Rufford parish. It ran north from Rufford towards Boughton via the western side of Wellow. This route was then altered, possibly in the 13th century, and moved further west so that it passed the abbey gates, although still running via the western side of Wellow. Barley also quotes from a Sherwood Forest perambulation of 1218 which refers to the forest boundary running north from Nottingham 'to old Rucford and by the unfinished way to Welhag'.

Several documents in the Blyth Cartulary refer to main roads and local roads running through Wellow in the 13th century, as follows (Timson 1973):

- *inter viam de Walesbi ad Wellehage et viam regiam de Kunerigeswat ad Wellehage,*
- *super viam regiam inter Blidam (Blyth) et Wellehage*

- *super viam que ducit de Bucton* (Boughton) versus *Wallaye*

5.4.4 The settlement and its environs

Wellow lay just outside the boundary of Sherwood Forest and therefore beyond the area of jurisdiction of forest law. Medieval references to the *hagh* or close of Wellow indicate that the settlement was surrounded by the bank and ditch known today as Gorge Dyke. It is clear from later documents that open fields lay to the east and south-east, while woodland or wood pasture lay to the south-west, actually in Rufford parish. This area, Beskall Wood, was the subject of a dispute between Rufford Abbey and Wellow in the early 13th century. In 1207 the abbot had acquired a licence to

‘build houses and place men on his land next to the great way to defend his wood in which the men of Wellow were accustomed to hunt provided that he does not obstruct the highway’ (quoted in Barley 1957, 86).

A suit of 1210 further shows that the Abbey had been permitted to

‘erect a certain bank between their Beskall Wood and the village of Wellow and that the monks might build what houses they wished between Wellow and the bank for men who would guard the bank’.

In 1209 the Wellow men had been fined for ‘pulling down the houses of the monks of Rufford’, indicating their opposition to the construction of the bank and in 1210 three of them charged the abbot with unjust disseisin of their common pasture. However, it appears the Wellow men lost their case, and were denied common pasture in the abbey’s part of the wood. A map of 1637 of Rufford shows the wood divided into ‘Welley Beskall’ and ‘In Beskall’. The bank that was constructed between the two is still visible in places (SMR 4111).

Wellow Park was in existence by 1278 when Richard Foliot was given two bucks and ten does from Sherwood Forest to stock it (Barley 1957). An inquisition post-mortem of 1330 refers to

‘a certain capital messuage with a certain private park enclosed ... plus 150 acres of arable land ... the pasture in fallow of that land is worth nothing because it lies in the common field ... Also there is there the rent of free tenants at Welhawe, which is of the appurtenance of the said manor ...’ (Blagg 1939).

Some idea of the relative lay wealth of medieval Wellow can be gained from the Lay Subsidy of 1334. (Glasscock 1975). Wellow paid £2-12-8 in tax, not a particularly large amount. Of the other settlements in Bassetlaw wapentake which were taxed, 50 paid the same or less than Wellow, while 29 paid more. When compared with the nine other towns in the wapentake which had been granted market charters before 1334, Wellow does not appear to have been particularly prosperous, as all but one were found to have been taxed at a higher rate.

5.4.5 The parish church of St Swithin (SMR 4131)

By 1250 at the latest Wellow was a chapelry of Edwinstowe. In that year the parishioners of Wellow were given permission to bury their dead in the cemetery of Wellow chapel because of the distance to the mother church of Edwinstowe. They also came to an agreement with the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln to maintain a chaplain and bear the charges of the chapel (Crook 1984). Barley (1957) noted that it is very rare to find villagers acting in this way and even more remarkable to find that the *communitas* of Wellow had its own seal to append to the agreement. In view of this he suggested that the inhabitants may have built the church themselves.

5.4.6 *Markets and fairs*

In 1268 Richard Foliot was granted a charter for a weekly market and an annual 3-day fair, later provoking complaints from the wapentake at the tolls and prises his bailiffs exacted in the market from the men of the demesne of Mansfield (Barley 1957). Although the market day and the date of the fair do not appear to be legible on the original charter, a document of 1330 allows these to be identified. It seems that for the safety of the King's justices on eyre at Nottingham, a proclamation had been issued prohibiting all gatherings within a certain radius of the city, even at markets and fairs, for the duration of their stay there (Chadwick 1921). Margery Foliot successfully appealed against this, however:

‘To the justices in eyre in county Nottingham. Order to permit Margery Foliot ... who holds the manor of Grymston and the town of Welhagh ... to hold a fair in Welhagh yearly on the day of the Translation of St Swithin and a market there on Friday in every week, and to permit merchants and others wishing to exercise their merchandise there to sell and buy there as they were wont before the eyre and the proclamation ...’ (Cal. Close Rolls, 1330-1333, p. 129).

An inquisition post-mortem held later in 1330 on the death of Margery de Foliot refers to stallage of Wellow market, worth yearly 40s (Blagg 1939).

5.5 *Post-medieval (16th - 18th century)*

5.5.1 *The manor*

The manors of both Wellow and Grimston were still with the Hastings family in 1540 (Thoroton 1677). However, by the end of the 18th century the lordship was owned by the Saviles of Rufford.

5.5.2 *Communications*

In 1658 an application was made on behalf of Sir George Savile to move the main north road still further west, although in fact the road may already have been moved by 1656. The new route not only removed it from Rufford Park and the more private side of Sir George's residence, but also caused it to run well to the west of Wellow (Barley 1957).

Indictments were made against the inhabitants of the parish of Wellow for the non-repair of roads in the 17th century (Copnall 1915), although it is not certain which particular roads were affected.

In 1770 an Act of Parliament was passed enabling the turnpiking of the road between Worksop to Kelham near Newark which ran through Wellow (Cossons 1934). A toll bar was erected at the bridge on the western side of the village.

5.5.3 *The settlement and its environs*

By the 17th century, if not before, Wellow had three open arable fields, as a survey of 1657 records the ‘Feild nexte towne’ (later known as Townend Field), Middle Field and High Field. It also mentions two cottages on the waste, indicating that some encroachment had taken place on common land.

Some idea of the size of the settlement in the 17th century can be gained by using the Hearth Tax returns of 1664 and 1674. Each used different administrative procedures, resulting in certain discrepancies between the two when they are compared, although this is thought to be less of a problem for Newark hundred than for some other Nottinghamshire hundreds. As far as Wellow is concerned, the 1674 figures recorded Wellow and Ompton together; consequently the returns for the two settlements in 1664 have to be combined for purposes of comparison, as shown below:

<i>No. of hearths</i>		1664		1674
	Wellow	Ompton	TOTAL	Wellow & Ompton
>3	4	0	4	4
3	0	0	0	6
2	1	5	6	17
1	36	6	42	25
<i>Sub-total</i>	41	11	52	52
<i>Non-chargeable</i>	17	9	26	9
<i>TOTAL</i>	58	20	78	61

It can be seen that, while the number of chargeable houses remained the same between 1664 and 1674, the number of non-chargeable dwellings dropped markedly. This discrepancy is fairly widespread throughout the county and is thought to indicate that the assessors in 1674 were more concerned with ensuring that all chargeable houses were included and less so with recording non-chargeable buildings, rather than that the settlements had become relatively poverty-free. The figures at Wellow and Ompton also show a marked increase in the number of two and three-hearth houses in 1674 when compared with 1664, together with a decrease in the number of single-hearth dwellings. Again, this is a widespread feature of the returns. The reasons are uncertain, but probably include both the improvement of assessment, with a decrease in fraud, and the improvement of at least some of the houses, as this was a period of considerable rebuilding (Webster 1988).

