

Former Police Station, Grantham Road, Bingham, Nottinghamshire:

Report on the Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief



Produced for: RPS

Prepared by: A. Douthwaite

Report Number: 006/2020

TPA Project Code: GRB

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



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Prepared by	Andrew Douthwaite, Project Supervisor
Edited by	Victoria Owen, Project Supervisor
Checked by	Ed Taylor, Project Manager
Signed	
Approved by	Dr Gareth Davies, Regional Director
Signed	
Status	Draft

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

Non-Technical Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by RPS on behalf of their clients, to conduct an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of footings, drainage works and general ground reduction on the site of the former Police Station, Grantham Road, Bingham, Nottinghamshire (SK 7088 3958) between 12th December 2019 and 15th January 2020.
- The site consists of the former Bingham Police Station, police accommodation and ancillary buildings which was closed in April 2011 and demolished before the commencement of this watching brief. The site is bounded by Belvoir Vale Grove, and its associated residential estate, to the east and south, with Grantham road to the north and Bingham Cemetery to the west.
- The site is situated between a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the abandoned medieval settlement of Bingham (NHLE 1017566) c. 300m north of site, and the historic core of modern Bingham.
- The intrusive groundworks were undertaken with a 360° excavator and comprised the reduction of the slope at the south-eastern corner of the site and the excavation of footings for the central building.
- An undated possible pit or posthole [1003] was identified during these works, situated at the western end of the northern wall footing. Approximately one third of the site was stripped down to the natural mudstone (1002) during demolition, with the remainder of the site having a layer of made ground (1005) deposited over the mudstone, probably from the demolition of the police station.
- No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.
- Given the negative results and with the permission of Planning Archaeologist the watching brief was discontinued on 15/1/2020.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by RPS to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at the former Bingham Police Station, Grantham Road, Nottinghamshire (centred on SK 7088 3958), during groundworks associated with planned redevelopment (planning ref: 18/02800/FUL). The following report concerns the results of the watching brief.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken between December 2019 and January 2020, and comprised the monitoring and recording of the excavation of wall footings, drainage channels and general ground reduction across the site ahead of planned redevelopment.
- 1.3 The watching brief was conducted in line with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Harrison 2019), and in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014b) and *Code of Conduct* (2014a).

2 Site Background

2.1 Geology and Topography

- 2.1.1 The site comprises a 0.58ha site to the immediate west of Belvoir Vale Grove, previously in use as the Bingham Police Station. The site is situated immediately south of Grantham Road to the east of Bingham town centre (centred on SK 7088 3958). The site is placed on the southern periphery of intensive residential development to the north, east and west which has levelled much of the area's natural topographic expressions. The wider environs are dominated by arable fields.
- 2.1.3 Grantham Road runs along the edge of a band of Branscombe Mudstone, formed approximately 201-228 million years ago, while the site itself is situated on Edwalton Member Mudstone, formed approximately 228-237 million years ago. Both deposits were formed in the Triassic Period, and indicate formation in an environment of hot deserts (British Geological Survey 2020). No superficial deposits are recorded for the site.
- 2.1.4 The soils within the site consist of slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Soilscapes 2020).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The site is located just outside the historic core of Bingham, which focuses around the 13th century All Saints Church. The earlier medieval settlement of Bingham is located approximately 300m to the north-east, though not much of this settlement survives in the archaeological record. While not directly between the historic core and the abandoned settlement any settlement shift/creep may include the development area.

Prehistoric – Romano British

- 2.2.2 The area around Bingham has been continuously occupied since the Neolithic period, although isolated flint scatters dating to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic have been identified close to Bingham Basin, c 1km north of the site. Cropmarks identified to the north of the site relate to the presence of a scheduled Neolithic henge monument c. 950m to the north (NHLE 1016777).
- 2.2.3 Between 2012 and 2013, the excavation of test pits in Warner's Paddock, Cherry Street, located c 90m to the north-east of the site boundary, yielded two fragments of later Iron Age pottery and 63 sherds of Romano British pottery, ranging in date from the 1st to 4th centuries AD (Bingham Heritage Trail Association 2012, 27). Whilst no structural remains were identified, the density of ceramic material suggested the presence of some low level rural occupation from the later Iron Age, through to the Early Medieval period.

- 2.2.4 The Fosse Way (A46) is located c. 1km west of site with the Roman town Margidunum c.2km to the north. The likelihood of encountering Roman remains generally diminishes with increasing distance from the Fosse Way, however, with finds of Romano-British date identified within deposits c 90m to the north-west of the site boundary, it is likely that additional finds, features or deposits relating the period may be identified.

