

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Revive Health Care Ltd.

February 2019



**42 ST MARTIN'S ROAD, BILBOROUGH
NOTTINGHAM**

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

A Pascoe

42 ST MARTIN'S ROAD, BILBOROUGH, NOTTINGHAM

Site Code : BLSM19
Accession No.: NCMG 2018-67
Planning Application No.: 18/01988/PFUL3
NGR.: SK 5206 4182
Oasis ID.: withamar1-342354

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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42 ST MARTIN'S ROAD, BILBOROUGH, NOTTINGHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology at 42 St Martin's Road, Bilborough Nottingham. The project was commissioned by Revive Care Homes to provide archaeological information in support of a planning application for construction of an extension to a care home. The archaeological evaluation was required prior to the determination of the application.

The site lies immediately to the east of St Martin's church which is a 14th century Grade II listed building. Previous archaeological work in the surrounding area had revealed a possible fortified manor or homestead immediately to the north of the church. Trial trenching in the wider areas has retrieved sherds of Iron Age pottery.*

No archaeological features were discovered in the area of investigation. A number of fragments of roof tiles, dated to the 16th to 18th century, a brick fragment and a single pot sherd dated to the late 18th early 19th century were recovered during the machining of overburden from the trenches.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology on the site of a proposed housing development comprising an extension to an existing care home at 42 St Martin's Road, Bilborough, Nottingham. The project was commissioned by Revive Care Homes to provide archaeological information in support of a planning application for construction of the extension. The archaeological evaluation was required prior to the determination of the application.

The trial trenching was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of investigation (WSI) compiled by Witham Archaeology and approved by Scott Lomax the Nottingham City Archaeologist. The archaeological fieldwork was completed on 28th January 2019.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Fig. 1-2)

Bilborough is a suburb located on the western edge of the city of Nottingham, approximately 5km north-west of the city centre. Bilborough is occupied by mainly post-war housing but open countryside is located immediately beyond the western edge of the suburb.

The proposed development is located close to the western edge of the suburb, off St Martin's Road and immediately to the north-west of the playing fields of Westbury School. The medieval Grade II* listed church of St Martin's lies immediately to the west of the care home. The development plot of around 0.14 hectares, located to the west of the extant care home, is centred on NGR SK 5206 4182.

Local geology comprises mainly deposits of Cadeby Formation Dolostone although an outcrop of Lenton sandstone and Edlington Formation mudstone and sandstone is located immediately to the south of the site. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The place name Bilborough is of Old English origin and it has been suggested that the name is a conjunction of a Saxon family name 'Billa' and 'borough', the second element meaning an enclosed settlement (www.ournottinghamshire.org.uk). The settlement is documented in Domesday Book (1086) wherein two holdings containing a total of 9 households were listed, suggesting a small community (<http://opendomesday.org/place/SK5142/bilborough/>). The smaller holding was held from Arnold manor and was in possession of the king, both prior to and after 1066.

In 1939 trial excavations undertaken by H. Martin and A. Oswald just 60m to the north of St Martin's church identified an almost square shaped banked enclosure with a rectangular earthwork in its north-east corner. The site is thought to represent a medieval fortified homestead, possibly a manor house. The inner enclosure of the complex contained limestone walls, which varied in width between 3ft and 8ft (<http://www.gatehousegazetteer.info/English%20sites/4840.html>). Pottery recovered during the investigation suggested that the site was occupied during the 14th and 15th centuries. The possibility of Romano-British occupation within the vicinity is indicated by the recovery of pottery of the period during the investigation.

The church of St Martins is Grade II* listed (HHL 1255110) and is described in the listing as comprising 14th century fabric with extensive 19th century renovations.

Coal mining is documented in Bilborough from 1545, increasing in the following centuries. Historic maps and aerial photographs show coal pits in the vicinity of 42 St Martin's Road, although none are known to exist in the footprint of the proposed development.

