

# Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at Cotgrave Shopping Centre, Candleby Lane, Cotgrave



**For: Allan Joyce Architects on behalf of Rushcliffe Borough Council**

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Report Number: 125/2019

TPA Project Code: CTP

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### QUALITY CONTROL

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<b>Date</b>	24/07/2019
<b>Status</b>	V1

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## Non-Technical Summary

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- Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Allan Joyce Architects on behalf of Rushcliffe Borough Council to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the third phase of planned commercial redevelopment of the Cotgrave Shopping Centre.
- The site is located within the town of Cotgrave, c 5 miles south-east of Nottingham. Cotgrave Shopping Centre is located towards the north of the town centre, within the medieval historic core. The site is bounded on all sides by extensive modern residential and commercial development, whilst agricultural land dominates the wider landscape. The site forms part of the borough of Rushcliffe local planning authority.
- Archaeological observation and recording was maintained during intrusive groundworks associated with the new development. Phase 3 ground investigations comprised archaeological monitoring on intrusive groundworks associated with the construction of a water storage tank [008], manhole, and associated drainage trenches to the west of the development area (Plates 3-6). Additional groundworks to the south comprised the monitored excavation of a portion of footpath (Plates 6-7; Fig 2).
- No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered during the course of this watching brief.
- The watching brief was undertaken between the 9th and 17th of April, 2019.

## Acknowledgements

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Thanks are extended to Allan Joyce Architects for commissioning the work. The project was managed by Ed Taylor (TPA), and undertaken in the field by Project Officer Pete Watkin. The illustrations were compiled by Marius Ilie (TPA).

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Plate 7: Overview of services trench [011]. Scale 1m, looking east.

Plate 8: Representative section of services trench [011]. Scale 1m, looking north.

## 1 Introduction

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- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) were commissioned by Allen Joyce Architects on behalf of Rushcliffe Borough Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Cotgrave Shopping Centre, in accordance with relevant legislation issued by Rushcliffe Borough Council (Rushcliffe Borough Council Local Plan 2014, 75), and in line with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Poole 2017). The site is centred on SK 55175 40119.
- 1.2 Planning permission has been granted for redevelopment of ten existing retail units and change of use of the first floor of Cotgrave Shopping Centre, as well as creation of associated access and parking. Works included the creation of an open space, play area and associated landscaping (including replacement paving, new surface water drainage system and new planting/seating scheme).
- 1.3 The following report concerns the results of the archaeological watching brief, which consisted of archaeological monitoring on all intrusive groundworks associated with the development. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken between the 9th and 17th April 2019.

## 2 Topography and Geology

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- 2.1 The site is located within the town of Cotgrave, c 5 miles south-east of Nottingham. Cotgrave Shopping Centre is located towards the north of the town centre, within the medieval historic core. The site is bounded on all sides by extensive modern residential and commercial development, whilst agricultural land dominates the wider landscape. The site forms part of the borough of Rushcliffe local planning authority.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology is comprised of Arden Sandstone with superficial deposits consisting of Oadby Member Diamicton (British Geological Survey, 2019).
- 2.3 The overlying soils are recorded as slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute 2019).

## 3 Historical and Archaeological Background

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- 3.1 The following historical and archaeological background is taken from the approved WSI (Poole 2017) and an earlier desk-based assessment (DBA) (Lington 2016).
- 3.2 No designated or non-designated heritage assets are known to be within the development area.
- 3.3 The site appears to have had been used for agricultural purposes from at least 1774 to sometime prior to 1967. Land use prior to 1774 is uncertain (Poole 2017, 2).
- 3.4 There have been archaeological finds dating to the prehistoric, Romano-British, early medieval, post-medieval and modern periods retrieved within a 1km radius of the site. A number of extant heritage assets area also located within 1km radius of the site, largely of post-medieval and modern date (*Ibid*, 2).
- 3.5 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land to the east of the current phase of works, during the Cotgrave Shopping Centre Phase 1 development in 2017. The watching brief revealed no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance (Ilie 2017).



