

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF
NEWARK,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION

December 2015

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
R12321



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF NEWARK,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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Land to the South of Newark, Nottinghamshire: Report on a Programme of Archaeological Observations

Local Planning Authority: Newark and Sherwood District Council

Central National Grid Reference: SK 796 514

PCA Site Code: NFNN15

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December 2015

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the excavation of the site office area and roads associated with the redevelopment of land to the south of Newark, Nottinghamshire. Catesby Property Group commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. to undertake the watching brief.

During the observation a limited amount of archaeology was discovered. Two undated furrows were discovered along with a possible boundary hedge and two rubbish layers relating to gypsum extraction. The only other deposits encountered were top and sub soils and natural layers.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

- 1.1.1 Catesby Property Group (hereafter the client) intended to construct site offices and roads associated with the redevelopment of a site situated to the south of Newark, Nottinghamshire (see **Figures 1 & 2**).
- 1.1.2 Based on the results of a Desk Based Assessment undertaken by Waterman Energy, Environment & Design Ltd (Waterman, 'the Consultant') in October 2014 and following discussions with the Nottinghamshire County Archaeologist, Ursilla Spence, an archaeological watching brief condition was placed upon the development. Waterman prepared and submitted a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the methodologies and standards by which the archaeological contractor would undertake the watching brief. The WSI was approved by The Nottinghamshire County Archaeologist prior to the commencement of groundworks.
- 1.1.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology (Midlands) – hereafter PCA – were appointed by the client to undertake the archaeological works at the area of the site offices and along the access roads.
- 1.1.4 Waterman Energy, Environment and Design Ltd submitted a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) in advance of groundworks (Waterman 2015). The WSI was approved and a copy submitted to the client.
- 1.1.5 The watching brief was undertaken over the period 11th May 2015 - 18th June 2015.

1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The Site is c.250 hectares (ha) in area and is located on the southern edge of Newark, on the eastern bank of the River Devon, which forks from the River Trent, approximately 1.5km to its north. It is centred on NGR SK 796 514 (**Figures 1 & 2**).

1.3 Topography and Geology

- 1.3.1 The highest part of the site lies in the north-eastern corner and is approximately 20m aOD. From here the northern edge drops gently towards the west and there is a pronounced drop to the south down to the course of the Middle Beck which branches from the River Devon at the western edge of the site. To the south of this waterway the ground is relatively flat, dipping gently towards the River Devon at c.14m aOD.
- 1.3.2 The geology along the course of the redevelopment comprises superficial alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel, formed up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period. This overlies bedrock of Branscombe Mudstone Formation – Mudstone; a sedimentary bedrock formed in the Triassic Period approximately 200-217 million years ago (British geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk).

1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 1.4.1 The historical and archaeological background of the site has been discussed in detail previously therefore this report will merely provide a summary based on the WSI (Waterman 2015).
- 1.4.2 The site contains no scheduled monuments or any part of a conservation area. The site also lies outside the locally designated area of archaeological potential. Despite this, a single Grade II listed building does lie within the site boundaries and the Nottingham Historic Environment Record indicates that there is a considerable amount of known heritage in the vicinity.
- 1.4.3 From the prehistoric period a number of findspots have been identified. These include a scatter of Mesolithic material beyond the site's western edge and a Neolithic stone axe head immediately to the north of Devon Bridge. Bronze Age material has been recovered from this stretch of the River Devon during dredging and has been found c.600m east of Hawton village. Additionally, a Bronze Age palstave was discovered in a gypsum quarry to the north of the Jericho Works. Iron Age material has also been discovered c.600m east of the village and a further scatter of undated prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from Millfield, to the south of the River Devon.
- 1.4.4 Roman material recorded in the vicinity is largely focused along the route of the Fosse Way, an old Roman road which runs c.500m northwest of the site at its closest point. Along the road a rectangular feature, identified through aerial photography, is assumed to be of a Roman date whilst a scatter of finds including Roman pottery, a bronze ring and a bronze coin of Constantine II have been discovered further south along the road.
- 1.4.5 No Saxon material has been identified in the vicinity of the study area.
- 1.4.6 The most significant extant medieval heritage in the vicinity are elements of the Church of All Saints at Hawton which is a Grade I Listed Building. A medieval coin hoard was discovered at the junction of Thorpe Lane and Hawton Lane, to the west of the site, during metal detecting in 1987. The coin hoard consisted of groats, half groats and pennies which probably date to the reign of Edward III (1327-1377) and may represent the contents of a purse. To the north of this find spot, a significant concentration of medieval pottery was identified during field walking.
- 1.4.7 The post-medieval heritage in the vicinity of the site is represented by a moated site from the Parliamentarian Civil War which is recorded to the west of the River Devon. This formed part of Newark's second line of circumvallation and is now marked by a hedge which also delineates a small, diamond shaped moated site at its crossing of the Fosse Way. On the opposite side of the River Devon lies the westernmost of three fortification is recorded whilst an additional moated site is recorded c.500m north-east of Hawton village. A bank and a ditch which are recorded to the north of Bow Bridge may indicate the first line of

circumvallation of Newark. To the southwest of this site an additional moated site is recorded and to the north lies Rossiter's Sconce.

