

**Report on the archaeological watching brief during the excavation of
foundation trenches at Bingham Bowling Club, Bingham,
Nottinghamshire SK 70743, 39785**

Prepared on behalf of Bingham Bowling Club

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Project Code: BBO

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SUMMARY

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Bingham Bowling Club to carry out a watching brief on the excavation of foundation trenches for a kitchen extension. The watching brief was carried out in order to ascertain the character, date, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological remains impacted by the ground works.
- Historically Bingham is known from the Domesday records of 1086 from which date it grew into a small market. The current All Saints church originated in the 13th century on the site of an earlier church. Archaeological remains of medieval activity are evident surrounding the church, whilst there is evidence of earlier activity in artefact scatters dating from the Upper Palaeolithic through to the Anglo-Saxon period in the locality of Bingham.
- The work was carried out on 21st February 2012 with archaeological monitoring by staff from Trent & Peak Archaeology in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- The site was located within the historic core of Bingham, Nottinghamshire, centred at SK 70743, 39785 at a height of c.23mOD.
- The site is situated on deposits of Branscombe Mudstone Formation with overlying superficial deposits not recorded (British Geological Survey).
- The foundation trench (Area 01) measured c.4m x c.2.5m and was excavated to a depth of 1m.
- No archaeological features were observed within the foundation trench, with the deposits all relating to the excavation of modern water, gas and drainage trenches. A small collection of animal bone recovered from a redeposited layer within the trench included horse teeth. This might suggest the anecdotal evidence for earlier use of the site as stables.
- Recording and observation of sections revealed a consistent stratigraphic sequence of natural sand and gravel overlain by deposits of clay and modern topsoil.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Bingham Bowling Club to carry out a watching brief on the excavation of foundation trenches for a kitchen extension. The works were carried out in order to ascertain the character, date, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological remains impacted by the ground works.

1.2 The work was carried out 21st February 2012 with archaeological monitoring by staff from Trent & Peak Archaeology in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 The site was located within the historic core of Bingham, Nottinghamshire, centred at SK 70743, 39785 at a height of c.23mOD.

2.2 The site is situated on deposits of Branscombe Mudstone Formation with overlying superficial deposits not recorded (British Geological Survey).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric:

3.1 Flint artefact scatters provide evidence of prehistoric activity in and around Bingham dating from the Upper Palaeolithic (c.12000 BC) (Knight 1992, 43) through the Mesolithic and into the Neolithic (Brown 2008, 3) whilst a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age henge monument on Parson's Hill (Knight 1994, 45-8) suggests that the Bingham locale had become part of an active prehistoric landscape.

3.2 This scatter of finds continues throughout the prehistoric period with Later Neolithic and Earlier Bronze Age flintwork, and Iron Age pottery fragments having been discovered in the environs of Bingham (Knight 1994).

Roman:

3.3 The Roman site of Margidunum is located approximately 1.5 miles to the north of Bingham, whilst the Fosse Way runs along the western edge of the town.

3.4 Within Bingham itself Roman period tiles and pottery have been discovered in and around the 'Crow Close' area, whilst a series of cropmark sites on the higher ground of Parson's Hill suggests possible Romano-British enclosure settlements such as those seen elsewhere in the Trent basin (Knight 1994, 46). Excavations at the nearby primary school have revealed a series of Romano-British pits and ditches relating to possible settlement activity (Gregory 1969).

Anglo-Saxon:

3.5 Cropmarks suggest that there is potential Anglo-Saxon settlement evidence on Parson's Hill, whilst an inhumation burial with associated shield boss and spear head were discovered (Knight 1994:49).

3.6 The importance of Bingham during the Saxon period is emphasised by its position as one of the Nottinghamshire's Saxon *wapentakes* or administrative centres (Morris 1977).

Medieval and post-medieval:

3.7 Bingham is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 (Morris 1977:286b), and numerous traces of the medieval village can still be seen, most notably All Saints Church which dates from the 13th century. The main focus of the town, however, appears to be earlier with the establishment of the market at the Town Square by Richard of Bingham by 1301 (Richards and Jones 2003, 4).