Medieval – Post-Medieval

- 2.2.4 The place-name Bingham probably refers to the ‘homestead/village of Bynna’s people’, from the root *Bynna-* (an old English personal name) and *-ingahām* (meaning *the village of the people of...*) (UON 2020). During the later Early Medieval period, the south-east of Nottinghamshire formed the Wapentake of Bingham, and its court was held at ‘Moot House Pit’, latterly recorded in the 1883 OS map as Moothill Farm’. The Domesday survey of c 1086 lists Bingham as having 32.5 households by this time, making it in the largest 40% of settlements recorded (Palmer 2020).
- 2.2.5 A considerable number of finds dating to the later Saxon period was identified during test pitting within Warner’s Paddock, c 90m to the north-west, formed largely of locally sourced Torksey Ware pottery, smithy slag and ironstone, which suggest that the area may have been used as an occupational or smithing site until the mid-14th century (Bingham Heritage Trail Association 2012, 27). The presence of significant multiphase occupational evidence suggests that the development site sits well within this earlier settlement location.
- 2.2.6 The site sits just outside of the extant historic core of Bingham, and just 300m south-west of the scheduled ancient monument for the identified portions of Bingham’s abandoned medieval village, located immediately to the east of Canarvon School (NHLE 1017566). The reasons for the abandonment, or shifting, of the medieval settlement westwards towards the Foss Way in the later medieval period are uncertain, however, entries from the parish register (dating from 1508) are indicative of population loss associated with the plague which hit the town in 1646. The victims are buried in a yard to the west of the town (Brown, 1896).

3 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

3.1 Planning background and Proposed development

- 3.1.1 A planning application was submitted to Rushcliffe Borough Council (planning ref: 18/02800/FUL) for the “Demolition of former police buildings and redevelopment of 70 bed residential care facility with associated access, car parking, ambulance drop off area and new landscaping” to which an archaeological condition was attached for “a watching brief to be carried out during construction or excavation work on site, by a professional archaeologist or archaeological organisation.”

3.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 3.2.1 Developments of this nature, and their impact upon the historic environment, are addressed by the 2019 Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and the NPPF Planning Practice Guide Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2014).
- 3.2.2 Section 16, Paragraph, 199, of the revised NPPF states that:

199. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

3.2.3 The watching brief was conducted in line with standard methodology prescribed in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) document *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014b). All work also adhered to the CIfA *Code of Conduct* (2014a).

4 Aims and Objectives

4.1 The overall aim of the programme of archaeological works was to identify any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the development and to achieve an appropriate level of *preservation by record* in accordance with *NPPF paragraph 199* (2019).

4.2 More specific aims of the project included:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess the vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains

4.3 The objectives of the project included:

- To identify and interpret any finds features or deposits of archaeological significance.
- To recover any relevant finds or environmental samples which may help to interpret the history of the site
- To create an ordered archive to assist in post-excavation analysis and reporting

5 Research Questions

5.1 The programme of archaeological works was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by Knight *et al.* (2012) and hosted by the revised Wordpress Wiki platform as part of the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) Interactive Digital Resource (www.researchframeworks.org/emherf).

5.2 The archaeological mitigation had the potential to inform on the following questions:

High Medieval (1066-1485)

7.2 Rural Settlement

1. How can we elucidate further the development of nucleated villages and in particular the contribution of the Danelaw to changes in village morphology?
4. Can we clarify further the process of settlement desertion and shrinkage, especially within zones of dispersed settlement?

6 Methodology

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 Groundworks comprised the monitored excavation of footing trenches ahead of planned redevelopment. The footings were excavated to depths determined by the technical drawings, apart from specific areas that required deeper excavation, due to unstable ground, to allow for secure footings.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 Below-ground stratigraphy was recorded, photographed and interpreted, even where no archaeological finds or features were present, in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2014b).
- 6.5 All excavations were recorded at an appropriate scale by photography. Site photography was undertaken with the use of a high resolution DSLR camera.

7 Results

- 7.1 Groundworks within the development area revealed the geological substrate (1002), comprised of mid reddish brown Edwalton Member mudstone, at a depth of c 0.2-0.3m, which was the same across the site. This was sealed by a c 0.3m thick deposit of demolition rubble (1005) of the former Police Station buildings across the western portion of the development area. In areas where demolition had not occurred, geological natural (1002) was sealed by a c 0.2m thick deposit of dark brownish black topsoil (1001). A single undated pit feature was identified within the western portion of the site.