- 1.4.8 Within the site its self lies some archaeology relating to late post-medieval/industrial period. Lying within the development site is Hawton gypsum quarry which consists of a Grade II Listed mill and a number of associated buildings which have now been demolished; to the west of the quarry a brick and pottery kiln are recorded as having been present by 1836. To the north and east of this site the Lowfield Iron and Brass Foundry and engineering works is recorded, as is the Lowfield gypsum quarry and Lowfield brick works. Additionally, two brick kilns have been identified in the eastern portion of the development site, one in the centre and the other on the site's eastern edge.

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aims and objectives of the investigation were:

- to establish the location, nature, extent, date and state of preservation of any archaeological or geoarchaeological deposits or features within the site, to recover any associated objects and to record the surviving evidence.
- to analyse and interpret the site archive and to disseminate the results to promote local and national research objectives:

2.2 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**, ed. N Cooper (2006), along with the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, ed. D. Knight, B. Vyner & C. Allen (2012) were used as references for specific site criteria.

In particular, the archaeological mitigation works sought to address the following research objectives:

- to set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape;
- to recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Archaeological and potential archaeological deposits were cleaned using hand tools and recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Contexts were recorded according to PCA systems approved for use in Northamptonshire, including written, photographic and drawn records.
- 3.1.2 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded utilising PCAs printed pro-forma.
- 3.1.3 Plans and representative sections were drawn at an appropriate scale (usually 1:50 for plans and 1:20 for sections). The locations of the drawings and the heights of deposits compared to Ordnance Survey benchmarks were recorded.
- 3.1.4 A full digital colour photographic record was made.

3.2 Post Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.2.1 English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (EH 2006) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 3.2.2 The archive from the mitigation works is currently held by PCA at their office in Leicestershire. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the site archive will be deposited with Nottinghamshire County Council Museum Service.

4. THE RESULTS

4.1 The Archaeological Sequence

- 4.1.1 The archaeological sequence revealed during the archaeological observation was highly limited.
- 4.1.2 The cut of a linear boundary hedge aligned north-south, was identified and assigned context number **110** for the cut and **109** for the fill (Plate 4). Additionally, two furrows (Plate 6) were identified which may be related (**127** and **129**). The first furrow was allocated cut number **127** and contained a single fill of mid-brown sandy silt (**126**). The second recorded furrow, **129**, also held a single fill (**128**) that consisted of silty sand. Neither furrows contained any datable material.
- 4.1.3 The only two additional archaeological deposits discovered were two rubbish layers (Plate 5) relating to gypsum extraction (contexts **106** and **107**). It is likely that these are related to the post-medieval/industrial Hawton gypsum quarry that was identified nearby.
- 4.1.4 The primary recorded layers during the observation were a number of topsoil and subsoil layers that were identified across the observed area. These contained the majority of the pottery, CBM & clay tobacco pipe fragments, the majority of which dated to the 18th to 20th centuries, however two sherds dated from the 14th-16th & 15th-16th centuries AD (**Section 5**). The ceramic building material retained and had similar mixed dates that spanned the 13th to the mid-20th century (**Section 5**).

5. THE FINDS

5.1 Pottery By Jane Young

Introduction

Thirty sherds of post-Roman pottery representing twenty-five vessels were presented for examination. The material was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context.

The assemblage has been fully archived to the standards for acceptance to a museum archive and within the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001). Visual fabric identification of the late medieval to post-medieval pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. The pottery data was entered on an access database using fabric codenames (see Table 1) developed for the Lincoln Ceramic Type Series (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005) and the preliminary Nottingham Type Series (Nailor and Young 2001)

Condition

The pottery is mainly in a slightly abraded condition with sherd size varying between 1 gram and 38 grams. Most of the vessels recovered are only represented by a single sherd and no cross-context joins were noted.

The pottery

In total twenty-five vessels, in eleven main post-Roman ware types were examined (Table 1). The identified material is of possible late medieval to early modern date.

Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	3	1
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	2	2
CHPO	Chinese Export Porcelain	1640	1850	2	2
ENGS	Unspecified English	1750	1900	3	3
LERTH	Late earthenwares	1750	1900	1	1
LMLOC	Late Medieval local fabrics	1350	1550	1	1
MP	Midlands Purple ware	1380	1600	1	1
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1900	1	1
PEARL	Pearlware	1770	1900	5	3
TPW	Transfer printed ware	1770	1900	10	9
WHITE	Modern Whiteware	1850	1900	1	1

Table 1: Pottery types with total quantities by sherd and vessel count

Late medieval to post-medieval

Two sherds are of late medieval to early post-medieval type. A sherd from a jug or jar in a coarse local fabric (LMLOC) was recovered from topsoil layer 136. The vessel is likely to date to between the 14th and mid-16th centuries. Topsoil layer 100 produced a small sherd from a Midlands Purple-type (MP) jug or jar of 15th to 16th century type.