The brief (Lomax, 2018) issued by the Nottingham City Archaeologist describes the results of a geophysical survey undertaken as part of the Hidden History Project to investigate the possibility of structural remains associated with an earlier phase of St Martin's Church. The geophysical survey consisted of detailed earth resistance, high-density radar, and dual frequency radar surveys over the northern and southern churchyards. There were no anomalies providing definitive evidence of structural remains. However, a possible area of ground disturbance identified to the north of the church may relate to the extension of the church in the 1970s. Anomalies to the north and south of the church were detected which were possibly consistent with remains of stone structures. However, the strength of the latter anomaly and the fact it does not share an orientation with the church suggested it is more likely to be of natural origin. Several small anomalies detected by the high-density radar could relate to features of archaeological interest. Other anomalies were found to relate to graves, areas of natural variation, a soakaway, drains and underground services.

During 2017 a geophysical survey followed by trial trench excavation undertaken at Chingford Field to the south of St Martin's Road revealed several anomalies, many of which were found to be of modern date. However, one of a few pits identified on the north side of the site contained two sherds of Iron Age pottery.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows no structures or buildings on the site, which appears to be located within enclosed gardens or paddocks, probably attached to a house to the north. Chapman's map of 1774 shows the site as fields, with no evidence of structural remains. No antiquarian observations or archaeological work has taken place within the site boundary. The Nottingham Historic Environment Record (HER) has no record of archaeological remains within the site boundary.

4.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

The development proposal provides for an extension to an existing care home at 42 St. Martin's Road, Bilborough, Nottingham.

A planning application (18/01988/PFUL3) for the development has been submitted to Nottingham City Council. On the advice of the Nottingham City Archaeologist the local planning authority requested that a programme of archaeological trial trenching be undertaken to establish the archaeological potential of the site prior to determination of the application.

The scope of a first phase of archaeological work, comprising a programme of trial trench evaluation was set out in a brief issued by the Nottingham City Archaeologist.

Information provided by the Nottingham City Archaeologist shows that site lies within the Strelley Road (East) Archaeological Constraint Area. The area encompasses the known extent of Bilborough as indicated on Chapman's map of 1774. Approximately 20m to the east of the proposed development area is the medieval St Martin's Church. Archaeological remains of possible prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval date have also been recorded in the area.

5.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in the Witham Archaeology specification of 11th August 2018, were to:

- provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the site, at the depth of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.
- assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.
- provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on a planning application.
- provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.
- produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- provide information for accession to the Nottingham City Historic Environment Record (HER).

6.0 METHODOLOGY

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, provisional trench locations were agreed with the Nottingham City Archaeologist, focussing upon those areas most likely to be affected by development groundworks. It was initially agreed that two trenches each measuring 1.6m wide and 10m long, would be excavated. However, with the agreement of the City Archaeologist, the positions and lengths of the trenches were altered due to onsite constraints. Trench one was moved 2 metres to the west to avoid the care home residents smoking shelter. This trench was also excavated in two halves to avoid a buried service located by CAT scan. In total this trench measured 6.3m long. Trench 2 was positioned approximately 2 metres to the north of its intended location to avoid the care home flower beds. Due to the presence of trees on the west side of the trench it was reduced to a length of 6.2m.

Topsoil and other recent deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trench bases and representative samples of the trench sides were subsequently

cleaned by hand, prior to the part-excavation of features and deposits of potential archaeological origin, to ascertain character, extent and date.

Excavated features were recorded through drawn plans and sections at a scale of 1: 20. This record was augmented by colour photographs and written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets. All trenches and reference points used in planning were located by survey grade GPS.

7.0 RESULTS (Fig. 4 and 5: Plates 1 to 5)

The earliest deposit recorded was a natural, red orange sand (002) with frequent pieces of small and medium sized stone (including iron stone). This deposit was sealed by a topsoil of dark reddish-brown sand, ranging from 0.37m to 0.4m thick (001).

No archaeological features were located in the area of investigation. Four pieces of ceramic roof tile dated to the 16th to 18th century and a single sherd of late 18th to early 19th century pottery were recovered during machine removal of the topsoil (003) in Trench 1 under finds number (003). A single brick fragment and four ceramic tile fragments dated to the 16th to 18th century were recovered the topsoil (004) in Trench 2.

