

44 St. Mary's Gate, Nottingham: An Archaeological Excavation



For Alan Simpson

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Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) was commissioned by Alan Simpson to undertake an archaeological excavation at 44 St. Mary's Gate, Nottingham (NGR SK 57580 39668). The work was carried out in November 2017 prior to the construction of an extension to an existing property.
- 44 St. Mary's Gate is located towards the south-eastern corner of Nottingham City Centre within the Lace Market Conservation Area. The site is currently occupied by a lean-to structure and a pedestrian access route to the rear of the buildings fronting High Pavement and St. Mary's Gate. The site is partially within the boundary of the Halifax Place Car Park.
- Excavations between 1978 and 1980 to the immediate north and north-east of the site encountered well preserved archaeological remains. Considering this, and the site location within the Lace Market Conservation Area, the potential for encountering archaeological remains during the ground investigation was deemed high.
- The program of archaeological mitigation comprised the excavation of an area measuring 7.63m in length and 4.79m in width to a maximum depth of 3.02m.
- Three main phases of activity and occupation were present during the investigation. These dated to the Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern periods.
- The excavation revealed high levels of modern ground disturbance. However, this had very little impact on the surviving archaeology present suggesting that similar archaeological remains in close proximity may have comparably good levels of preservation.
- The presence of numerous large intercutting pits of medieval and Post-Medieval date is in keeping with the discoveries made directly to the north and west during the previous archaeological excavations between 1978 and 1980. The size, scale and frequency of these pits indicate that the area was in heavy use during these periods. Most of the pits appear to be filled by deposits relating to domestic uses.
- Additional areas of watching brief mitigation will be undertaken on land at 44 St. Mary's Gate in due course.

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Acknowledgements

The project was managed for TPA by Gareth Davies and the fieldwork was supervised by Paul Renner. The figures included in this report were produced by Norma Oldfield. Alan Simpson is thanked for commissioning the work. The project was monitored by Scott Lomax, Acting City Archaeologist at Nottingham City Council.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) was commissioned by Alan Simpson to undertake an archaeological excavation at 44 St. Mary's Gate, Nottingham (NGR SK 57580 39668) (Figure 1). The work was carried out in November 2017 prior to the construction of an extension to an existing property.
- 1.2 Provisional permission was granted for the redevelopment upon the satisfactory completion of a program of archaeological mitigation. This constitutes Pre-Commencement Condition 2, which states:

No development involving the breaking of ground shall take place unless a programme of archaeological investigation and works, for those parts of the site which are proposed to be excavated below existing ground or basement levels, has been first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of archaeological investigation and works shall include:

- a) an archaeological evaluation of the site;*
- b) arrangements, supported by the conclusions of an archaeological evaluation, for the excavation of affected areas, and the implementation of a watching brief during the course of the development;*
- c) arrangements for the recording of any finds made during the investigation and for the preparation of a final report;*
- d) details of works required to enable finds to be preserved in situ and arrangements for the deposition of records of such finds in a registered museum;*
- e) arrangements for the deposition of the records of finds capable of removal from the site, in a registered museum; and*
- f) arrangements for the publication of a summary of the final report in an appropriate journal*

The archaeological investigation and works approved under this condition shall be carried out in accordance with the approved program.

Reason: To ensure that any archaeological remains of significance are safeguarded in accordance with Policy 11 of the Aligned Core Strategy and Policies BE15, BE16 and BE17 of the Nottingham Local Plan

- 1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was subsequently submitted by TPA and approved by the Local Authority. This document was produced with regards to both the planning permission document and a detailed brief for archaeological works produced by Scott Lomax, Acting City Archaeologist at Nottingham City Council (NCC). The WSI stated that the fieldwork be carried out in accordance with appropriate professional standards, as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard & Guidance for archaeological excavation* (2014b).
- 1.5 The overall study has employed the methodology developed by TPA for use on similar projects in the region. This methodology conforms to the standard requirements of planning authorities where consent applications are made for development. These follow guidelines presented in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) which replaces conservation planning document *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS 5 2010).
- 1.6 The TPA site code is SMG1.

2 Site Location and Background

- 2.1 44 St. Mary's Gate is located towards the south-eastern corner of Nottingham City Centre within the Lace Market Conservation Area. The site is currently occupied by a lean-to structure and a pedestrian access route to the rear of the buildings fronting High Pavement and St. Mary's Gate. The site is partially within the boundary of the Halifax Place Car Park.
- 2.3 The scheme of archaeological fieldwork comprised the excavation of an area measuring approximately 7.63m x 4.79m, to a maximum depth of approximately 3.02m. The fieldwork was undertaken using a combined method of machine and hand excavation.

3 Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The underlying geology of the development area comprises a sedimentary bedrock of Chester formation, a gravelly sandstone bedrock formed between 247 and 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits have been recorded (BGS Accessed 2018).
- 3.2 The overlying soils are characterised as freely draining acid sandy soils (www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes).
- 3.3 The site lies at an elevation of approximately 30.5m AOD.

4 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The development site is situated within one of the most important archaeological areas within the City of Nottingham, as part of the Lace Market Conservation Area.

4.2 *Late Iron Age?*

- 4.2.1 A total of 15 pits and a number of other features found 11m north of the site during archaeological excavations between 1978 and 1980 were interpreted as possible evidence of an Iron Age farmstead. Pottery likely dating to this period was recovered from two of these pits, dating to c.100 BC-AD 42. However, remaining uncertainty over the dating of the site from the very small number of pottery sherds recovered casts doubt over this preliminary interpretation of the site. Recovery of later Iron Age pottery from a pit that appeared to cut a Middle Saxon feature suggests that the material recovered was more likely to be residual. Due to the lack of animal bone, it was speculated that all features were of a contemporary Iron Age date, however, later animal bone recovery and study of potential Mid-Saxon features may favour a Saxon or later date. If the dating evidence recovered was indeed of Iron Age Date, this would be of high significance as there is limited knowledge of prehistoric activity within the historic core of the city.

4.3 *Middle Saxon (AD 650-850)*

- 4.3.1 A Middle Saxon boundary ditch located 5m north of the site was excavated. The ditch was aligned approximately east to west and measured up to 2m in width, 0.9m in depth and was excavated over a length of 25m. Pottery recovered from the feature was dated to between AD 650 and 850.

4.4 *Late Saxon (AD 850-1066)*

- 4.4.1 A sequence of substantial timber-framed buildings dating from the 9th to the 14th centuries were excavated which are likely to extend into the development site. These buildings measured in excess of 12m in length suggesting that they were significant structures of their time used for high status occupation and activity. Metal objects dating to this period of occupation included a copper alloy strap end and a rare ceremonial staff head.

- 4.4.2 Also potentially extending into the site is a 10th century pottery kiln. This feature contained clay kiln bars and a large quantity of pottery wasters, and was encountered 2m north of the site. Few 10th century pottery kilns have been excavated in the country and if one was discovered it would be considered to be of national importance.

4.5 High Medieval (1066-1485)

- 4.5.1 Further phases of timber and stone buildings were dated to the High Medieval period. The remains of two buildings dating to c. 1170-1200 were uncovered in addition to a cruck building constructed in c.1300-1350 and a second timber framed building dating to the same period. These buildings are likely to extend into the site.

4.6 Post Medieval (1485-1750)

- 4.6.1 During the Post Medieval period the site was occupied with a sequence of later buildings fronting St Mary's Gate, with associated cess pits to the rear. The pits were substantial in size. One contained a large collection of well-preserved 17th-18th century pottery.

4.7 Caves

- 4.7.1 Eight caves are known to exist within a 30m radius of the site and so it is possible that further caves may be encountered.

4.8 Archaeological Potential

- 4.8.1 Excavations between 1978 and 1980 to the immediate north and west of the site encountered well preserved archaeological remains. Considering this, and the site location within the Lace Market Conservation Area, the potential for encountering archaeological remains during the ground investigation was deemed high.

5 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

- 5.1 The relationship between developments of this nature and their impact upon the historic environment are dealt with by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012), and NPPF Planning Practice Guide *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2014).
- 5.2 In addition to national legislation and policy, Nottingham City Council state in their Adopted Local Plan (NCC 2014):

Scheduled Monuments and Archaeology: *Archaeological remains contain irreplaceable information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. The overriding objective is therefore to preserve 'in situ' all sites of known or suspected archaeological importance.*

And:

Planning applications for development entailing breaking of ground on sites within the Archaeological Constraints Areas, or affecting other sites of known or suspected archaeological significance will normally be accompanied by an archaeological assessment of the application site.

- 5.3 The fieldwork was governed by the content of these aforementioned documents, in addition to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists relevant Standards and Guidance.

6 Regional Research Objectives

- 6.1 The programme of archaeological mitigation may reveal evidence that allows research priorities highlighted by regional research frameworks.
- 6.2 The *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* (EMHERF) *Interactive Digital Resource* hosts a digitised version of *East Midlands Heritage and Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*.
- 6.3 Any evidence uncovered by the investigations should be considered with the guidance provided by the framework in mind. If the evidence significantly contributes to a research question raised by the framework, this may, at the appropriate time, be used to feed this information back via the interactive commenting facility. This allows for the research framework to develop over time and remain relevant.
- 6.4 Research questions highlighted in the framework of particular note to this programme of archaeological mitigation include:

Late Bronze Age and Iron Age (c.1150 cal BC-AD 43)
<i>4.6 Field systems and major linear boundaries</i>
2. What were the economic, social or political roles of the pit alignment and linear ditch systems that characterised many areas of the East Midlands?
Early Medieval (c. AD 410-1066)
<i>6.5 Inland Towns, 'central places' and burhs</i>
2. Can we identify middle Anglo-Saxon defensive works, including new foundations and refurbishments of Roman walled towns?
4. How did Nottingham develop during the Anglo-Saxon and Viking periods?
High Medieval (1066-1485)
<i>7.1 Urbanism</i>
1. How did the major towns and smaller market towns of the region develop after the Norman Conquest, both within the urban core and in suburban and extra-mural areas?
2. Can we define more closely the industrial and trading activities associated with towns and the nature and extent of urban influence upon the countryside?
<i>7.6 Industry and Trade</i>
1. How and where was post-Conquest pottery manufactured and distributed, and what communication systems were employed?
Post-Medieval (1485-1750)
<i>8.1 Urbanism: morphology, functions and buildings</i>
1. Can we elucidate the roles of towns as social, administrative, industrial and commercial centres, their integration within regional marketing systems and their relationship to communication roles?
4. What can studies of environmental data, artefacts and structural remains tell us about variations in diet, living conditions and status?

