

# Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Moor Road, Bestwood, Nottinghamshire



**Client: Kier Construction**

Prepared by: Kath Bentley

Report Number: 151/2018

TPA Project Code: BEW

Trent & Peak Archaeology ©  
Unit 1, Holly Lane  
Chilwell  
Nottingham  
NG9 4AB  
0115 8967400 (Tel.)  
tparchaeology.co.uk  
trentpeak@yorkat.co.uk



**Client Name:** Kier Construction

**Document Title:** Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at at Moor Road, Bestwood, Nottinghamshire


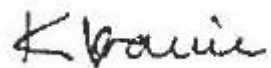
**Document Type:** Final Report

**Issue/Version Number:** V1

**Grid Reference:** SK 455325 348216

**Report No.** 151/2018

### QUALITY CONTROL

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Prepared by</b> | Kath Bentley   |
| <b>Updated by</b>  | Victoria Owen  |
| <b>Date</b>        | 20/09/2018<br>30/04/2019   |
| <b>Checked by</b>  | Kate Smart   |
| <b>Signed</b>      |  |
| <b>Date</b>        | 14/01/2019   |
| <b>Approved by</b> | Kristina Krawiec   |
| <b>Signed</b>      |  |
| <b>Date</b>        | 15/01/2019   |
| <b>Status</b>      | V1   |

### Disclaimer

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited ("YAT") (trading as Trent & Peak Archaeology) YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.



Trent & Peak Archaeology ©  
Unit 1, Holly Lane  
Chilwell  
Nottingham  
NG9 4AB  
0115 8967400 (Tel.)  
tparchaeology.co.uk  
trentpeak@yorkat.co.uk

## Summary

---

- Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Kier Construction to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground reduction work on land off Moor Lane, Bestwood, Nottinghamshire, prior to the building of a new primary school.
- Archaeological observation and recording was maintained during intrusive groundworks associated with the new development.
- An initial watching brief was conducted on 3rd September 2018, which did not reach a sufficient depth to impact any sub-surface archaeological remains. It was deemed possible that archaeological deposits could survive at a depth below the limits of the current development.
- An additional phase of watching brief was required for the excavation of a drainage ditch located to the south-east of the site within a previously evaluated area. This was conducted during March 2019. Excavation revealed natural geology sealed by redeposited material and ground levelling deposits associated with the current development.
- No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

## Acknowledgements

---

Thanks are extended to Kier Construction for commissioning the work. The project was managed by Kristina Krawiec (TPA), and undertaken by Project Officer Kath Bentley. The figures included in this report were produced by Marius Ilie.

# Contents

---

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Summary .....  | 4  |
| Acknowledgements .....   | 5  |
| Contents .....   | 6  |
| List of Figures .....  | 7  |
| List of Plates .....   | 7  |
| 1 Introduction and Planning Background .....                       | 8  |
| 2 Topography and Geology .....                                     | 8  |
| 3 Historical and Archaeological Background .....                   | 8  |
| 4 Aims and Objectives .....  | 9  |
| 5 Methodology .....  | 9  |
| 6 Results .....  | 9  |
| 7 Discussion and Conclusions.....                                  | 10 |
| 8 Bibliography.....  | 11 |
| 9 Context Register .....   | 12 |
| 10 Figures.....  | 13 |
| 11 Plates.....   | 18 |
| Appendix 1: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition ..... | 20 |
| Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection Form.....                        | 21 |

## List of Figures

---

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2: Site Plan. Scale @ A4 - 1:1500

Figure 3: Plan of drainage ditch. Scale @A4 – 1:200

Figure 4: Section drawings 01-02. Scale @A4 - 1:20

## List of Plates

---

Plate 1: Pre-excavation photograph of proposed development area. Looking north, no scale.

Plate 2: Post-excavation photograph of proposed development area. Looking west, no scale.

Plate 3: Excavation of additional drainage ditch to the south-east of the site. No scale.

Plate 4: Representative section of additional drainage ditch. Scale 1m, looking east.

## 1 Introduction and Planning Background

---

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) were commissioned by Kier Construction to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land off Moor Lane, Bestwood, Nottinghamshire. The watching brief was carried out during ground reduction works associated with the construction of a new primary school. The site is centred at SK 455325 348216.
- 1.2 Due to the potential for extant archaeological remains in the area, archaeological planning conditions were placed on the development, which required that *“Prior to the commencement of development a programme of archaeological monitoring of groundworks in the area identified in drawing 7/2017/1292NCC/1 shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the CPA. Development shall be carried out in accordance with approved details.”*. The work was undertaken in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and ClfA Guidelines (2014a and b), utilising an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Krawiec 2018).