8.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

No archaeological features were recorded within either of the two trenches. Finds recovered comprised a brick fragment, ceramic roof tile and a single sherd of pottery, all from the post medieval/early modern period. The fragmented roof tiles may indicate the remains of a building of 16th to 18th century date in the vicinity.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Revive Health Care Ltd, for their interest and support in ensuring the successful completion of this project.

10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lomax, S 2018 *A Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at 42 St Martin's Road, Bilborough, Nottingham.*

11.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

11.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: BLSM19

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 18/01988/PFUL3

FIELD OFFICER: N Jefferson

NGR: SK 5206 4182

CIVIL PARISH: Non-Civil Parish.

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 28/1/2019

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Revive Care Homes

11.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology Ltd, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: Nottingham City Museums and Galleries

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: NCMG 2018-67

ACCESSION DATE: -

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	4
Plans	0
Section Drawings at Scale 1:10	2
Black and White photographs	24
Digital Photographs	24
Set of Site Notes	1

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: Excavation of Trench 1 in progress, looking north.



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking north. Scales 2 x 1m.



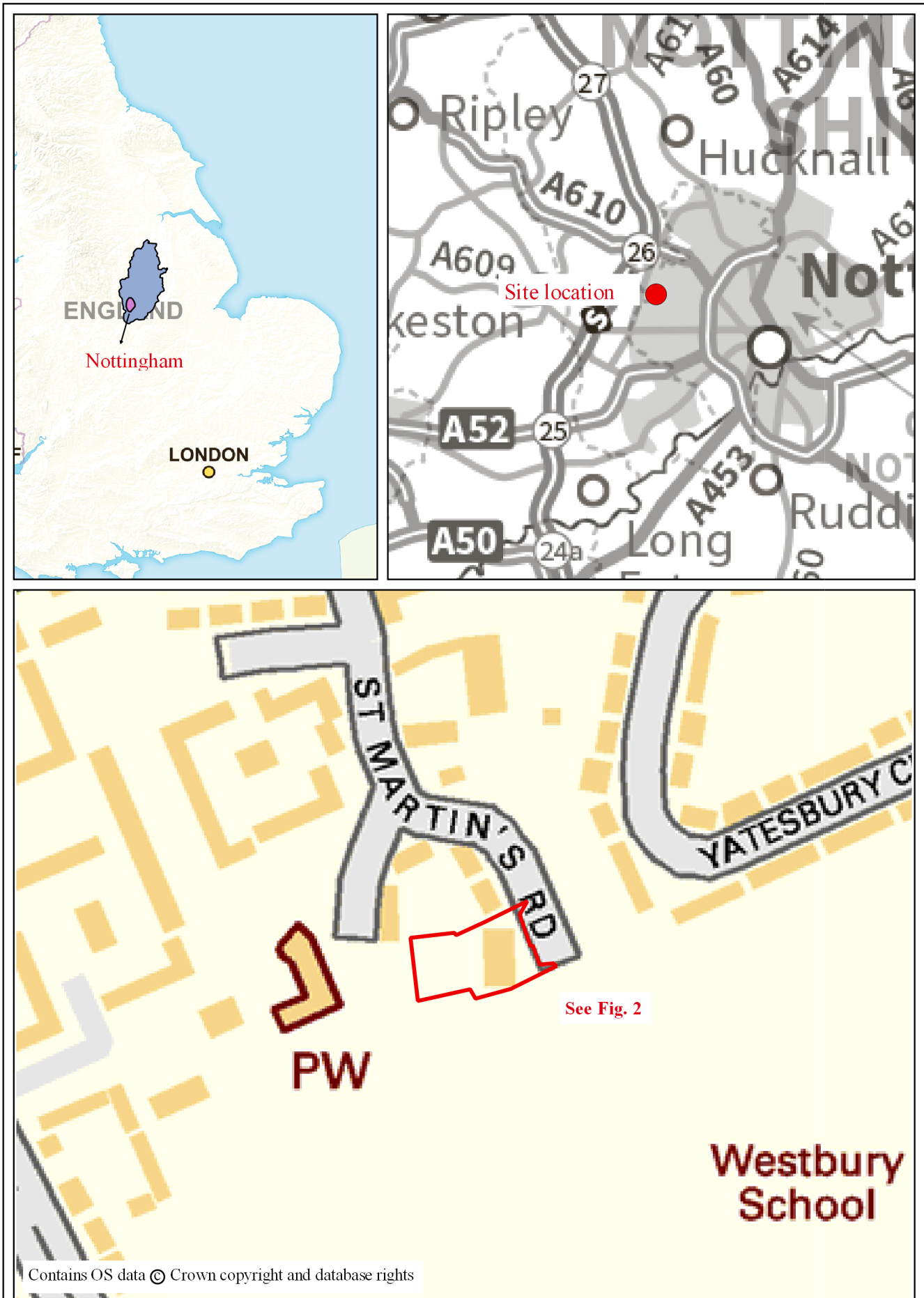
Plate 3: Trench 1 Section 1, looking east. Scale 1m.

