

# NOTTINGHAM CASTLE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

## Archaeological Investigation in the Middle Bailey (in advance of an electricity substation installation, Site 2)

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**For Nottingham City Council**

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Report Number: 022/2019

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## Summary

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- During January 2019 Trent & Peak Archaeology (hereafter referred to as TPA) undertook an archaeological investigation works at Nottingham Castle. These works were necessitated by proposals for the installation of an electrical substation. They were conducted on behalf of Nottingham City Council (NCC) as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded 'Nottingham Castle Redevelopment Project'.
- The work took place within a 6m x 4.0m area adjacent to the medieval Middle Bailey (later known as 'The Green') at the north-western end of the scheduled monument (No. 1006382) (SK 56836 39470). Excavations were conducted to a maximum depth of 1.2m.
- The aim of the works was to identify the presence of any archaeological remains which would be affected by intrusive aspects of the development. Any archaeological remains which significantly contribute towards an understanding of the monument were to be preserved *in situ* (Davies 2018).
- The archaeological investigation within the proposed substation location revealed a number of deposits and features of archaeological interest. The sequence can be summarised as follows:
  - The earliest deposits encountered ((1038), (1037) and (1024)) best interpreted as layers of re-deposited natural sand for the purpose of levelling this part of the middle bailey, perhaps during the construction of the curtain wall. However, a lack of dating evidence does not allow for a confident interpretation. No natural substrate was encountered. Similar deposits identified in an adjacent evaluation trench (NCA15) were interpreted as 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century in date, although findings from the present excavation suggest that a medieval date is more likely. It may be that the basal deposits identified to the north indicate a localised area of later infilling that is not present in the trench reported upon here.
  - After the early levelling layers accumulated pit [1014] was excavated. The original purpose and function of the pit is uncertain, but in its disuse the pit seems to have been deliberately backfilled, perhaps suggesting that it was utilised as a rubbish pit at this time. The ceramic assemblage from the pit dates to no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> century - a period of evident concentrated activity within the Middle Bailey (Drage 1989, 52, Figure 9) - a 17<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe from the final fill (1019) is a later-dated find, but given evident later truncation of this fill it may be an intrusive find.
  - The fills of pit [1014] were then truncated by undated ditch [1020] of likely post medieval date. The function of this feature is uncertain, but it may be a drainage or boundary feature. It is possible that this ditch relates to a similarly aligned ditch identified within the previous substation excavation, NCA15 but this remains conjectural.
  - Following the infilling and disuse of pit [1014] a number of episodes of significant later post medieval through to Victorian landscaping occurred. These include the accumulation of levelling layers ((1030)/(1010)/(1031), followed by (1009)) which contain artefacts with a date range of the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Following the excavation and infill of a small undated pit ([1029]) a large late post-medieval or Victorian landscaping feature [1013] was excavated. Artefacts retrieved from late landscaping event [1013] have a date range from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting that the 'cutting' and 'filling' of parts of the Middle Bailey green from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and later were potentially disturbing a wide variety of earlier deposits.
  - Following the landscaping events the existing roadway, comprising make-up deposits and tarmac surface, was constructed. Elements of the construction included a service pipe/trench and a small gully cut to house kerb stones for the road edging.

- A small trench was hand excavated west of the substation location to the Castle Curtain Wall [1035]. This small trench, 0.6m deep, did not allow for the Curtain Wall to be placed within a wider stratigraphic sequence and simply demonstrated that layers and fills from the late post-medieval and Victorian landscaping abutted against it. A possible construction cut, [1036] was observed. Given the presence of medieval pit [1014] and earlier layers in this area a medieval date for the curtain wall at this point is suggested, either this or alternatively the wall was rebuilt on the medieval alignment.
- With the exception of the Curtain Wall, no significant structural features were encountered during this investigation.

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## Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for TPA by Gareth Davies and the fieldwork was overseen by Gavin Kinsley of SLR Consulting. The figures included in this report were produced by Michael Hughes. The project was monitored by Scott Lomax, City Archaeologist at Nottingham City Council and Tim Allen, Ancient Monuments Inspector for Historic England. Thanks are also given to Cal Warren.

## 1 Introduction

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- 1.1.1 During January 2019 Trent & Peak Archaeology (hereafter referred to as TPA) undertook an archaeological investigation works at Nottingham Castle. These works were necessitated by proposals for the installation of an electrical substation. They were conducted on behalf of Nottingham City Council (NCC) as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded 'Nottingham Castle Redevelopment Project'.
- 1.1.2 The work took place within a 6m x 4.0m area adjacent to the medieval Middle Bailey (later known as 'The Green') at the north-western end of the scheduled monument (No. 1006382) (SK 56836 39470). Excavations were conducted to a maximum depth of 1.2m.
- 1.1.3 The aim of the works was to identify the presence of any archaeological remains which would be affected by intrusive aspects of the development. Any archaeological remains which significantly contribute towards an understanding of the monument were to be preserved *in situ* (Davies 2018).

## 2 Site Location

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- 2.1.1 Nottingham Castle is centred on NGR SK 56985 39485 and the site comprises an area totalling approximately 3.2ha located on the 'Castle Rock', overlooking Nottingham to the southwest of the modern city centre.
- 2.1.2 The proposed Substation is located towards the southwest extent of the Middle Bailey (NGR: 456958 339553 / SK 56958 39553), and in close proximity to the Curtain Wall. As defined in the NCC Brief (Lomax 2018), the total area of the Substation is 24m<sup>2</sup>.

## 3 Topography and Geology

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- 3.1.1 Nottingham Castle is centred on NGR SK 56985 39485 and comprises an area totalling approximately 3.2ha located on the 'Castle Rock', an outcrop of Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation, overlooking Nottingham to the southwest of the modern city centre. The overlying soils are characterised as freely draining, slightly acid, sandy soils ([www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes](http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes)).
- 3.1.2 Nottingham Castle stands at the centre of the edge of a 200m wide outcrop of sandstone known as Castle Rock, giving its name to the Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation. The sandstone outcrop is part of the Sherwood Formation that runs in a broad belt from Nottingham City to southern Yorkshire.
- 3.1.3 The Castle Rock itself stands 40m above the River Trent and its alluvial flood plain to the south. At the south and west foot of the cliff, the course of the River Leen once ran, though now it is culverted and occupied by modern roads: Castle Boulevard (A6005) and Peveril Drive.
- 3.1.4 The Middle Bailey is an enclosure of 0.8ha, lying approximately 8m lower than the Upper Bailey (where the current Castle Museum stands) at c. 53m AOD, and is defined by a natural scarp on its western side which drops steeply into The Park (Drage 1999, 25).

## 4 Historical Background and Recent Archaeological Work

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- 4.1.1 The interior of the Castle, which presently contains landscaped grounds and the Seventeenth century "Ducal Palace", situated above a network of caves, was originally founded in 1068 AD. The Nottingham Castle Redevelopment Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) provides a detailed historical and archaeological background for the site, and the following section should be read in conjunction with that document (Johnson 2016). Further appraisal documents and reports on archaeological interventions aiming to establish the nature, extent and survival of archaeological remains across the Castle have also been produced as part of the Castle Redevelopment Project (Kinsley 2016; Roushannafas 2018).
- 4.1.2 The Middle Bailey is located on the north and west side of the extant monument and the proposed substation site is close to the line of the original curtain wall. The following background focuses specifically on the site of the present investigation, the Middle Bailey. The following archaeological and historical background has been abridged from the Project Brief for Archaeological Works (Lomax 2018).
- 4.1.3 *"An archaeological evaluation was carried out in July 2018 a few metres to the southeast of the present location (Roushannafas 2018). A trench measuring 5.75m x 4m was excavated to a depth of up to 1.2m below ground level. A further narrow trench was excavated as far as the outer boundary wall in order to expose the wall for structural investigation (Ibid.). Hand auguring within the trench was also carried out in order to determine the presence/absence of sandstone bedrock and to have a better understanding of the underlying deposits, primarily for geotechnical purposes (Ibid.)."*
- 4.1.4 *The 2018 evaluation revealed a complex stratigraphy which was interpreted as 'reworking and re-shaping of the grounds in this area in the later post-medieval to modern period' (Ibid.). It was believed that the previous substation site was located beyond the medieval curtain wall, having been located between the curtain wall and a later boundary wall which was infilled with material in the late 17th or early 18th centuries (Ibid.). However, the evaluation report does caveat this interpretation by stating that a ditch encountered within the evaluation may have cut medieval deposits (Ibid.). The potential that deposits of medieval date existed within that site appears low but could not be entirely ruled out.*
- 4.1.5 *Nottingham Castle was slighted following the English Civil War, in 1651. Extensive landscaping works were carried out in the 1660s and 1670s in advance of the construction of the extant Ducal Palace. Further widespread landscaping works were undertaken in the late 19th century, when the site became used as a museum and art gallery, and also during the early 20th century." (Lomax 2018, 3). The NCC brief notes that it is unclear what impact these works may have had upon archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposal, but the possibility of features dating this period to be present should not be ruled out, and in addition, stated:*
- 4.1.6 *"Widespread landscaping works were undertaken in the late 19th century, when the site became used as a museum and art gallery, and also during the early 20th century (Lomax 2018). It is unclear what impact these works will have had upon archaeological remains within the substation footprint." (Ibid, 3).*
- 4.1.7 The second site was expected to have similar stratigraphy to that encountered only a few metres away. John Smythson's plan of the castle (produced in 1617) showed a number of structures within the immediate vicinity of the proposed location. Structures nearby (but not likely within) the present site are interpreted as being 'the Great Chapel and Romylowe's Tower'. However, recent work by Kinsley (Kinsley pers comm) has demonstrated that the Smythson Plan may be inaccurate in certain areas and the exact location of these features remains uncertain. The possibility that features visible on the Smythson Plan (1617), including the medieval curtain wall, are within the present site cannot be entirely ruled out, given the limited accuracy of the Plan. Further information regarding the archaeological potential is presented in the 2018 evaluation report (Roushannafas 2018).