Table 1: Relevant Research Questions Highlighted in the Regional Framework

7 Site Specific Objectives and Methodology

7.1 Objectives

7.1.1 The general objective of the fieldwork can be summarised as:

- To identify the presence of any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the development and to achieve an appropriate level of *preservation by record* in accordance with *NPPF paragraph 128*.

7.1.2 Where practical within the constraints of the archaeological mitigation and development, this will include an assessment of the overall extent, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains.

7.2 Methodology

7.2.1 The program of archaeological mitigation comprised the excavation of an area measuring 7.63m in length and 4.79m in width to a maximum depth of 3.02m.

7.2.2 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken using a combined method of machine and hand excavation.

7.2.3 All work was undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists in accordance with accepted archaeological practice and the *Code of Conduct* produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a).

7.2.4 A mini digger was used to remove surface concrete and any underlying hardcore where practicable. All machining was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. The remainder of the site was excavated to the required depth by hand.

7.2.5 Topsoil and subsoil was excavated in spits no greater than 100mm and was stored at a safe distance from the excavation edge. Spoil was checked for artefacts.

7.2.6 The excavation area and any archaeological features were located by GPS, Leica CS15/GS15 RTK Differential GNSS where possible within the constraints of the site.

7.2.7 All exposed surfaces were inspected and any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and recorded where appropriate. Features were characterised through excavation where necessary to obtain datable material and understand the levels of preservation. All contexts were given an individual context number. Plans and sections of all features were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20/1:50, and showed at least context numbers, all colour and textural changes and principal slopes represented as hachures. Digital colour photographs of each context were taken using a DSLR at 7 megapixel minimum resolution. Written records were maintained as laid down in the TPA recording manual.

7.2.8 Where appropriate features were identified, soil samples were retrieved in order to undertake palaeo-environmental sampling. The sampling of features followed procedures set out within the English Heritage Centre of Archaeology Guidelines, Environmental Archaeology (2011). Samples were processed within the TPA Environmental Lab, under the supervision of TPA Environmental Officer Alison Wilson.

7.2.9 All works were carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by TPA (Hurford 2017) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014b).

8 Results

8.1 The archaeological excavation revealed three main phases of activity and occupation. The earliest phase dated to the Medieval Period. This, along with the second phase encountered of Post-Medieval date, mostly comprised a series of large intercutting pits and deposits. This was followed by a much later phase relating to the raising of ground levels for and construction of the current car park at Halifax Place.

8.2 The geological substratum was consistent throughout the excavation area, recorded as (1030), and comprised a strong yellow sandstone. This layer was revealed at a maximum depth of approximately 1.68m below the current level of the extant out-building.

8.3 Medieval

8.3.1 Cut into the natural sandstone, the earliest archaeological feature encountered was located towards the western end of the excavation area. Measuring 0.8m in length and a minimum of 0.58m in width, pit [1029] only survived to a depth of 0.06m as it had been heavily truncated by later features. This pit contained a single fill (1014) of friable light brown sand with occasional inclusions of small sandstone fragments. A number of pottery sherds from a single vessel of fine Shelly ware potentially from Lincolnshire were retrieved from context (1014). This pottery dated from approximately the 12th century, but without any diagnostic design or form identifiable it was impossible to define the date any closer. Consequently, the finds recovered suggest that this feature could be contemporary with the Medieval buildings revealed during the earlier archaeological excavations to the north of the site.

8.3.2 Overlying pit [1029] was a deposit of firmly compacted mid-dark brown silty sand, which contained occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks, small rounded pebbles and sandstone fragments (1013). This deposit measured a total length of 0.87m with a width of 0.58m and a maximum depth of 0.7m. Having no discernible cut, (1013) was recorded as a deposit. However, having been so heavily truncated by later features it is plausible that the profile of this feature had been mostly obscured. The pottery recovered from this deposit was of High Medieval date, suggesting that it is significantly earlier than the features which truncate it. The close proximity and similarities in the dateable evidence recovered from both (1013) and pit [1029] may indicate that the two are associated.

8.3.3 Truncating deposit (1013) was feature [1031], a sub-circular steep-sided pit with a concave base. It measured a minimum of 0.88m in length, 0.58m in width and 0.61m in depth. This feature contained a single fill (1012) which consisted of friable light brownish grey silty sand. Two fragments of residual medieval pottery in the form of a large fragment of spouted pitcher (c.12th) and a heavily abraded fragment of Stamford Ware (c. 9th – 13th) within fill (1012) are the earliest evidence of activity recovered from these investigations. The volume of other ceramic material recovered from the fill, including Midland Purple and Yellow Wares, and fragments of c.17th clay pipe stem would favour a post-medieval date for the feature. This range of pottery dates would indicate that this feature is much later than the residual twelfth century pottery originally indicated, and furthermore, it suggests the pit's use would have been for domestic refuse.

8.3.4 Stratigraphically above the fill (1012) of pit [1031] was a very steep to vertically sided oval pit, [1046], that measured 2.1m in length, a minimum of 0.56m in width and 1.02m in depth. This feature contained a single fill of firmly compacted black silty sand (1015), which contained frequent inclusions of charcoal and sandstone flecks along with larger fragments of ceramic building material and sandstone.

8.3.5 At the eastern extent of the trench and truncating fill (1015) of pit [1046], pit [1039] was present. This oval pit was not fully excavated due to safe working restrictions but the excavation was sufficient to infer that it had steep sides, measured 1.1m in width and was a minimum of 0.9m in depth. The earliest fill of this feature, (1050), measured a minimum depth of 0.05m and was comprised of loosely compacted pale cream brown slightly silty sand with very occasional inclusions of charcoal which produced a single fragment of medieval Nottingham Splashed Ware. The sandy composition of (1050) suggests that the pit was open to weathering for a period of time. Above (1050) was a fill (1042) of loosely compacted grey

ashy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions which yielded additional fragments of reduced sandy Green Glazed Ware. This fill measured a maximum of 0.11m in depth and was located stratigraphically below a firmly compacted grey brown silty sand fill, (1041). Inclusions of charcoal flecks and rounded pebbles were present within fill (1041), which measured a maximum depth of 0.21m. This was the only fill within pit [1039] to contain animal bone. The next fill, (1040), within the sequence extended to a maximum depth of 0.31m and was comprised of firmly compacted orange brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks. Above (1040) was fill (1049), which consisted of firmly compacted mid brown silty sand and had a maximum depth of 0.31m. A charcoal rich fill (1048) was present above (1049). This fill comprised softly compacted light grey silt and ash material, measuring a depth of 0.10m. Fill (1048) was overlaid by the latest fill (1047) of pit [1039], which measured a maximum of 0.51m in depth and was composed of firmly compacted dark brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of charcoal. Pottery recovered from several of the fills of this feature securely dated it to the Medieval period.

- 8.3.6 The variation within the fills of cut [1039] suggests that it was backfilled over an extended period of time as different waste materials were being produced. Alternatively, it could indicate that it was backfilled over a relatively short time by the product of a variety of activities taking place within the vicinity of the feature.

8.4 Post-Medieval

- 8.4.1 Stratigraphically above the latest Medieval feature present, pit [1039], was revetment cut [1018], which enclosed a small sandstone revetment, [1017]. The revetment was constructed of reused worked sandstone blocks of various sizes arranged in random courses. The revetment stonework lay within construction cut [1018] which measured 1.38m in length, 0.53m in width and a maximum of 0.15m in depth. Filling cut [1018] around the stone work was (1008), a firmly compacted mid brown silty sand with patches of orange clay. This fill had also been used as a bonding material for the revetment itself. It is likely that revetment [1017] was originally associated with stone lined pit [1028].
- 8.4.2 Pit [1028] was located centrally within the excavation area and was one of the most prominent features encountered during the excavation. It measured 2.12m in length, 1.72m in width and a maximum of 1.13m in depth. Circularly cut with steep sides leading to a slightly concave base, pit [1028] contained a single uniformed fill, (1011). This consisted of firm to friable light brown silty sand which had frequent inclusions of degraded sandstone, rounded pebbles and flecks of charcoal suggestive of a degraded stone lining. The uniformity of (1011) would suggest that it resulted from a singular backfilling event and from a single process. Similar stone lined pits were excavated as part of the c.1978-80 excavations.
- 8.4.3 Towards the eastern edge of the excavation was a large oval pit, [1043], with steep sides and a concave base. With a minimum length of 1.4m and maximum width of 1m, pit [1043] contained three fills extending to a maximum depth of 0.8m. The basal fill (1044) of this feature consisted of firmly compacted mid brown silty sand. Stratigraphically above (1044) was fill (1016/1045), consisting of firmly compacted light brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of sandstone. This fill extended to a maximum depth of 0.24m. Overlaying this was fill (1009), which was comprised of firmly compacted light greyish brown silty sand. This fill extended to a maximum depth of 0.42m. The homogeneity of each fill, together with the large dimensions of the feature, would suggest that the pit had been purposely backfilled rather than allowed to fill by any natural process.
- 8.4.4 Truncating the fill (1045) of pit [1043] was shallow ditch [1021]. This feature had vertical edges, a flat base and measured 0.1m in depth, 3.1m in length and 0.72m in width. Ditch [1021] contained a single fill, (1007), of friable dark grey silty sand which contained various pottery sherds dating to the late 17th-18th century.
- 8.4.5 Sealing all of the aforementioned Post-Medieval archaeological features was a deposit of firmly compacted brownish grey silty sand, (1034/1035). With a total length of 6.94m and maximum depth of 0.9m, this deposit extended across the entire area of excavation. It likely represented a late post-medieval ground development possibly after the site had fallen out of its primary use.

- 8.4.6 The latest feature within the Post-Medieval phase of the site was pit [1027], which measured at least 1.8m wide and 1.29m deep. The basal fill of this feature (1010) consisted of loosely compacted yellowish brown sand with inclusions of degraded sandstone fragments. Above (1010) was a thin fill of firmly compacted mid reddish brown silty sand, (1038). This fill contained occasional inclusions of small rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks, and was a maximum of 0.1m in depth. (1038) appeared to be the result of a natural process of filling, indicating that pit [1037] was left open for a period of time. The final backfilling event of pit [1027] is represented by fill (1006). This consisted of loosely compacted dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of rounded pebbles and degraded sandstone fragments.
- 8.4.7 Although the original purpose of pit [1027] remains unknown, the moderately frequent presence of degraded building material such as sandstone blocks in several of the fills may indicate that at some point in its use this feature was used as a deposition for demolition waste. However, previous excavations in the immediate vicinity of the site encountered several stone-lined pits. This feature [1027] may be a continuation of these.