5.5.4 The parish church

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 the church at Wellow was erroneously scheduled as a chantry. When the Chantry Certificate Rolls were returned in c. 1548, the parishioners found themselves obliged to assert its claim to be a parish church exempt from the scope of the first chantry act (Thompson 1912).

‘The Church of Welhaughe, nominated and called in the boke of Tenthe as a chauntries, And nowe Certified by Hughe Graunger and John Lounde, inhabitantis there, vppon ther othes as a parisshe Churche, and that there is nor never was anye foundacion of anye chaunterie there, neyther is ther anye landis, tenementis or possessions belonginge to the same, butt oonlie tithes ...’ (Thompson 1913, 111)

5.5.5 Population

Some estimate of population in the 17th century can be calculated using the returns to visitations, which required the number of recusants and communicants in each parish to be provided. In 1603, there were 112 communicants at Wellow, with no recusants recorded. No figure was provided for non-communicants (ie those under the age of 16). Wood (1942) assumed they would have made up some 60% of the population and consequently estimated that there were approximately 179 inhabitants of the parish at that date (Wood 1942).

In 1676 the then vicar, William Stephenson, returned the figure of 101 communicants at Wellow, with 5 dissenters (Guilford 1924). Adding an estimated 60% for non-communicants gives a population of about 170, a very slight drop in numbers from the beginning of the 17th century. Population stagnation or decline at that time is not unusual, however. Out of 138 parishes where a straight comparison of the 1603 and 1676 figures was possible, only 38 returned a larger number of communicants (and of recusants and non-communicants or dissenters) in 1676 than in 1603 (Wood 1942).

Further returns were made following Archbishop Herring's visitation of 1743. The curate for Wellow stated that there were some 60 families and one Papist, with no other dissenters, and about 140 communicants (Ollard & Walker 1930). This indicates a population recovery to levels higher than those of the 17th century, with an approximate estimate for the parish of 224 communicants and non-communicants or, using multipliers of 4 and 5 for each family to produce an approximate lower and upper figure, an estimate of between 240 and 300 individuals.

In 1798 Low recorded 350 inhabitants at Wellow 'taken from house to house', which accords well with the figure of 344 in the 1801 census.

5.5.6 Trade and industry

Wellow and its neighbouring parishes were included in a list of the principal hop plantations in the county in 1794 (Lowe 1798). Hop-growing had been introduced into England at the end of the 15th century and to Nottinghamshire soon afterwards, although there appears to be little information about its production before the end of the 18th century. Every acre of hops required over 3000 poles, with a high annual replacement (Pocock 1957), and this provided an important source of income from coppice woodland. Some of the Savile family's woodlands were planted up with ash for hop-poles (Lowe 1798), and these may have included Wellow Park.

5.6 19th century

5.6.1 Communications

Wellow was not directly linked to the rail network, the nearest station being at Ollerton, 1½ miles to the north-west. This lay on the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway, opened at the end on 1896, although only the stretch between Chesterfield and Lincoln was ever built (Cupit & Taylor 1984).

5.6.2 The settlement and its environs

Sanderson's map of 1835 shows three fields still open at Wellow, namely Townend Field immediately to the east of the village, Middle Field beyond that and High Field along the eastern side of the parish, bordering Ompton township. However, in 1836 Wellow Enclosure Act was passed by Parliament, with the Award dated 1842. The northern part of Wellow Green, which lies in Boughton, was not enclosed until 1871.

The settlement of Wellow itself was described in the early 19th century as having a 'poor looking chapel', with the village itself consisting principally of 'poor cottagers' (Laird 1813).

A small hospital and dispensary were set up in a wing of Wellow Hall in 1842. However, this received such little support that by the mid-1880s it had been abandoned (White's *Directory* 1885-6).

5.6.3 Population

The 10-yearly census, which commenced in 1801, provides the following figures for Wellow:

Year	Population
1801	344
1811	378
1821	444
1831	473
1841	549
1851	597

1861	468
1871	406
1881	368
1891	323
1901	290

These figures show a steady rise in population during each decade in the first half of the century. This is followed by an equally steady decrease in numbers, however, to the extent that the population was slightly smaller at the end of the century than it had been at the beginning.

5.6.4 Religious buildings

A Primitive Methodist congregation was present at Wellow by *c.* 1820, with early worship taking place in a barn. This was described as being ‘dilapidated and inconvenient’ and as a result a chapel was built in 1847, with the old chapel/barn being kept on as a schoolroom (*Nottingham Review*, November 11 1851).

The Wesleyan Methodists were also present in Wellow in the first half of the 19th century. They initially worshipped in a chapel at the rear of the Durham Ox Inn. This is recorded in the tithe apportionment; a record made in 1851 (DD 1702/3/206) of a chapel built in *c.* 1835 with only 60 sittings probably refers to this also. In 1854 a new chapel was erected nearby on land leased from the Duke of Newcastle.

5.6.5 Education

Money had been provided some time before 1800 for the education of six poor children at Wellow, and the interest from this was paid to a schoolmaster in 1827 (Fletcher 1910). White’s *Directory* of 1885-6 indicates that there was an Infant School in Wellow at that time, which was attended by 45 children. However it closed in 1894.

5.6.6 Trade and industry

The predominantly agricultural nature of Wellow’s economy is indicated by White’s *Directory* of 1832, which lists 17 farmers there, of which three were considered to be ‘yeomen’. Other occupations listed included four shoemakers, a couple of tailors, a saddler, a wheelwright, a bricklayer and a number of unspecified shopkeepers. Some of the villagers were still engaged in cultivating hops in the adjacent parish of Boughton, although the growing of hops declined over the course of the century.

One local industry which developed on a small scale at Wellow was chair-making, encouraged by the ready supply of wood from Sherwood Forest. White’s *Directory* of 1832 lists a couple of chair-makers, and several chair-makers’ shops can be identified from the Tithe apportionment of 1845. The industry continued to provide employment until at least the 1860s but directories indicate that it had disappeared by the mid 1880s.

To the west of Wellow a brick kiln (SMR 4127) is shown on the northern side of Rufford Lane on Sanderson’s map of 1835, presumably manufacturing bricks for local use. By 1890 there was a more extensive brick yard, located by that time on the southern side of the lane.

5.7 20th century

In 1929 a mineral railway was constructed running from Ollerton to Farnsfield, passing to the north-east of Wellow (Nottinghamshire County Council 1976).

A housing development programme started in 1938 on Eakring Road and continued along Maypole Road in 1958. The old infants’ school had closed towards the end of the 19th century, with children having to attend school in Ollerton. However, with the increased population it was decided to reopen a school in

Wellow; as a result, Wellow House School opened in 1971 (Garfield 1981). Despite this population, however, the last grocer's shop in the village closed in c. 1980.