## 5 Construction Impact and Archaeological Potential

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- 5.1.1 The archaeological mitigation works conducted by TPA contributed not only to our knowledge of the historic fabric of the castle, but were conducted with the intention of informing and refining plans for the Nottingham Castle Redevelopment Project.
- 5.1.2 The works also provided an opportunity to address specific research questions. These research priorities were initially laid out in the approved WSI (Davies 2018) and Project Brief (Lomax 2018). Key questions for the evaluation raised by these documents and in communications with Gavin Kinsley (pers. comm.) included:
- Whether remains of the structures identified from Smythson's 1617 plan as the Great Chapel and Romylowe's Tower (or associated features) could be identified within the limits of the excavation.
  - Whether further human remains or other archaeological deposits were present at relatively shallow depths within the Middle Bailey which may be impacted by the works.
  - The relationship (if any) of deposits within the excavation area to the original curtain wall and later boundary wall of the Middle Bailey and/or the presumed cut for the Slaughterhouse Cave.

## 6 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

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### 6.1 Planning Context

6.1.1 The archaeological programme outlined herein is underpinned by the national legislation and local policies described below. The programme has been designed in consultation with Scott Lomax, City Archaeologist at Nottingham City Council and Tim Allen, Inspector of Ancient Monuments (East Midlands) for Historic England.

6.1.2 The archaeological works were required in support of a planning application. This individual application adheres to the principle of the wider Nottingham Castle Redevelopment application (16/01707/NFUL3) which states that:

*2. No development involving the breaking of ground for ... the north courtyard works ... shall take place until an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, covering the area where it is proposed to excavate below existing ground or basement levels, has been first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

6.1.3 Nottingham Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Reference Number 1006382) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979). Any works undertaken within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument require Scheduled Monument Consent from the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, who is advised by Historic England. This was granted under Scheduled Monument Consent Reference Number S00148351.

### 6.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

6.2.1 Developments of this nature, and their impact upon the historic environment, are addressed by the 2018 *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), and the NPPF Planning Practice Guide *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2014). The Planning Condition is aligned to the principles outlined within these guidelines.

### 6.3 Nottingham City Local Plan

6.3.1 Nottingham City Council has policies regarding the historic environment incorporated within its Local Plan. These place emphases on preservation of important archaeological remains *in situ*. Policy BE16 states that where remains are able to be removed, they must be fully investigated, recorded and secured as part of the development.

6.4 This report and previous WSI document has been produced in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (Historic England 2015a) and the relevant *CIfA Standard and Guidance* (CIfA 2014a) and *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014b).

## 7 Regional Research Objectives

- 7.1 The programme of archaeological mitigation may reveal evidence that allows research priorities highlighted by regional research frameworks.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 Research questions highlighted in the framework of particular note to this programme of archaeological mitigation include:

<b>High Medieval (1066-1485)</b>
<i>7.4 Castles, Military Sites and Country Houses</i>
1. How can studies of the region’s buildings contribute to an understanding of castle origins, and can we identify local typologies of castles and country houses?
4. Was there continuity of location between castles and country houses, and are earlier structures concealed in later buildings?
<b>Post-Medieval (1485-1750)</b>
<i>8.1 Urbanism: morphology, functions and buildings</i>
4. What can studies of environmental data, artefacts and structural remains tell us about variations in diet, living conditions and status?
6. How can we advance studies of building plans and standing remains, especially where hidden inside later buildings, and of caves and cellars?

- 7.5 The results of the archaeological mitigation works may also contribute to the priorities specified in The Nottingham City Council Museums and Galleries Service Strategic Research Plan (2014-2018). Of particular note is:

<b>Nottingham Castle</b>
Develop Nottingham Castle as a site of major historic significance with a modern museum and art gallery, while respecting and bringing to life its historic environment.

## 8 Site Specific Objectives and Methodology

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### 8.1 Objective

8.1.1 The general objectives of the fieldwork can be stated as:

- To identify the presence of any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the development.
- To ensure that any archaeological remains which significantly contribute towards an understanding of the Scheduled Ancient Monument can be preserved in situ.
- To further inform the proposed redevelopment strategy (and more specifically the micro-siting of the substation) in order to fulfil the above objective.

#### *General Conditions*

8.1.2 Archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent, the WSI (Davies 2018) as approved by the Nottingham City Archaeologist and the Historic England Regional Inspector, and with standards defined by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines for archaeological excavation (CIfA 2014).

#### *Staffing*

8.1.3 Archaeological works were undertaken by suitably qualified members of TPA according to accepted archaeological practice and CIfA guidance (*ibid.*).

8.1.4 Excavations were managed by TPA Project Manager Dr Gareth Davies.

#### *Fieldwork*

8.1.5 Removal of vegetation and tree stumps was undertaken by the NCC estates team under constant archaeological supervision.

8.1.6 The attending archaeologists were able to inspect the deposits revealed and halted ground works at the first archaeological horizon. No tracking of the machine was permitted on exposed surfaces. Excavation proceeded with the use of hand-tools.

8.1.7 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m, in accordance with the anticipated maximum impact depth of the substation and with Health & Safety restrictions.

8.1.8 All archaeological features were hand-cleaned and planned. Features were excavated to a degree sufficient to determine their plan and form, their nature, their degree of survival, and to recover any datable artefacts. All features thus investigated were recorded stratigraphically using a single-context system in plan and section, and all finds recovered were retained for analysis.

8.1.9 On completion of the fieldwork the trenches were backfilled and reinstated by the Nottingham City Council Estates Team.

### 8.2 Detailed specification of archaeological recording

#### *Plans*

8.2.1 Plans of all contexts were drawn on drafting film in pencil at 1:20 or 1:50 showing as a minimum standard:

- context numbers
- all colour and textural changes
- principal slopes represented as hachures

- levels expressed as ordnance datum (O.D.) values, or levelled to permanent features if benchmark was absent
- sufficient details to locate the subject on a 1:500 plot of the area of groundworks and OS 1:2,500 map (i.e. the national grid)

### *Sections*

8.2.2 Sections show the same information as stated above, but levelling information is given in the form of a datum line with O.D. value; the locations of all sections are shown on the plans.

### *Photographs*

8.2.3 Digital images of each context were taken together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations. These were supplemented by black and white images of key features and deposits.

### *Written Records*

8.2.4 Written records were maintained as laid down in the approved TPA recording manual.

### *Site Survey*

8.2.5 All features and deposits of archaeological significance were recorded three dimensionally using a GPS, Leica CS15/GS15 RTK Differential GNSS.

## 9 Results

9.1 The excavation was carried out to a maximum depth of 1.2m below ground level covering an area of 24m<sup>2</sup>, a further small trench, 0.6m wide and deep, was excavated up to the curtain wall. Four augers were taken within the base of the excavation extending the depth of the excavation to a maximum of 2.2m below ground level (BGL). The geological substratum was not encountered within the area of excavation but had been observed elsewhere comprising of light yellow sandstone.

### 9.2 Layers identified within boreholes

9.2.1 The earliest deposits encountered, were within the augers taken from the base of the trench. The earliest of these was a layer of friable yellow sand, (1038), which was encountered within both auger 1 and 2 at a depth of between 2.16m-2.2m BGL. Stratigraphically above (1038) was a layer of soft grey sand, (1037), which was observed within all of the augers at a depth ranging between 1.34m-1.7m BGL.