## 4 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

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- 4.1 A condition was attached to planning permission by Rushcliffe Borough Council, requiring an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundworks associated with the new developments. This was done with the intention of fulfilling the requirements set out by the Rushcliffe Borough Council Local Plan (2014):

*Policy 11: Historic Environment*

1. *Proposals and initiatives will be supported where the historic environment and heritage assets and their settings are conserved and/or enhanced in line with their interest and significance. Planning decisions will have regard to the contribution heritage assets can make to the delivery of wider social, cultural, economic and environmental objectives.*
2. *The elements of Rushcliffe's historic environment which contribute towards the unique identity of areas and help create a sense of place will be conserved and, where possible, enhanced with further detail set out in later Local Development Documents. Elements of particular importance include:*
  - a) *industrial and commercial heritage such as the textile heritage and the Grantham Canal;*
  - b) *Registered Parks and Gardens including the grounds of Flintham Hall, Holme Pierrepont Hall, Kingston Hall and Stanford Hall; and*
  - c) *prominent listed buildings."*

- 4.2 It goes on to state that:

*"When considering applications which impact on the historic environment or heritage assets and their settings, the Local Authority will look to ensure they are conserved in accordance with their value and that the ability of the development to enhance that value is explored and taken where possible. When considering sites of archaeological importance, as identified in the Historic Environment Record for the area, the Local Planning Authority will, where appropriate, request a prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological assessment or field evaluation before any decision on a planning application is taken. This will apply to sites currently identified and to any new sites subsequently identified."*

- 4.3 For this development, a condition of planning permission was that:

*"10. No development involving excavations into the ground shall take place until the applicants, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme for archaeological monitoring to be carried out during construction or excavation work on site, by a professional archaeologist or archaeological organisation. The details of such a scheme of investigation shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Borough Council also prior to the commencement of development on site. The monitoring programme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved scheme."*

## 5 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 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. This had the potential to increase understanding of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Cotgrave.
- 5.2 Where practical (within the constraints of the watching brief and development), this would aim to establish the overall extent, date and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the development.
- 5.3 Any features of geoarchaeological significance were to be recorded if present and an appropriate level of sampling undertaken where there was the potential for palaeoenvironmental data.

## 6 Regional Research Questions

- 6.1 Any buried archaeological remains identified beneath the proposed development area, would offer an opportunity to address research priorities identified in the *Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the East Midlands* (Knight *et al* 2012). The following strategic objectives were deemed relevant for the current project, as laid out in the approved WSI (Poole 2017):

<b>Late Bronze Age and Iron Age (c.1150 cal BC – AD 43)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Objective 4C: Characterise the Late Bronze age and Early Iron Age settlement resource and investigate intra-regional variability.</li> </ul>
<b>Romano-British (AD 43 – c. 410)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Objective 5H: Investigate the landscape context of rural settlements [of the Roman period].</li> </ul>
<b>Early Medieval (c. AD 410-1066)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Research Agenda (6.4): Rural settlement patterns.</li> <li>• Updated Research Agenda (6.7): the agricultural economy and rural landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>High Medieval (1066-1485)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Research Agenda (7.2): Rural settlement patterns.</li> <li>• Updated Research Agenda (7.7): The agrarian landscape and food-producing economy.</li> </ul>
<b>Post-Medieval (1485-1750)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated Research Agenda (8.3): Agricultural landscape and the food-producing economy.</li> <li>• Updated Research Agenda (8.4): Rural settlement patterns and building traditions.</li> </ul>

## 7 Methodology

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- 7.1 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014b) and *Code of Conduct* (2014a). The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (Poole 2017), and was carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist selected from TPA's supervisory staff.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 Within Health & Safety constraints the contractor ensured access to all areas of intrusive groundworks to permit examination/cleaning and, where necessary, the recording of sections.
- 7.4 Below-ground stratigraphy was recorded, photographed and interpreted, even where no archaeological finds or features were present, in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2014b).
- 7.5 All excavations were recorded at an appropriate scale by photography. Site photography was undertaken with the use of a high resolution DSLR camera.

## 8 Results

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- 8.1 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were encountered during the course of this watching brief.
- 8.2 The Phase 3 ground investigations comprised archaeological monitoring on intrusive groundworks associated with the construction of a water storage tank [008], manhole, and associated drainage trenches to the west of the development area (Plates 3-6). Additional groundworks to the south comprised the monitored excavation of a portion of footpath.
- 8.3 Where observed, the stratigraphic sequence was consistent across the site. This comprised a layer of dark reddish orange natural clay with blue marl (004), which was identified at a depth of 0.6m. This was sealed by a c 0.1-0.2m thick deposit of compacted mid to dark brownish grey clayey silt subsoil (003), which was in turn sealed by a 0.23m thick deposit of light whitish yellow gravel hardcore (002) and 0.1m thick tarmac (001). To the east and south of the site, tarmac had been removed prior to archaeological supervision.