6. THE DEVELOPMENT OF WELLOW

The town has been divided into plan elements, or components, based on map evidence and documentary sources. These plan elements have been subdivided below according to the earliest date of their assumed occurrence, although these subdivisions are tentative only, and need to be confirmed by further work. Subsequent major changes are briefly summarised, together with the degree of survival of early features to the present day.

The boundaries of the area covered by the assessment report were drawn to include Jordan Castle to the north-east of the village. This has meant the inclusion of a considerable amount of open land. The fact that this open land is shown as blank on the following maps means only that it is not known to have formed part of the built-up area at any time during its history.

6.1 Medieval components

Ten components have been tentatively identified as belonging to the medieval period and are shown on figure 3. Their identification is based mainly on plan form analysis of the enclosure map of 1842, a copy of part of which is reproduced as figure 2.

Component 1 *Jordan Castle* (SMR 4096, Scheduled Monument No. 13394)

This component covers the scheduled area, and includes an 11th or 12th century ringwork adapted in the 13th century to become the site of a fortified manor house, that of the Foliots, lords of Grimston. Richard Foliot obtained licence in 1264 to:

‘enclose the dwelling place of his manor of Grymeston ... with a dyke and a wall of stone and lime and to crenellate it at their will (Cal Pat Rolls 1258-66, 382).

The manor house may have fallen into disuse in or soon after 1299, when Richard Foliot and his son Jordan died within a few weeks of each other and the manor came to one of his daughters and her husband, Sir Hugh Hastings, of Elsing, Norfolk (Barley 1957). The name ‘Jordan Castle’ was in use by at least the early 18th century, as it is shown as such on the map of 1738.

Also included in the scheduled area is a hollow way with earth mounds on either side indicating structures, probably a gate tower, and a small roughly rectangular pond which may have originated as a manorial fishpond. In addition, well-preserved ridge and furrow is visible both adjacent to and crossing the site, obviously post-dating the abandonment of the house.

In 1993 water mains reconditioning work was carried out at Wellow. Part of the pipeline crossed the scheduled area of Jordan Castle. Three holes were hand dug through the backfilled trench of the existing main to allow access to the pipe, one about 9m west of the ringwork and two close to the northern limit of the scheduled area. The trenches were hand dug to a depth of between 0.75m and 1m. A probable medieval ploughsoil was identified, but no other archaeological deposits were exposed and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil apart from a modern metal bolt (Abbott 1993b).

Component 2 *Church (SMR 4131) and churchyard*

The earliest fabric in the church is thought to be the lower part of the tower, dated to the 12th century, with upper parts being of the 13th and 15th centuries. The nave and south aisle are both of 14th century date.

In c. 1810 the church was partly rebuilt and repaired, principally of brick, and roofed with blue slate. It became dilapidated again to the extent that in the 1870s no public worship could be held there:

‘The Church end fell in and so complete was the wreck that only a few bare walls remained’ (Anon c. 1939).

It was restored and reopened in 1878, having been given a new chancel by *Ewan Christian* (Pevsner 1975). The church was further restored in the 1930s and in 1968.

The extent of the medieval churchyard is not known, consequently that shown on Fig. 3 is its extent at the end of the 19th century. A rough plan of Wellow in 1813 shows that the vicarage once stood in the north-eastern corner of the churchyard, but it had been demolished by the mid 1840s. The churchyard contains three listed structures, a tomb slab of 1651, a triple chest tomb of 1803 and a single chest tomb of 1819. In addition, a skeleton with a bullet hole through the skull, found under some flagstones in the chapel at Rufford, was apparently reburied in Wellow churchyard (information from the Doubleday Index, Notts. Local Studies Library).

Component 3 *Gorge Dyke* (SMR 4095, SAM 131)

The recorded name of the earthwork around Wellow is Gorge Dyke, although the name is not known to occur before the 19th century. The component includes the surviving sections of bank and ditch, much of which are scheduled (see Fig. 7) and their probable course where they have been lost. It also includes an earthwork at the north-western corner of the village which extends for a short distance northwards along the eastern side of a small stream. On the south-west side of the village the ditch takes advantage of the stream’s course. On the north side the ditch has been filled in but its line is clear as a property boundary. It has also been filled in behind a farm on the south-eastern side. On the north-east side the ditch is about 8ft deep and the inner bank very pronounced; going east the ditch peters out and the road to Jordan Castle occupies its line at the north-east corner. Barley (1957) thought that the surviving portions showed enough variation to suggest that different groups of men had been responsible for different lengths. At some point a house was constructed on the south-eastern corner of the dyke, as shown on the enclosure and tithe maps, but this had been demolished by the end of the 19th century.

Gorge Dyke was partially excavated in two places in the 20th century (Brown n.d.) but no further information relating to these excavations is available at present. Other poorly documented or unknown excavations may also have been carried out in the past, as is suggested by a comment made by one of Wellow’s inhabitants and quoted by Mais (n.d., 106):

‘ ... Then there is the moat. I have done some digging in it, but so far I can’t say when it was made ...’

More recently, a test pit was excavated and a watching brief carried out close to the bank (see component 10). What archaeological evidence there is suggests that the earthwork was a single phase construction over a previously ploughed surface.

Component 4 *Market place/village green*

This elongated triangular area at the junction of Eakring Road and Newark Road would have been the market place in the 13th century, later becoming the village green. It is unique in having a permanent maypole. This was originally of wood, and needed regular replacement; however, in 1976 the wooden pole was replaced by one made of steel. The dancing area around the maypole used to be on a slope, but in the 1960s the area was leveled to make it easier for the children dancing (Smith 1985).

At some point, possibly during the post-medieval period, several buildings were constructed towards the north-western edge of the green, forming a compact group. In 1847 a Primitive Methodist Chapel was erected as part of this group, described by Pevsner as being ‘entirely in the Georgian tradition’, replacing

an old stable and butcher's shop which had previously stood on the site (*Nottingham Review*, Nov. 11 1851).

Component 5 *Settlement along the northern side of Newark Road*

This component fronts Newark Road to the south and is bounded by Gorge Dyke on all other sides. It is bisected by a lane running roughly north-south, connecting the centre of the village with the eastern end of Wellow Green and the western end of Townend Field. The area to the west of the lane includes a number of long narrow and apparently regulated plots which run along the northern side of the market place/green; other larger plots towards the eastern end of the component may be the end result of amalgamation or may always have been larger, away from the planned commercial centre of the town. The easternmost plot was an empty field by the 19th century, although earthworks have been noted in it, possibly representing building platforms (SMR 5477).

The component contains a number of listed buildings, one of which, Rock House, is of probable 17th century date and is said to take its name from having its foundations on bedrock (Garfield 1981). The Hall, also listed, had its west wing converted into a hospital and dispensary for a time in the mid-19th century. On the eastern side of the lane stands the former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, recognisable by its datestone of 1854. It had been renovated and repaired in 1906 but now appears to be in use as a farm outbuilding. The component also includes the old village school building, later converted to a parish hall (Garfield 1981). Although the original frontage of the component was Newark Road, by the middle of the 19th century several dwellings appear to have been built at the northern end of the plots, fronting onto Wellow Green. Additional buildings were constructed in the grounds of The Hall in the second half of the 19th century, but since that time there appears to have been relatively little development.