9.2.2 These deposits are best interpreted as layers of originally natural sand, subsequently re-deposited as early levelling layers; perhaps during the construction of the curtain wall. However, a lack of dating evidence does not allow for a confident date to be attributed to these deposits

### 9.3 Layer (1024)

9.3.1 Also observed in the augers, but also visible in plan at the base of the excavation trench was a layer of firmly compact orange yellow silty sand (1024). Although layer (1024) was observed over an area 3m in length, 2m in width and 0.42m in depth within the hand excavated trench, the augers show that the deposit is at least 1.8m in cumulative depth in places, it is also believed to be considerably more extensive as it extends beyond the extent of the excavation and has similarities to layers observed at similar spatial depths within the previous substation excavation NCA15.

9.3.2 This deposit is best interpreted as a layer of originally natural sand, subsequently re-deposited as early levelling layers; perhaps during the construction of the curtain wall. However, a lack of dating evidence does not allow for a confident date to be attributed.



Plate 1: Post Excavation general Shot of Trench Showing Layer (1024) in plan, looking south

#### 9.4 Pit Cut [1014] and associated fills

- 9.4.1 Cutting into layer (1024) was a circular pit with gently sloping sides, the base of which was not excavated. Where visible the pit [1014] measured 1.4m in length, 1.2m in width and 0.6m in depth. The pit was back filled by several fills each appearing to be a deliberate deposition of material. This suggests that the pit was deliberately backfilled and that not much time elapsed between each fill as no fill seems to have formed by a natural process.
- 9.4.2 Containing several body sherds of medieval pottery and animal bone, fill (1015) was the primary fill within [1014]. A friable light yellow silty sand with occasional inclusions of small sandstone fragments, (1015) measured 0.83m in length, 0.96m in width and 0.38m in depth.
- 9.4.3 Above fill (1015) was fill (1016), which measured 0.68m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.38m in depth. Fill (1016), which consisted of a firmly compact grey sandy silt, had occasional inclusions of large sandstone fragments. Overlaying (1016) was relatively deep fill (1017). A firmly compact yellow silty sand, (1017) included occasional flecks of charcoal and measured 0.6m in length, 0.44m in width and 0.5m in depth.
- 9.4.4 Stratigraphically above (1017) was a firmly compact black sandy silt, (1018). Fill (1018) measured 0.46m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.38m in depth and contained fragments of animal bone and four body sherd of medieval pottery. The uppermost fill in the sequence was (1019). Fill (1019) consisted of firmly compact dark red silty clay. With moderate inclusions of charcoal (1019) measured 0.3m in length, 0.22m and 0.46m in depth. Within (1019) several base and body sherds of medieval pottery were recovered along with the bowl of a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe and several animal bone fragments.
- 9.4.5 Pit [1014] is of likely medieval date. The original purpose and function of the pit is uncertain, but in its disuse (with the exception of primary fill (1015)) the pit seems to have been deliberately backfilled, perhaps suggesting that it was utilised as a rubbish pit at this time. The ceramic assemblage from the pit dates to no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> century - a period of evident concentrated activity within the Middle Bailey (Drage 1989, 52, Figure 9) - a 17<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe from the final fill (1019) is a later-dated find, but given evident later truncation of this fill, may be an intrusive find.



*Plate 2: Post Excavation Shot of Pit (1014), looking west*

#### 9.5 Ditch Cut [1020] and fill (1021)

- 9.5.1 Truncating the final fill of pit fill (1019), was a linear ditch, [1020] with gradual sloping sides and flat base [1020]. The ditch was 1.37m in width and 0.56m in depth, was observed over a length of 2m and extended beyond the limits of excavation. Ditch [1020] had been deliberately

backfilled with a single fill of firmly compacted mid-grey silty sand, (1021), which contained frequent large stone fragments.

- 9.5.2 No artefacts were recovered from ditch [1020] but it is likely of post-medieval or later date. The function of this feature is uncertain, but it may be a drainage or boundary feature. It is possible that this ditch relates to a similarly aligned ditch identified within the previous substation excavation, NCA15 but this remains conjectural.



*Plate 3: Ditch [1020] as observed in section, looking NW.*

#### 9.6 Pit Cut [1029] and fill (1028)

- 9.6.1 Truncating the fill (1021), cut [1029] was an irregularly shaped pit with steep to gradually sloping side with a flat base giving a U-shape in profile. Measuring 0.74m in length, 0.24m in width and 0.12m in depth [1029] had a single backfill, (1028). Fill (1028) appeared as a deliberate backfilling of [1029] suggesting that the pit may have been originally excavated for the purpose of the deposition of this material; (1028) consisted of very firmly compact light pink-yellow silty sand with moderate amounts of rounded pebbles.
- 9.6.2 No artefacts were recovered from pit [1029] but given its position in the site stratigraphic sequence is likely of post-medieval or later date. The function of this feature is uncertain.

#### 9.7 Layer (1030)/(1010) and Layer (1031)

- 9.7.1 Overlaying fill (1021) was a layer of firm dark grey brown silty sand with occasional rounded pebbles. This layer, identified in section as (1030) and in plan as (1010), contained stem fragments from post-medieval clay tobacco pipes and a glass medicine bottle also dated to the post-medieval. Extending beyond the excavations limits the layer measured a minimum of 3.12m in length, 1.32m in width and 0.24m in depth.
- 9.7.2 Located in the northern corner and stratigraphically similar to layer (1030)/(1010) was a very firmly compact light grey silty sand. Measuring 0.55m in length, 0.84m in width and 0.2m in depth (1031) included moderate amounts of rounded stone fragments.
- 9.7.3 These layers most likely signify the start of a significant phase of the post-medieval through to Victorian landscaping of The Middle Bailey Green area.

#### 9.8 Layer (1009)

- 9.8.1 Stratigraphically above layers, (1030)/(1010) and (1031) was a firmly compacted greyish brown silty sand. Layer (1009) extended the full length of the excavation and measured 2.43m in width and 0.43m in depth.

9.8.2 Layer (1009) contained pottery sherds, animal bone and clay tobacco pipe stem fragments with a wide overall date range from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. This layer is interpreted as a continuation of the significant phase of post-medieval through to Victorian landscaping of The Middle Bailey Green area.

### 9.9 **Cut [1022] and fill (1023)**

9.9.1 A small pit was cut into layer (1009) in the south west facing section of the 2m<sup>2</sup> trial pit but was removed when the pit was extended to the edges of the substation excavation. The pit cut, [1022], was circular in plan measuring 0.33m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. Pit [1022] had steep to vertical sides and a flat base and was backfilled by (1023).

9.9.2 Fill (1023) was the sole backfill within cut [1022] and consisted of a loose dark grey-black silt. Although visible cutting through layer (1009) only it is possible that cut [1022] is the base of the cut for a supporting bar for the current metal fence, which was removed prior to the start of excavation, and could have been cut from higher up in the stratigraphy.

9.9.3 No artefacts were recovered from pit [1029] but given its position in the site stratigraphic sequence is likely of very late post-medieval or later date. The function of this feature is uncertain.

### 9.10 **Later post-medieval–Victorian landscaping**

9.10.1 A large landscaping feature appeared cut into layer (1009), this feature related to and constituted the majority of the late landscaping of The Middle Bailey Green. Cut [1013] was oriented northwest to southeast and approximately parallel to the curtain wall. Gradually sloping towards a flattening base [1013] was visible throughout the length of the excavation and although the full width of the cut was not visible the fills of [1013] were present up to the curtain wall suggesting a width of 3.94m and had an observed depth of 0.82m.

9.10.2 The first fill within [1013] was a firmly compact dark grey-brown silty sand, (1027), with occasional sandstone and ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. The fill contained large amounts of medieval pottery and a potential medieval Iron nail but also a solitary sherd of post-medieval pottery and a clay tobacco pipe bowl and stem fragment. Fill (1027), where visible, measured 4.82m in length, 1.3m in width and 0.46m in depth. Above (1027) was a small deposit of firm orange yellow silty sand. Only visible in plan and located towards the north of the excavation (1032) measured 0.33m in length and 0.58m in width.

9.10.3 Overlapping (1032) was fill (1026) which consisted of very firm mixed orange greys and yellow very silty sand and CBM fragments. Fill (1026) extended across the full extent of the excavations length and measured 1.2m in width and 0.42m in depth. Fill (1025) was a firmly compacted dark grey-brown silty sand which covered fill (1026). Again covering the full length of the excavation (1025) measured 0.7m in width and 0.16m in depth and was overlapped by fill (1012).

9.10.4 Fill (1012) was a firmly compact light brown-yellow very silty sand, which measured 4.35m in length, 0.97m in width and 0.23m in depth. When the small trench was extended towards the curtain wall from the main excavation layer (1034) was identified as being the same fill as (1012). Similarly fills (1011) and (1031) were identified as the same soft dark red-brown clayey sand and measured a combined width of 3.46m and 0.3m in depth and covered the full length of the excavation.

9.10.5 Overlaying these fills was a layer of loose very dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil. This covered the whole area of the proposed substation prior to excavation and measured 0.41m in depth.