Late Post-medieval to Early modern

Twenty-three vessels are of 18th to 20th century date. These include earthenwares (BERTH, BL and LERTH), stoneware's (ENGS and NOTS), industrial fine earthenwares (PEARL, TPW and WHITE) and two tiny Chinese export porcelain sherds (CHPO). The latest of these vessels belongs to the period between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries. The large Brown-glazed Earthenware bowl (BERTH) recovered from topsoil layer 100 is of 18th to 19th century type. Similar Black-glazed bowls (BL) were recovered from topsoil layers 115 and 118. An unglazed earthenware sherd (LERTH) from a 19th to 20th century garden pot was recovered from topsoil layer 118.

A tiny sherd from an 18th century Nottingham Stoneware jar (NOTS) was found in topsoil layer 100. The other three stoneware sherds (ENGS) are from topsoil layers 100 and 118. Two of the vessels are of late 18th to mid-20th century type, but the large jam or large jar found in layer 100 is of late 19th to mid-20th century date.

Five Pearlware sherds (PEARL) come from two late 18th to early or mid-19th century plates found topsoil layer 100 and a mug of similar date recovered from topsoil layer 122. Nine Transfer-printed (TPW) and one plain white ware (WHITE) vessels are of 19th to 20th century date. They were recovered from topsoil layers 100, 155 and 118.

Two minute sherds found in topsoil layer 100 come from blue-painted 18th century Chinese export porcelain vessels (CHPO).

Discussion

This is a small group of mainly early modern pottery. Two sherds indicate late medieval to early post-medieval activity. The early modern pottery (as noted in the archive) could be discarded, as the group contains nothing of note.

References

Nailor, V and Young, J. 2001 A fabric type series for post-Roman pottery in Nottingham (5th to 16th centuries. Unpublished report.

Slowikowski, A. Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, Occasional Paper 2.

Young, J, Vince A G and Nailor V 2005 *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeology Studies 7, Oxbow, Oxford

5.2 Ceramic Building Material *By Jane Young*

Introduction

Five fragments of ceramic building material recovered from topsoil layer 100 and weighing 0.431 grams. in total were submitted for examination. The material ranges in date from the medieval to early modern periods. The fragments were examined both visually and at x 20 binocular magnification. The resulting archive was then recorded using codenames in an Access database using codenames and complies with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2001).

Condition

The material is mainly in a slightly abraded but stable condition.

The Ceramic Building Material

A limited range of ceramic building was examined. The types are shown in Table 1.

Codename	Full name	Fragments	Weight in grams
BRK	Brick	2	328
PEG	Peg tile	1	33
PNR	Flat roof tile	2	70

Table 1: Ceramic Building material codenames and total quantities by fragment count and weight

The tile

Three fragments of tile, potentially ranging in date from the medieval to post-medieval periods, were recovered from topsoil layer 100. The earliest fragments are probably from two flat roof tiles of 13th to 16th century types. One of these tiles has the edge of a square or rectangular peg hole (PEG). The other piece of tile is in a fine to medium red sandy fabric with yellow external surfaces. This tile is unlikely to predate the 14th century and could date to as late as the 18th century.

The Brick

Two fragments of brick were recovered from the site. One small un-diagnostic flake in a coarse orange fabric containing common calcareous grains comes from a handmade brick of 18th to mid-20th century date. The other larger flake is in a similar red fabric, but has been highly fired with a vitrified reduced header. This suggests that the brick was intended for use in a contrasting diapering pattern. This brick has a kiss mark on the stretcher as a result of stacking in the kiln firing. The manufacture of the brick suggests an 18th to mid-20th century date.

Summary and Recommendations

The group of ceramic building material recovered from this site is too small to be of use in site interpretation and as recovered from a topsoil layer may not reflect the chronological sequence on the site. The brick is of early modern type whereas the tile appears to be of medieval to post-medieval date.

Retention

The material should be retained.