## 2 Topography and Geology

---

- 2.1 The proposed development area (PDA) lies at the northern limit of the village of Bestwood. The site is bounded to the south by the modern housing development of The Spinney, to the west by Moor Road, and to the north and east by arable fields. The River Lean is located 500m to the west of the site within Bestwood Country Park.
- 2.3 The bedrock geology of the area around Bestwood, consists of Sandstone Formation Sandstone, a sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 247 to 272 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian Periods in a local environment previously dominated by rivers. There are no superficial deposits recorded for this location (BGS 2018).

## 3 Historical and Archaeological Background

---

- 3.1 The village of Bestwood is within the Gedling district of Nottinghamshire and its origins are tied to the coal industry.
- 3.2 There is little in the way of archaeological findspots within a 1km radius of the site, however a Beaker period flint knife was recovered in 1957 from Bestwood Park (HER no. L2049)
- 3.3 The area of the site lies within the boundary of the Deer Park associated with Bestwood lodge (c 3m to the south east of the site, Monument no SK54 NE18). The Priory of Lenton was granted permission by Henry I to collect deadwood and heath from the Royal Forest of Bestwood. The origins of the Lodge begin in 1363 when Edward III instructed the custodian of Bestwood to fell timber in order to build a suitable lodge. This building was demolished by the 10th Duke in 1863 and the present building was erected. The lodge is now a Best Western Hotel.
- 3.4 The village also contains remnants of the local coal mining industry as well as several mills. Bestwood Country Park contains the remains of the water management system for the now defunct water mills, with Forge Mill still standing at the southern end of the park. There were two mills operating on the site in the 17th century: Old mill was originally for cotton and was later converted into a corn mill, while the Forge Mill was an iron foundry during the same period (Fisher 2010).



## 4 Aims and Objectives

---

- 4.1 The main objective of the watching brief was to identify the presence of any archaeological remains likely to be affected by intrusive aspects of the development.
- 4.2 Where practical (within the constraints of the watching brief and development), the watching brief would aim to establish the overall extent, date and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the development.
- 4.3 The project also aimed to identify any features of geoarchaeological significance, including identifying the potential for palaeoenvironmental data.
- 4.4 The site has the potential to address research objectives set out in the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (Knight *et al.* 2012).

### **7I Investigate development of the open-field system and woodland management**

7.7.3 What can we deduce about changes in woodland management and animal or crop husbandry (including new crops, crop rotation, field systems, more intensive cultivation of clay soils and larger animals, particularly sheep)?

### **8D Investigate development in estate and garden design and their landscape context**

8.2.5 Can we establish regional typologies of parklands, parkland structures and the villages and cottages associated with estates?

## 5 Methodology

---

- 5.1 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014b) and the *Code of Conduct* (2014a). The work followed the WSI (Krawiec, 2018), and was carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist selected from Trent and Peak's supervisory staff.
- 5.2 Where a mechanical excavator was used for ground excavation work, it was fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, with excavation carried out in successive spits to allow for archaeological inspection.
- 5.3 Below-ground stratigraphy was recorded, photographed and interpreted, even where no archaeological finds or features were present, in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2014b).
- 5.4 All excavations were recorded at an appropriate scale by photography. Site photography was undertaken with the use of a high resolution DSLR camera.

## 6 Results

---

- 6.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered during the course of the watching brief.
- 6.2 Excavation of one area took place prior to archaeological attendance; this was to facilitate the widening of the existing track for site access.

- 6.3 The natural substratum, which comprised a reddish-orange sand was revealed at around 0.70m below the current ground level. This was overlain by a bright reddish-brown sandy silt subsoil which was 0.20m thick. Overlying the subsoil was the topsoil which was 0.50m deep and was composed of a greyish brown sandy silt.
- 6.4 Within the earlier evaluated regions (Fig 2, 2018 monitored area), only a small area was excavated to a depth that revealed the natural substratum within the proposed development area. Following on-site discussions with the client it was agreed that only the vegetation and topsoil to a depth of 0.10m deep needed to be removed in order to reveal a firm enough level. This was not deep enough to expose the natural substratum across the remainder of the site.
- 6.5 During March 2019, an additional watching brief was undertaken amid the excavation of a below ground drainage trench, located to the south-east of the site (Fig 2; plates 3-4). The trench measured c 45m x 4.2m, and was excavated to a depth of >4m which revealed no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance.
- 6.6 These additional excavations revealed natural substratum at a depth of 0.8m below ground level. The area was sealed by varying deposits of yellowish brown made ground (0002) 0.2m thick, black rubble hardcore (0005) 0.1m thick and redeposited red sand and turf (0001). These deposits relate to the material excavated during the earlier monitoring of ground works.