9.10.6 Artefacts retrieved from late landscaping event [1013] have a date range from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting that the 'cutting' and 'filling' of parts of the Middle Bailey green from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and later were potentially disturbing a wide variety of earlier deposits.



*Plate 4: Later Landscaping cut [1013], looking south east*

#### 9.11 Modern Intrusions

9.11.1 Cutting through (1009) is the cut, [1005], for the modern road and services which occupied the site before the excavation started and was visible measuring 6m in length, 1.15m in width and 0.6m in depth. Surrounding a service pipe at the base of [1005] was a firm dark grey-brown silty sand, (1004), measuring 0.28m in depth. Above this was (1003) a very firmly compact dark grey-orange measuring 0.34m in depth. Acting as a levelling material and overlaying (1003) was (1002) a very firm dark pink-red silty sand with frequent inclusions of sandstone fragments and measured 0.34m in depth.

9.11.2 Cutting through (1002) was a small gully which had been cut to take the kerb stones for the road edging. With steep to vertical sides and a flat base [1007] measured 0.58m in width, 0.27m in depth and covered the whole length of the excavation. Backfilling [1007] was a firm dark grey-black silty sand and formed the bedding for the curb stones.

9.11.3 Overlaying this was two layers of tarmac, (1001) was a rough layer of tarmac and angular stones, 0.16m deep, acting as a levelling for (1000) a grey tarmac for the road surface and measured 0.1m in depth.

#### 9.12 The Curtain Wall

9.12.1 A small trench was excavated out from the main excavation towards the Curtain Wall, [1035], of the Middle Bailey. In respect to the placement of the Curtain Wall construction within the stratigraphic sequence this trench did not allow for conclusive observations due to its shallow depth (0.6m) and simply demonstrated that layers and fills from the late post-medieval and Victorian landscaping abutted against it. A possible construction cut, [1036] was observed.



*Plate 5: Extension slot to curtain wall [1035], looking west*

## 10 Finds by Alison Wilson

### 10.1 NCA19 - The finds

A total of 123 finds were recovered during an archaeological investigation in the Middle Bailey as part of the Nottingham Castle Redevelopment Project.

Material	Period	Quantity	Weight
Pottery	Medieval	60	35g
Pottery	Post-medieval	5	84g
Metal	Post-medieval	1	15g
Bone	Unknown	45	56g
Glass	Post-medieval	1	3g
Clay tobacco pipe	Post-medieval	11	49g

### 10.2 The Pottery

*By Alison Wilson and Lee Elliott*

A total of 65 fragments of pottery weighing 119g were recovered during an archaeological evaluation of the middle bailey at Nottingham Castle. These ranged in date from the 12th to the 19th century although most of the pottery dated to the 12th and early 13th centuries. The pottery was examined both visually and using a x10 hand lens, then quantified by two measures; number of sherds and weight. The resulting archive is stored in one archive box which is at present kept at the Trent & Peak Archaeology stores, Chilwell, Nottingham.

#### ***Cut [1013], fill (1027) – large landscaping feature***

42 pottery sherds were recovered from cut (1013) fill (1027). All but two of the sherds were medieval, dating to the 12th and early 13th century. The overwhelming majority of the medieval pottery was Nottingham Splashed Ware, with smaller quantities of possible Nottingham Reduced Ware and a coarse fabric Stamford type ware body. Most forms were represented, including jars, jugs and cooking pots.

There were 2 intrusive post-medieval pottery sherds in the form of a Salt Glazed Stoneware body sherd and a body sherd of Cistercian/Black Ware, dating to the 16th and 17th century.

#### ***Cut [1014], fills (1015-1019) – Circular pit***

A circular pit (1014), with 5 layers of back fill contained a mix of medieval pottery. Fill (1015), the first fill of the pit, contained 8 sherds of medieval pottery. These consisted of Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze, a fine fabric Stamford type ware with no glaze, a fragment of Nottingham Coarse Orange Sandy Ware cooking pot, and a sherd of coarse Shelly Ware. All sherds could be dated to no later than the 13th and 14th centuries.

Fill (1018) contained 3 medieval pottery sherds; Nottingham Splashed Ware and possible reduced Sandy Ware, both of which can be dated to no later than the 12th – early 13th century at the latest.

The uppermost fill (2019), contained 8 sherds of medieval pottery including body sherds and a spout from a 12<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham Splashed Ware spouted pitcher, Nottingham Coarse Orange Sandy ware, Nottingham Reduced Sandy Ware and a fragment of coarse Shelly Ware. All dating to no later than the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Layer (1009)**

Layer (1009) contained 3 sherds of post-medieval pottery and a single sherd of medieval pottery. The medieval fragment was a thin rim from a possibly heat damaged Splashed Ware vessel. The post-medieval sherds were a late Midland Purple body sherd, a fragment of transfer decorated White Bodied Earthenware and a small body fragment of Cistercian/Black ware, ranging in date from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **10.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe**

A total of 11 clay pipe fragments were recovered during the excavation, eight of the fragment were pipe stems recovered from layers (1009) and (1010). In the absence of any identifying features such as makers stamps or decoration, the stems were dated using bore hole diameter (early clay pipes have a bore diameter of 3mm, decreasing over time until stems by the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century had a bore of less than 2mm). The fragments recovered all had a bore hole diameter of 3mm placing the date of manufacture in the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Cut [1013] fill (1027) contained two fragments of clay pipe; an unmarked partial stem and a complete bowl bearing the stamped initials RB. These refer to Richard Brinsley; there are two recorded clay pipe makers working in Nottingham with the name Richard Brinsley, one working between c.1682-6 and a later pipe maker working between c.1707-10. Using the typology of pipe forms, it is likely that the pipes found during the castle excavations were made by the earlier Richard Brinsley.

Cut [1014] fill (1019) also contained a pipe bowl. The bowl was of an early type with a slightly bulbous bowl, a milled and bottered rim and a pedestal foot. Date of manufacture is likely to be in the early to mid-17<sup>th</sup> century.

## **10.4 Glass**

One small fragment of glass was recovered from layer (1010). This was a fine, pale blue glass likely to be part of a small 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century medicine bottle.

## **10.5 Metal**

A partial iron nail with a large flat head was recovered from cut [1013] (1027). Date is undetermined.

## **10.6 Conclusion**

The finds assemblage as a whole is representative of a site of medieval origin with later post-medieval development, and as such merits further study. No discard is recommended.

## 11 Animal Bone by Kris Poole

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### 11.1 Introduction

In total, 45 fragments of animal bone were identified from the excavations, all by hand collection., which were recorded using the strategy outlined in Poole (2010). These derive from five contexts: layers (1009) and (1010), which both contained post-medieval finds, fill (1018) of pit [1014], which contained exclusively medieval finds, fills (1015) and (1019) from [1014], which held a mixture of medieval and post-medieval finds, as well as fill (1027) from [1013], which held mostly medieval pottery, but also a small number of post-medieval pottery sherds and a clay pipe fragment.

### 11.2 Taphonomy

Overall, preservation across the assemblage was good, although a small number of bones (a hare pelvis and dog radius, both from (1027) from [1013], were somewhat fresher in appearance. A small number of bones bore butchery marks, some associated with meat removal from the bone (a sheep humerus from (1010) with small cut marks and a pig scapula from (1018) with a cut mark on the neck), whereas three other bones, all of cattle (two femora and one metatarsal), consisted of chop marks, associated with carcass division. Only one bone, a medium mammal-sized long bone, had been gnawed and no bones were burnt.

### 11.3 Species Identified

Of the fragments recorded, 35 were identified to species (Table 1), which were predominantly domestic in nature, with only a small number of wild species (hare and roe deer). Cattle were overall the most frequently recovered species, followed by sheep and pig, whilst a number of bird bones were also present.

### 11.4 Ageing

No dental ageing was possible for any of the bones. In terms of epiphysyeal fusion, none of the cattle bones had unfused epiphyses, in contrast to one unfused sheep calcaneus and one pig ulna (both from (1027)).

### 11.5 Body-parts present

A mixture of body-parts of the main domestic species were present, although for cattle and sheep, no bones from the head were present, in contrast to pigs. This suggests differential processing/consumption of these animals. For birds, a range of body-parts were also present, including wing and leg elements.

### 11.6 Discussion and Conclusions

This is a small assemblage which, coupled with given possible issues of residuality in some cases (in particular context (1027)), limit the information it provides about this area of the castle during the medieval and post-medieval periods. However, the material does show some similarities with the results of NCA9 9the enabling works evaluation), including a relative dearth of head and foot bones and relatively high proportions of birds were quite high. Mammal head and foot bones are generally removed during the primary stage of butchery whilst preparation of bird and rabbit carcasses for consumption are typically kitchen activities, with some bones left in and later disposed of as table waste. This provides some insight into the origins of the material, even if the dating is, at this stage, somewhat uncertain.