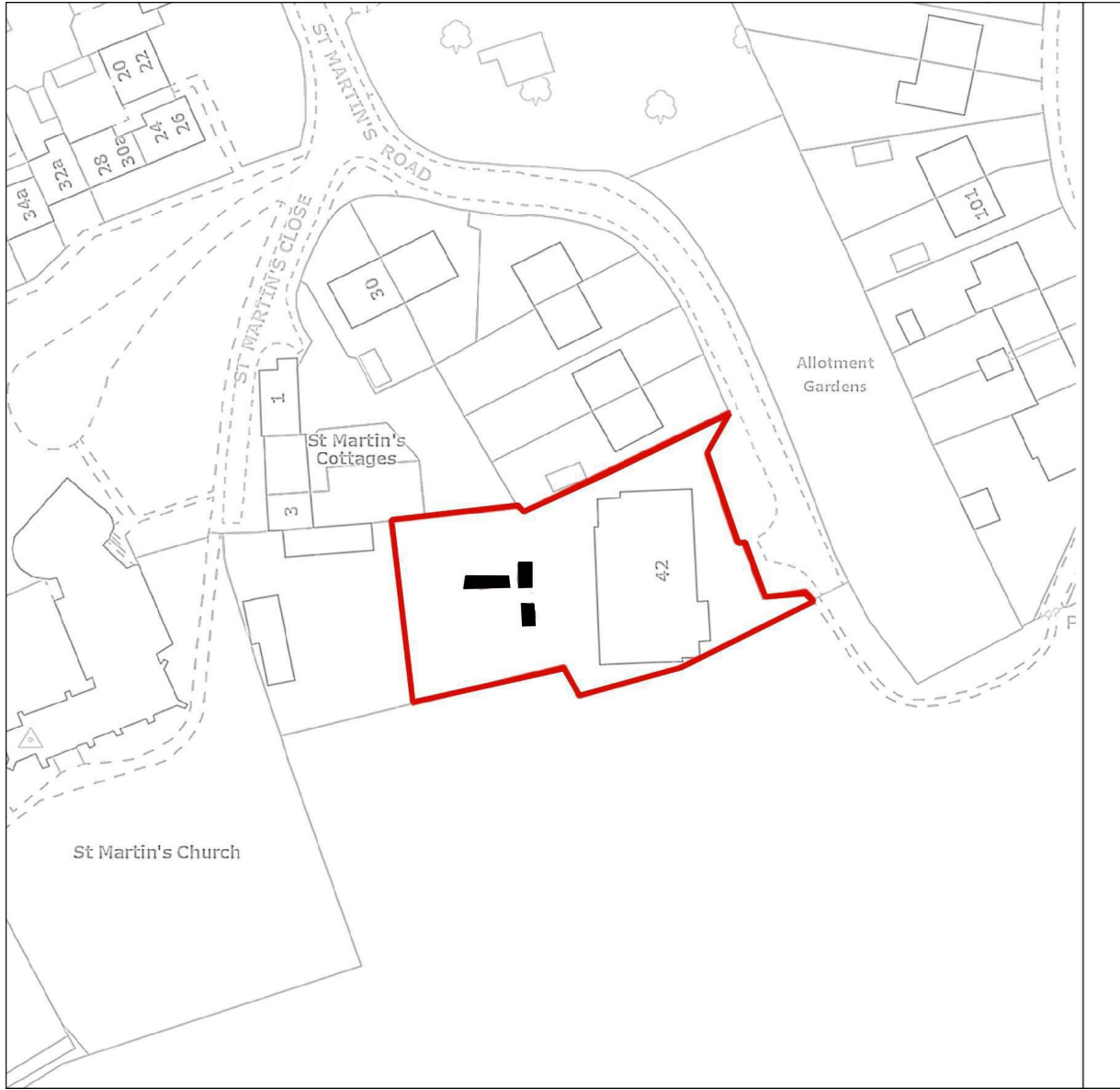


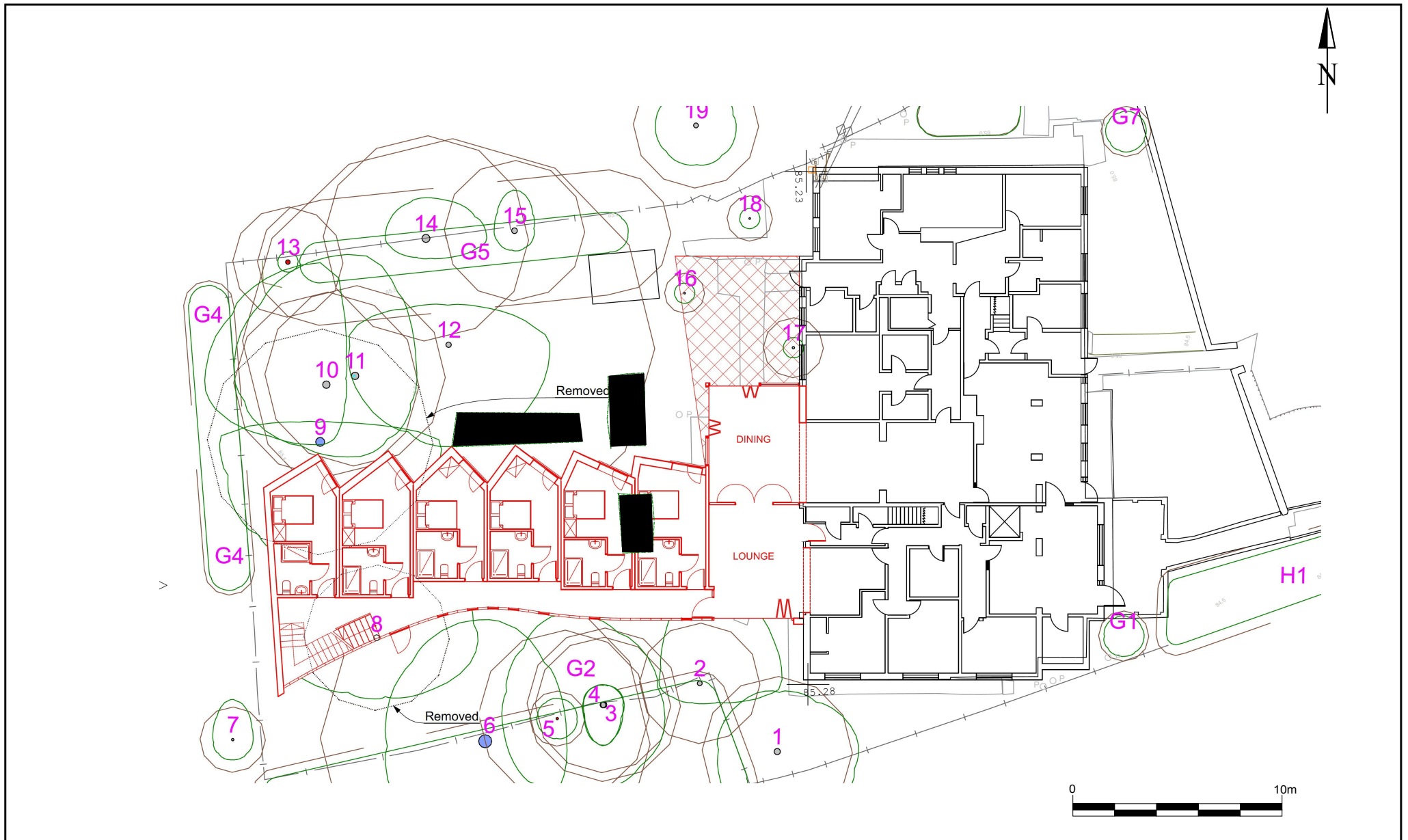
Plate 4: Trench 2, looking east. Scales 2 x 1m.