8.5 Modern

- 8.5.1 The two earliest features identified within the modern phase of the site included pit [1025], which was observed in plan and related to the handrail associated with the existing stairwell. This feature had squared vertical edges and measured 1.3m in length, 0.5m in width and a minimum of 0.7m in depth. It contained a single fill (1026) of firmly compacted dark brown sandy silt with moderately frequent inclusions of ceramic building material fragments and charcoal flecks.
- 8.5.2 Fulfilling the same purpose as [1025] was pit [1019]. Circular in plan and measuring 0.9m in diameter, the slightly concave base was visible to a depth of 0.4m. Filling [1019] was a firmly compacted dark brown silty sand, (1020), containing occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks, sandstone fragments and patches of burnt clay.
- 8.5.3 The modern stairwell, which [1025] and [1019] were associated with, extended across the southern and north-western edges of the site. The construction cut for the stairwell, [1022], had very steep sides with a squared profile and contained two fills, (1023) and (1024). The basal fill of this feature, (1024), comprised firmly compacted very dark brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal flecks, moderate amounts of fragmented ceramic building material and small rounded pebbles. Although not excavated to its full extent, this fill was observed to be 0.86m in length, 0.72m in width and 0.4m in depth. Stratigraphically above fill (1024) was (1023). Acting as a levelling and bonding material for the existing steps, (1023) consisted of loosely compacted light brownish cream mortar, brick fragments and concrete rubble. This fill measured a minimum of 1m in length, 0.84m in width and 1.18m in depth.
- 8.5.4 Making up the ground development for the current car park at Halifax Place were a sequence of modern deposits. The earliest of these was deposit (1005), which comprised firmly compacted mid reddish brown silty gravel. This deposit represented the base layer of the ground build up for the car park, and as such it extended across almost the whole length of the excavation area. It measured a maximum of 6.93m in length, 2.54m in width and 0.26m in depth.
- 8.5.5 The construction cut for the eastern wall of the car park was recorded where visible within the confines of the excavation and measured 1.01m in length, 0.60m in width and a maximum of 0.18m in depth. Construction cut [1032] was not fully excavated due to safe working restrictions, but its sides where visible were vertical. The backfill event was represented by fill (1033), a loosely compacted light brown silty sand which included frequent fragments of ceramic building material, mortar and flecks of charcoal.
- 8.5.6 Construction cut [1032] was presumably contemporary with the construction of the car park. However, it was heavily obscured by the presence of a large tree stump making a definite interpretation difficult. This feature visibly truncated deposit (1005), and therefore must be later than the earliest levelling deposit of the car park.
- 8.5.7 Overlaying deposit (1005) was deposit (1004), which consisted of friable dark blackish brown fine silt measuring 5.30m in length and 2.52m in width. At its deepest point, (1004) measured

0.21m. Stratigraphically above (1004) was deposit (1003), a firmly compacted light-mid grey silty clay which contained occasional flecks of charcoal. This deposit was observed to a maximum depth of 0.11m and measured 5.30m in length and 2.52m in width. Above (1003) was a friable dark brownish black fine silt, (1002), which had an overall length of 5.5m, a minimum width of 2.52m and a maximum depth of 0.12m.

- 8.5.8 The latest deposit associated with the ground development of the car park was (1001), a compact light yellowish brown stoning. This deposit measured a maximum of 0.15m in depth and extended across the entirety of the excavation area. Cut through this deposit was drain cut [1036]. This feature was linear in shape with vertical sides and a flat base. It measured a minimum of 1.86m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.7m in depth. Backfilling drain cut [1036] was a firmly compacted fill (1037) of mid brown silty sand and gravel which encumbered the ceramic drain pipe.
- 8.5.9 Topsoil (1000) was present across the majority of the site as the ground surfacing material. This layer comprised friable dark blackish brown fine silt which was measured to a maximum depth of 0.16m.

9 Finds by Alison Wilson

- 9.1 A total of 408 finds were recovered from the archaeological monitoring of ground investigation works at 44 St. Mary's Gate, Nottingham. A quantification of these finds can be seen in Table 1 below.

Material	Quantity
Bone	194
CBM	101
Clay tobacco pipe	9
Glass	4
Metalwork	9
Mortar	10
Pot - medieval	47
Pot - Post-medieval	48
Shell	10
Slag	5

Table 2: Quantification of finds

9.2 The Pottery

- 9.2.1 A total of 95 fragments of pottery weighing 3264g were recovered from the excavation, ranging in date from the 11th - 20th century. The assemblage was quantified by two measures: number of sherds and weight, and the resulting archive was entered into an excel spreadsheet. The pottery is stored in 2 archive boxes which are at present stored at the Trent & Peak Archaeology stores, Chilwell, Nottingham.

- 9.2.2 **Deposit (1005):** Context (1005) contained 5 sherds of post-medieval pottery, dating to between the 17th century and the 19th century. The earliest pottery in the context consisted of 2 joining rim sherds from a 17th-18th century Slipware plate, thin with a light pink fabric and the remains of a slip trailed pattern of yellow onto red (AAK). Also belonging to the late 17th - 18th century was part of the base of a Mottled Ware vessel in a cream fabric with dark brown mottled glaze (AAM). The remaining 2 body sherds could be identified as coarse earthenware, red bodied with a black internal glaze and commonly used as large kitchen vessels or pancheons in the 17th - 19th centuries (AAL).
- 9.2.3 **Fill (1006) of Pit [1027]:** Context (1006) contained 8 sherds of post-medieval pottery including 4 fragments of Midland Yellow ware. 1 rim sherd (ADE) consisted of a cream white fabric with yellow internal glaze, badly sooted, while another rim sherd, in a slightly darker fabric, was also from a large hollow vessel (AAW). 1 badly damaged small body sherd contained iron inclusions (AAV) and a rim sherd with a cream white fabric, bright yellow glaze and a complete handle was a fragment from a smaller, fine vessel (AAU). Midland Yellow Ware was typically used for domestic and dairy wares in the 16th - early 17th century and almost certainly produced at the potteries in Ticknall, Derbyshire. Coarse earthenware vessels were represented by a body sherd with pink red fabric and brown internal glaze dating to between the 17th and 19th century (ABY) and (AAR) an unglazed red bodied coarse earthenware rim. The earliest pottery sherd found in the context was (AAT), an early form of earthenware, possibly Midland Purple which was produced at the kilns in Ticknall, Derbyshire and Chilvers Coton near Nuneaton from the mid 14th to 15th centuries, most commonly in the form of cooking pots, cisterns and jugs. The context also contained the base of a Creamware vessel produced between 1740 and 1820 and exported around the world as a form of cheap 'white' pottery (AAS).
- 9.2.4 **Fill (1007) of Pit [1021]:** Context (1007) contained pottery sherds from 2 different vessels; a Blackware cup or jug with shiny black glaze both internally and externally (AAQ) which could be dated to the 17th-18th century, and part of the base and body of a large Midland Purple earthenware hollow vessel (AAP) with an earlier date of 14th - 16th century.
- 9.2.5 **Fill (1008) of Construction Cut [1018] for Revetment:** Context (1008) contained 3 sherds of coarse earthenware, possibly Midland Purple; (AEJ) consisted of 2 base sherds, one with limescale which would suggest use as a cistern, while (AEK) was the base of a similar vessel in a reduced fabric.
- 9.2.6 **Fill (1009) of Pit [1043]:** Context (1009) contained 11 sherds of pottery, the bulk of which was of a medieval date. 4 sherds dating to between the 12th - 14th centuries had lead based green glaze typical of medieval pottery; (ACL) was made of a reduced fabric with an oxidised outer surface and traces of green glaze, (ADT) was part of the strap handle from a jug with reduced fabric and green glaze, (ADV) was a reduced fabric body sherd and (ADC, AEG) were probable fragments of Nottingham Splashed Ware domestic vessels, in an oxidised fabric with reduced a core. 2 body sherds were oxidised with a reduced inner surface and traces of a yellow/green glaze (AAG, ADY), while the remaining sherd with a date in the medieval period was (AEF), an unglazed body sherd, oxidised with a reduced core. Rim and body sherds of coarse earthenware (ADX, ADW), probably Midland Purple, carried the context date further into the 16th century, while (ADB) the base of a Black Ware cup or jug with reddish fabric and a mid brown glaze on both sides of the pot continued the assemblage into the 17th - 18th century.
- 9.2.7 **Fill (1010) of Pit [1027]:** Context (1010) contained 2 pottery sherds, both in a coarse earthenware hard fired fabric which could possibly be a later form of Midlands Purple (ACJ, ACK).
- 9.2.8 **Fill (1011) of Pit [1028]:** Context (1011) contained 4 pottery sherds; a single body sherd of medieval Splashed Ware (ADO) and 3 body sherds of Midland Yellow Ware (AAA, ADP) and a coarse earthenware hard fired body sherd which could be a later form of Midlands Purple (ADN).
- 9.2.9 **Fill (1012) of Pit [1031]:** Context (1012) contained the bulk of the assemblage with 15 sherds of mixed medieval and post-medieval pottery. The medieval pottery consisted of a base and

body sherd of Green Glazed Ware (ABG) and 2 body sherds of reduced green glaze (ABD, ABF). (ABB) was a Nottingham Splashed Ware spouted pitcher with horizontal wavy line decoration, (ABL) was an oxidised coarse pink sandy fabric rim, while a body sherd was tentatively identified as Stamford ware (ABK). Post-medieval pottery was represented by coarse earthenwares; the rim of a large vessel with brown internal glaze (ABN), a body sherd of pink, sandy fabric with pale brown internal glaze (ABQ) and a body sherd with mid brown internal glaze (ABM). The 2 remaining sherds of coarse earthenware, a rim and body were possibly Midland Purple Ware (ABO, ABP). Also included in the post-medieval assemblage were 4 sherds of Midland Yellow Ware; a body sherd with cream white fabric and yellow glaze both internally and externally (ABH), a body sherd with yellow internal glaze on a cream white fabric (ABI) and the badly degraded rim of a large bowl with cream white fabric and internal yellow glaze (ABJ). Also included with the Midland Yellow Ware was the base of a small jug or vase with incised decoration and internal and external yellow glaze (ABE). A single body sherd of Black Ware was recovered from the context (ABC).