No further work is required on this assemblage, but these results may need to be incorporated with the results of other archaeological works conducted onsite as part of the regeneration project.

### 11.7 No deposits suitable for obtaining environmental samples for plant macrofossils were identified during the evaluation,

Table 1: Number of identified Specimens by context

<b>Species</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>1018</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>1027</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cattle			1			8	9
Sheep/goat	1					2	3
Sheep		1			1	1	3
Pig				2	2	4	8
Dog						1	1
Roe deer					1		1
Hare						1	1
Chicken/Guinea fowl					1		1
Chicken/Guinea fowl/Pheasant						4	4
Goose				2		1	3
Mallard					1		1
Large Mammal						5	5
Medium Mammal				2		3	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>

## 12 Conclusion

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12.1 The archaeological investigation within the proposed substation location revealed a number of deposits and features of archaeological interest. The sequence can be summarised as follows:

- The earliest deposits encountered ((1038), (1037) and (1024)) best interpreted as layers of re-deposited natural sand for the purpose of levelling this part of the middle bailey, perhaps during the construction of the curtain wall. However, a lack of dating evidence does not allow for a confident interpretation. No natural substrate was encountered. Similar deposits identified in an adjacent evaluation trench (NCA15) were interpreted as 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century in date, although findings from the present excavation suggest that a medieval date is more likely. It may be that the basal deposits identified to the north indicate a localised area of later infilling that is not present in the trench reported upon here.
- After the early levelling layers accumulated pit [1014] was excavated. The original purpose and function of the pit is uncertain, but in its disuse the pit seems to have been deliberately backfilled, perhaps suggesting that it was utilised as a rubbish pit at this time. The ceramic assemblage from the pit dates to no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> century - a period of evident concentrated activity within the Middle Bailey (Drage 1989, 52, Figure 9) - a 17<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe from the final fill (1019) is a later-dated find, but given evident later truncation of this fill it may be an intrusive find.
- The fills of pit [1014] were then truncated by undated ditch [1020] of likely post medieval date. The function of this feature is uncertain, but it may be a drainage or boundary feature. It is possible that this ditch relates to a similarly aligned ditch identified within the previous substation excavation, NCA15 but this remains conjectural.
- Following the infilling and disuse of pit [1014] a number of episodes of significant later post medieval through to Victorian landscaping occurred. These include the accumulation of levelling layers ((1030)/(1010)/(1031), followed by (1009)) which contain artefacts with a date range of the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Following the excavation and infill of a small undated pit ([1029]) a large late post-medieval or Victorian landscaping feature [1013] was excavated. Artefacts retrieved from late landscaping event [1013] have a date range from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting that the 'cutting' and 'filling' of parts of the Middle Bailey green from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and later were potentially disturbing a wide variety of earlier deposits.
- Following the landscaping events the existing roadway, comprising make-up deposits and tarmac surface, was constructed. Elements of the construction included a service pipe/trench and a small gully cut to house kerb stones for the road edging.
- A small trench was hand excavated west of the substation location to the Castle Curtain Wall [1035]. This small trench, 0.6m deep, did not allow for the Curtain Wall to be placed within a wider stratigraphic sequence and simply demonstrated that layers and fills from the late post-medieval and Victorian landscaping abutted against it. A possible construction cut, [1036] was observed. Given the presence of medieval pit [1014] and earlier layers in this area a medieval date for the curtain wall at this point is suggested, either this or alternatively the wall was rebuilt on the medieval alignment.

12.2 With the exception of the Curtain Wall, no significant structural features were encountered during this investigation.

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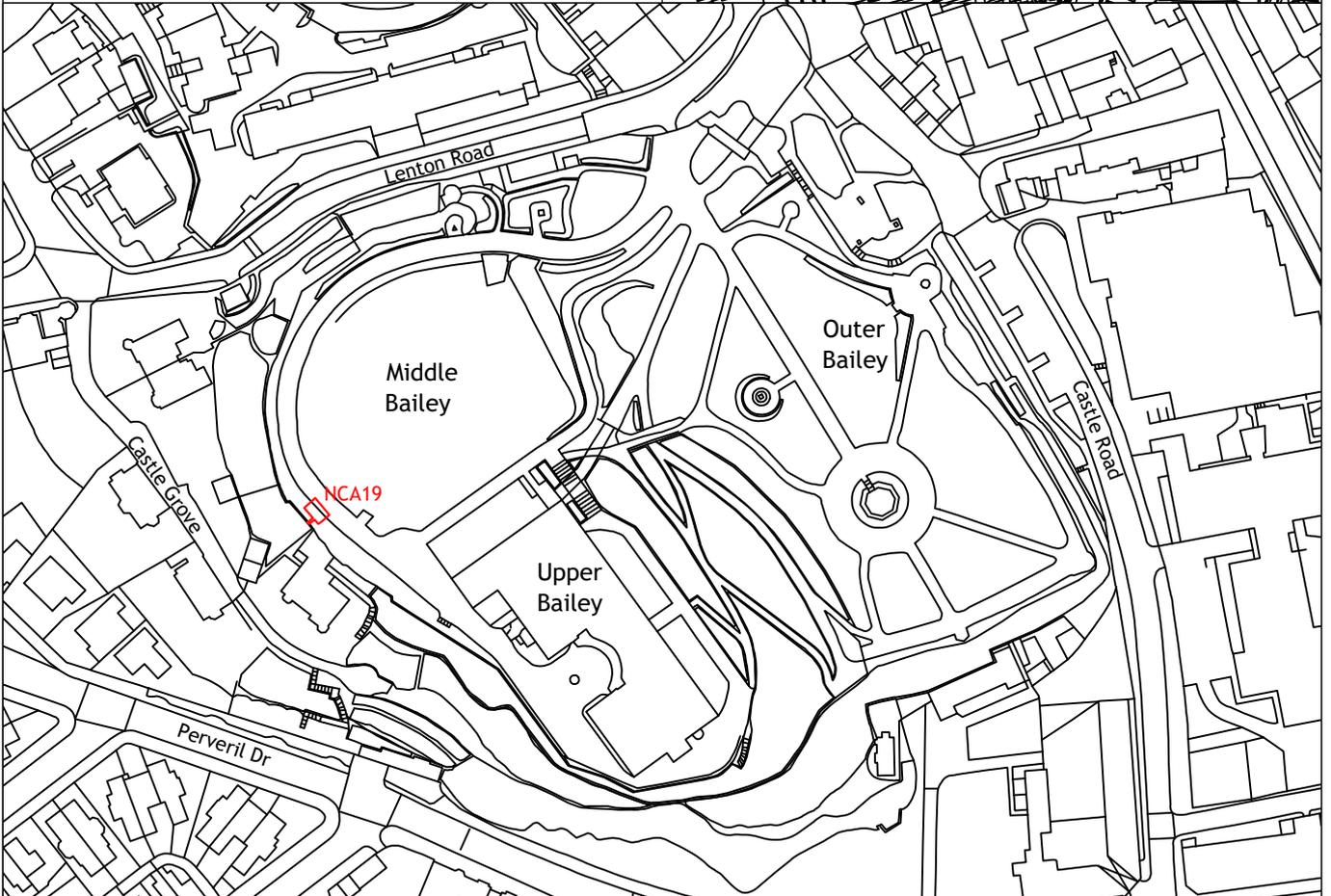
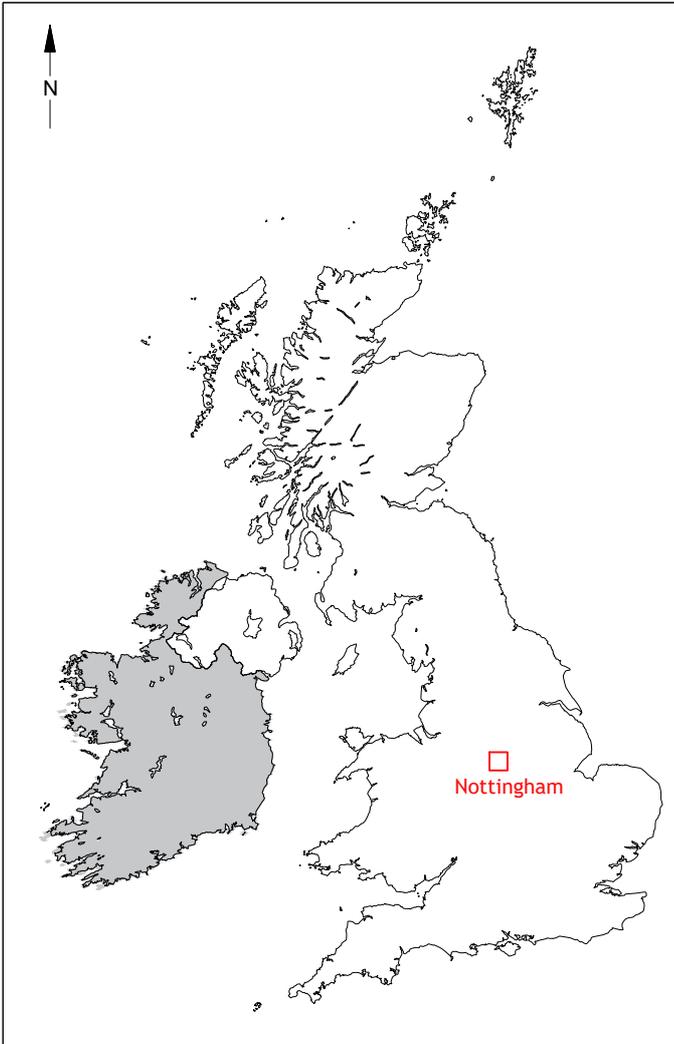
### Online Resources

British Geological Survey Map Viewer; <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (Accessed 2018).