Component 6 *Settlement along the western side of Eakring Road and the green*

A regulated row of properties sharing a common rear boundary formed by the stream. There has been relatively little change in this area over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries, with the exception of one plot where a new hall has been built, set well back from the green frontage, with parking to the front and a cottage to the rear.

Component 7 *Settlement along the eastern side of Eakring Road and the green*

A regulated row of properties sharing a common rear boundary and bisected by what was once a narrow lane leading to the church, although it has now mostly been incorporated into a large car park for the Red Lion. This component includes two listed buildings of 18th century date and a building said to have been the tithe barn near its southern end. Several new houses were constructed in the 20th century, together with a new access road, Church Farm Gardens.

Component 8 *Settlement along the southern side of Newark Road*

A short block of properties with regulated layout fronting Newark Road.

Component 9 *Settlement along the south-western side of Potter Lane*

The plan of 1738 shows land in this area as forming part of the properties in the southern half of component 7. However, that plan is somewhat schematic and may not represent the true situation. A single house shown on the plot to the south of the church in the first half of the 19th century had gone by the end of the century. Much of this component was divided up for housing in the 20th century.

Component 10 *Settlement along the eastern side of Potter Lane*

A row of plots of variable size with a common back boundary formed by part of the scheduled area of Gorge Dyke. No buildings are shown along Potter Lane on the plan of 1738, although as noted above, this

plan is not reliable in its detail. Certainly a number of buildings were present in the early 19th century, and further plots had been developed for housing by the end of the 20th century, including the development of the Newark Road frontage. In addition, land opposite the church has been used as an extension to the graveyard.

Some archaeological work has taken place at the north-eastern end of this component adjacent to the Gorge Dyke. In 1993 a test pit was excavated prior to the proposed construction of a bungalow. The pit was 1.3m x 0.7m and 1m deep. It was located on the edge of the inner slope of the Gorge Dyke bank. The results showed the survival of a substantial bank covering a buried ploughsoil, believed to represent the old ground surface before construction of the bank, and suggested a single phase of construction (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1994).

In 1999 a watching brief was carried out during the construction of the bungalow. The stripping of topsoil and the excavation of footings were monitored, the bungalow footings being excavated to a width of 0.6m and a maximum depth of 1m below the present ground surface, and garden wall footings being excavated to a width and depth of 0.6m. Undated archaeological features were recorded, comprising a ditch and possible field boundaries. Three fragments of post-medieval pottery were retrieved from the topsoil (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1999).

6.2 Post-medieval components (16th-18th centuries)

Five components have been tentatively identified as belonging to the post-medieval period and are shown on figure 4.

Component 11 *Wellow Dams*

Barley (1957, 88) noted the existence of several dams in the Rufford area, at least one of which probably had 14th century origins, while two others were certainly present by the mid-17th century. In view of this, he suggested that Wellow Dam 'may plainly be a good deal older' than the earliest documentary evidence presently available for it, which he cited as 19th century maps, although in fact a dam is shown on the map of 1738. The enclosure and tithe maps show a second dam also, in the form of a small roughly diamond-shaped pond actually on the stream, called Little Dam.

Component 12 *Settlement at the junction of Eakring Road and Gorge Dyke*

The 1738 map indicates that houses had been constructed on either side of Eakring Road on the southern side of the stream, showing a single building on the western side and two buildings on the eastern side, although this may be a schematic depiction only. Both may have their origins in encroachments on waste land at the edge of the medieval settlement. Similarly a small building and plot of land shown at the southern end of component 4 may represent an encroachment onto the common land of the green.

Component 13 *Settlement at the junction of Newark Road and Gorge Dyke*

Buildings here consisted of Wellow Farm, later Wellow House, on the western side of Newark Road and a toll house on the eastern side. The road had been turnpiked in 1770 and a toll bar erected at the bridge on the western side of the village. This toll bar was done away with in 1877 (Mais n.d.). The toll house is not shown on late 19th century OS maps, and may have been demolished around the same time. There was probably a farm on the site of Wellow House in the 17th century, as the 'Survey of the Lordship of Rufford' of 1637 marks the plot as 'tofts'. Buildings are depicted somewhat stylistically on the 1738 map, and there is a plan of the farm made in 1837. By the late 19th century, it was known as Wellow House, and is now Wellow House School.

Component 14 *Settlement at the eastern end of Rufford Lane*

A map of Ollerton dated 1781 shows buildings on either side of the road at this point, some or all of which probably originated as encroachments along the roadside or along the edge of a once larger common, now Wellow Green. The area is shown as Wellow Gap on the plan of 1637. Buildings on the southern side of the road are also shown on the 1837 plan of Wellow Farm, but had gone by the end of the century, by which time the land had been planted with trees.

Component 15 *Outlying farms*

Three farms have been established at varying distances from Wellow. Jordan Castle Farm, to the north-east, appears to be shown on the 1738 map. Park Farm was present by 1813, being marked on a map of that date, as was a small building slightly further west on the margin of Wellow Green which was either associated with the farm or was a separate dwelling, presumably an encroachment. Scotts Farm (previously Rufford Lane Farm) was present by 1835, but may also have its origins in the later 18th century. Certainly the land it now farms appears to have been enclosed by that time.

6.3 19th century components

Four components have been identified for the 19th century and are shown on figure 5. Their identification is based mainly upon a comparison of early and late 19th century maps.

Component 16 *Settlement on Wellow Green*

A number of dwellings had been erected in a compact group on Wellow Green by 1835, but are not shown on the sketch plan of 1813. Late 19th century maps show a smithy on the northern side of the group. This building is still in existence, although nearly all the original houses have been demolished.

Component 17 *Settlement at the junction of Rufford Lane, Newark Road and Wellow Road*

A pair of houses had been built at this junction by the end of the 19th century.

Component 18 *Building by Wellow House*

The 1900 OS map shows a building in this area. It is not clear whether it was one of the outbuildings associated with Wellow House, or whether it was a separate dwelling.

Component 19 *Pinfold*

The pinfold was constructed on Newark Road just beyond Gorge Dyke following Parliamentary Enclosure of the open fields. It is no longer present.

6.4 20th century development

Most of the 20th century development, as shown on Figure 6, is represented by a single un-numbered component and consists mainly of extended farm complexes and areas of housing. The exception is component 20, a mineral railway, one of a number serving collieries in the area. It is now dismantled.

6.5 Discussion

On present knowledge, the earliest indication of the existence of Wellow comes from the dating of the lower part of the church tower, thought to be from the later 12th century. It is possible that the settlement was pre-dated by the surrounding enclosure, Gorge Dyke, the origins of which are unknown. Barley (1957) concluded that a prehistoric date for the enclosure was highly unlikely because of its topographic location, although he noted that it could be pre-conquest in origin, perhaps associated with the land of the

two sokemen recorded in Domesday Book. The word **haga** or 'hay' is a common element in Nottinghamshire place names; it can mean a small enclosure for a house or hunting lodge, or a large area of woodland in which deer were confined as clearance proceeded. Barley (1957, 84) suggested that the enclosure at Wellow is 'intermediate in size and scale', being too small for a preserve but larger than required for an individual residence, generally seeming 'somewhat more in keeping with ideas of communal defence'. Its location on the parish boundary indicates either that it post-dates the formation of that boundary or that it was considered to be insignificant when the boundary was drawn.

