LAND TO THE SOUTH OF NEWARK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Phases II

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

July 2016

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
R12540

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF NEWARK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PHASES II

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

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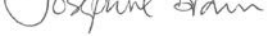
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		04/07/2016
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Land to the South of Newark, Nottinghamshire Phase 2: Report on a Programme of Archaeological Observations

Local Planning Authority:	**Newark and Sherwood District Council**
Central National Grid Reference:	**SK 796 514**
PCA Site Code:	**NFNN16**
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PCA Report No. R12540

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological observation was undertaken on the excavation of an access road associated with the second phase of redevelopment of land to the south of Newark, Nottinghamshire. Waterman Energy, Environment & Design Ltd commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. to undertake the archaeological observation on behalf of the Buckingham Group Contracting Limited.

No archaeological features were discovered in this area. The removal of a section of modern tarmac path and associated bedding layers were observed which sealed top and subsoil layers and natural deposits. No finds were retrieved.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

1.1.1 Buckingham Group Contracting Limited (hereafter the client) intended to construct an access road 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 observation 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 archaeological observation. 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 Limited Waterman Energy, Environment & Design Ltd to undertake the archaeological work during the 1st phase of the road excavation works for the new Southern Link Road (PCA 2015) that ran alongside AOC evaluation program (AOC 2015) on areas that was destined to become residential-led housing.

1.1.4 In May 2016 PCA were requested to undertake a further program of monitoring on a new access road within the northern portion of the development site. Located between Bowbridge Lane and Grange Road (**Figure 1**).

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The whole Newark Futures (Phase 1) project covers *c.*250 hectares (ha) 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. The new access road that was monitored (subject to this report) is located the northern limits of the wider development area between Bowbridge Lane and Grange Road (**Figure 2**)

1.3 Topography and Geology

1.3.1 The area of the road strip is situated within broadly flat arable land at approximately 20m 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.

1.4.9 During the summer of 2015 a programme of trial trenching was undertaken within the fields to the south and south-east of the current site (AOC 2015). Three evaluation trenches (Trenches 1, 6 & 7) were located to the south of the proposed new access road and identified no archaeological features or deposits. A series of undated linears and pit were found in trenches located over 100m to the east and south-east of the proposed road site.

1.4.10 Running alongside the AOC evaluation program, Pre Construct Archaeology (PCA) were undertaking an archaeological observation on the removal of the existing Bowbridge Lane to the east, and the monitoring of the new Southern Link Road to the south. The results of this observation program did not identify any archaeological features or deposits during the removal of Bowbridge Lane, but did characterise some furrows associated with ridge & furrow of potential medieval date 850m to the south-east.

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 potential archaeological or geoarchaeological deposits or features within the footprint of the new access road site, and to recover any associated objects as well as to record the surviving evidence if found.
- 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 any artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 If found, any possible archaeological and potential archaeological deposits were to be cleaned using hand tools and recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Contexts identified on-site were recorded according to PCA systems approved for use in Nottinghamshire, 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 Market Harborough 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 provided negative results in this area.

4.1.2 The earliest deposit identified along the c.4m wide x 85m in length access road footprint was a compact mid brown sandy clay subsoil **155** that was revealed at a maximum depth of 0.6m below the present ground level. Above this a series of bedding or levelling layers **157-158, 160-163** & **165** (Figure 4, Plate 3) that were associated with the construction and resurfacing of a sequence of modern tarmac paths **159, 164** & **166** that facilitated access between Bowbridge Lane & Grange Road.

4.1.3 The topsoil **154** that sealed both the path and the underlying subsoil survived to a maximum depth of 0.2m deep and contained frequent modern refuse that included fragments of plastic, glass and modern frogged (LBC) bricks and frequent roots from the adjacent hedge line.

4.1.4 No archaeological features or artefactual material was discovered during the monitoring of this new access road.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The programme of archaeological mitigation works identified negative archaeological evidence in this area between Bowbridge Lane & Grange Road. The series of tarmac paths was evident in the recorded section and was seen to have been made up of a sequence of bedding layers and tarmac surfaces - all modern in date - and the stripped topsoil and subsoil revealed no archaeological finds or features that was consistent with the results in the nearby AOC Trench 1.