Possible Pit or posthole [1003] Plate 3, Fig 2-3, Dr.02

- 7.2 A possible oval pit or posthole measuring 0.44m in width was identified in plan at the base of the footings trench, towards the western portion of the site (fig 2). Excavation revealed a steep, V shaped profile with a depth of 0.52m, which was filled by single deposit of firm, dark yellowish-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks (1004). No datable material was recovered.

8 Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 Excavation of wall footings within the development area revealed the geological substrate across the site at a depth of between 0.2-0.3m. As the southern and eastern portion of the site had been levelled prior to archaeological attendance, the archaeological potential for the area remains uncertain. Within the monitored western portion of the site, a small, undated possible pit or posthole was identified at a depth of 0.2m below ground level.
- 8.2 The site's proximity to Warner's Paddock c 90m to the north-west suggests that it lies within an area of archaeological potential. However, the results of the watching brief suggest that previous development is likely to have truncated any archaeological remains which may have been present.

9 References

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Powell-Smith, A. and Palmer, J. J. N. 'bingham' *Open Domesday* [website] (2011) <https://opendomesday.org/place/SK7039/bingham/>, accessed 15th January 2020.

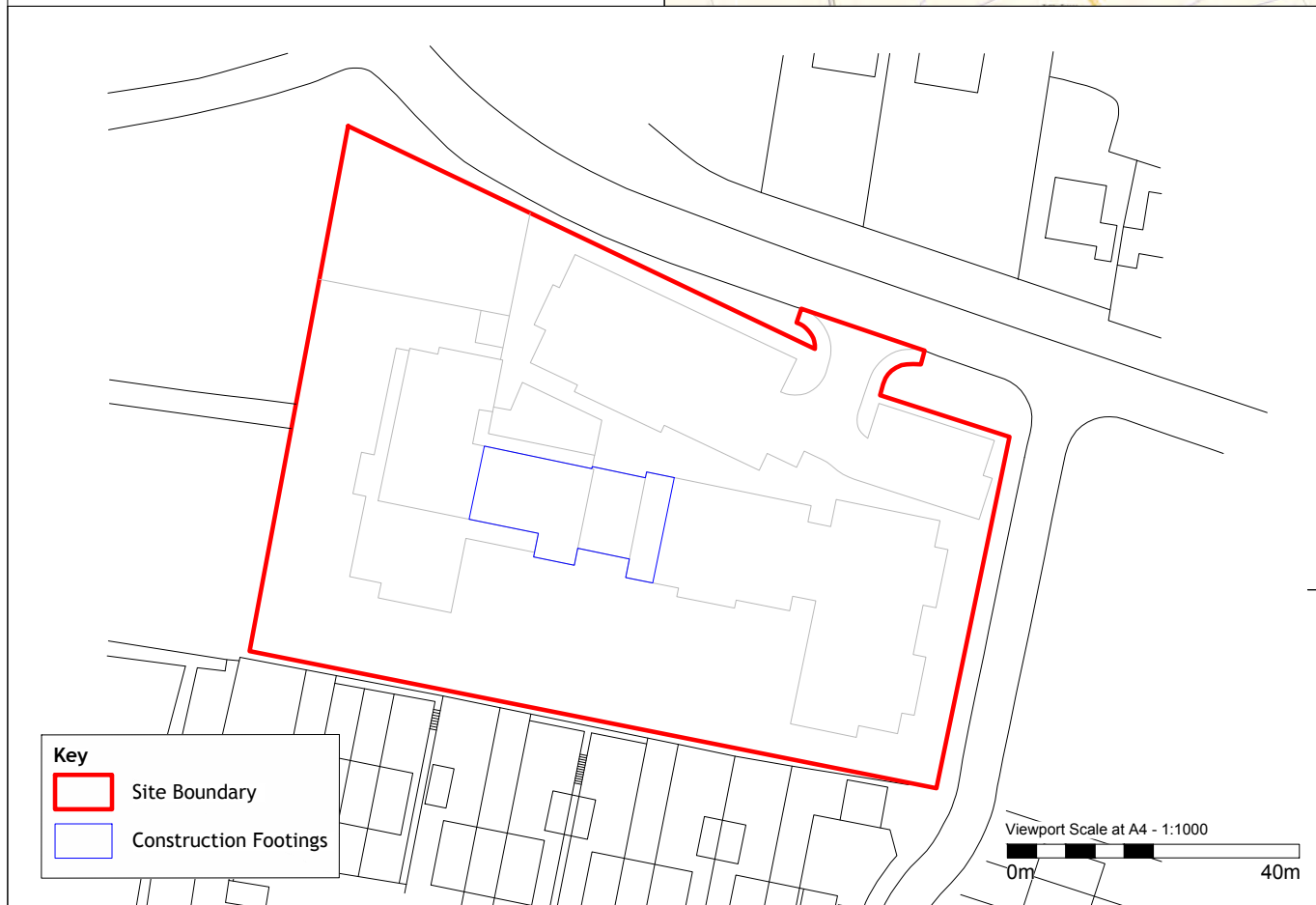
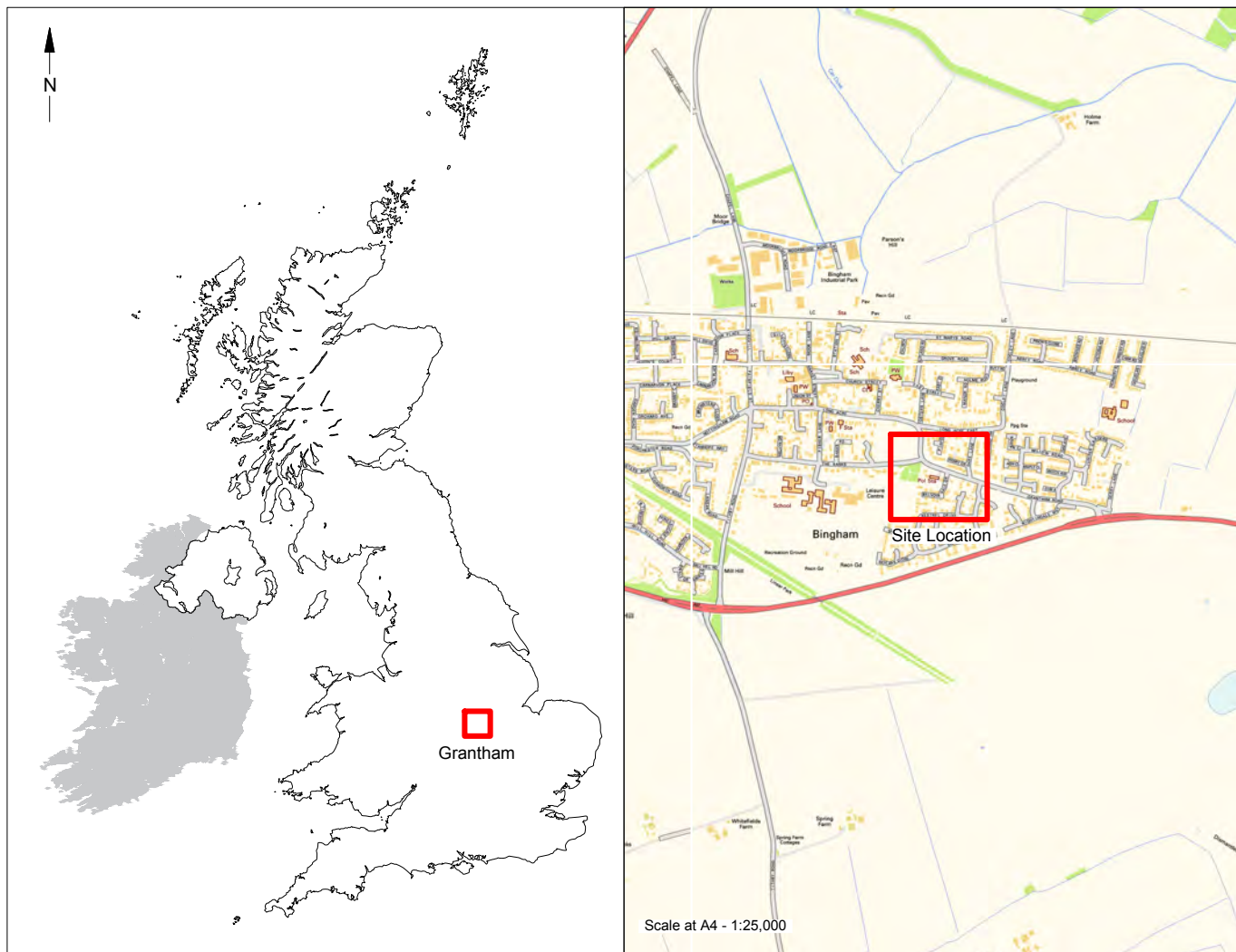
University of Nottingham 'Key to English Place Names', *University of Nottingham* [website] (2020), <http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/>, accessed 28th January 2020.