Cranfield Soil and Agrifoods Institute. Soilscape Map Viewer; [www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes](http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes) (Accessed 2018).

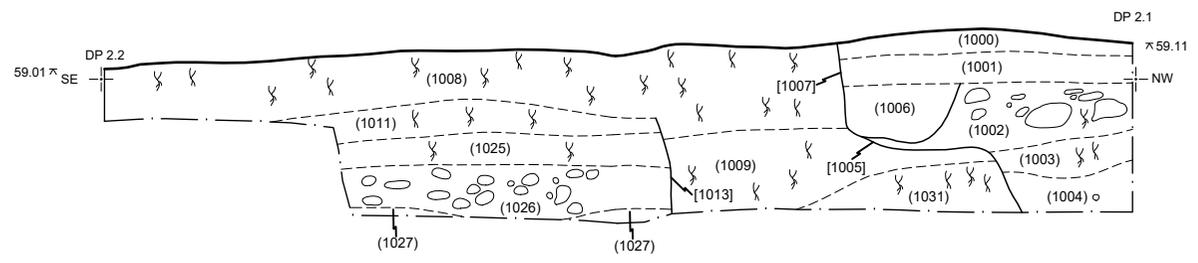
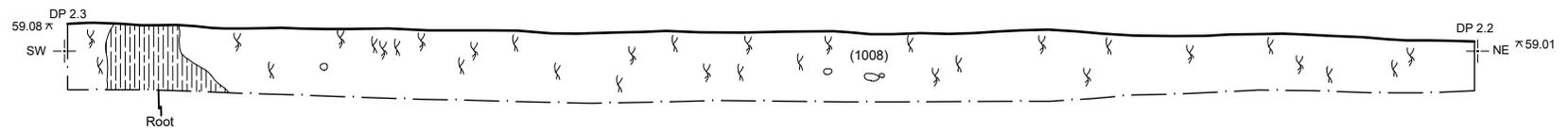
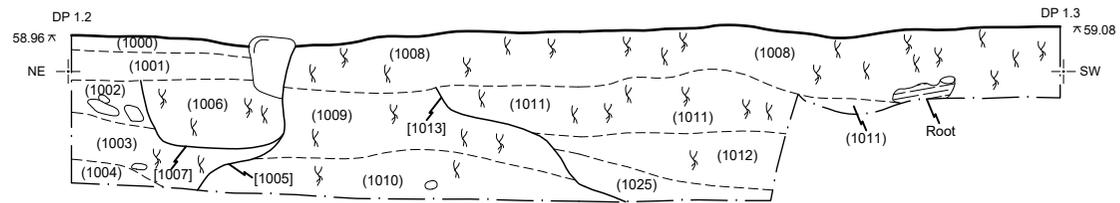
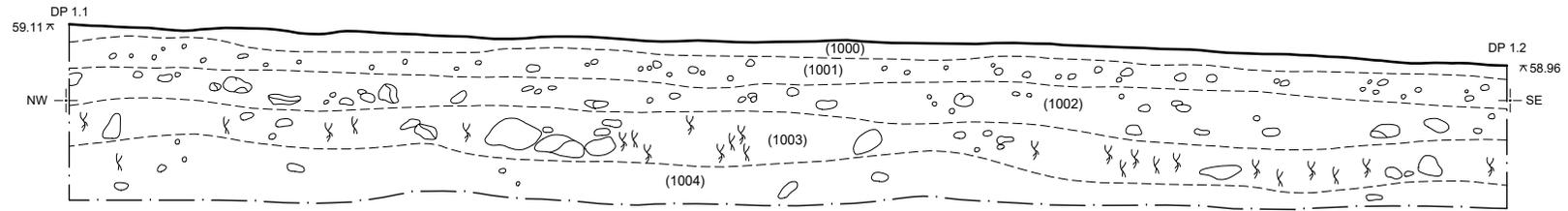
# 14 Figures

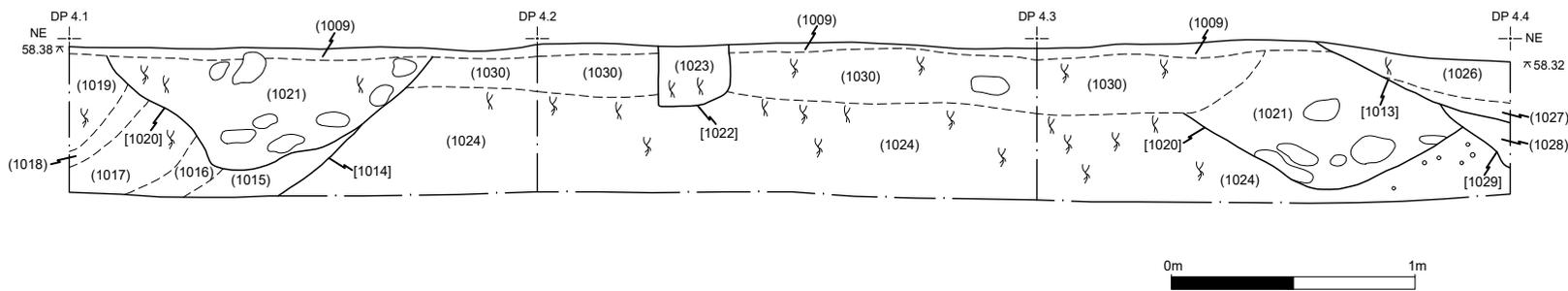
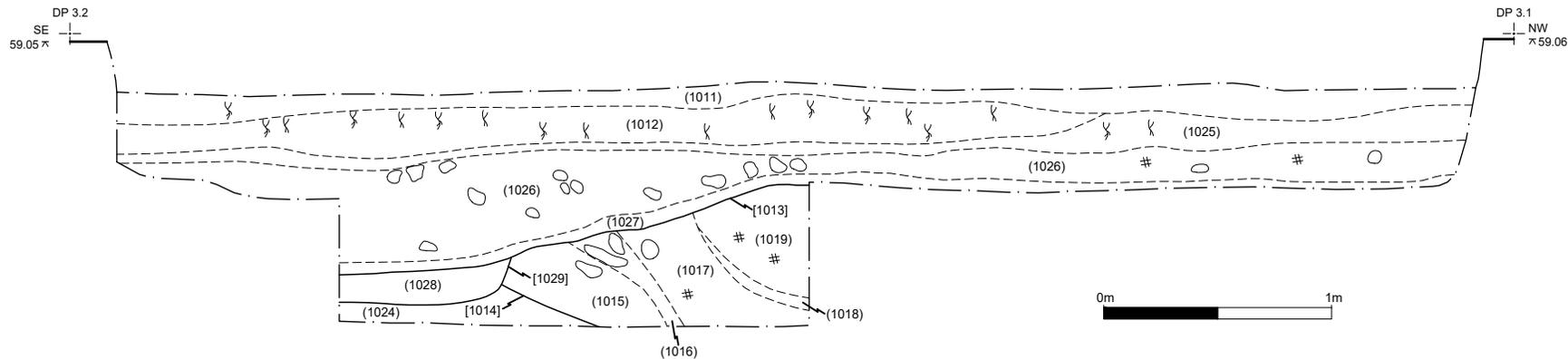
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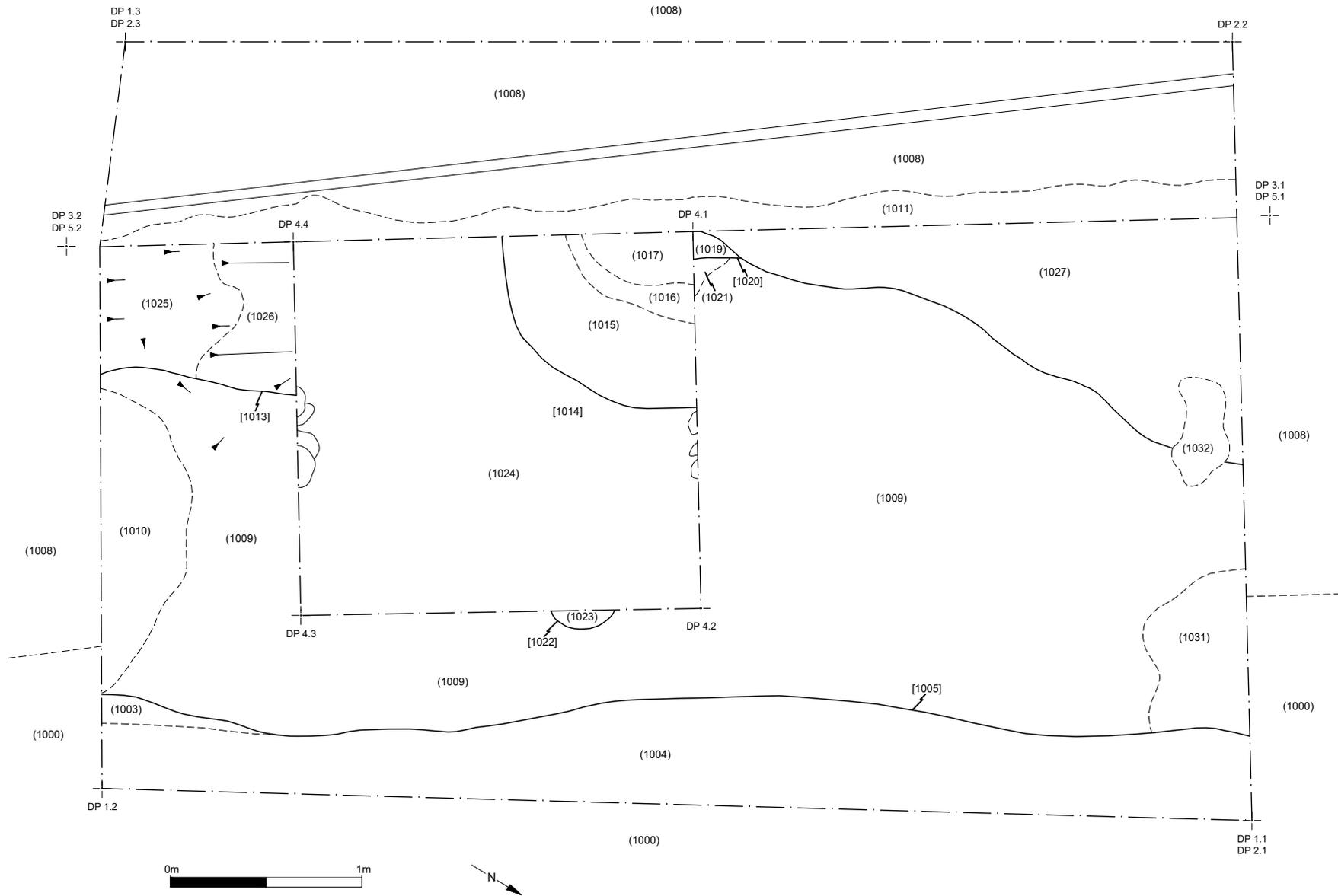