## 7 Discussion and Conclusions

---

- 7.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered during the course of the watching brief.
- 7.2 Groundworks within the earlier monitored areas did not reach a depth sufficient to impact any sub-surface archaeological remains. It is possible, therefore, that archaeological remains may survive at a depth below the current development.
- 7.3 Additional groundworks revealed geological substratum at a depth of 0.8m below ground level, which had been sealed by modern deposits of made ground and hardcore associated with the current development. The archaeological potential of the site is thusfar undetermined.

## 8 Bibliography

---

British geological Survey. 'Geology viewer', *BGS* [website] (2017). *Geology of Britain Viewer*. <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>? Accessed 20th September 2018

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a. *Code of Conduct*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading.

Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework*. Department for Communities and Local Government; London.

Fisher, H. 2010. *The Old Mill, Bestwood Village*. Thoroton Society Newsletter.

Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen, C. 2012. *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework*. Derbyshire: Buxton Press

Krawiec, K. 2018. 'Moor Road, Bestwood: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief 2018', Unpublished report: Trent & Peak Archaeology.

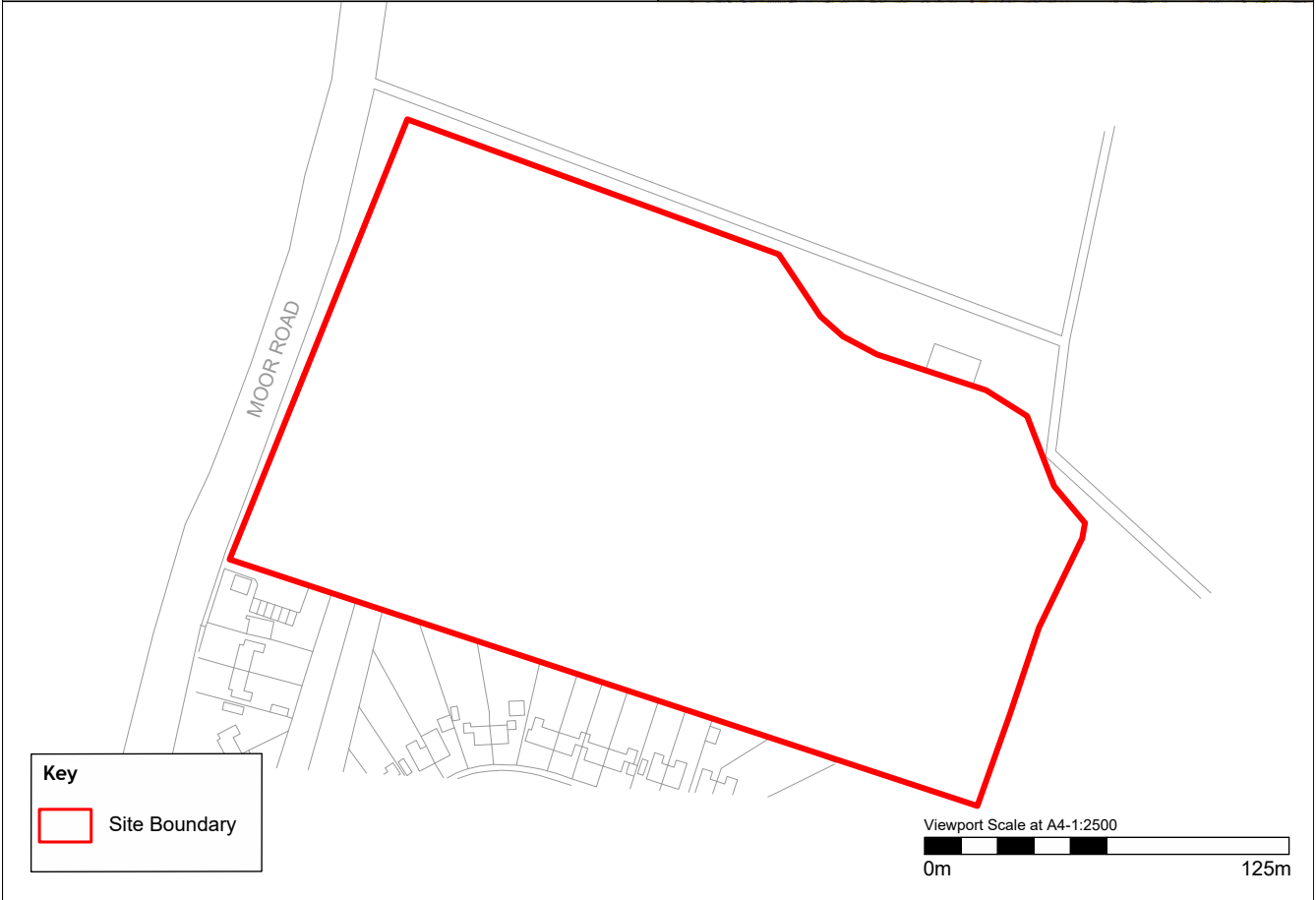
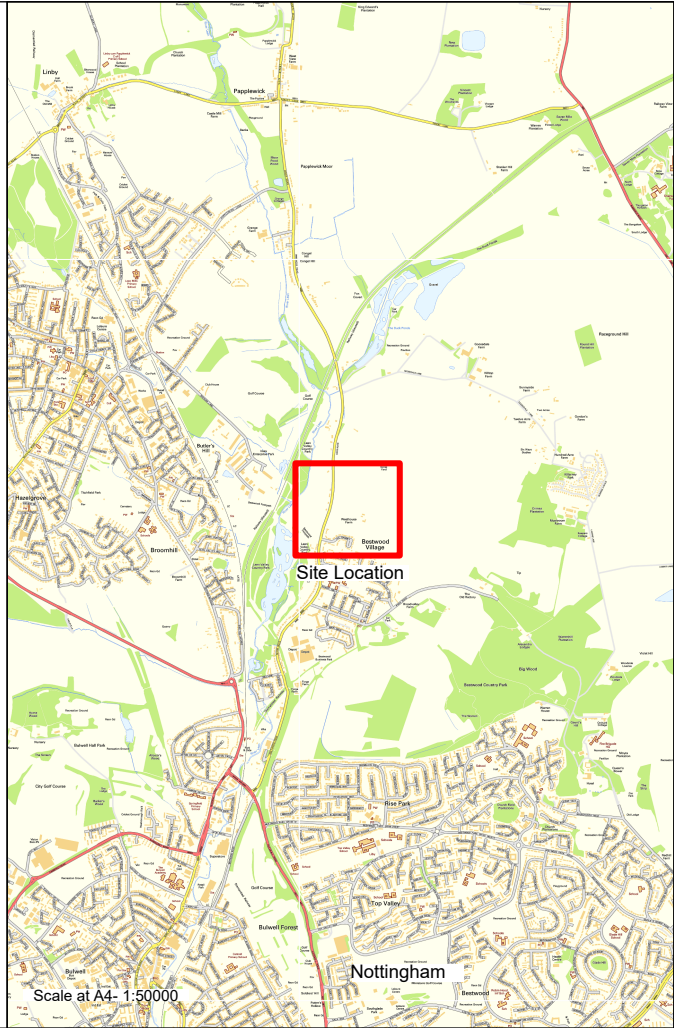
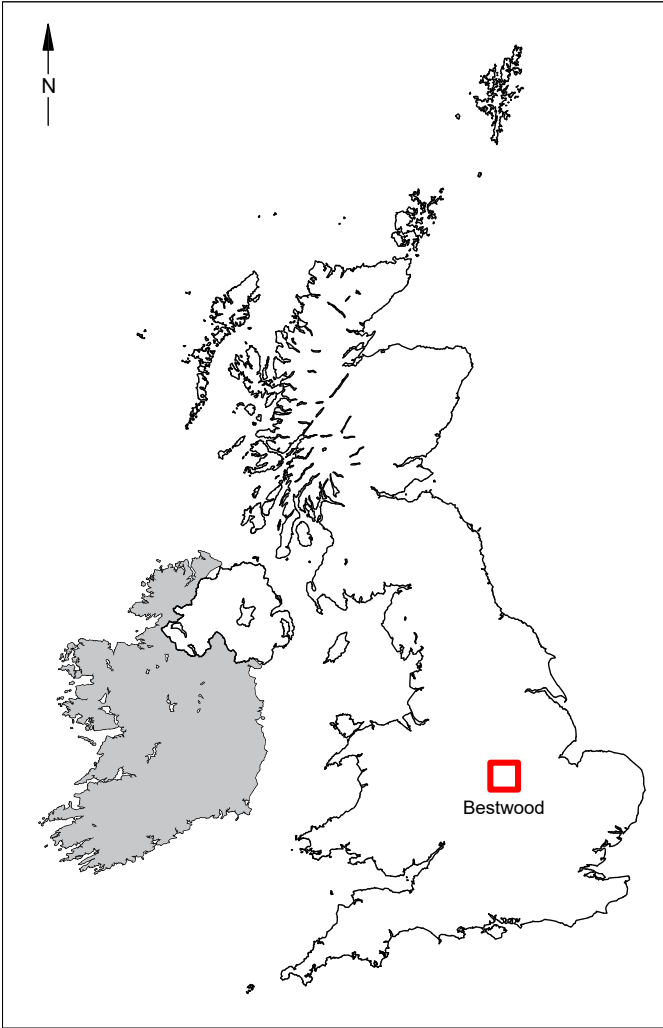
## 9 Context Register