Plate 5 Trench 2 Section 2, looking south. Scale 1m.

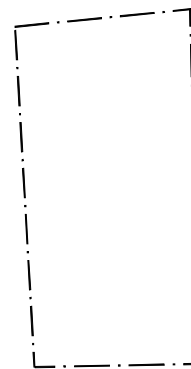








Trench 1

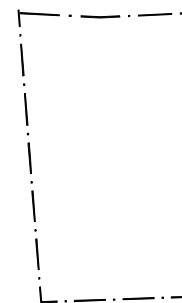


Trench 2



Section 2

Area not excavated
due to presence
of utilities

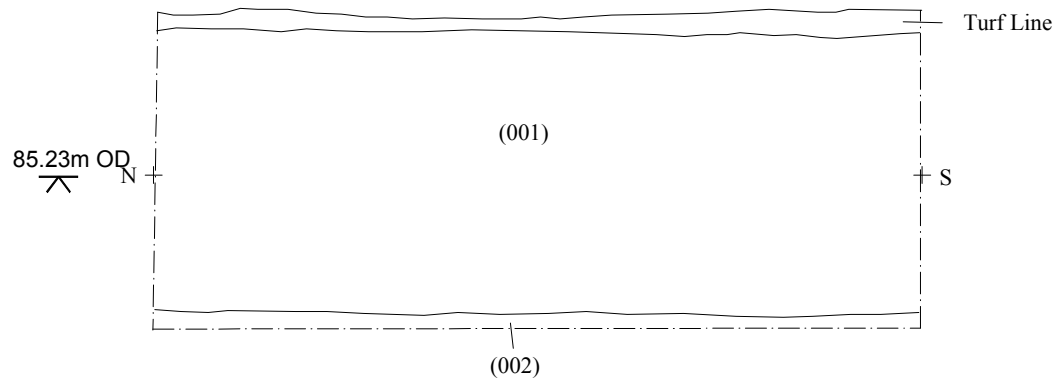


Section 1

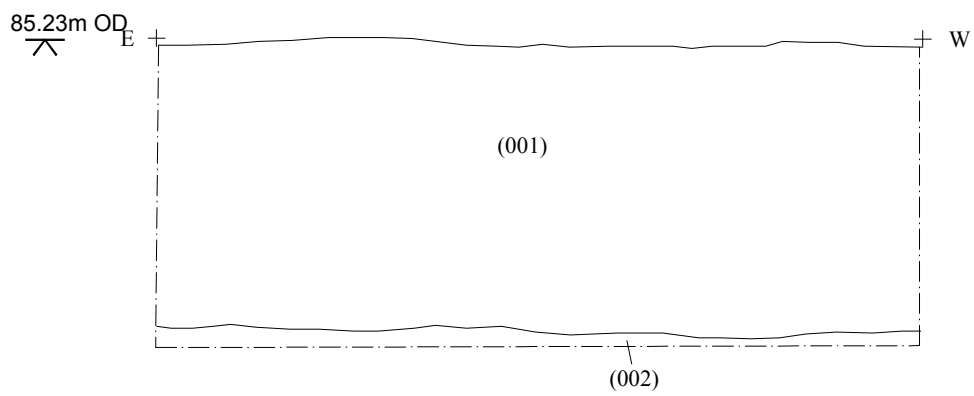
SCALE



Section 1



Section 2



APPENDIX A

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation	Phase	Finds
001	Deposit	Loose dark red brown sand with occasional small stones and flat ironstones, and tree rooting. 0.4m thick. Same for both trenches.	Garden topsoil.		
002	Deposit	Loose red orange sand with frequent small and medium stones (including ironstone). Located in both trenches.	Natural Geology		
003	Deposit	Number for finds recovered from topsoil during machining of trench 1.			4 roof tile fragments 16 th - 18 th century. 1 sherd 18 th -19 th century Pottery.
004	Deposit	Number for finds recovered from topsoil during machining of trench 2.			1 brick fragment and 4 roof tiles 16 th -18 th century.

APPBENDIX B – THE FINDS

Excavation at St Martins, Bilborough, Nottinghamshire (BLSM19)

THE CERAMIC FINDS

Dr Anne Irving

POTTERY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). A single early modern sherd was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the pottery is included in Table 1.

Results

Table 1, Archive of the Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
003	PEARL	Pearlware	Cup	1	1	1	BS	Blue transfer print	Late 18 th to 19 th

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of nine fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 214g was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2.

Results

Table 2, Archive of the Ceramic Building Material

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
003	PNR	Peg, Nib or Ridge Tile	Oxidised	1	59	Flat roofer	16th to 18th
003	PNR	Peg, Nib or Ridge Tile	Oxidised	3	22	Flakes	16th to 18th
004	BRK	Brick	Oxidised + organics	1	19	Flake; handmade	16th to 18th
004	PNR	Peg, Nib or Ridge Tile	Oxidised	4	114	Flat roofer	16th to 18th
			TOTAL	9	214		

Brick (BRK) and tile (PNR) is present in the assemblage; all the material dates to the post-medieval period.

CONTEXT DATES

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comment
003	Late 18 th to 19 th	Date on a single sherd
004	16 th to 18 th	Date on CBM

REFERENCES

~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenck, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