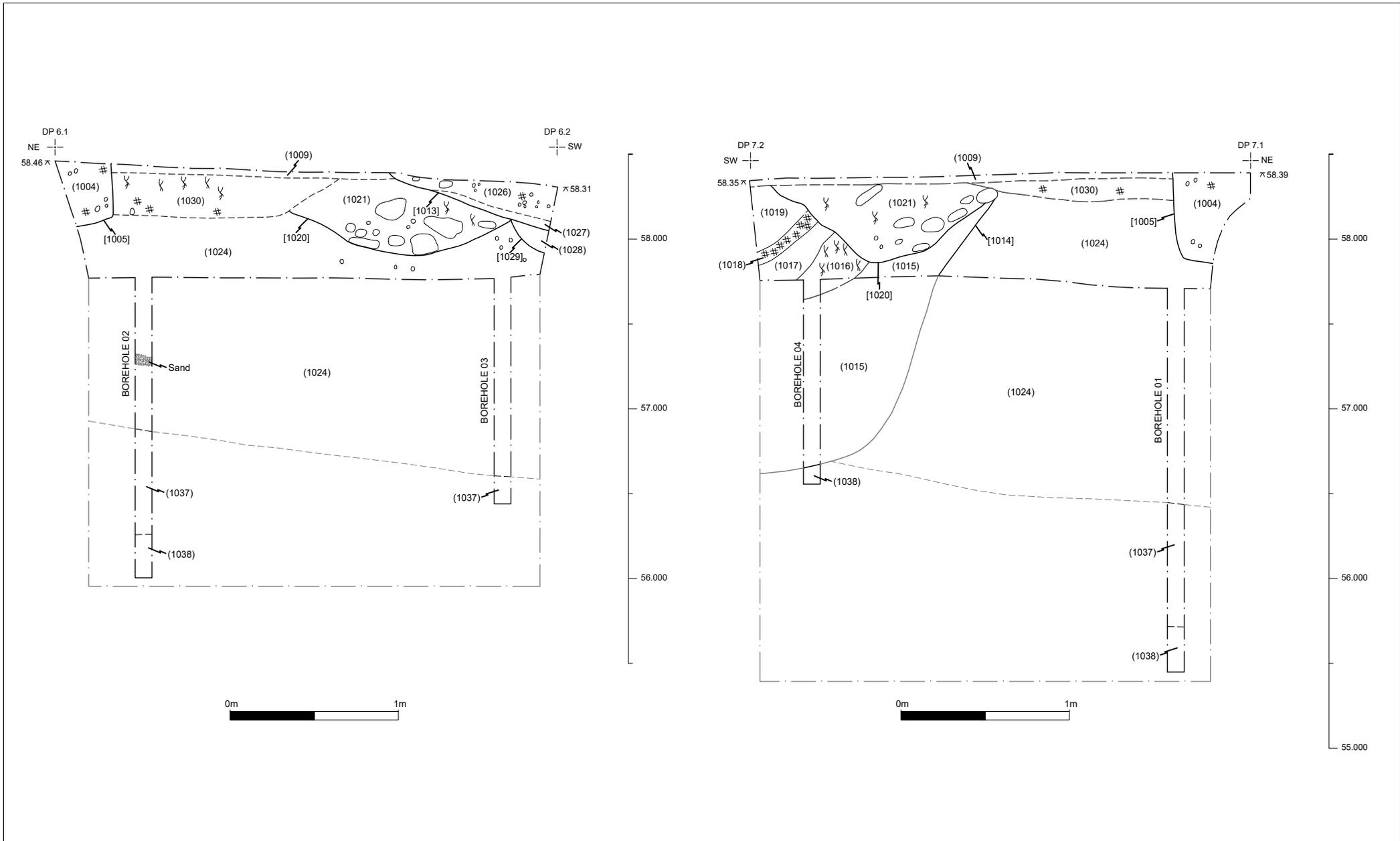


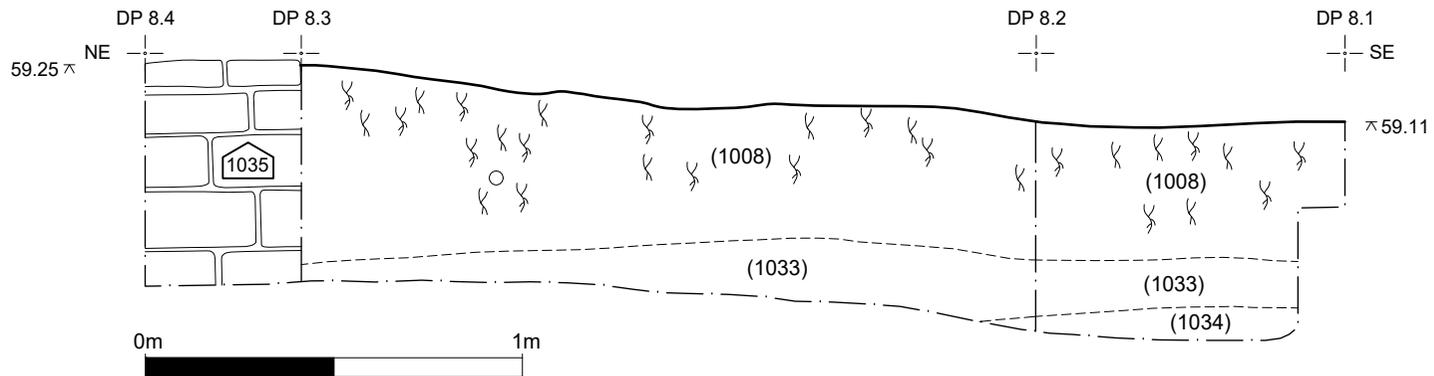
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**Figure 02 - Post-Ex Survey Plan of Middle Bailey Substation**  
**NCA19**  
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 Drawn by MH