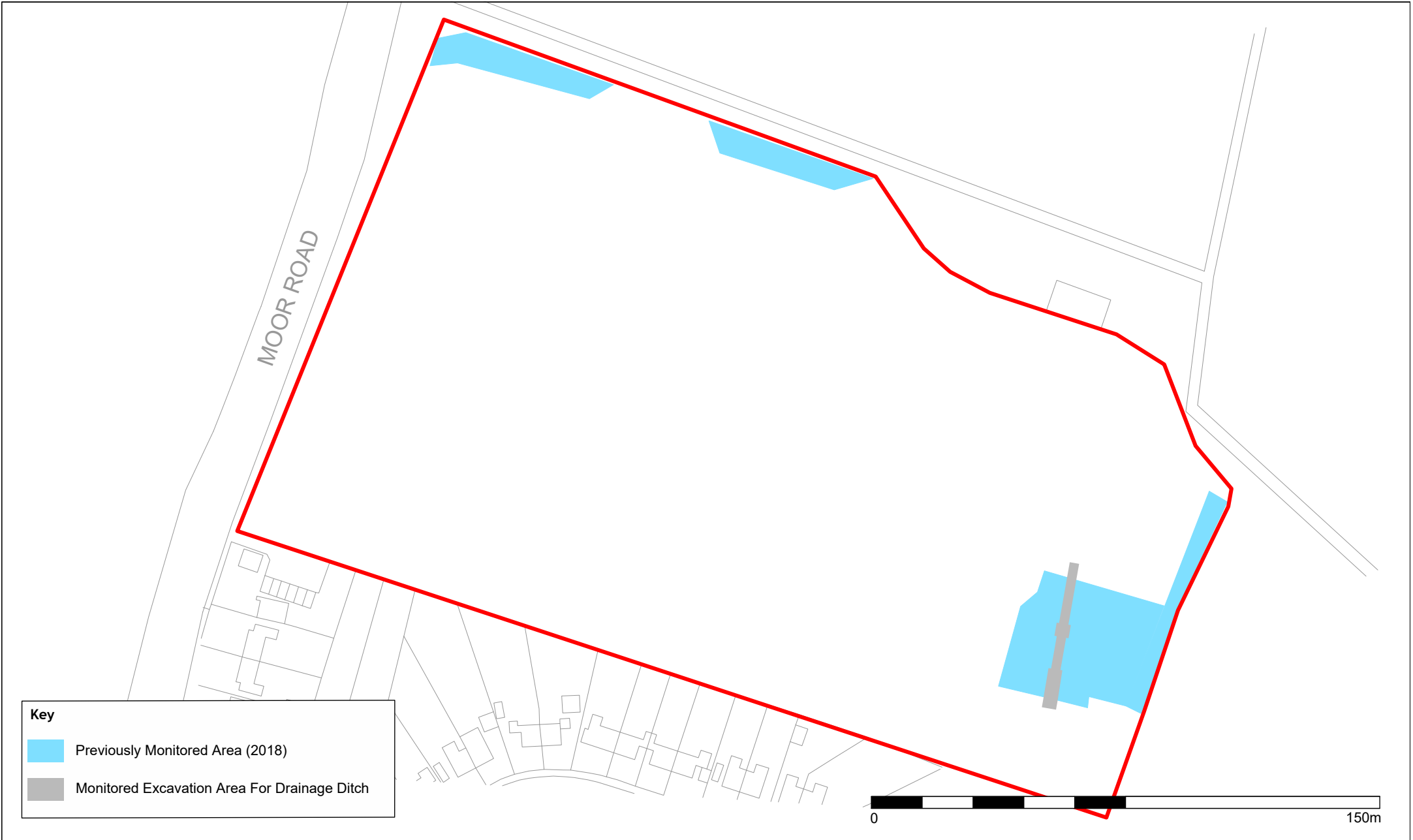
---

| <b>Context</b> | <b>Feature</b> | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Date</b> |
|----------------|----------------|--|-------------|
| 0001           | Layer          | Redeposited red sand and turf                                      | Modern      |
| 0002           | Layer          | Subsoil. Mixed yellow/ brown and red sand                          | Modern      |