Whether or not the enclosure already existed, Barley (1957) has argued that Wellow itself came about as a consequence of the foundation of Rufford Abbey by Gilbert de Gaunt, Earl of Lincoln, in the mid-12th century. Cistercian policy sometimes appears to have involved the destruction of existing villages in order to achieve the ideal of monastic seclusion. In this way the establishment of a Cistercian abbey at Rufford may have led to the disappearance of the villages of Cratley and Rufford. The abbey's cartulary includes a charter recording an agreement between the monks of Rufford and 'the men who had dwelt there', apparently relating to the removal and compensation of the villagers. The settlement of Wellow and its surrounding enclosure may therefore have been

'... constructed by peasants made homeless during or shortly after the anarchy of Stephen and anxious to establish themselves where they and their cattle could not be plundered' (Barley 1957, 84).

Barley argues strongly in favour of the displaced villagers themselves having established Wellow, noting the existence of a relatively large number of free tenants and their 'independent, if not turbulent, spirit ... in keeping with a novel origin for the settlement'. However, it is probably more likely that Wellow was deliberately established as a commercial venture by the lord of the manor of Grimston. The settlement was planted at the junction of the then main road between Nottingham and the north with the Newark to Worksop road, and had a regulated layout around a triangular open area. The hope would have been that Wellow would develop into a market town, and the boundary earthwork may thus have been created not only for defensive purposes but also to control taxes and tolls.

In the 1260s the lord of Grimston appears to have been actively developing his estate, embattling his manor house, stocking his park and securing a market grant for Wellow, although if, as noted above, the settlement was deliberately created for its commercial potential, then the grant may have simply legitimised a pre-existing market. The acquisition of markets did not always lead to the development of towns, however, and it is debatable whether Wellow ever could have claimed such a status, as there is no evidence that it acquired any other urban functions. Nearby Laxton had already become a regional administrative centre in the early 12th century and by the time Laxton began to lose its administrative importance, Wellow was probably declining also. Its market does not appear to have survived beyond the 14th century, the last documentary reference to it coming in 1330. Two years later the lay subsidy return shows Wellow with far fewer taxpayers than many of its neighbours, having only nine compared to Walesby's thirteen, Eakring's 21 and Laxton's 42 separate taxpayers (Cameron 1980).

It is possible that the settlement saw its maximum medieval population in the late 13th century, therefore, when attempts were actively being made to promote its status. Indeed, any population recovery or growth in the post-medieval period could almost certainly have been accommodated within the existing plan, although the construction of one or two farms on the periphery of the village occurred as the land became increasingly enclosed. Even in the mid-19th century, when the population of the parish almost reached 600, it is clear from the enclosure map of 1842 that there were still empty plots within the area bounded by Gorge Dyke, although some infilling to the rear of plots in the form of yards or rows of small cottages took place at this time.

The second half of the 19th century saw a steady, although small, decrease in population numbers and the village remained relatively unaffected by the exploitation of the area's coal reserves from the 1920s onward, in a period which saw the considerable expansion of nearby Ollerton and Boughton. As with neighbouring Laxton, Wellow has retained an element of medieval organisation, in Wellow's case the

survival of toft-holdings. The tofts change hands when houses are sold, although a process of amalgamation has reduced the number from 67 in 1845 to *c.* 30 by 1987. Toftholders have rights of pasture, grazing and taking timber from their toft, together with a responsibility for the upkeep of common land, to which end they use the income from anglers who fish Wellow Dam (*Newark Advertiser*, Sept. 11, 1987).

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ISSUES

7.1 Research questions

A number of questions arise which are important for understanding the origins and development of Wellow:

- 1) The date and function of the enclosure which surrounds Wellow needs to be established. Is it contemporary with the creation of the town, as is generally thought, or did it pre-date the settlement?
- 2) The dates of abandonment of Rufford and Cratley need to be established through archaeological work in order to understand their relationship with Wellow.
- 3) Given the regulated layout of the new town, why was the church not situated fronting the market place? Was it a later addition to the plan, or were commercial aspects within a limited space considered to be more important? There was presumably a church at Grimston, for which the parish boundary was drawn, although there appears to be no documentary reference to it - did this originally serve the community at Wellow?
- 4) Did the settlement ever fully occupy the total extent of the area enclosed by Gorge Dyke? It is possible that some land, perhaps that between Potter Lane and the earthwork, was intended for orchards or for folding stock within the safety of the enclosure.
- 5) Wellow does not appear to have acquired any other 'urban' functions beyond the holding of a market. When and why did the market fail? There is no known mention of it after 1330; however, Unwin (1981) suggests that the decline of rural markets was not necessarily an immediate result of the demographic and economic crises of the early 14th century.
- 6) What was Wellow's relationship with Laxton, not a great distance away? There are a number of factors in Laxton's history, as identified by Cameron (1980) which appear to be mirrored by Wellow - a large number of freehold tenants, the disappearance of the settlement's particular function and its reversion to complete dependence upon agriculture, and the abandonment around the end of the 13th century of the manor site. Cameron suggested Laxton was unable to expand because of its proximity to Wellow's market - was Wellow unable to flourish because Laxton had already acquired the important administrative functions for the area?
- 7) It appears that very little historical research relating to Wellow has been undertaken and published since Barley's paper of 1957. The amount and variety of surviving documentation needs to be examined in detail, as it may offer considerable research potential in its own right, as well as in assisting to formulate specific archaeological research questions.

7.2 Archaeological potential

7.2.1 Existing protection

Scheduled monuments

Certain nationally important archaeological sites and monuments enjoy special protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. This protection ensures that the case for preservation is fully considered should there be any proposals for development or other work which might damage the monument. Any such proposals are subject to Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, administered directly by the Secretary of State. They include not only demolition, damage or removal, but also restorative works. There would normally be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of the monument.

There are two scheduled monuments in the area under consideration in this report, as shown on Figure 7. These consist of the eastern side of Gorge Dyke (SAM 131) and Jordan Castle to the north-east (SAM 13394).

Conservation areas

The *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* required all Local Planning Authorities to determine which parts of their areas were of special architectural or historic interest and to designate them as conservation areas, in order to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area. It is also their duty to review them from time to time, and to determine whether any further parts of their areas should also be designated as conservation areas.

Wellow Conservation Area was first designated in June 1970 and was extended in April 1978 to enclose the area shown on Figure 7. As can be seen, not only does it include the whole of the village enclosed by Gorge Dyke, but also more open land to the north-east, including Wellow Dam and part of Wellow Green.