- 9.2.10 **Deposit (1013):** Context (1013) contained just 6 sherds of medieval pottery; (ACZ) a body sherd of micaceous coarse orange sandy ware (AAO) and a base sherd of coarse sandy ware with an oxidised inner surface and reduced outer surface (ACZ). Also included in the assemblage were 3 body sherds of Nottingham Splashed Ware (AAN, ACY) and a body sherd of Nottingham Splashed Ware with a horizontal wavy line decoration (ADD).
- 9.2.11 **Fill (1014) of Pit [1029]:** Context (1014) contained 15 body and base sherds from a single fine Shelly Ware vessel (ADI), possibly medieval in date.
- 9.2.12 **Fill (1015) of Pit [1046]:** Context (1015) contained a mix of medieval and post medieval pottery. The medieval assemblage consisted of a single body sherd of coarse sandy ware (AEU), a base sherd of sandy ware with a reduced inner surface and oxidised outer surface (AEB), a body sherd of reduced green glaze (ADK) and a body sherd of light bodied Green Glazed Ware (AEC). Taking the assemblage from context (1015) forward into the post-medieval period were 4 body sherds; a single sherd of coarse earthenware with a dark brown internal glaze (AET) and 3 sherds of Blackware (ADL, ADM). Midland Yellow ware was also represented by 4 rim sherds and 4 body sherds (ADJ, AEA).
- 9.2.13 **Fill (1016) of Pit [1043]:** Context (1016) contained a single rim sherd from a medieval Shelly Ware vessel (ADH), possibly the same vessel as (ADI) recovered from context (1014).
- 9.2.14 **Fill (1041) of Pit [1039]:** Context (1041) contained a single sherd of medieval iron-rich reduced Sandy Green Glazed ware (ADG).
- 9.2.15 **Fill (1044) of Pit [1039]:** Context (1044) contained just 1 body sherd of medieval sandy ware, oxidised with a reduced core (ADF)
- 9.2.16 **Fill (1050) of Pit [1039]:** Context (1050) contained a single body sherd of medieval Nottingham Splashed Ware (ADQ).
- 9.2.17 **Discussion:** The pottery assemblage from the excavation was comprised of pottery dating to between the 11th and 20th centuries. The earliest pottery fragments from the site are from medieval vessels produced in the 11th - 14th centuries, with possible transitional late medieval to early post-medieval sherds in the form of Midland Purple earthenware. Midland Yellow Ware and Slipware takes the assemblage into the 17th century and coarse earthenware on into the 18th and 19th centuries. The pottery assemblage as a whole is representative of a site of medieval origin with later post-medieval development.

9.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 9.3.1 9 fragments of clay tobacco pipe were collected from the site. Fill (1006) of pit [1027] contained 1 partial stem fragment with a bore diameter of 3mm (ACI), fill (1007) of pit [1021] contained 2 partial stem fragments, both with a bore diameter of 3mm (AAY) and another partial stem fragment (AAC), also with a 3mm bore diameter was recovered from fill (1011) of pit [1028]. In the absence of any identifying features such as makers stamps or decoration, the stems were dated to the 17th century using bore hole diameter (early clay pipes have a

bore diameter of 3mm, decreasing over time until stems by the middle of the 18th century had a bore of less than 2mm).

- 9.3.2 Fill (1012) of pit [1031] (ACA) contained the highest number of clay tobacco pipe fragments in the form of 3 partial stem fragments, all with a 3mm bore hole diameter, a stem with the remains of a pedestal foot and a complete bowl, slightly bulbous with an internal diameter of approximately 10mm, a pedestal foot and milled and bottered rim dating to the early-mid 17th century.

9.4 The Building Material

- 9.4.1 101 fragments of building material were recovered from the excavation. The bulk of the material was un-diagnostic and could only be assigned to a general period of medieval to modern, with the exception of several pieces of partially glazed medieval tile.
- 9.4.2 **Deposit (1004):** Context (1004) contained 3 small un-diagnostic fragments of brick and tile (ACD).
- 9.4.3 **Deposit (1005):** Context (1005) contained 10 fragments of mortar (ABW).
- 9.4.4 **Fill (1006) of Pit [1027]:** Context (1006) contained 4 fragments of un-diagnostic roofing tile (ABX).
- 9.4.5 **Fill (1007) of Pit [1021]:** Context (1007) contained just 3 fragments of un-diagnostic roofing tile (ABT).
- 9.4.6 **Fill (1008) of Construction Cut [1018] for Revetment:** Context (1008) contained 3 fragments of un-diagnostic roofing tile (ABA, AEI) and a single fragment of medieval green glazed tile (AAZ). 3 joining fragments of a probable square floor tile with a reduced core and bevelled edge (AEW) are likely to be early post-medieval in date.
- 9.4.7 **Fill (1009) of Pit [1043]:** Context (1009) contained 12 fragments of un-diagnostic roofing tile (ABU, AEE, AEO) and a single fragment of glazed medieval roofing tile (AEP).
- 9.4.8 **Fill (1010) of Pit [1027]:** Context (1010) contained 4 large fragments of un-diagnostic roofing tile (AEZ).
- 9.4.9 **Fill (1011) of Pit [1028]:** Context (1011) contained a single small fragment of un-diagnostic roofing tile (AAB).
- 9.4.10 **Fill (1012) of Pit [1031]:** Context (1012) contained 3 fragments of glazed medieval roofing tile (ACO, ACP, ACR), with 36 large fragments of un-diagnostic roofing tile and brick (ACE, ACN).
- 9.4.11 **Deposit (1013):** Context (1013) contained 2 small fragments of un-diagnostic roofing tile (ABV, ACB).
- 9.4.12 **Fill (1015) of Pit [1046]:** Context (1015) contained the bulk of the ceramic building material. 35 fragments weighing a total of 8513g. 26 un-diagnostic roofing tile fragments (ADS, AEN, AES, AEX, AEY) and 8 fragments of brick (AEN, AEX).
- 9.4.13 **Fill (1044) of Pit [1043]:** Context (1044) contained 2 small fragments of un-diagnostic roofing tile (ADZ).

9.5 The Metalwork

- 9.5.1 The excavation produced just 9 metal objects. Fill (1009) of pit [1043] contained a fragment of copper alloy which was too badly degraded to identify (AED). Fill (1014) of pit [1029] contained 2 badly corroded nails of uncertain date (AEQ). 3 large fragments of iron, possibly machinery, were recovered from fill (1015) of pit [1046] (AEL) and a further 3 nails were recovered from fill (1041), also of pit [1046] (AEH) and fill (1042) of pit [1039] (AER).

Fragments of slag were also recovered from fill (1040) of pit [1039] (AEV) and (1044) of pit [1043] (AEM).

9.6 The Glass

- 9.6.1 The base and neck of an 18th - 19th century green glass bottle (ABR) was recovered from fill (1006) of pit [1027] along with a modern clear glass bottle (ABS). Fill (1011) of pit [1028] contained a small fragment of post-medieval bottle glass (AAE).

9.7 The Shell

- 9.7.1 Fragments of oyster shell were recovered from deposit (1004), fill (1007) of pit [1021], fill (1011) of pit [1028], fill (1012) of pit [1031] and fill (1015) of pit [1046]. Oysters were a popular part of the diet during the medieval and post-medieval periods and as a result common finds in urban excavations.

9.8 Summary

- 9.8.1 In summary the finds assemblage represents a typical late medieval/post-medieval assemblage with continuity running from the 11th through to the 20th century.

10 Animal Bone *by Kris Poole*

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 Excavations at St Mary's Gate led to the recovery of 124 fragments of animal bone, all but five fragments (a sheep 2nd phalanx from (1013) and four unidentifiable fragments from (1015) having been recovered by hand collection. The assemblage was recorded following the methods outlined in Poole (2010). Here it should be noted that where fresh or old bone breaks could be refitted, they have been recorded as one specimen. The assemblage derives from a series of features, predominantly intercutting pits, of medieval and post-medieval date. Other finds from these features indicate that in a number of contexts, there was mixing of pottery dating to these different periods. It is therefore possible that there was some mixing of bone from these different phases, affecting to a degree the potential of the bone to inform upon activities on site at the time.

10.2 Results

10.2.1 Bone condition/modifications

- 10.2.1.1 All of the bone was in fair to very good condition, with the majority being very good (Table 1). Interestingly, those contexts that do not appear to show evidence of residuality, or at least relatively limited residuality (and so were attributed to medieval or post-medieval date) appear to be in better condition than those where a greater degree of mixing was apparent from finds. Those contexts which could be dated to the post-medieval period tended to be slightly better preserved than those from medieval contexts. However, the sample sizes in each case are small.
- 10.2.1.2 None of the bones showed signs of burning, although a small number showed signs of gnawing (8 of 119 bones, representing 6.7% of the total). By contrast, 25% of bones (30 of 119) had signs of butchery. Approximately two thirds of these butchery marks took the form of chop marks, made with a cleaver, whereas the remainder were cut marks, made by knives, although in one case, both types of marks were found on the same bone. Butchery was relatively even distributed between bones of cattle and sheep, with marks seen on 13 bones of each species. However, there were differences in terms of the types of marks.
- 10.2.1.3 Eleven cattle bones bore chop marks, compared to two with cut marks, whereas butchery on sheep bones was more balanced, consisting of seven chop marks and six cut marks. These distinctions in use of tool likely relate at least in part to the greater size of cattle and the

proportionate extra amount of butchery required to divide the carcass up. Almost all of the marks appeared to be related to carcass division, with vertebrae of cattle and sheep having been sagittally cleaved (chopped down the middle), typically a mark of specialised butchery. Cattle limbs seem to have been divided by chopping either through the ends of bones (i.e. at joints) or chopping horizontally through the middle of the bone shaft. Such patterns were also seen on sheep, but knives were also used to sever ligaments for carcass division. One cattle skull and a sheep skull had also been sagittally cleaved, probably to extract the brain for consumption. In addition to cattle and sheep, two pig bones had cut marks and a medium-sized mammal bone and a red deer pelvis both had chop marks.