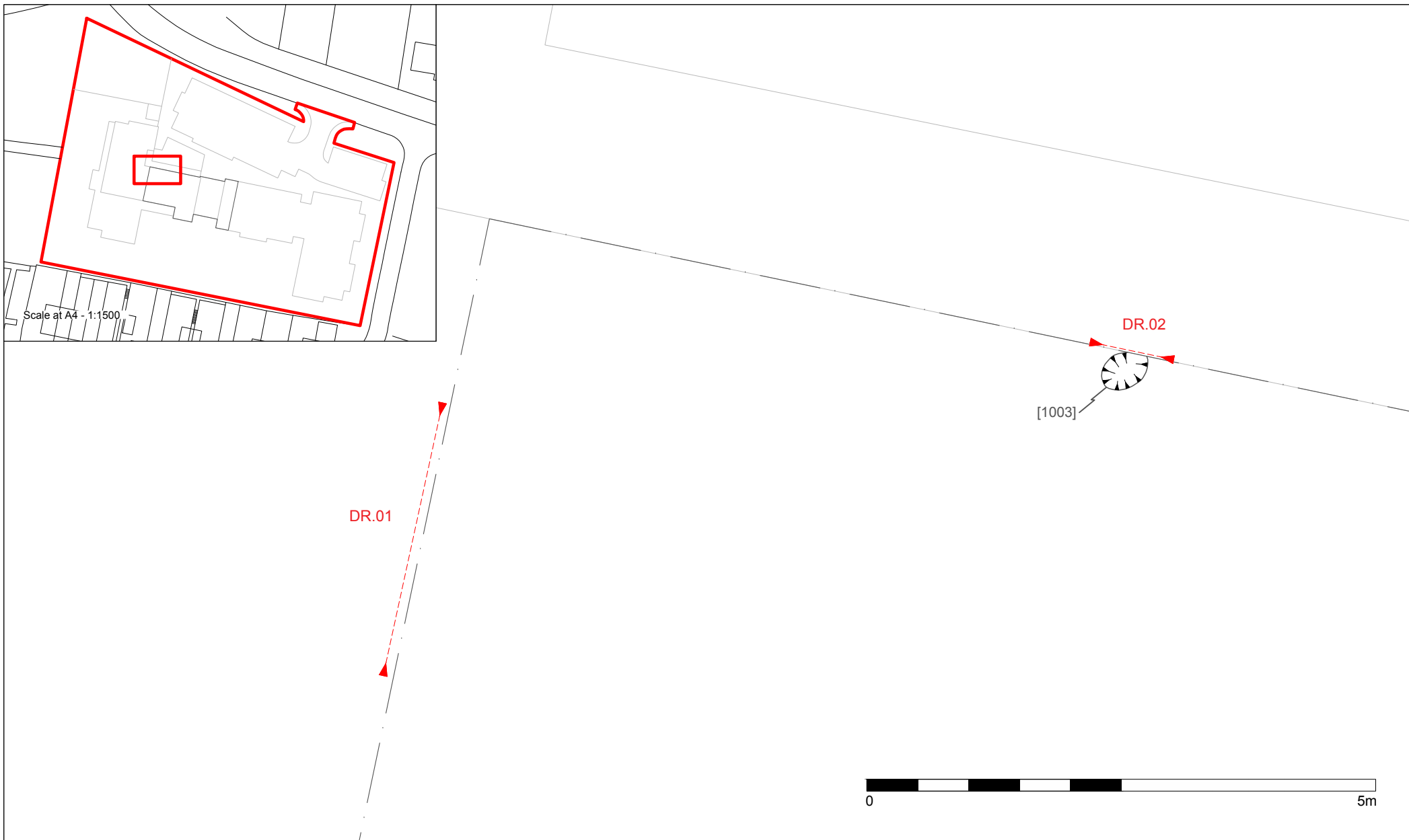
10 Context register

Context	Area	Type	Description	Thickness
1001	1	Layer	Topsoil	0.2m
1002	1	Deposit	Edwalton Member Mudstone	n/a
1003	1	Cut	Pit - date/use Unknown	0.52m
1004	1	Fill	Silt Sand fill of pit [1003]	0.52m
1005	1	Layer	Made ground/ demolition layer	0.3m