Listed buildings

A listed building is one recognised by the government as being of special architectural or historic interest, as specified by the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*. Listing is made at three levels of importance, Grade II, Grade II* and the most important, Grade I, and listed building consent is required, in addition to normal planning consent, before any alterations, extensions or demolitions can be made to a listed structure which might affect its character.

There are eleven listed buildings in the area of Wellow under consideration in this report. Of these, one is Grade II*, namely the parish church of St Swithin. The remainder are Grade II, and all can be broken down according to their earliest structural phase as follows:

Earliest structural phase	C16 or earlier	C17	C18	C19	C20
Number of structures	1	2	6	2	

The majority of listed buildings are shown on Figure 7, the exceptions being the boundary wall at Wellow Hall and three tombs in the churchyard.

Planning Policy Guidance 15 allows the creation and maintenance of a list of buildings of local historic/architectural interest, although this does not confer a statutory obligation. However, no local list exists for Wellow at present.

7.2.2 *Above ground remains*

The medieval layout of Wellow, as a small planted town with a boundary earthwork, is still clearly visible today, probably having changed little since it was first laid out in the 12th century. Both the green in the centre of the village and the common land on its northern edge are important features in helping to retain this layout, while scheduling has given the boundary earthwork some protection over the area where it is best preserved. The main intrusions into the historic plan are along the eastern side of the green, namely the pub carpark and an access road to modern housing near the church.

The traditional building materials at Wellow would have been timber, mud and stud, with brick becoming economical and fashionable in the 18th century. Outbuildings of the vicarage are mentioned in glebe terriers as being 'part brick, part mud and stud', although these no longer survive. The majority of existing buildings are of brick; however, the standing fabric has the potential for providing evidence of earlier constructional and phase changes. Rock House, for example, retains some timber framing, and it is always possible that earlier structures lie hidden behind the later brick facades of other houses.

Most buildings in Wellow are domestic, and range in type from cottages through farmhouses to the country house of Wellow Hall, and in date from the 17th to the 20th century. The importance of agriculture to Wellow's economy is underlined by the absence of industrial structures, the closest being a 19th century smithy building on Wellow Green, presently in need of restoration. The village's two non-conformist chapels of mid 19th century date both still stand.

The church and churchyard are also an important part of the above ground features of Wellow, the former standing on a slight but pronounced rise in ground level. The fabric of the church holds information relating to the different phases of its construction, while the gravestones in the churchyard, dating from the 17th century, provide information about Wellow's past population as well as evidence in their decorative style of changes in fashion or custom.

7.2.3 *Below ground remains*

A limited amount of archaeological work has been carried out at Wellow with varying results. Work carried out in the area of Jordan Castle and Gorge Dyke indicated the survival of archaeological features in trenches dug to a depth of around 1m, producing evidence of a medieval ploughsoil near the former and a buried ploughsoil, a ditch and a possible enclosure near the latter (see components 1 and 3). Both are sites of considerable archaeological importance and potential, as indicated by their scheduled status. In the case of Jordan Castle, the remains of medieval structures are likely to survive, including not only the house but other buildings also, possibly including a gate tower. Ancillary features such as a fishpond and hollow way also survive well. The fishpond is still filled with water and so could retain organic remains. In the case of Gorge Dyke, the earthwork is likely to contain evidence of its construction and possibly even of structures adjacent to it, such as a gateway. Domestic rubbish may have been piled up against it, while an earlier land surface will lie protected beneath it which could provide information about the local environment prior to the creation of the town.

On the other hand, watching briefs carried out in the village during water mains recondition work along the side of the A616 and the B6387 in 1993 (Abbott 1993a) and during the laying of new water mains pipes along Billet Lane and Potter Lane in 1994 (Abbott 1994) were less successful. It was thought that a sequence of road and track surfaces might be encountered below the modern road metalling. Following the machine excavation of holes and trenches to a depth of around 1m to 1.2m, all exposed sections were carefully examined and the spoil searched for artefacts. However, only undisturbed natural was observed below a layer of modern road metalling and hardcore, while nothing other than modern material was recovered from the spoil. This was taken to suggest that there have been major phases of road construction and improvement in the recent past.

During the period when Wellow was a market town, the market area would be expected to be one of the most intensively occupied parts of the town. Plots in this area, now generally domestic, could contain

sequences of commercial buildings along their frontages, with outhouses, workshops and rubbish pits to the rear. Other areas away from the market area may also have once been more intensively occupied than they presently are, for example along the north-eastern side of Newark Road, where a large area of land is now occupied only by a couple of farms. Early maps also indicate the presence of buildings which have since disappeared in areas which have not been particularly developed, such as along the margins of the green to the north of the settlement, as well as on the green itself.

The churchyard is an important area of potential, preserving not only the past population of Wellow but also potentially the below-ground remains of the vicarage shown on the sketch map of 1813, while the interior of the church may contain vaults, burials and evidence of earlier phases of construction.

There may be some potential for environmental work, with the possible survival of organic remains, along the stream running by Wellow and in the dam, the origins of which are at present unknown.

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1885 1st ed. 25" OS map, sheet 24.2