10.2.2 Species representation

10.2.2.1 The overall assemblage was dominated by the remains of cattle and sheep/goat, which together make up over 80% of the identified species (Tables 2-3). Although it is possible that some of the sheep/goat remains consisted of goat, a number of elements could be attributed to sheep, whereas none were specifically identified as goat. Accordingly, it is assumed that the majority, if not all, of these bones were from sheep. Pigs were present in smaller numbers, as were typical non-food animals, namely dog and horse. There did not seem to be any significant differences in proportions of the three main domestic species by period, although sample sizes were small. Wild and/or semi-managed species were represented by a red deer pelvis (from a medieval context) and a rabbit femur (post-medieval), indicating hunting activity and/or the purchase of game from the urban market. Bones of common domestic birds, chicken and goose, were also recovered.

10.2.3 Ageing

- 10.2.3.1 Dental ageing data were only available from one cattle mandible, which derived from an animal between 18-30 months old. However, a larger amount of epiphysal fusion data were available, which seem to indicate a preponderance of skeletally immature cattle in the assemblage (Table 4). None of the later fusing bones in the assemblage were fused and some of the earliest fusing bones were unfused. The emphasis therefore appears to have been on young cattle, as well as those of prime meat age (large enough to provide a substantial amount of meat, but still not skeletally mature).
- 10.2.3.2 For sheep, a lower third molar derived from an animal between 3-4 years of age. By contrast to cattle, the overwhelming majority of sheep bones were fused (Table 5), with 80% of bones in the latest fusing category being fused.
- 10.2.3.3 A pig mandible derived from an animal between 14-21 months old at death. The few bones providing fusion data indicate a mixture of ages, including animals less than 10 months old (including a neonatal/foetal humerus from context (1006)), less than 15 months old, less than 42 months old and over 42 months old.
- 10.2.3.4 A complete horse humerus from (1015) was fused at both ends, indicating an animal that was older than 42 months old at death. The single dog bone from the assemblage was an unused distal radius, from an animal less than 12 months old (context 1008).
- 10.2.3.5 For the domestic birds, one chicken tibiotarsus was fused (1009), whilst a chicken tarsometatarsus was unfused (context (1015)).

10.2.4 Body-part patterns

10.2.4.1 No clear dominance of particular elements or body parts was evident, either in the overall assemblage, or within individual contexts, although this may in part be due to the small sample. For cattle, all parts of the body appear to be present, although there does seem to be a preponderance of limb bones (including the lower limbs) and feet) and a relative underrepresentation of head bones, vertebrae and foot bones (although these are present). This might suggest that slaughter and primary butchery of cattle was not taking place in this area.

- 10.2.4.2 Sheep show a similar pattern to cattle, although foot bones (metacarpals and metatarsals) are relatively well represented, being more common than upper limb bone elements, which may be a factor of preservation (these bones being more robust than most others in the skeleton). Nonetheless, the dearth of head bones and vertebrae may again indicate lack of primary butchery in this area.
- 10.2.4.3 Pigs were also represented by a mixture of elements, although this is only based on a small sample.

10.3 Discussion and Conclusion

- 10.3.1 The dominance of domestic mammals, and in particular, cattle and sheep, are typical of medieval and post-medieval urban assemblages (Albarella 2005). Although there is currently a lack of published animal bone reports from Nottingham, animal bone assemblages from urban centres in the East Midlands also show this tendency (Albarella and Pirnie 2008). There is some variation, however, with sites within Leicester tending to have a greater number of sheep/goat bones compared to cattle (e.g. Causeway Lane (Gidney 1999) and The Shires (Gidney 1991, Gidney 1992)), whereas cattle are generally the best represented species within medieval and post-medieval bone assemblages from Lincoln (various sites, including Flaxengate (Dobney *et al.* 1996, O'Connor 1982)).
- 10.3.2 The body-part patterns, ages of the animals and butchery pattern indicate an emphasis on meat and particularly the more meat-bearing bones, as well as, in the case of cattle at least, skeletally immature animals. A shift away from cattle as a multi-purpose animal to an emphasis on milk and meat production is a marker of animal bone assemblages from the 15th century onwards in England (Albarella 1997). By contrast, although sheep were one of the main species eaten during the period, their continuing importance for wool is often seen in the ageing data from medieval and post-medieval sites, with large proportions of skeletally mature individuals, as at St Mary's Gate (Albarella *et al.* 2009; Trow-Smith 1957).
- 10.3.3 Despite the small size of this assemblage and some issues of residuality, the main patterns observed from this assemblage therefore fit with wider trends known from urban sites during the medieval and post-medieval periods in England. It points to these bones deriving from the remains of meals, purchased from butchers within medieval and post-medieval Nottingham, rather than animals being raised and butchered on site, although the presence of a foetal/neonatal pig bone perhaps represents backyard pig keeping in the area.

11 The Charred Plant Remains *by Tina Roushannafas*

11.1 Methodology

- 11.1.1 Bulk samples taken from three contexts associated with pits of medieval–post-medieval date (1013, 1050 and 1015) were rapidly assessed for charred plant remains.
- 11.1.2 Samples were machine-floated through a 0.5mm mesh and the flot collected in a 0.25mm mesh, with residues also retained for hand-sorting. The flots were separated into fractions using graded sieves of 2mm, 1mm and 0.25mm to aid the sorting process. The examined flots were derived from samples of 10–20 litres in size.
- 11.1.3 The rapid assessment did not comprise detailed identification work. Where taxonomic descriptions are given these have been cross-referenced with the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (www.itis.gov). Free-threshing wheat grains were identified as *Triticum aestivum/turgidum* s.l. (sensu lato), denoting hexaploid/tetraploid free-threshing wheat in general, with greater precision unreliable in the absence of chaff remains.

11.2 Results

- 11.2.1 Overall, machine-assisted flotation of all the samples produced large flots with a high proportion of charcoal and roots, as well as coal, which proved time consuming to sort. The presence of so many roots within the flot raises the issue of potential displacement of plant material by bioturbation, which should be kept in mind in line with these results. Charcoal

fragments in the >2mm fraction were abundant in all samples and there is therefore potential for further study in the form of wood identification.

- 11.2.2 Despite the small size of the sample (10 litres), 28 cereal grains were recovered from context (1013). The assemblage was notable for its diversity with free-threshing (bread) wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* s.l.), hulled barley (*Hordeum*), rye (*Secale cereale*) and oat (*Avena sativa*) all identified, alongside nine cereal grains which were too poorly preserved to be identified to genus. In general the preservation of the grains was mixed, suggesting a variety of charring conditions and perhaps multiple depositions. A small number of weed seeds were identified within the sample, the majority of these *Poaceae* (grasses), most of which were similar in size to the identified cereal grains. Three pulses resembling *Vicia faba* (Celtic bean), or similar, were also recovered from the sample.
- 11.2.3 With the exception of the presence of pulses, the assemblage recovered from context (1050) was strikingly similar, with a diverse range of 68 cereal grains and a smaller number of weed seeds, among which larger species of *Poaceae* predominated. While it is difficult to draw strong conclusions from the small quantity of material assessed, the composition of both samples is suggestive of clean (processed) grain which was accidentally charred while in storage. The larger *Poaceae* (grass) seeds are those which are more likely to have avoided removal during the late processing stages of fine sieving/hand sorting due to their similarity to the desired grain product (Hillman 1984, 6).
- 11.2.4 Conversely, context (1015) contained very charred plant material, with only three very poorly preserved cereal grains and two small weed seeds of indeterminate type identified. Full results are presented in Table 1 below

11.3 Discussion

- 11.3.1 The small quantity of material examined precludes strong conclusions on the economy of the site, and the possibility of displacement of materials by bioturbation or other means is acknowledged. Nevertheless the results are suggestive of a diverse range of cereal grains being stored at the site. Accidental charring of the grain while in storage may have led to the deposition of the grain (and other charred material) into the observed pits. Should the opportunity arise, further sampling and analysis may allow for the formulation of more confident interpretations.

Context		Context (1013) Associated with pit [1039]	Fill (1050) Cut [1039] Pit	Fill (1015) Cut [1046] Pit
Sample Size		10 litres	20 litres	20 litres
Cereal Grain	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> s.l.	7	16	-
	<i>Hordeum</i> (hulled)	3	9	-
	<i>Secale cereale</i>	3	13	-
	<i>Avena sativa</i>	6	8	-
	Cereal (indeterminate)	9	22	3
Pulses	cf. <i>Vicia faba</i>	-	3	-
Weed seeds	<i>Poaceae</i>	9	21	-
	Other	2	13	2

Table 3: Results of Environmental Analysis

12 Conclusion

- 12.1 The excavation demonstrated that a large amount of ground development had taken place in relation to the formation of the current car park at Halifax Place. However, this modern ground disturbance had very little impact on the surviving archaeology present and in particular the survival of animal bone and charred plant remains. This implies that similar archaeological remains in close proximity may have comparably good levels of preservation.
- 12.2 The presence of numerous large intercutting pits dating to between the late Medieval and early Post-Medieval periods is in keeping with the discoveries made directly to the north and west during the excavations between 1978 and 1980 (Knight *et al* 2012). The size, scale and frequency of these post medieval pits indicate that the area is in heavy use during this period. Most of the pits appear to be filled by waste deposits relating to domestic uses.
- 12.3 The earliest feature in the stratigraphic sequence produced pottery which was dated from approximately the twelfth century. Other residual pottery finds, including a spouted pitcher, would also suggest a similar date.
- 12.4 These earlier finds signify an earlier phase of occupation on this site and, furthermore, that its use and development has been a long and constant process.
- 12.5 Although the small scale of this site has only allowed for a limited view of its archaeological potential, the depth and good preservation of the archaeology encountered during the excavation have provided an important source of information to elucidate our understanding of site activity (particularly concerning that of the Post-Medieval period), of a domestic occupational nature.