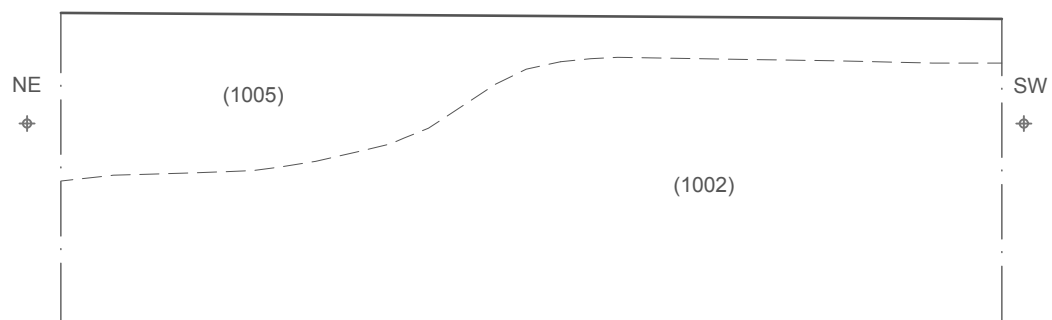
11 Figures

11 Figures

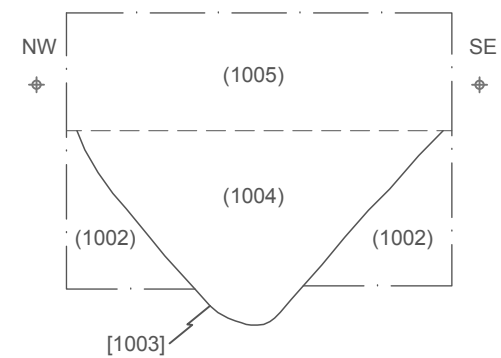




DR.01
North West Facing Representative Section



DR.02
South West Facing Section of Pit [1003]



12 Plates



Plate 1: Pre ex of site looking North-West



Plate 2: North-West facing section showing made ground (1005) and Edwalton Member Mudstone (1002), West of site. Scale 1m



Plate 3: [1003] Pit. South-West facing section. Scale 1m



Plate 4: South-West facing representative section, East of site, showing Edwalton member mudstone (1002). Scale 1m

13 Index of Archives 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	7
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	60
Site drawings	Plans and sections	3
<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

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. As no significant archaeological deposits or artefactual remains were recovered from the site, the archive will remain in the offices of Trent and Peak Archaeology, and a copy of the report will be lodged with the Nottinghamshire HER.

14 OASIS data collection Form

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OASIS ID: trentpea1-382939

Project details

Project name	FORMER POLICE STATION, GRANTHAM ROAD, BINGHAM
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology were commissioned by RPS to conduct an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of footings, drainage works and general ground reduction on the site of the former Police station, Grantham road, Bingham, Nottinghamshire (SK 7088 3958) between 12th December 2019 and 15th January 2020. The site consists of the former Bingham Police Station, police accommodation and ancillary buildings which was closed in April 2011 and demolished before the commencement of this watching brief. The site is bounded by Belvoir Vale Grove, and its associated residential estate, to the east and south, with Grantham road to the north and Bingham Cemetery to the west. The site is situated between a scheduled ancient monument, the abandoned medieval settlement of Bingham c. 300m north of site, and the historic core of modern Bingham. The intrusive groundworks were undertaken with a 360° excavator and comprised the reduction of the slope at the south-eastern corner of the site and the excavation of footings for the central building. Only one potential pit [1003] was identified during these works, situated at the western end of the northern wall footing. Approximately one third of the site was stripped down to the natural mudstone (1002) during demolition, with the remainder of the site having a layer of made ground (1005) deposited over the mudstone, probably from the demolition of the police station. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified. The watching brief was discontinued, with permission of the Planning Archaeologist, on 15/1/2020
Project dates	Start: 12-12-2019 End: 15-01-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GRB - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	18/02800/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RUSHCLIFFE BINGHAM FORMER POLICE STATION, GRANTHAM ROAD
Postcode	NG13 8BW
Study area	0.58 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 7088 3958 52.948599462386 -0.944963825606 52 56 54 N 000 56 41 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 28m Max: 30m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project brief originator	CgMS
Project design originator	CgMs
Project director/manager	Edmund Taylor
Project supervisor	Andy Douthwaite
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Entered by	V. Owen (vowen@yorkat.co.uk)
Entered on	29 January 2020

OASIS:

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