3.8 Three chapels are once believed to have stood in Bingham. The chapel of St. Elen is most likely to have occupied the site of the old windmills to the west of Bingham. The name 'Chapel Yard' is most likely to signify the location for a second of the chapels, whilst the

discovery of stone foundations in Crow Close has suggested that this is where the third chapel site was situated (Brown 1896:2). However, these foundations (and the earthworks visible at Crow Close previously interpreted as part of a deserted medieval village) are more likely to relate to a post-medieval farm complex (D. Knight pers. comm.).

4. OBJECTIVES

4.1 The objective of the proposed scheme of work is to ensure that any archaeological information present in the areas undergoing destructive removal of deposits are recorded appropriately and the results presented within a report.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 The foundation trench (Area 01) was 'U' shaped and measured 4.1m north-south x 0.6m wide with arms measuring 2.4m x 0.6m wide (north end) and 1.3m x 0.6m wide (south end). It was excavated to a depth of 1m below the ground surface. Area 01 was hand excavated by spade under archaeological supervision.

5.2 Once excavated, the exterior sections of the trench were recorded by photograph and measured drawing.

6. RESULTS

6.1. Area 01, 4.1m x .2.4m (Figure 2). Area 01 was located immediately to the east of the current standing building used by Bingham Bowling Club on Long Acre, Bingham. It was 'U' shaped and measured 4.1m north-south x 0.6m wide, with arms measuring 2.4m x 0.6m wide (north end) and 1.3m x 0.6m wide (south end), and was excavated to a depth of 1m below ground surface. A small collection of animal bone (AAA) was recovered from within context 0009. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of:

Context	Thickness	Descriptions
0001	140mm	Black loose tarmac chipping with 30% loose dark brown silt (car park surface)
0002	320mm	Mid-dark brown soft clay with 10% brick rubble 10-40mm
0007	200mm	Mid brown friable-soft clay with 40% sub rounded stone 10-30mm
0009	380mm	Dark brown soft and loose silt clay with 10% red brown clay
0010	540mm	Mid brown soft clay
0006	>800mm	Mid reddish brown sandy clay with 20% blueish grey mottles (Mercia mudstone natural)

6.2 A series of modern pipe trenches had been cut across Area 01. These consisted of a water pipe trench (0003), a guttering trench (0004) and a land drain trench (0008). 0003 was a linear feature running north-south, measuring 600mm+ (extending beyond the limits of excavation) north-south x 400mm east-west x depth 620mm. It was filled by loose-soft red brown silt clay (0003a).

6.3 0004 was a linear feature running north-south, measuring 600mm+ (extending beyond the limits of excavation) north-south x 250mm east-west x 400mm deep and was filled by mid-dark brown silt clay with 20% angular stone (0004a).

6.4 0008 was a linear feature running north-west – south-east, measuring 700mm+ (extending beyond the limits of excavation) north-west – south-east x 320mm north-east – south-west x 560mm deep. It was filled by loose mid brown clay with 10% red brown clay.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The stratigraphic sequence of Area 01 shows the natural mudstone overlain by a series of modern levelling deposits. These deposits had been cut by a series of modern plastic pipe trenches. As a result of the intrusion of these trenches no archaeology was surviving within the limits of the excavation.

7.2 The animal bone (AAA) that was recovered from within context 0009 included two teeth identified as being from a horse. Whilst they were recovered from a context that also contained plastic and so are likely to be redeposited, they could support anecdotal evidence suggesting the former use of the site as stables.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The watching brief revealed no deposits of archaeological significance due to the intrusion of modern service trenches. However, this does not rule out the survival of archaeological deposits in those adjacent areas not affected by the modern pipe trenches.

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Gregory, A. 1969. 'A Romano-British site at Bingham', in *Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire* 73, 105-110

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Morris, J. 1977. *Domesday Book 28, Nottinghamshire* Phillimore, Chichester

Richards, G. and H. Jones. 2003. *An archaeological watching brief at Bingham police station, Nottinghamshire (SK795/395)* Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit, Nottingham. Unpublished report

Maps

British Geological Survey 1:50000 series, England and Wales Sheet 126, Nottingham solid and drift Geology

Appendix 1 Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

<i>Field Records</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Watching brief record sheets	Record of visit and work carried out	1
Drawing record sheets	List of drawings made on site	1
Photographic record sheets	List of photographs taken on site	1
Context records sheets	Record of contexts recorded on site	10
Site drawings on permatrace sheets	Section drawings @1:20 on A3 permatrace	2
Photographs:-		
Digital	All views	17
B&W (with negatives)	Recorded sections	12
Finds	Animal bone	
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the watching brief.	1