1890 1st ed. 6" OS map, sheet 24 NW

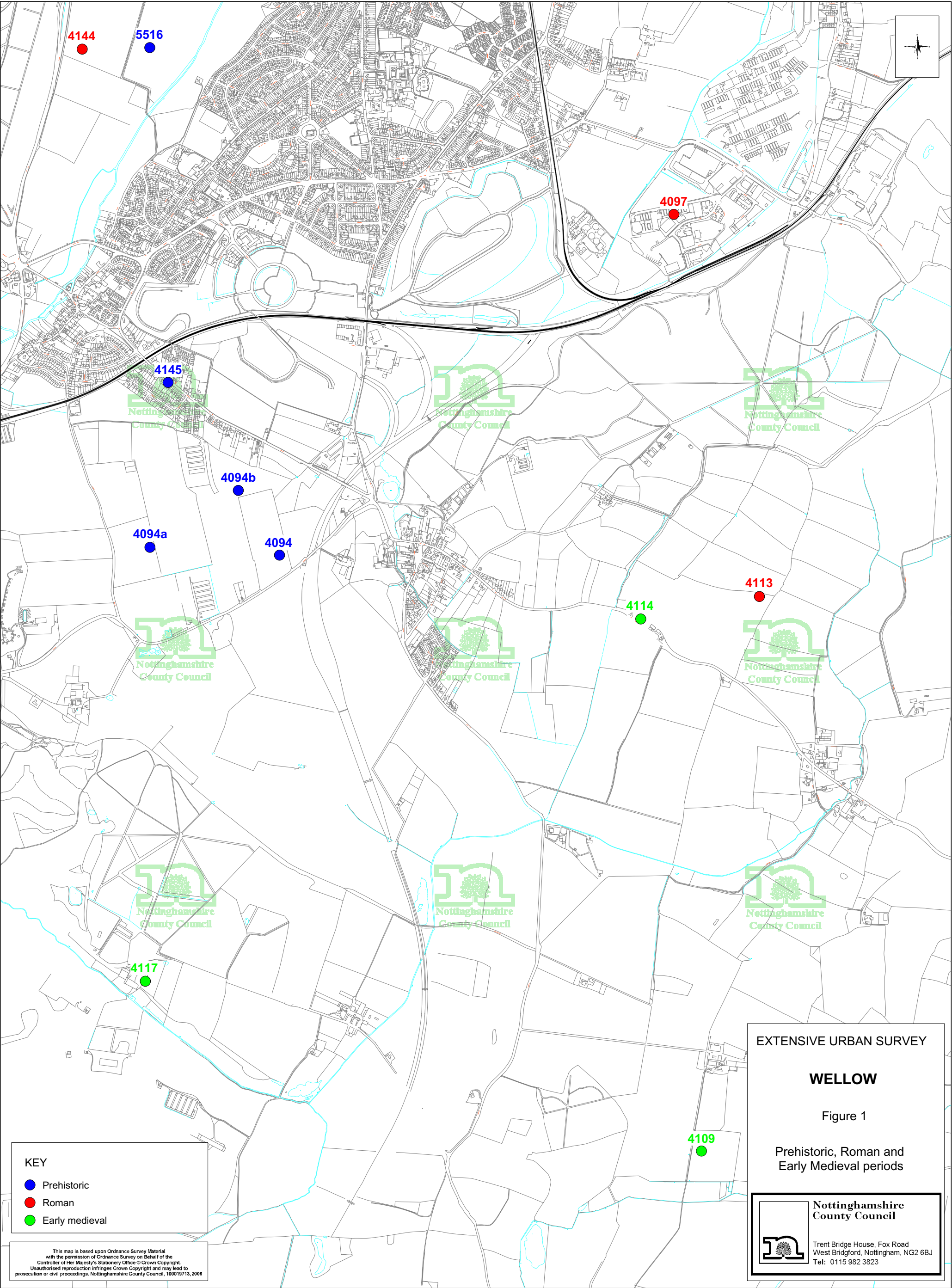
1900 2nd ed. 6" OS map, sheet 24 NW

1900 2nd ed. 25" OS map, sheet 24.2

8.2 Primary documents consulted

Survey of Wellow in 1657 (Notts. Archives DD SR 227/17)

Papers relating to non-conformist chapels in 1851, including an extract from the *Nottingham Review* of Nov. 11, 1851 (Notts. Archives DD 1702/3/206)