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Online Resources

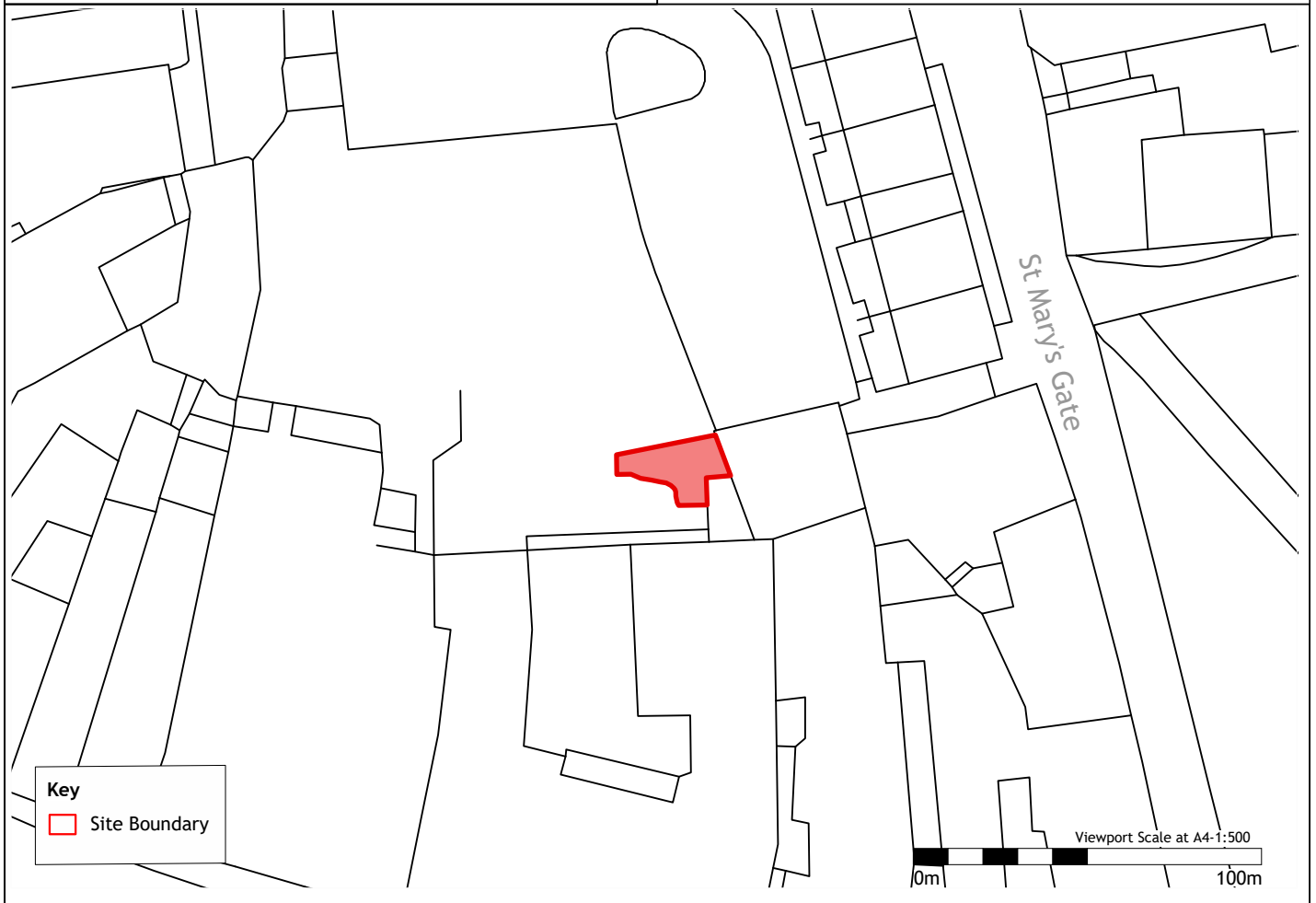
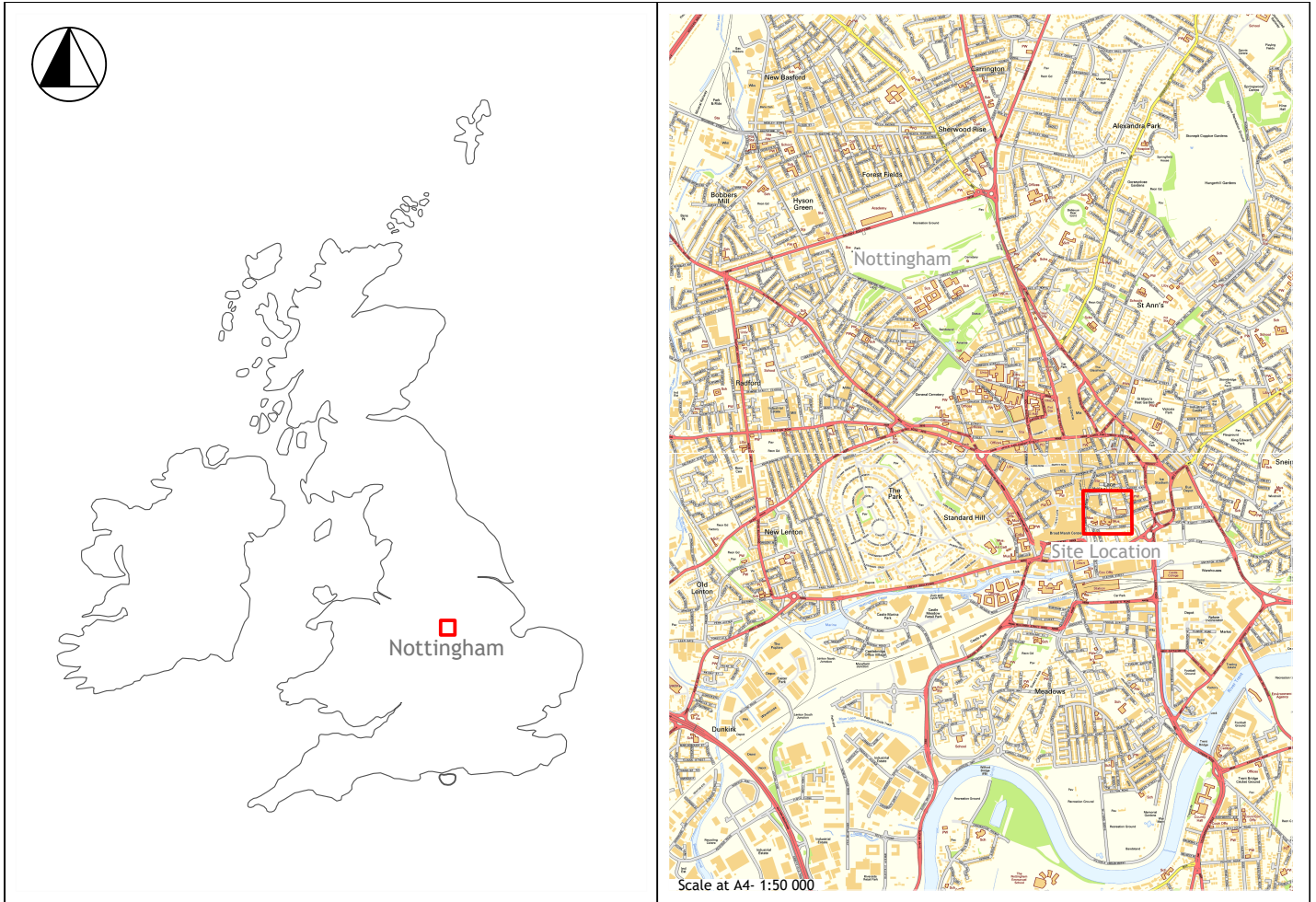
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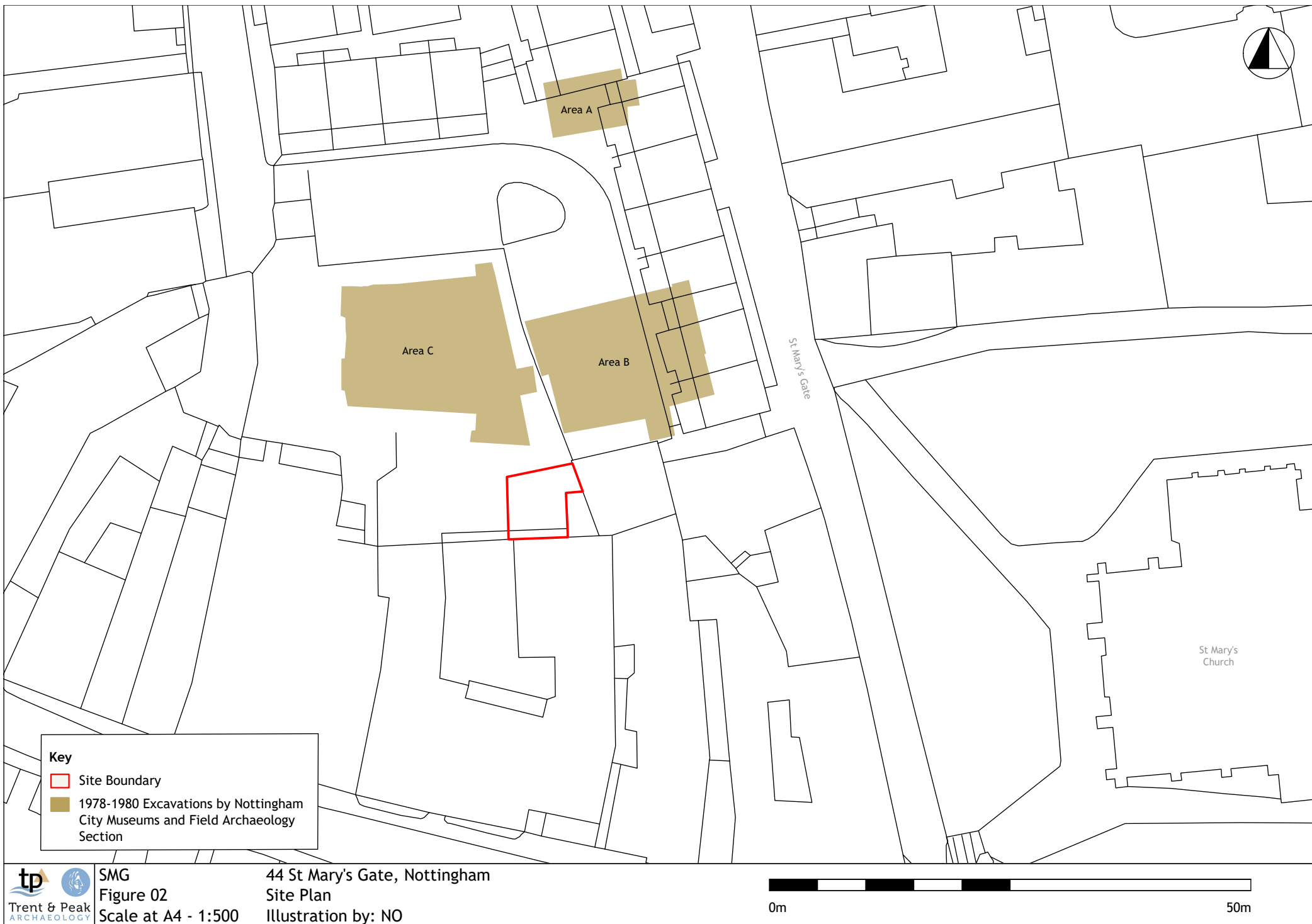
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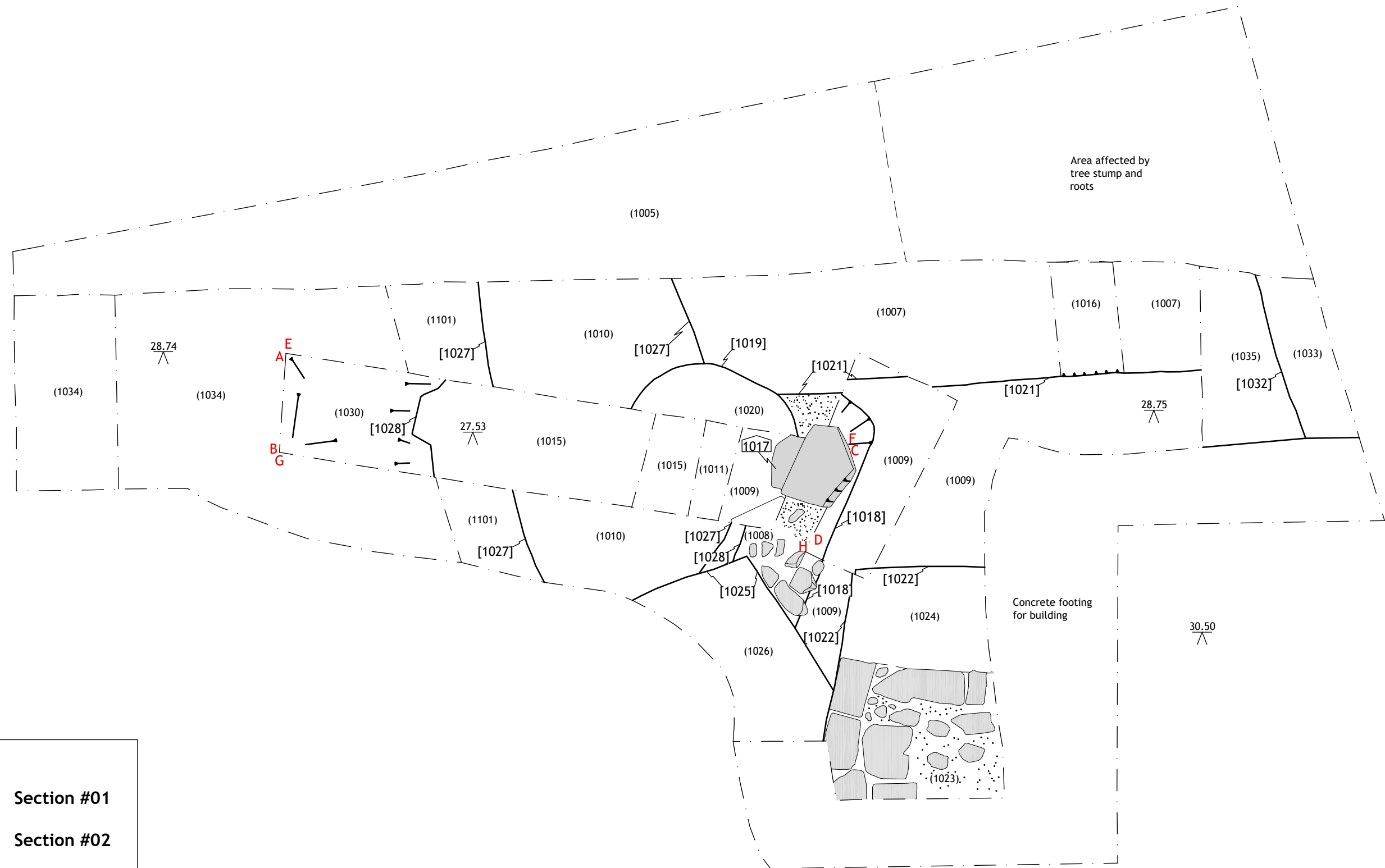
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Figures