| 0003           | Layer          | Natural substratum. Red sandy clay.                                | Undated     |
| 0004           | Deposit        | Made ground within drainage ditch (mid brownish yellow silty sand) | Modern      |
| 0005           | Deposit        | Compacted black rubble hardcore                                    | Modern      |

## 10 Figures

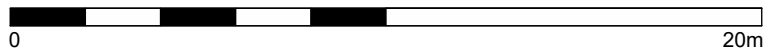
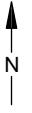
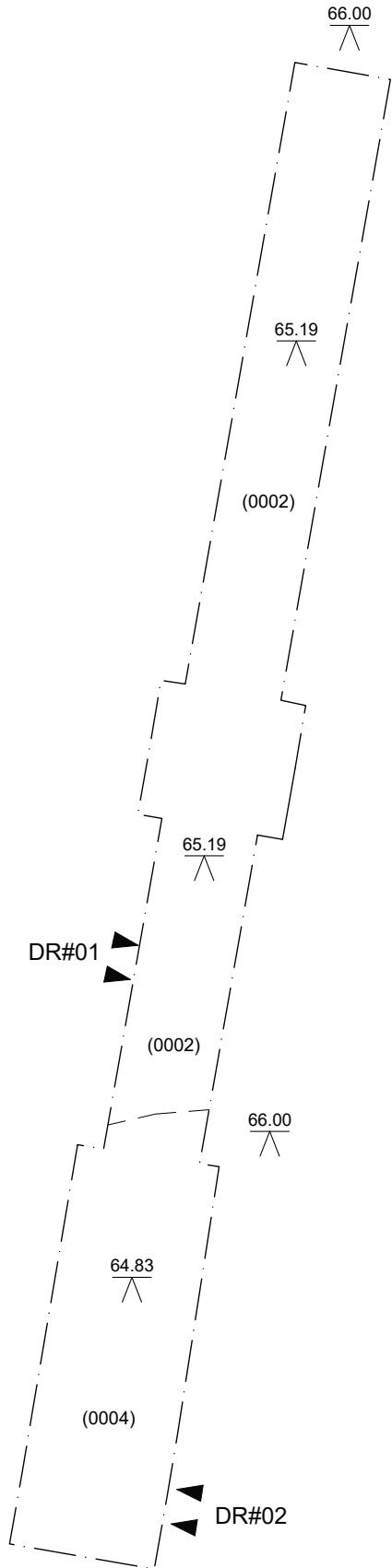
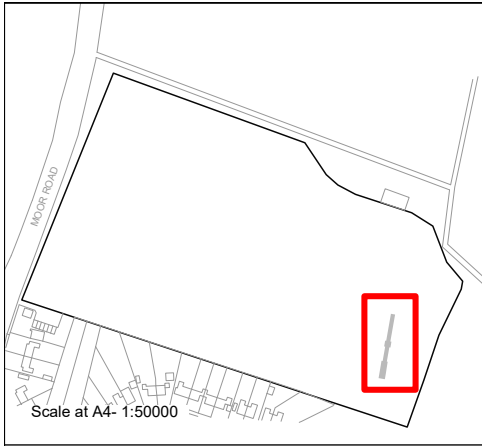
---