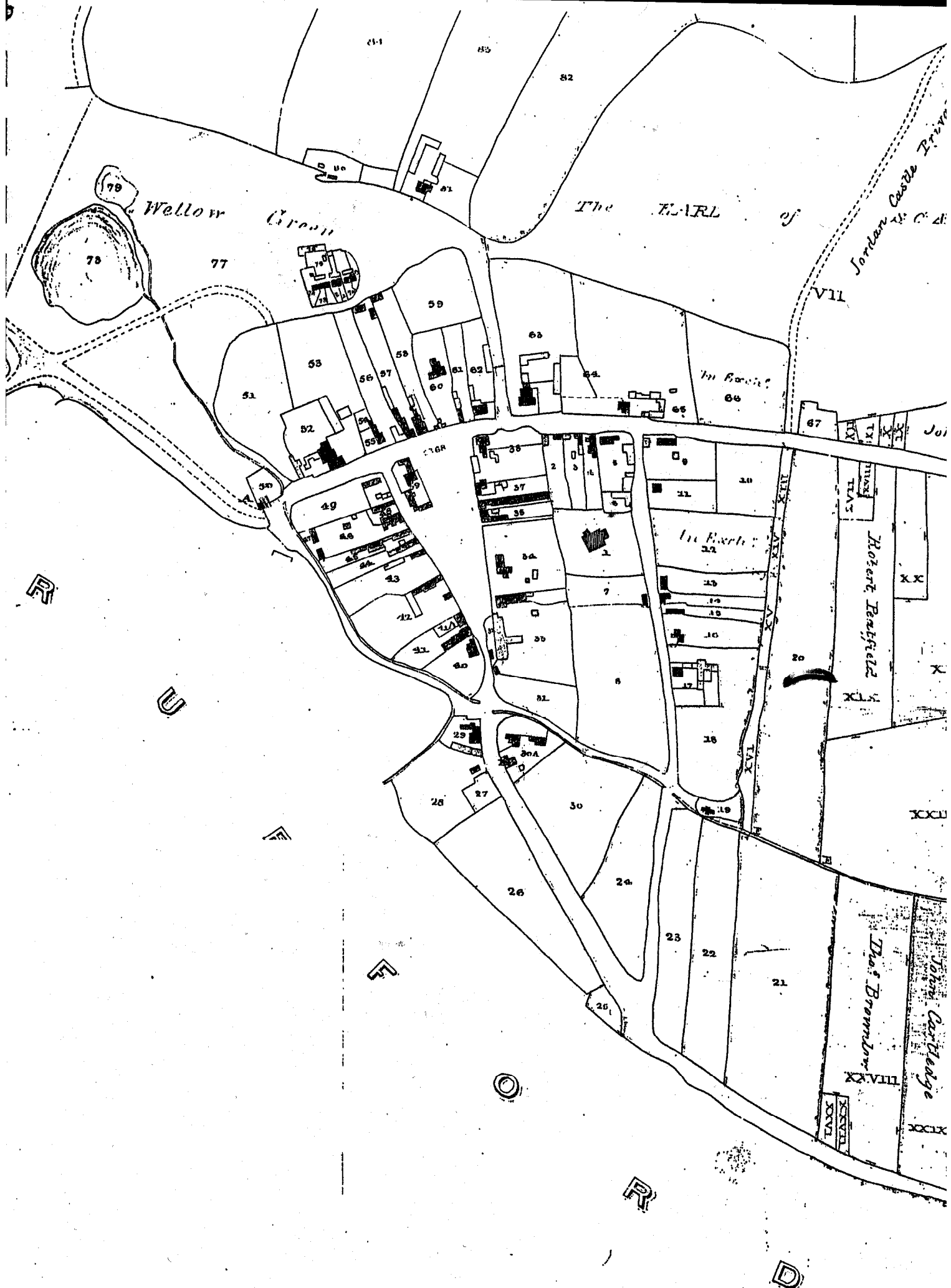




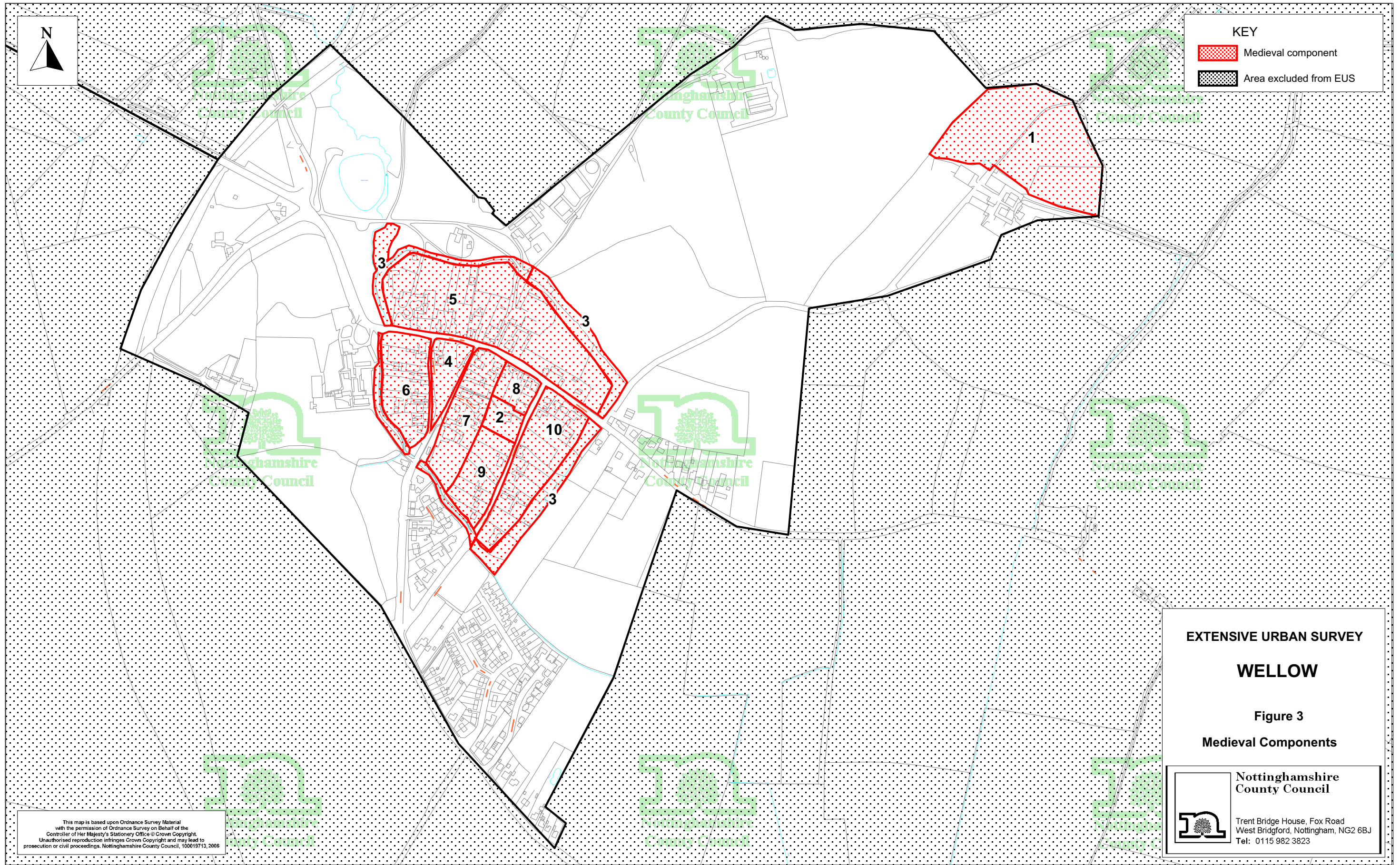
Fig 2



KEY

 Medieval component

 Area excluded from EUS



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EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

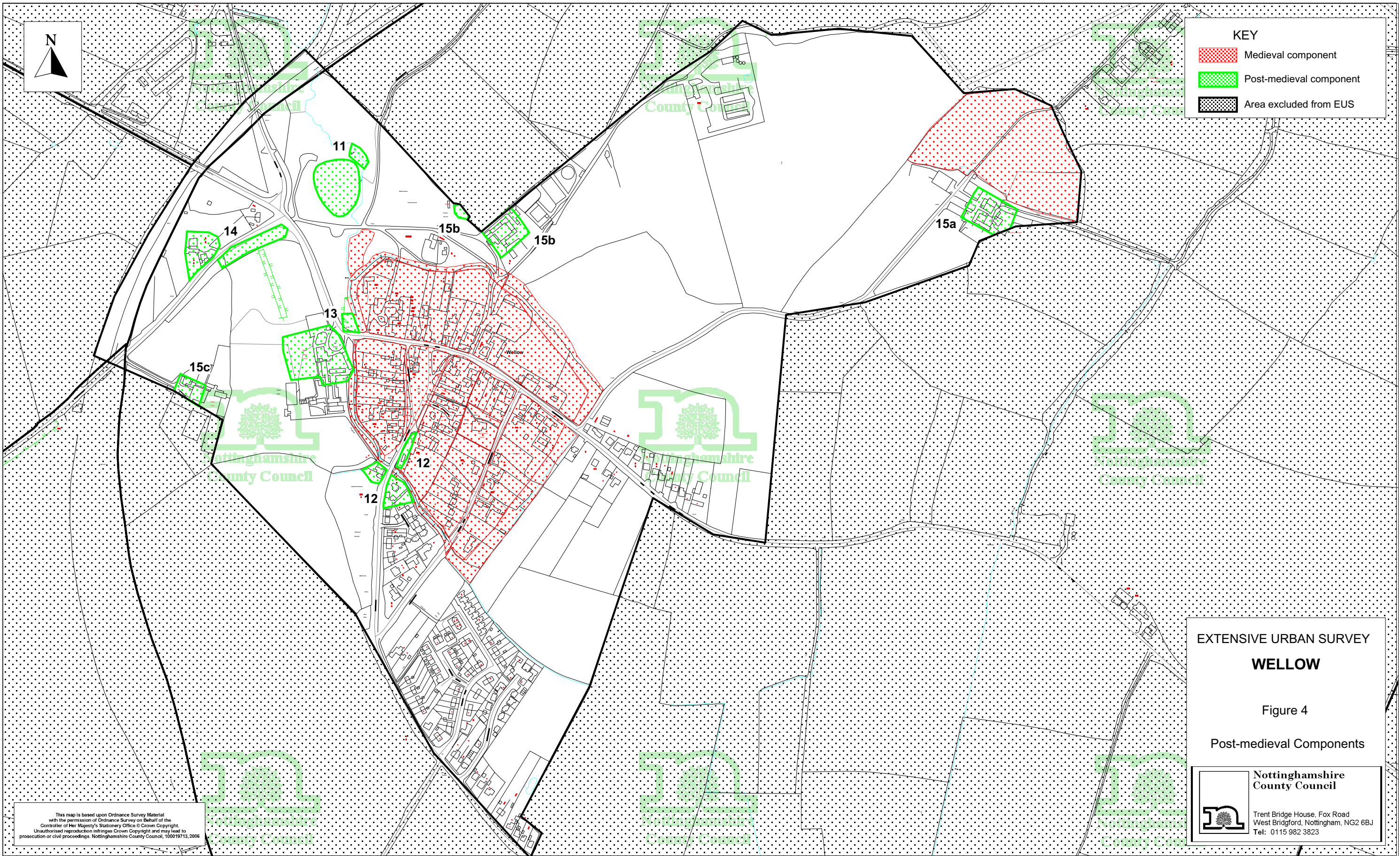
WELLOW

Figure 3

Medieval Components

 **Nottinghamshire County Council**

Trent Bridge House, Fox Road
West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BJ
Tel: 0115 982 3823



KEY

- Medieval component
- Post-medieval component
- Area excluded from EUS

EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

WELLOW

Figure 4

Post-medieval Components

Nottinghamshire County Council

Trent Bridge House, Fox Road
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