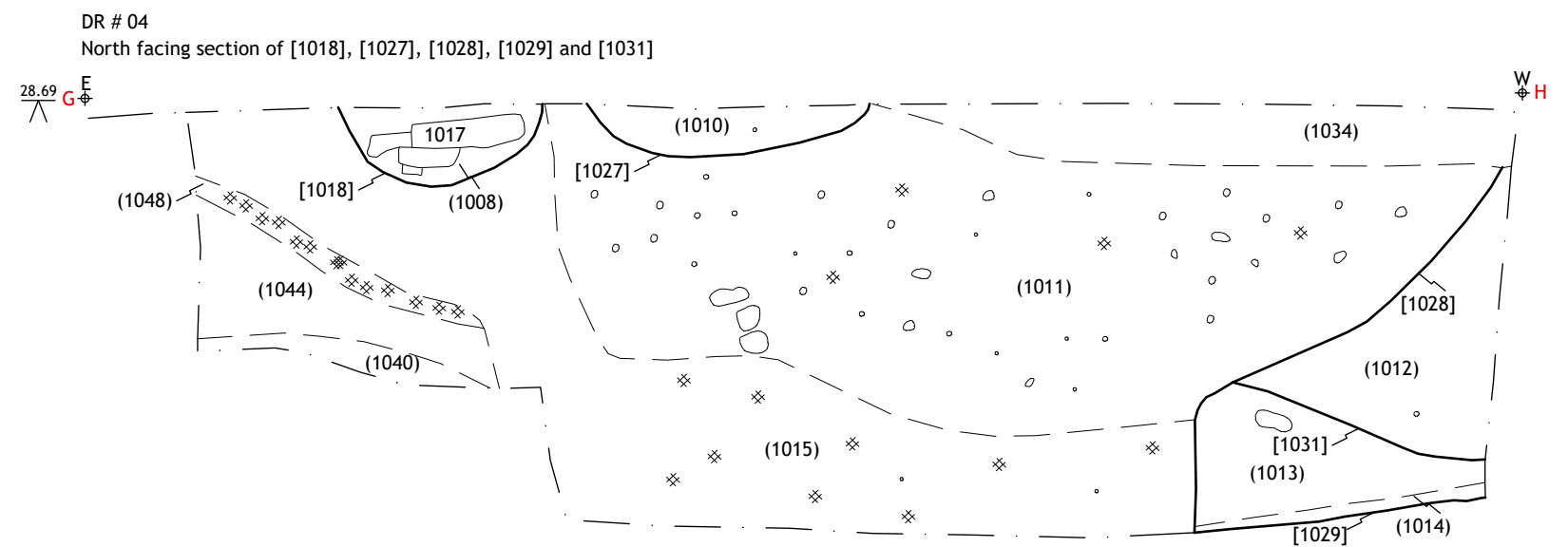
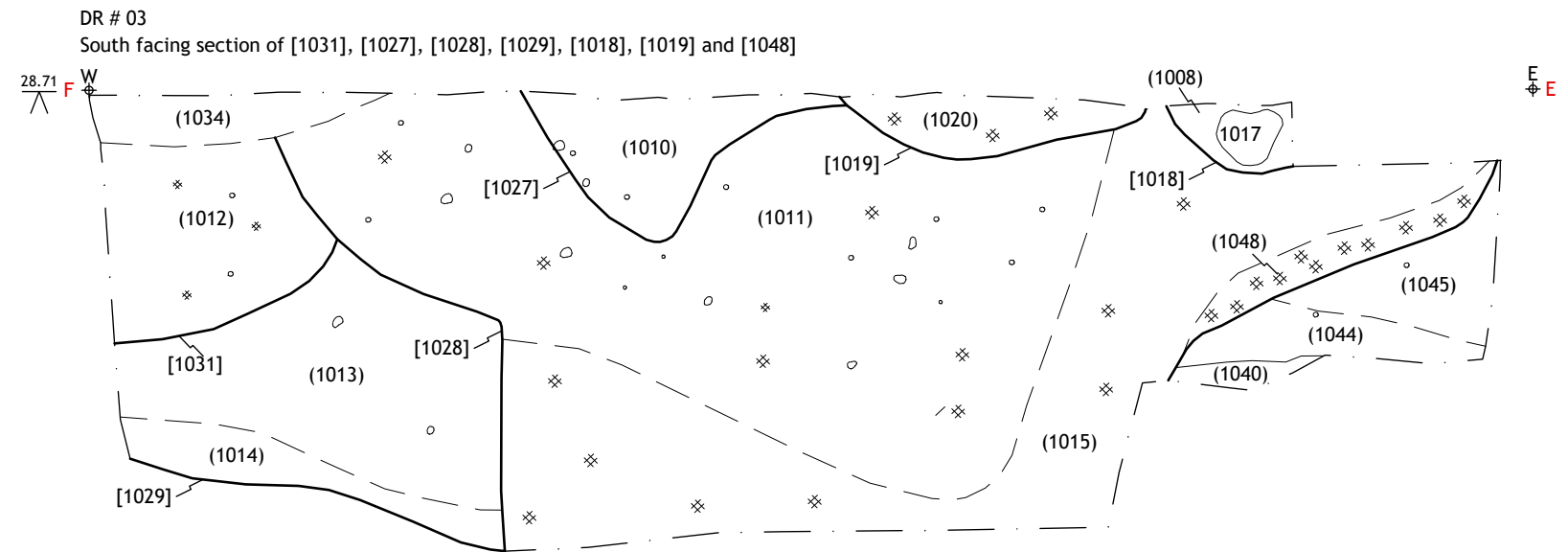
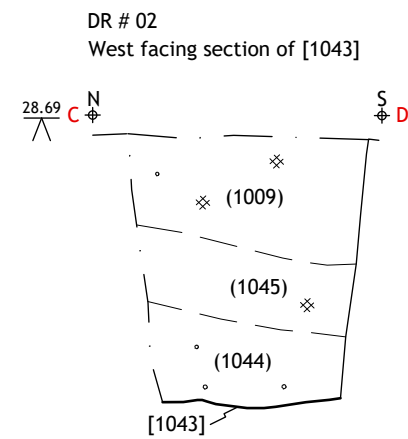
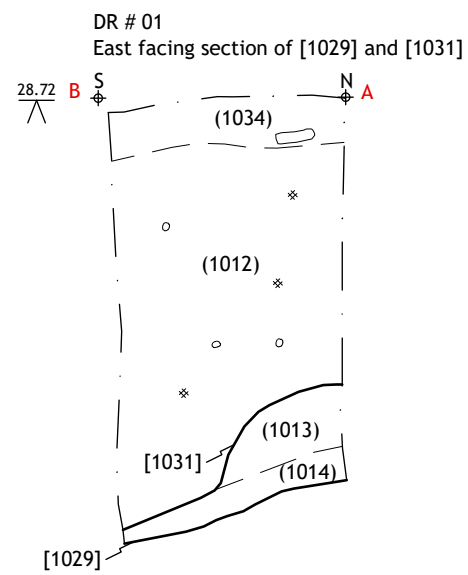
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C-D	-	Section #02
E-F	-	Section #03
G-H	-	Section #04