## 9 Discussion and Conclusions

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- 9.1 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were identified during the course of this watching brief.
- 9.2 In general, whilst tarmac had largely been removed prior to archaeological attendance, a layer of probable subsoil (003) remained *in-situ*, which suggests that the area is unlikely to have been significantly truncated by previous land use.
- 9.3 The site lies within the northern periphery of the town of Cotgrave, which has seen relatively little in the way of commercial or residential development until at least the 19th century.
- 9.4 Prior to the construction of the shopping centre, historic mapping shows the site as demarcated by series of small parcels of arable farm land, which were later intersected by footpaths and 20th century allotment gardens. The results of this watching brief and earlier ground investigations suggests that the site lies within an area of low archaeological potential outside of any foci of settlement activity.

## 10 Bibliography

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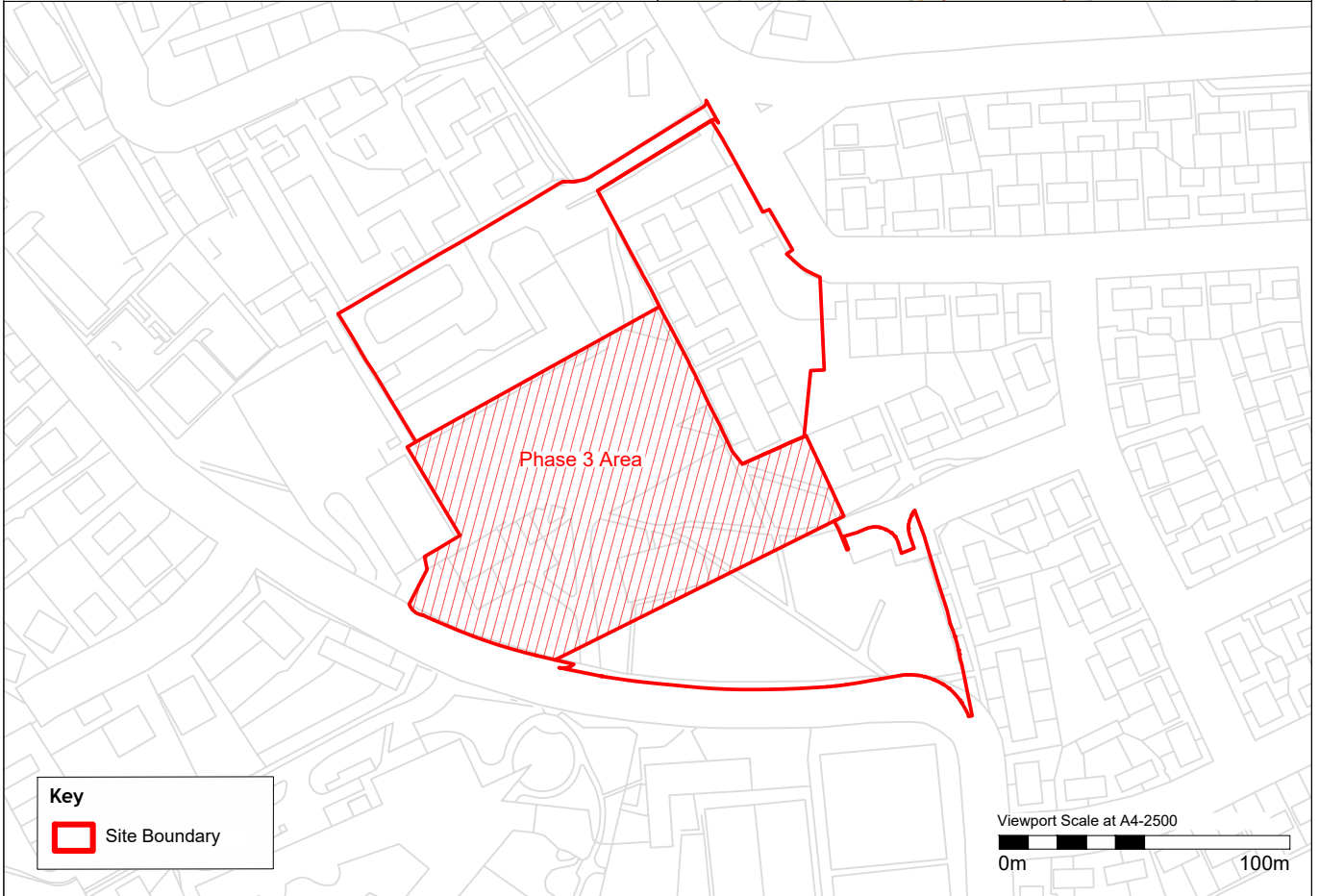
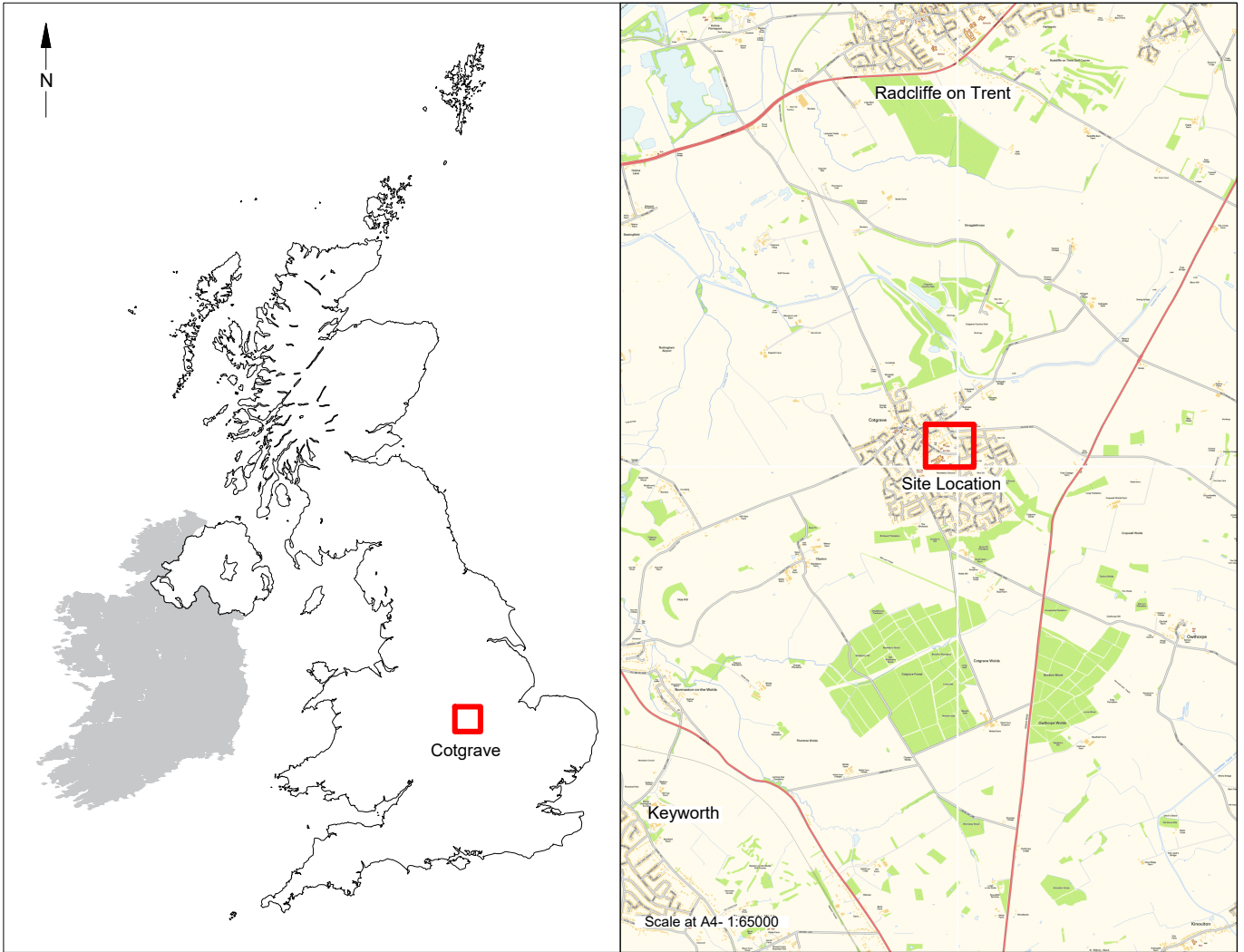
## 11 Context Register