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6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The programme of archaeological mitigation works identified two rubbish layers most likely related to gypsum extraction in the late post-medieval/industrial period. Two furrows were also identified that were possibly related to either the medieval or early post-medieval periods but both furrow fills contained no datable material. Finally, the cut of an old boundary hedge was identified running on a north-south alignment.
- 6.2 Natural deposits recorded on the site consisted of light bluey grey to grey orange clays and occasionally a yellowy orange sandy gravel across the course of the observed area.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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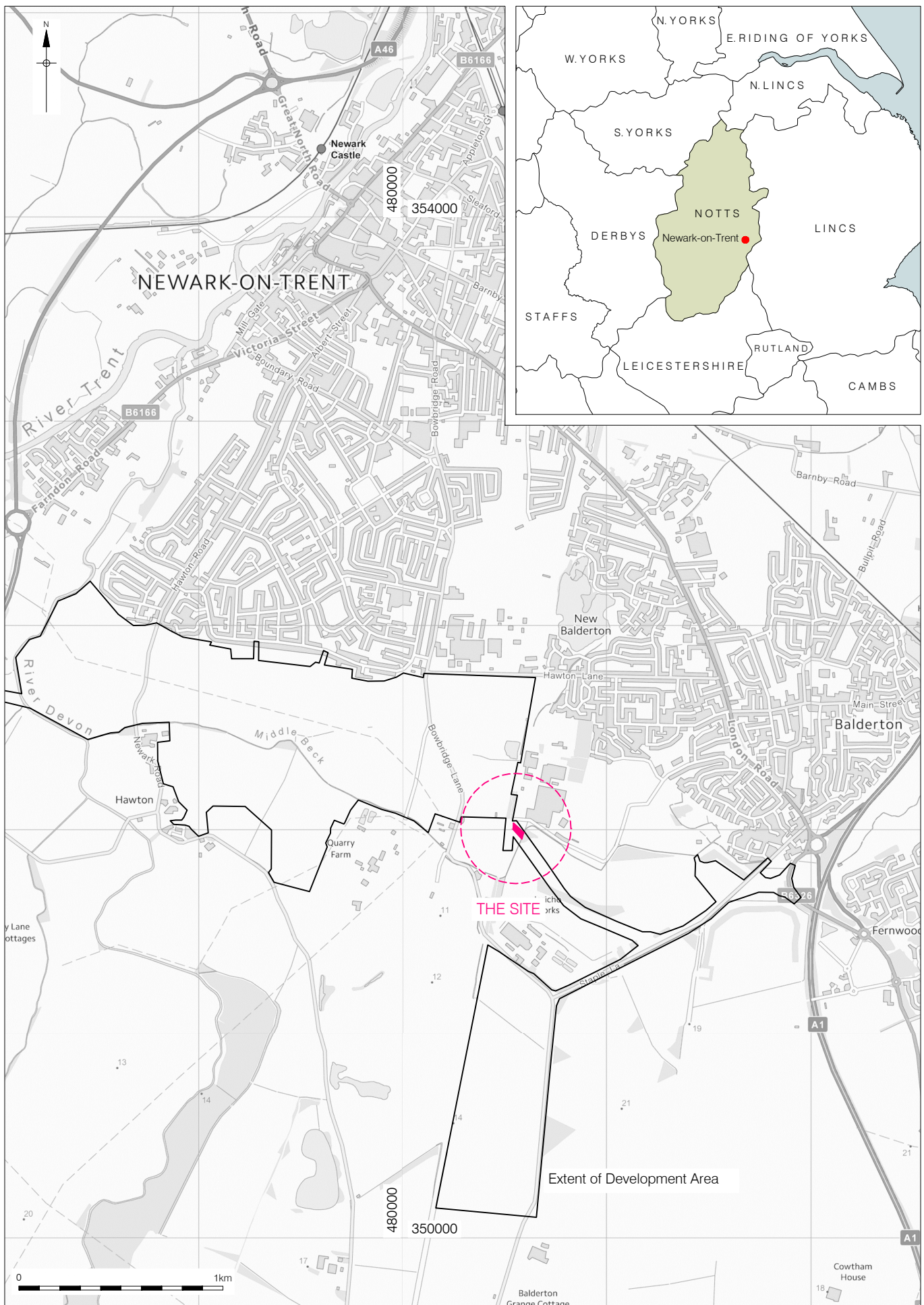
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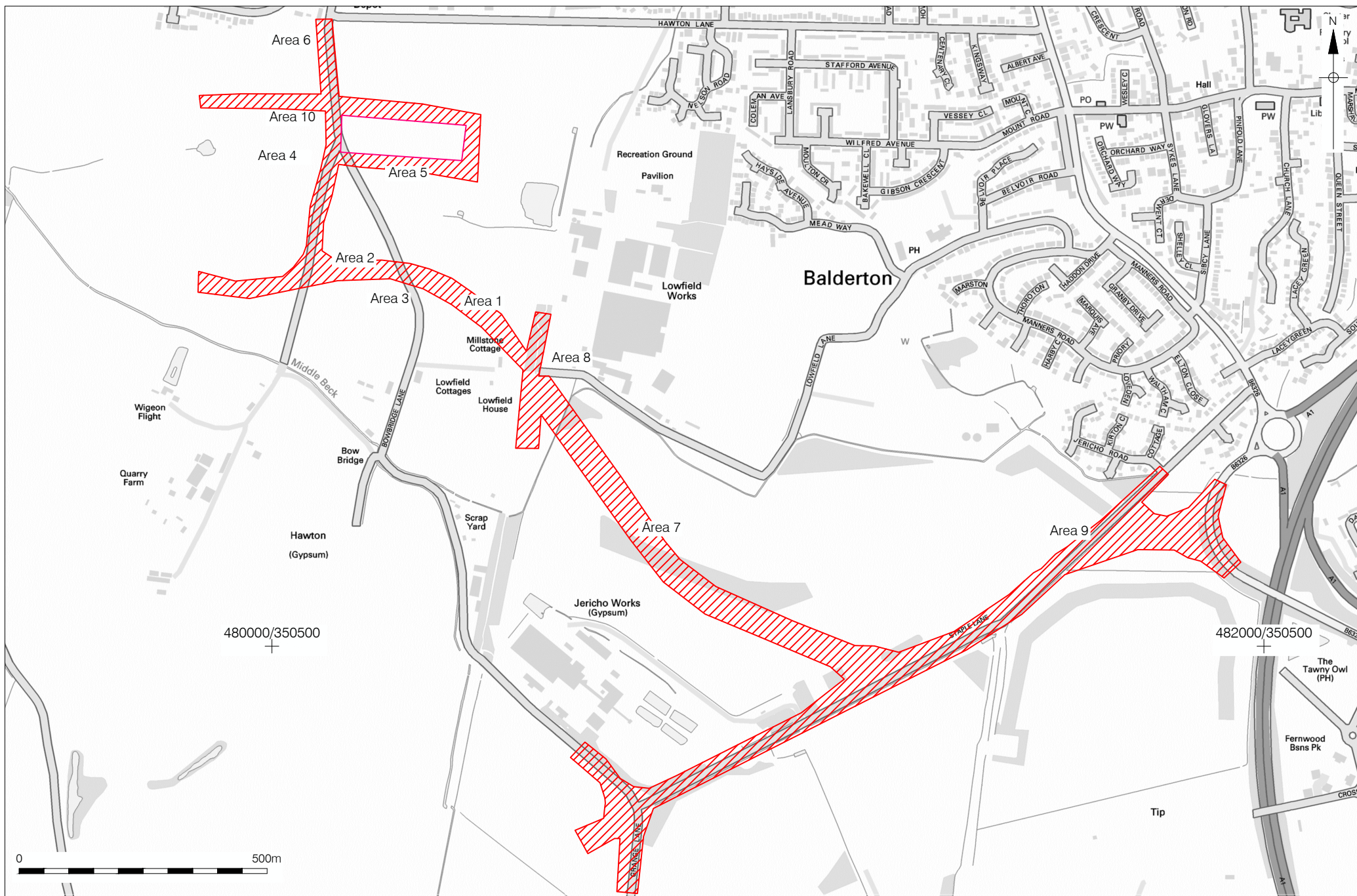
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Watkins, D & Neal, V. 2001. First Aid for Finds.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:25,000 at A4