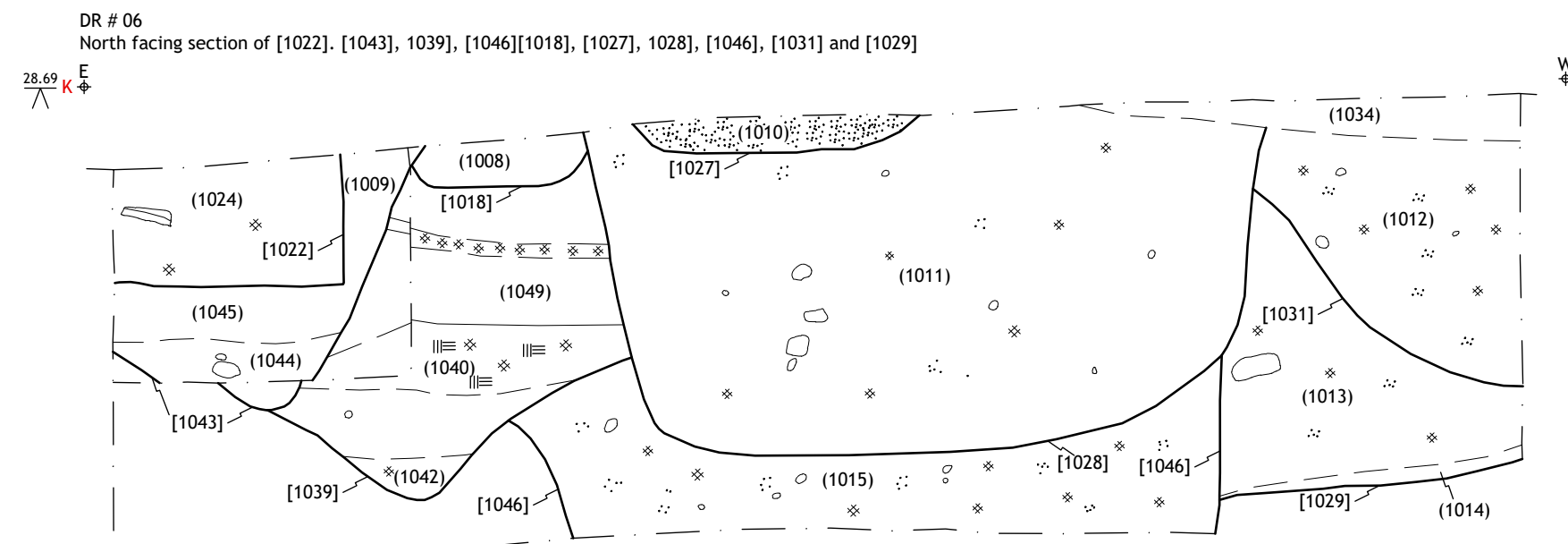
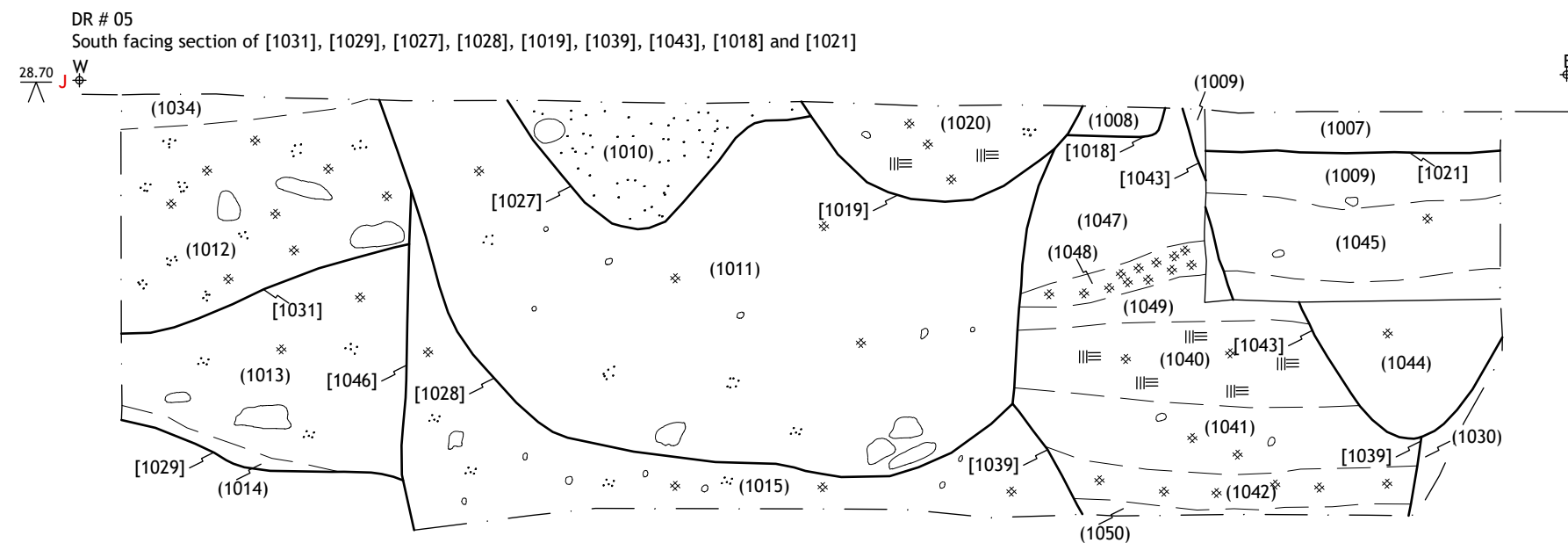


Key

I-J - Section #05

K-L - Section #06





Plates



Plate 1: General mid-excavation view of the site, viewed looking south-east



Plate 2: Post-excavation plan view of the intercutting Medieval and Post-Medieval pits and the Post-Medieval revetment, viewed looking east



Plate 3: North facing section of the Medieval and Post-Medieval features, viewed looking south-east



Plate 4: South facing section of the Medieval and Post-Medieval features, viewed looking north-west



Plate 5: South and west facing sections of [1039], [1018] and [1028], viewed looking north-east



Plate 6: North and west facing sections of [1039], [1018] and [1028], viewed looking south-east



Plate 7: Mid-excavation plan view of revetment [1017] within cut [1018], viewed looking north-west



Plate 8: East facing section of site showing the sequence of modern deposits making up the ground of the car park, viewed looking west



Plate 9: Oblique view of the south facing section of site, viewed looking north-west



Plate 10: Oblique view of the south facing section of site, viewed looking north-east

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OASIS ID: trentpea1-315594

Project details

Project name	44 St. Mary's Gate: An Archaeological Excavation
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA) was commissioned by Alan Simpson to undertake an archaeological excavation at 44 St. Mary's Gate, Nottingham (NGR SK 57580 39668). The work was carried out in November 2017 prior to the construction of an extension to an existing property and the re-landscaping of the associated car park. Excavations between 1978 and 1980 to the immediate north and west of the site encountered well preserved archaeological remains. Considering this, and the site location within the Lace Market Conservation Area, the potential for encountering archaeological remains during the ground investigation was deemed high. The program of archaeological mitigation comprised the excavation of an area measuring 7.63m in length and 4.79m in width to a maximum depth of 3.02m. Three main phases of activity and occupation were present during the investigation. These dated to the Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern periods. The excavation revealed high levels of modern ground disturbance. However, this had very little impact on the surviving archaeology present suggesting that similar archaeological remains in close proximity may have comparably good levels of preservation. The presence of numerous large intercutting pits of medieval and Post-Medieval date is in keeping with the discoveries made directly to the north and west during the previous archaeological excavations between 1978 and 1980. The size, scale and frequency of these pits indicate that the area was in heavy use during these periods. Most of the pits appear to be filled by deposits relating to domestic uses. However some do appear to contain materials which could be related to industrial use, even if only on a small scale, demonstrating the probable dual-purpose of the site.
Project dates	Start: 20-11-2017 End: 07-12-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SMG1 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	16/01211/PFUL3 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Full excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM 44 St. Mary's Gate, Nottingham

Postcode NG1 1QA

Study area 36.55 Square metres

Site coordinates SK 57580 39668 52.950983694153 -1.142889365142 52 57 03 N 001 08 34 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 30.5m Max: 30.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology

Project brief originator Nottingham City Council

Project design originator Matt Hurford

Project director/manager Dr. Gareth Davies

Project supervisor Paul Renner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Nottingham City Museums and Gallery

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Metal"

Digital Archive recipient Nottingham City Museums and Gallery

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector"

Paper Archive recipient Nottingham City Museums and Gallery

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 44 St. Mary's Gate, Nottingham: An Archaeological Excavation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Renner, P. and Collins, C.

Other bibliographic details TPA Report No. 072/2018

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Appendix 2: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

<i>Field Records</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	50
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	2
Digital photographs	All views	125
Site drawings	Plan of site	8
<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
<i>Find</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Artefact	Pottery, bone, clay pipe, metal	408
Ecofact	Environmental samples, bulk	3

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. It will be deposited with Nottinghamshire Museums, Arts and Records Service within 6 months of the completion of the report.

A museums accession number has been requested and will be included as part of the final report which will include the results of the forthcoming watching brief mitigation.

Upon approval of the report a copy will be submitted to OASIS database and the record form will be completed. A single bound copy and PDF/A version copied to disk will be submitted to Nottingham City HER for archiving.