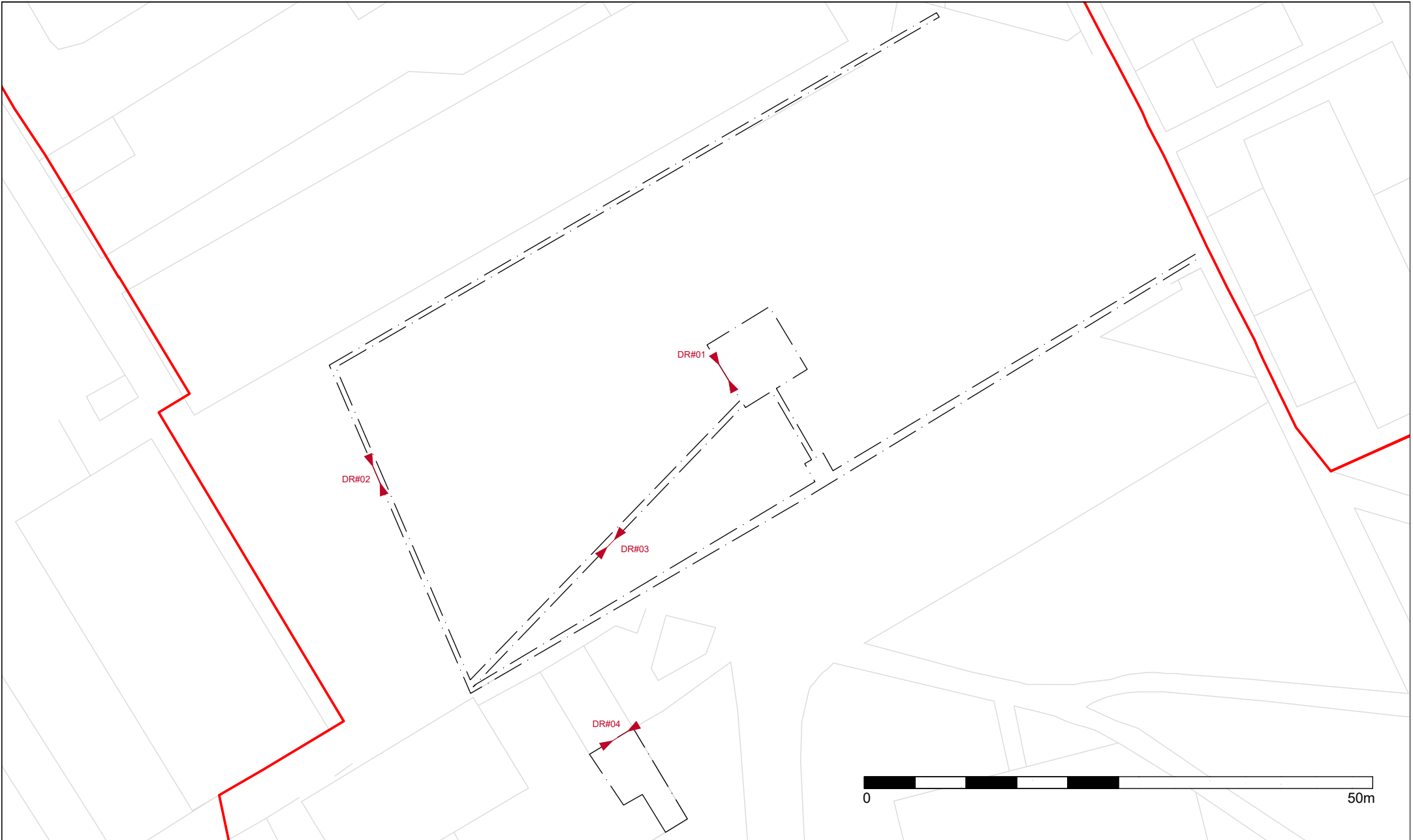
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Context	Feature	Description	Date
(001)	Layer	Modern tarmac	Modern
(002)	Layer	Light whiteish yellow gravel hardcore	Modern
(003)	Layer	Compacted mid-dark brownish grey clayey silt subsoil	Undated
(004)	Layer	Natural Compacted reddish orange clay with blue marl	Undated
(005)	Layer	Natural. Same as (004)	Undated
(006)	Layer	Natural. Same as (004)	Undated
(007)	Layer	Gravel hardcore. Same as (002).	Modern
[008]	Cut	Machine cut for water tank	Modern (Non-archaeological)
[009]	Cut	Machine cut for service trench	Modern (Non-archaeological)
[010]	Cut	Machine cut for service trench	Modern (Non-archaeological)
[011]	Cut	Machine cut for service trench	Modern (Non-archaeological)