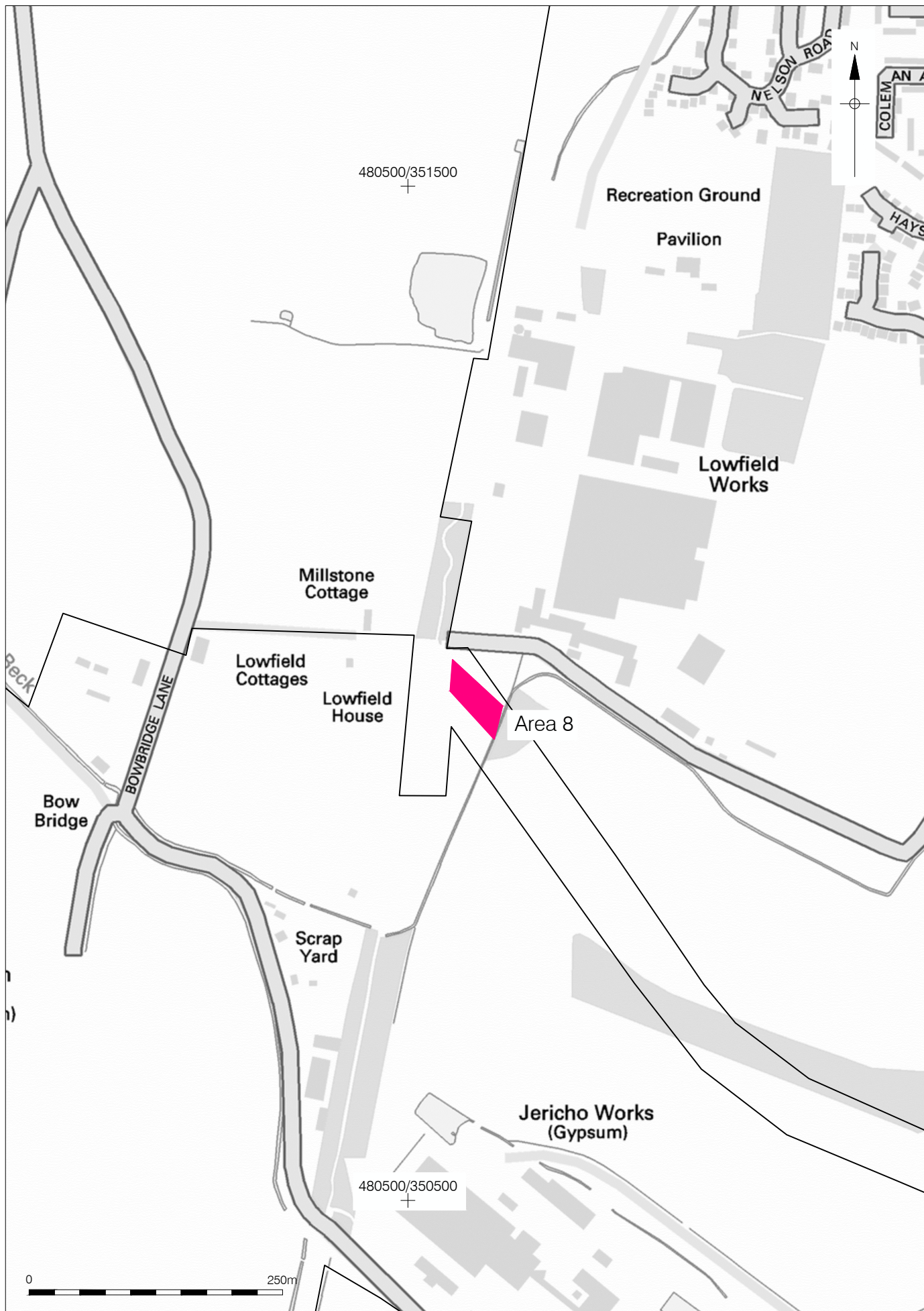


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Figure 3
Location of Areas Monitored
1:10,000 at A4