APPENDIX C – OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-342354

Project details

Project name	Archaeological trial trenching at 42 St Martins Road Bilborough.
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology at 42 St Martin's Road, Bilborough Nottingham. The project was commissioned by Revive Care Homes to provide archaeological information in support of a planning application for construction of an extension to a care home. The archaeological evaluation was required prior to the determination of the application. The site lies immediately to the east of St Martin's church which is a 14th century Grade II* listed building. Previous archaeological work in the surrounding area had revealed a possible fortified manor or homestead immediately to the north of the church. Trial trenching in the wider areas has retrieved sherds of Iron Age pottery. No archaeological features were discovered in the area of investigation. A number of fragments of roof tiles, dated to the 16th to 18th century, a brick fragment and a single pot sherd dated to the late 18th early 19th century were recovered during the machining of overburden from the trenches.
Project dates	Start: 28-01-2019 End: 28-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	18/01988/PFUL3 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	NCMG 2018-67 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	BLSM19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	TILES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM 42 St Martin's Road, Bilborough, Nottingham.
Postcode	NG8 3AR
Study area	0.14 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 5206 4182 52.970893309588 -1.224703038026 52 58 15 N 001 13 28 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 85.23m Max: 85.23m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	Neil Jefferson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Nottingham City Museums and Galleries
Physical Archive ID	NCMG 2018-67
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Nottingham City Museums and Galleries
Digital Archive ID	NCMG 2018-67
Digital Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Nottingham City Museums and Galleries
Paper Archive ID	NCMG 2018-67
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	42 St Martin's Road, Bilborough, Nottingham. Archaeological Trial Trenching.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pascoe, A.
Other bibliographic details	294

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