## 12 Figures

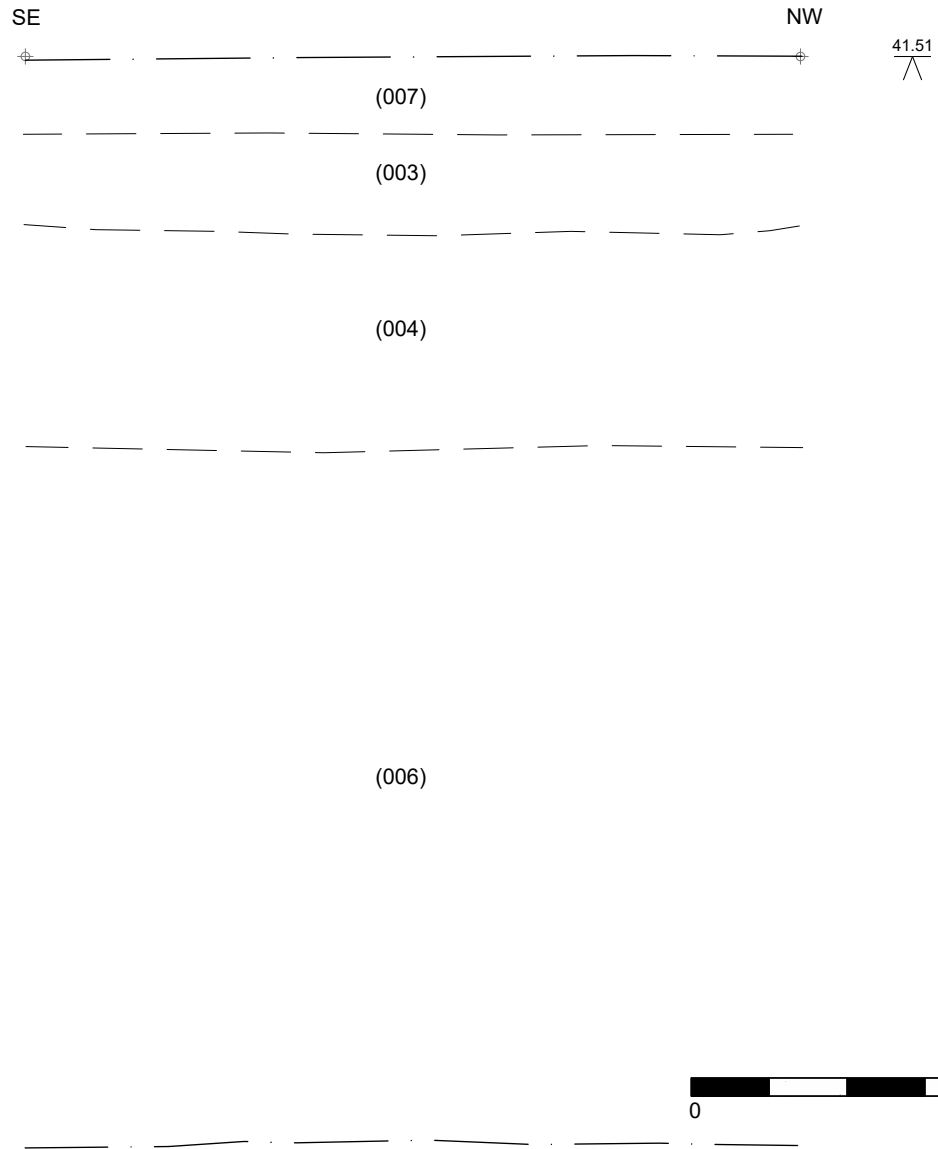
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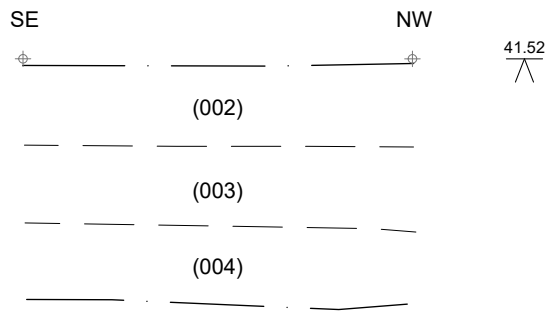