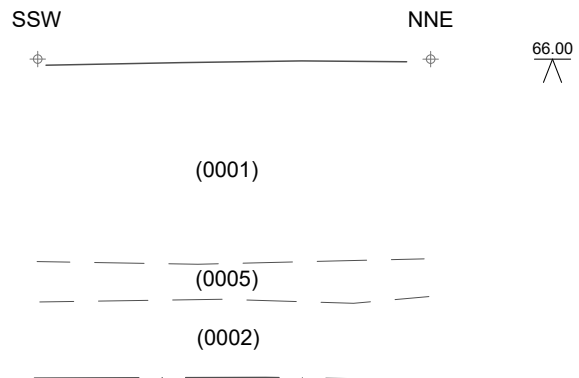
**Key**

- Previously Monitored Area (2018)
- Monitored Excavation Area For Drainage Ditch

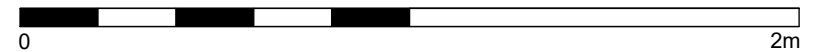
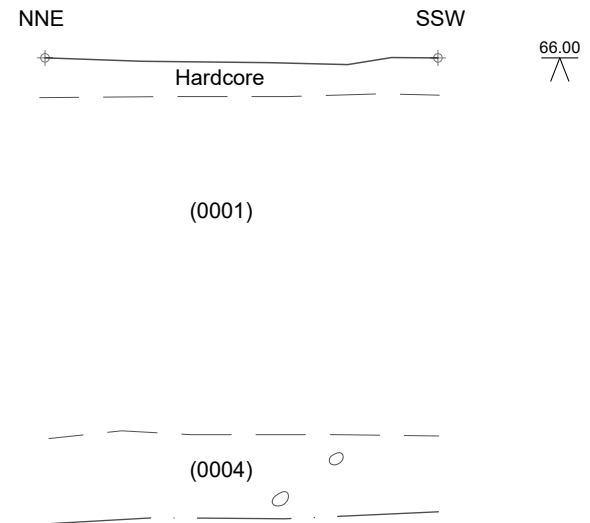




DR#01  
East South East Facing Section Of Drainage Ditch



DR#02  
West North West Facing Section Of Drainage Ditch



## 11 Plates

---



Plate 1: Pre-excitation photograph of proposed development area. Looking north, no scale.



Plate 2: Post-excitation photograph of proposed development area. Looking west, no scale.



Plate 3: Excavation of additional drainage ditch to the south-east of the site. No scale.