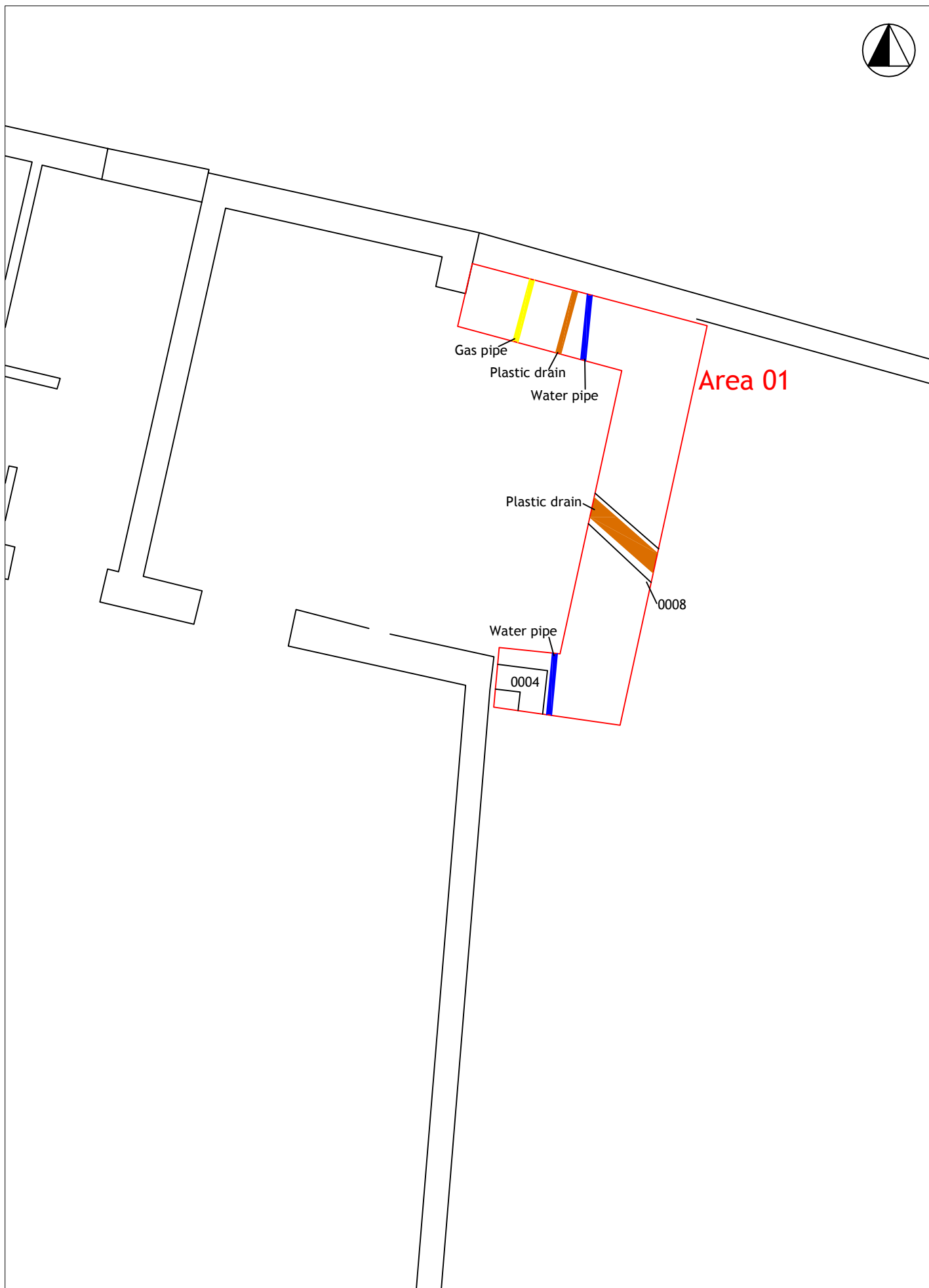
Archive Deposition.

The archive is currently held in the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. It will be deposited at Brewhouse Yard museum, Nottinghamshire TPA project code BBO. The archive will be deposited by the end of December 2012.