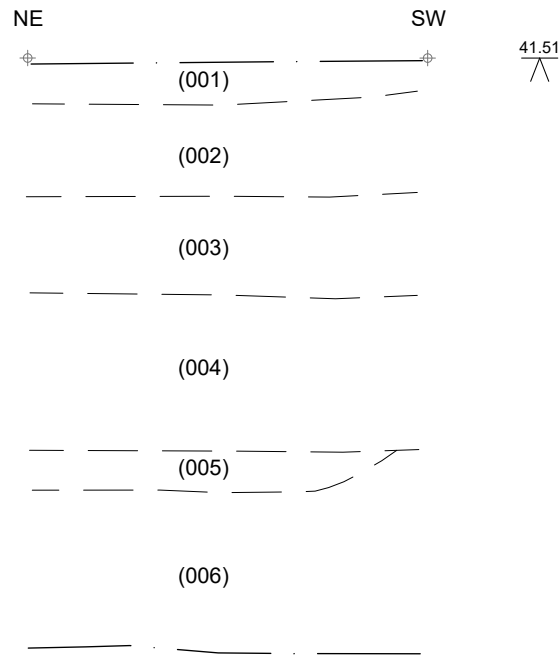
DR#01  
North East Facing Representative Section Tank [007]



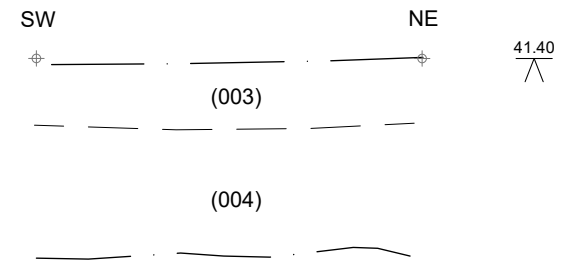
DR#02  
North East Facing Representative Section Footpath Trench [009]



DR#03  
North West Facing Representative Section Pipe Trench [010]



DR#04  
South East Facing Representative Section Footpath Trench [011]



## 13 Plates

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Plate 1: General site overview. No scale, looking north.



Plate 2: General site overview, south of site. No scale, looking north.



Plate 3: Representative section of water tank [008]. Scale 1m, looking west.



Plate 4: Representative section of services trench [010]. No scale.



Plate 5: Working shot, excavation of service trenches. No scale.



Plate 6: Representative section of services trench [010]. No scale, looking north.



Plate 7: Overview of services trench [011]. Scale 1m, looking east.



Plate 8: Representative section of services trench [011]. Scale 1m, looking north.

## 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	11
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	38
Site drawings	Plan of site	7
<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
Find	Description	Number
Nil	Nil	0

The site archive is will remain at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB.

## Appendix 2: OASIS: Data Collection Form

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# 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: trentpea1-362034**

### Project details

Project name	Cotgrave Shopping Centre, Candleby Lane, Cotgrave
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Allan Joyce Architects on behalf of Rushcliffe Borough Council to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the third phase of planned commercial redevelopment of the Cotgrave Shopping Centre. The site is located within the town of Cotgrave, c 5 miles south-east of Nottingham. Cotgrave Shopping Centre is located towards the north of the town centre, within the medieval historic core. Archaeological observation and recording was maintained during intrusive groundworks associated with the new development. Phase 3 ground investigations comprised archaeological monitoring on intrusive groundworks associated with the construction of a water storage tank [008], manhole, and associated drainage trenches to the west of the development area. Additional groundworks to the south comprised the monitored excavation of a portion of footpath. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered during the course of this watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 09-04-2019 End: 17-04-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CTP - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	125/2019 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	SHOPPING CENTRE Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RUSHCLIFFE COTGRAVE Cotgrave Shopping Centre, Candleby Lane, Cotgrave
Postcode	NG12 3JQ
Study area	8000 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 55175 40119 52.955290750931 -1.178608228007 52 57 19 N 001 10 42 W Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project brief originator	Nottinghamshire County Council
Project design originator	Dr Kristopher Poole
Project director/manager	Edmund Taylor
Project supervisor	Pete Watkin
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architect
Name of sponsor/funding body	Allan Joyce Architects

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at Cotgrave Shopping Centre, Candleby Lane, Cotgrave
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