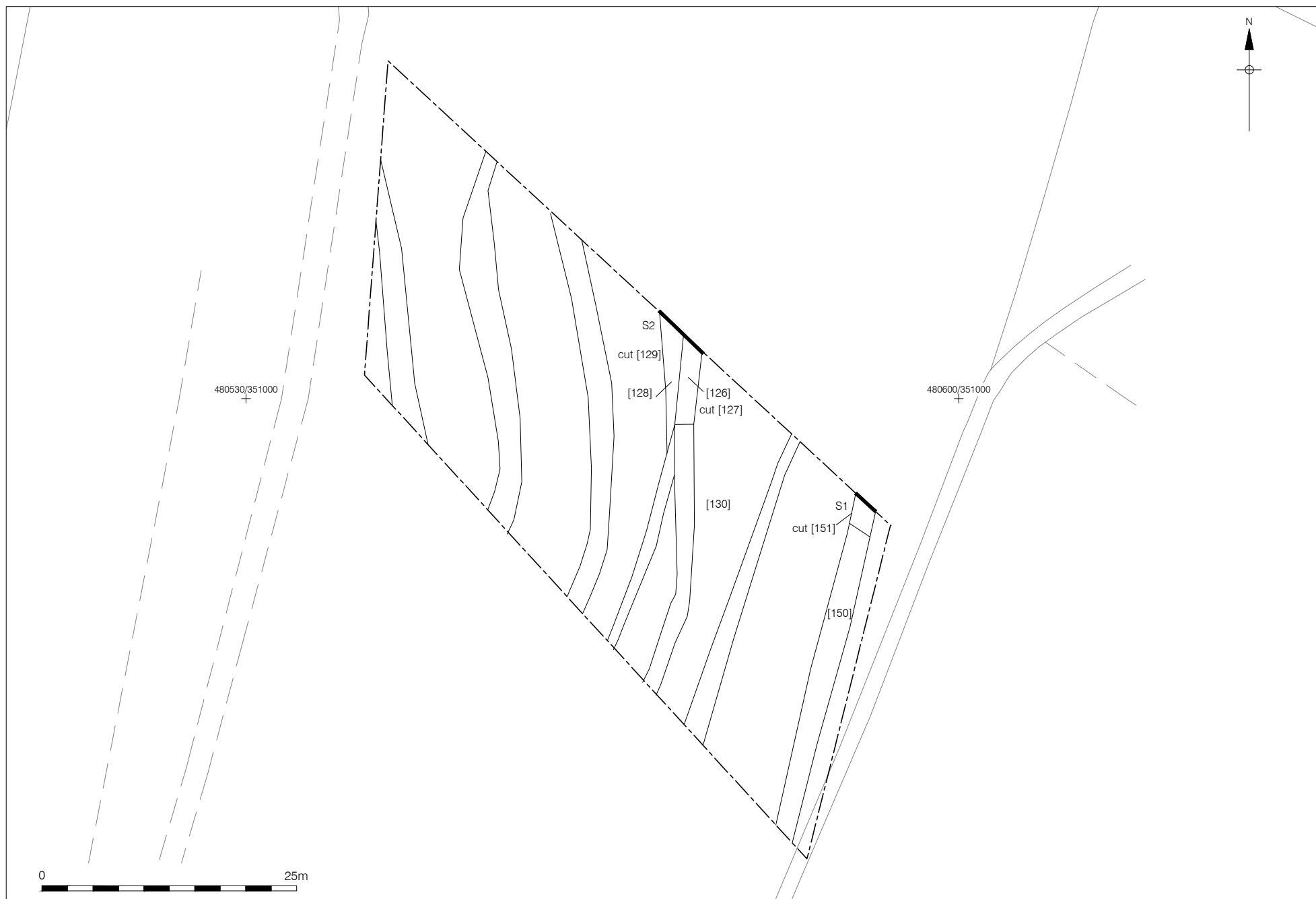


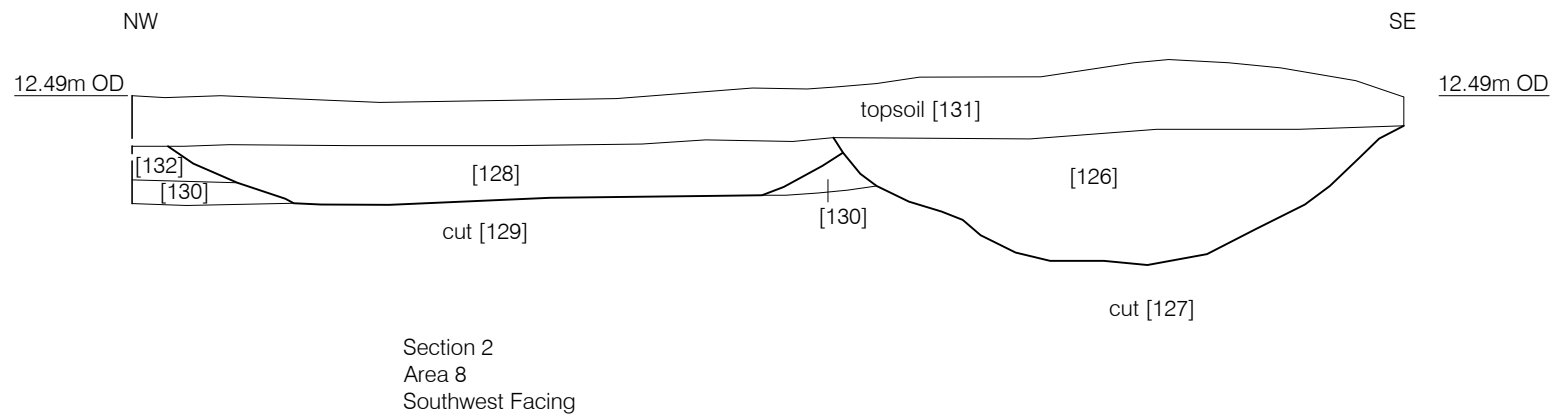
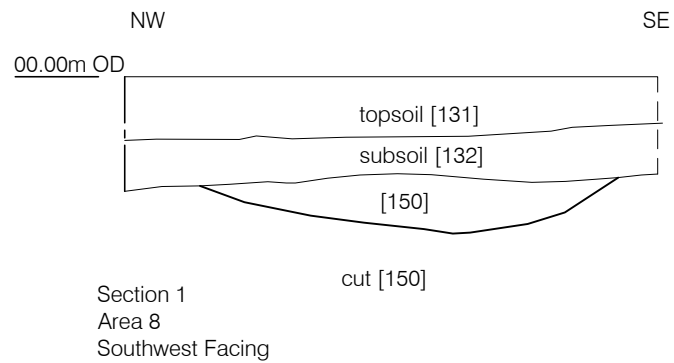
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Figure 3
Location of Area 8
1:5,000 at A4





APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Northwest facing shot Area 1 topsoil strip



Plate 2: West facing shot of Area 2 topsoil strip



Plate 3: South facing shot of Area 3 topsoil strip



Plate 4: North facing shot of Area 4 topsoil and hedge (109), [110]



Plate 5: General shot facing southeast of rubbish layer relating to gypsum extraction



Plate 6: North facing shot of Section 2 and furrows [127] and [129] – Area 8



Plate 7: East facing shot of section 1 – Topsoil **131**, Subsoil **132**, Natural **130** – Area 8