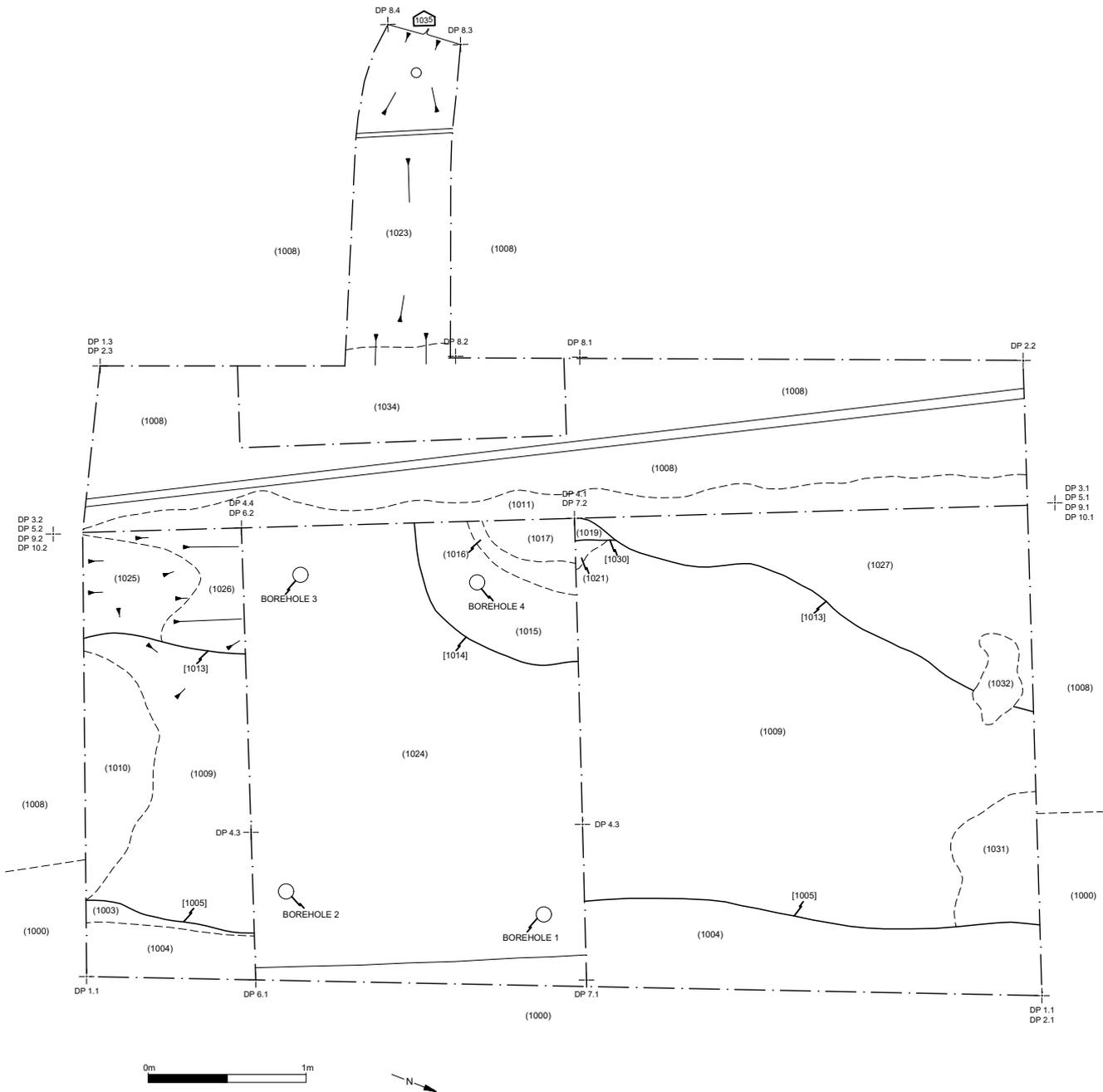












# Appendix 1: Context Register

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Context	Category	Description
1000	Layer	Modern Tarmac
1001	Layer	Modern Tarmac/Stone Layer
1002	Layer	Pinkish Red Modern Made Ground Layer (Road Fill)
1003	Layer	Dark Orange Grey Modern Made Ground Layer (Road Fill)
1004	Layer	Dark Grey Brown Modern Made Ground Layer, service at base
1005	Cut	Construction Cut for road
1006	Layer	Dark Grey Fill of Cut 1007
1007	Cut	Cut of modern linear to insert kerbstones as part of road construction
1008	Layer	Buried Topsoil (pre-dating road)
1009	Layer	Landscaping layer
1010	Layer	Landscaping layer, ?same as (1030)
1011	Fill	Fill of service/landscaping cut [1013]
1012	Fill	Fill of service/landscaping cut [1013]
1013	Cut	Service/landscaping cut
1014	Cut	Cut of Pit
1015	Fill	Primary Fill of Pit Cut [1014]
1016	Fill	Fill of Pit Cut [1014]
1017	Fill	Fill of Pit Cut [1014]
1018	Fill	Fill of Pit Cut [1014]
1019	Fill	Fill of Pit Cut [1014]
1020	Cut	Ditch
1021	Fill	Fill of Ditch, Deliberately Backfilled
1022	Cut	Pit
1023	Fill	Of Pit cut [1022]
1024	Layer	Early Landscaping Layer

1025	Fill	Fill of service/landscaping cut [1013]
1026	Fill	Fill of service/landscaping cut [1013]
1027	Fill	Fill of service/landscaping cut [1013]
1028	Fill	Of Pit Cut [1029]
1029	Cut	Cut of Pit
1030	Layer	Layer, Grey Brown Silty Sand. ?Landscaping, beneath (1009)
1031	Layer	Compact Grey rubble Layer, beneath (1009)
1032	Layer	Early Landscaping Layer, Same as (1024)
1033	Fill	Fill of service/landscaping cut [1013], same as (1011)
1034	Fill	Fill of service/landscaping cut [1013], same as (1012)
1035	Structure	Curtain/Retaining Wall of Nottingham castle
1036	Construction Cut	Construction Cut for the Curtain/Retaining Wall of Nottingham castle
1037	Layer	Early Landscaping Layer
1038	Layer	Early Landscaping Layer

# Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection Form

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# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: trentpea1-344278**

### Project details

Project name	NOTTINGHAM CASTLE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT: Substation Installation (Site 2)
Short description of the project	During January 2019 Trent and Peak Archaeology (hereafter referred to as TPA) undertook an archaeological investigation works at Nottingham Castle. These works were necessitated by proposals for the installation of an electrical substation. They were conducted on behalf of Nottingham City Council (NCC) as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded 'Nottingham Castle Redevelopment Project'. The archaeological investigation within the proposed substation location revealed a number of deposits and features of archaeological interest. The sequence can be summarised as follows: The earliest deposits encountered ((1038), (1037) and (1024)) best interpreted as layers of re-deposited natural sand for the purpose of levelling this part of the middle bailey, perhaps during the construction of the curtain wall. However, a lack of dating evidence does not allow for a confident interpretation. No natural substrate was encountered. Similar deposits identified in an adjacent evaluation trench (NCA15) were interpreted as 17th/18th century in date, although findings from the present excavation suggest that a medieval date is more likely. It may be that the basal deposits identified to the north indicate a localised area of later infilling that is not present in the trench reported upon here.
Project dates	Start: 02-01-2019 End: 30-01-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	NCA19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1006382 - SM No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	CASTLE Medieval
Monument type	MANOR Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Position in the	Not known / Not recorded

planning process

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM Nottingham Castle Middle Bailey  
 Postcode NG1 6EL  
 Study area 15 Square metres  
 Site coordinates SK 56985 39485 52.949402212238 -1.151777394487 52 56 57 N 001 09 06 W Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 53m Max: 53m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology  
 Project brief originator Nottingham City Council  
 Project design originator Dr. Gareth Davies  
 Project director/manager Dr. Gareth Davies  
 Project supervisor Paul Renner  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Nottingham City Museums and Gallery  
 Physical Archive ID NCMG 2018-37  
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"  
 Digital Archive recipient Nottingham City Museums and Gallery  
 Digital Archive ID NCMG 2018-37  
 Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"  
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey"  
 Paper Archive recipient Nottingham City Museums and Gallery  
 Paper Archive ID NCMG 2018-37  
 Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unspecified Archive"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title NOTTINGHAM CASTLE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT Archaeological Investigation in the Middle Bailey (in advance of an electricity substation installation, Site 2)  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Renner, P. and Davies, G.  
 Other 022/2019

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details

Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Trent and Peak Archaeology
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