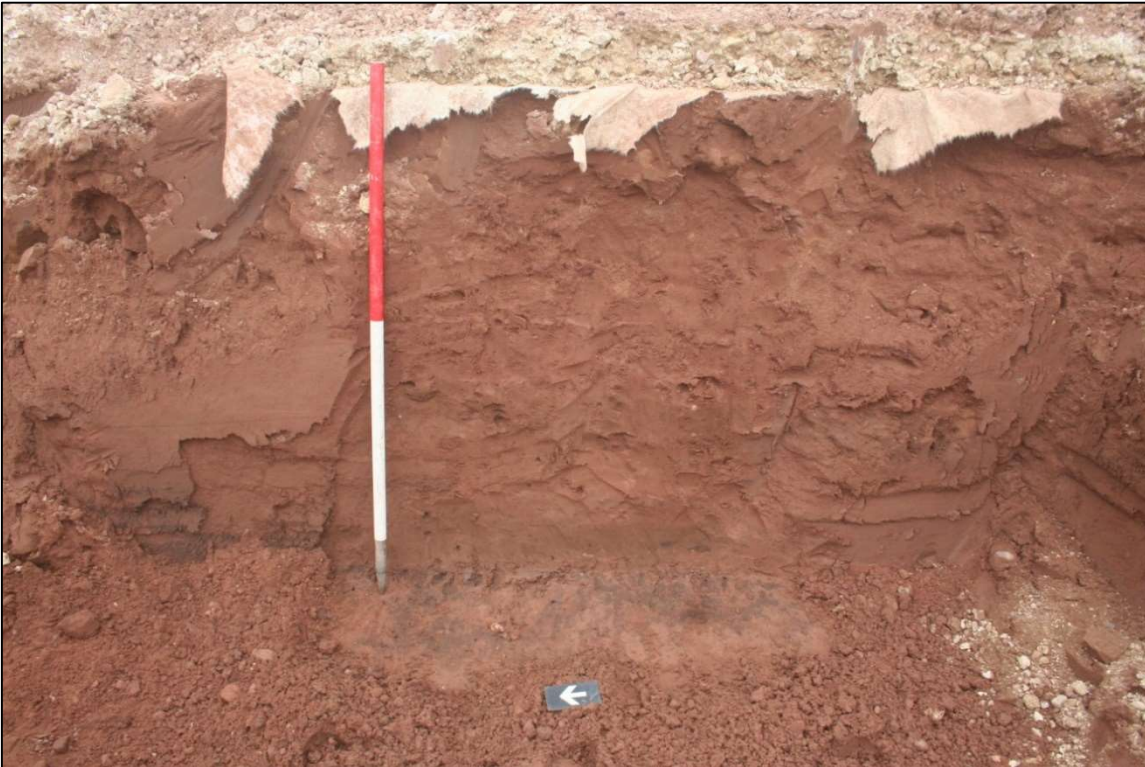


Plate 4: Representative section of additional drainage ditch. Scale 1m, looking east.

## 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                               | 4             |
| Context register                | Register of context numbers and descriptions                       | 1             |
| Context sheets                  | Record of features and deposits                                    | 5             |
| Photo record sheet              | Record of photographs taken  | 1             |
| Digital photographs             | All views  | 63            |
| <br>                            |  |               |
| <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.                          | 2             |

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB until such a time when a suitable repository becomes available.

## Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection 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: trentpea1-339449**

### Project details

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project name                           | Moor Road, Bestwood, Nottinghamshire   |
| Short description of the project       | Trent and Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Kier Construction to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground reduction work on land off Moor Lane, Bestwood, Nottinghamshire, prior to the building of a new primary school. Archaeological observation and recording was maintained during intrusive groundworks associated with the new development. Groundworks did not reach a sufficient depth to impact any sub-surface archaeological remains. Archaeological remains may survive at a depth below the current development. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered during the course of the watching brief. The watching brief was undertaken on 3rd September 2018. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 03-09-2018 End: 03-09-2018  |
| Previous/future work                   | No / No  |
| Any associated project reference codes | BEW - Sitecode   |
| Any associated project reference codes | 7/2017/1292NCC/1 - Planning Application No.  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project  |
| Site status                            | None   |
| Current Land use                       | Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined   |
| Monument type                          | NONE None  |
| Significant Finds                      | NONE None  |
| Investigation type                     | "Watching Brief"   |
| Prompt                                 | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF  |

### Project location

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Country          | England   |
| Site location    | NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GEDLING BESTWOOD ST ALBANS Moor Road, Bestwood, Nottinghamshire |
| Study area       | 44800 Square metres   |
| Site coordinates | SK 455325 348216 52.908574309079 -1.322887920736 52 54 30 N 001 19 22 W Point   |

### Project creators

|                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | Trent and Peak Archaeology |
|----------------------|----------------------------|

|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Project brief originator     | Nottinghamshire County Council |
| Project design originator    | Kristina Krawiec               |
| Project director/manager     | Kristina Krawiec               |
| Project supervisor           | Kath Bentley                   |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer                      |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Kier Construction              |

### Project archives

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Physical Archive Exists?  | No  |
| Digital Archive recipient | Trent and Peak Archaeology  |
| Digital Archive ID        | BEW   |
| Digital Contents          | "none"  |
| Digital Media available   | "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"                  |
| Digital Archive notes     | The archive will be stored at TPA until a suitable repository becomes available |
| Paper Archive recipient   | Trent and Peak Archaeology  |
| Paper Archive ID          | BEW   |
| Paper Contents            | "none"  |
| Paper Media available     | "Context sheet", "Report", "Unpublished Text"                                   |
| Paper Archive notes       | The archive will be stored at TPA until a suitable repository becomes available |

### Project bibliography 1

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Publication type              | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  |
| Title                         | Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Moor Road, Bestwood, Nottinghamshire |
| Author(s)/Editor(s)           | Bentley, K.  |
| Other bibliographic details   | 151/2018   |
| Date                          | 2018   |
| Issuer or publisher           | Trent and Peak Archaeology   |
| Place of issue or publication | Nottingham   |
| Entered by                    | Kate Smart (ksmart@yorkat.co.uk)   |
| Entered on                    | 15 January 2019  |

# OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), [email](#) Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)