Plate 8: Shot looking north in Area 4



Plate 9: Shot looking south in Area 5



Plate 10: Shot looking northwest across Area 6

APPENDIX 2. CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Above	Below
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions			
100	Layer	Brownish grey	Compact silty clay	Occasional small angular and sub-rounded stones.	Topsoil	101	
101	Layer	Mid brown	Moderately compact silty clay	Sub-rounded stones and some flint	Subsoil		100
102	Deposit	Bluey grey	Compact silty sand	Frequent rounded pebbles	Possible alluvial deposit/natural layer of clay		101
104	Layer	Reddish brown	Moderately compact silty clay	Frequent stone fragments	Topsoil layer	106	
106	Deposit	Blueish grey	Moderately compact stone and gypsum	Frequent stone and gypsum fragments	Gypsum extraction rubbish layer resulting from industrial process.	107	104
107	Deposit	Dark black	Moderately compact silty sand	Frequent gypsum	Rubbish layer from gypsum extraction		106
110	Cut	Linear cut with 45° sides, fairly flat base, N-S alignment.			Cut of hedge boundary.		101
111	Deposit	Bluey grey	Compact sandy, gravelly clay	Frequent small, sub-rounded stones	Natural clay		102

115	Layer	Dark brown	Moderately compact silty clay	Occasional small, rounded stones.	Topsoil layer	116	
116	Layer	Pale green grey	Compact clay	Occasional small, rounded stones	Subsoil layer	117	115
117	Deposit	Pale green white	Compact silty clay	Very occasional small, sub-rounded stones.	Natural clay layer		116
118	Layer	Medium brown	Moderately compact silty sand	Frequent small, sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.	Topsoil layer	119	
119	Layer	Mid brown orange	Fairly loose silty sand	Frequent small, sub-angular stones.	Subsoil layer		118
122	Layer		Moderately compact silty clay	Frequent small stones. Contains pea gravel, flint and humus material.	Topsoil	123	
123	Layer	Mid brown grey	Compact silty clay	Frequent small stones.	Subsoil layer	124	122
124	Deposit	Bluey orange	Very compact clay		Natural clay		123
126	Fill	Mid brown	Moderately compact sandy silt	Occasional sub-rounded stones.	Fill of Furrow [127]	127	
127	Cut	Linear cut on a NW-SE alignment with moderate sides (c.35°) and a flattish base; 2.20m wide, 0.76m deep.			Cut of furrow, possibly associated with [129]	130	126

128	Fill		Moderately compact silty sand with humic material.	Frequent small stones.	Fill of furrow [129]	129	
129	Cut	Linear cut on NW-SE alignment with moderate sides (c.40°) and a flattish base; 3.60m wide, 0.20m deep.			Cut of furrow, possibly associated with [127]	130	128
130	Deposit	Yellowy orange	Moderately compact silty sand with gravel	Frequent stones both sub-rounded and sub-angular (0.20m – 0.05m in diameter).	Natural layer		127, 129
131	Layer	Mid brown	Silty clay	Frequent small stones (>0.10m in diameter), humic material.	Topsoil layer	134	
132	Layer	Mid brown	Silty clay	Occasional small stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Subsoil layer	130	131
133	Layer	Mid brown	Compact silty clay	Occasional sub-angular stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Topsoil layer	134	
134	Layer	Mid brown	Moderately compact silty clay	Occasional sub-angular stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Subsoil layer		133
135	Deposit	Bluey orange grey	Very compact clay		Bluey orange grey clay		134
136	Layer	Mid brown grey	Moderately compact silty clay	Occasional small stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Topsoil layer	137	

137	Layer	Mid brown	Silty clay	Moderate sub-angular stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Subsoil layer	138	136
138	Deposit	Blue orange grey	Very compact clay		Natural clay		
142	Layer	Mid brown grey	Silty sand	Occasional small stones.	Topsoil layer	143	
143	Layer	Mid brown grey	Silty sand	Occasional small stones, sub-rounded and sub-angular.	Subsoil layer		142
144	Deposit	Bluey orange	Clay	Occasional small sub-angular stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Natural clay		143
145	Layer	Mid brown grey	Silty sand	Occasional small stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Topsoil layer	146	
146	Layer	Mid brown grey	Silty sand	Occasional sub-angular stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Subsoil layer		145
147	Deposit	Bluey orange	Very compact clay		Natural clay		146
148	Layer	Mid brown grey	Silty sand	Occasional sub-angular stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Topsoil layer	148	
149	Layer	Mid brown grey	Silty sand	Occasional small stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Subsoil layer		149
153	Deposit	Blue/orange	Very compact clay		Natural clay		

APPENDIX 3. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: [preconst1-235422](#)

Project details

Project name	Land to the South of Newark, Nottinghamshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the excavation of the site office area and roads associated with the redevelopment of land to the south of Newark, Nottinghamshire. Catesby Property Group commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. to undertake the watching brief. During the observation a limited amount of archaeology was discovered. Two undated furrows were discovered along with a possible boundary hedge and two rubbish layers relating to gypsum extraction. The only other deposits encountered were top and sub soils and natural layers.
Project dates	Start: 11-05-2015 End: 22-12-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	NFNN15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NEWARK AND SHERWOOD HAWTON Land to the South of Newark, Nottinghamshire
Study area	250 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 796 514 53.053617241833 -0.812284383311 53 03 13 N 000 48 44 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Project design originator	Waterman Energy, Environment and Design Limited
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Nottingham museums service
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