BBO Bingham Bowling Club
 Figure 1 Site location plan
 Scale at A4 1:25000 / 1:2500

(Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618).



Area 01

Gas pipe

Plastic drain

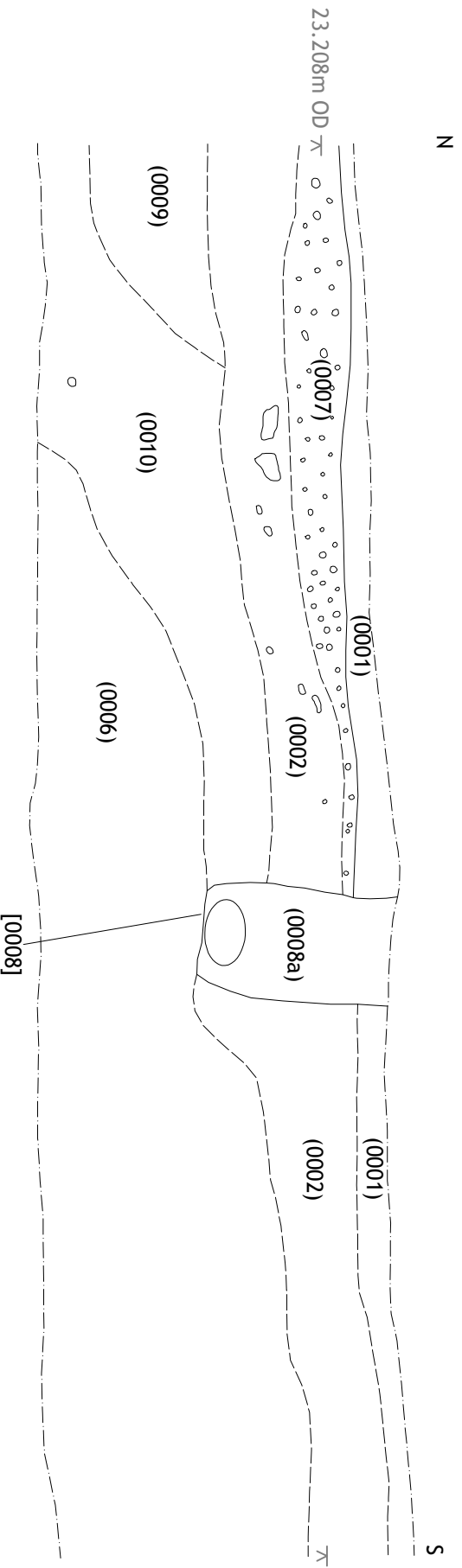
Water pipe

Plastic drain

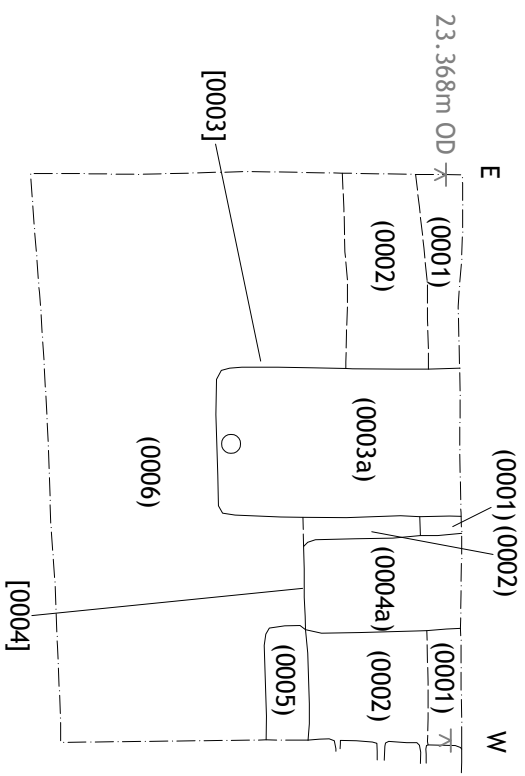
Water pipe

0004

0008



BBO Bingham Bowling Club
 Figure 3 West facing section Area 01
 Scale at A4 1:20




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 Figure 4 North facing section Area 01
 Scale at A4 1:20



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Plate 1 West facing section of Area 01



 BBO Bingham Bowling Club
Plate 2 North facing section of Area 01