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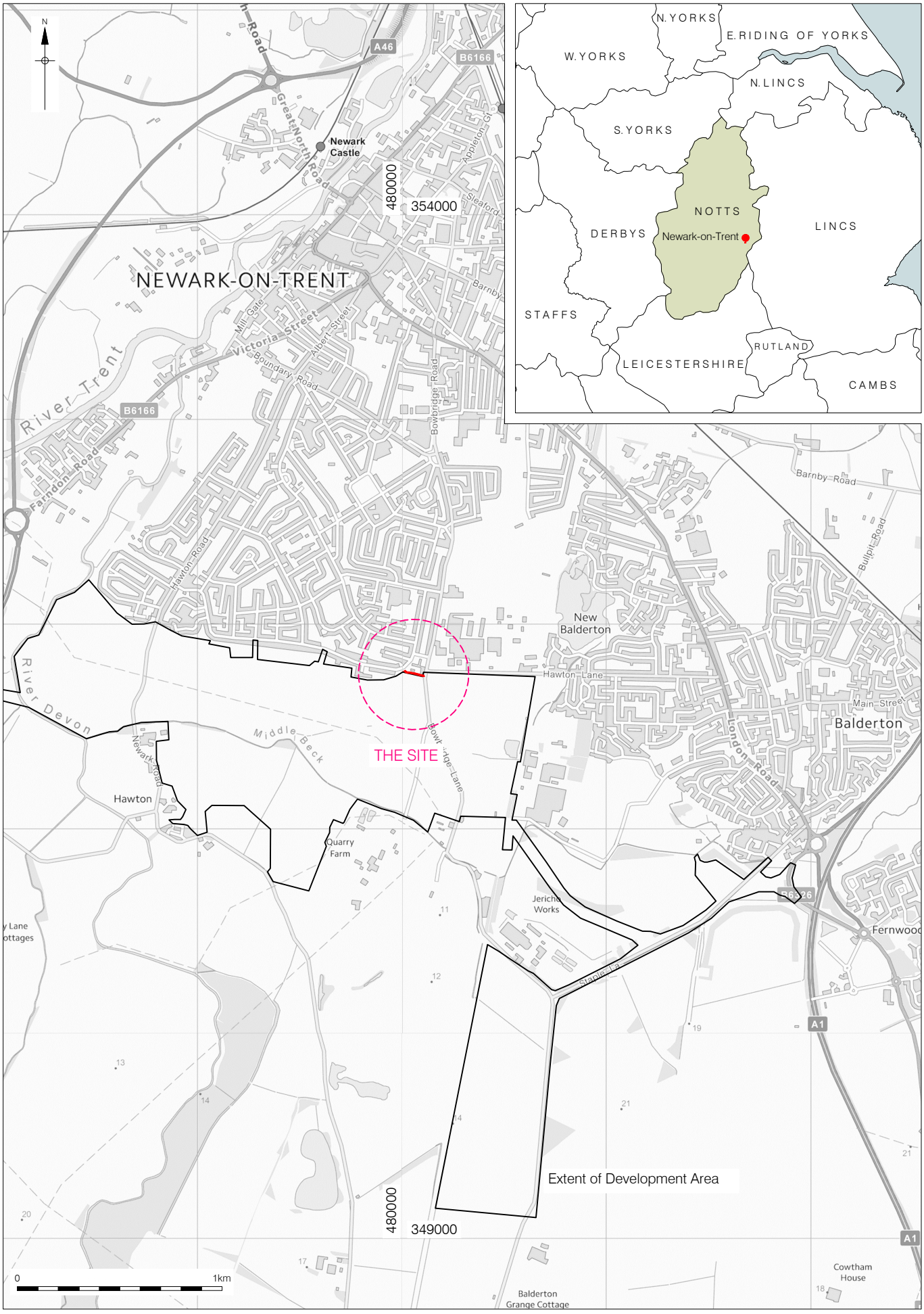

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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000 & 1:25,000 at A4

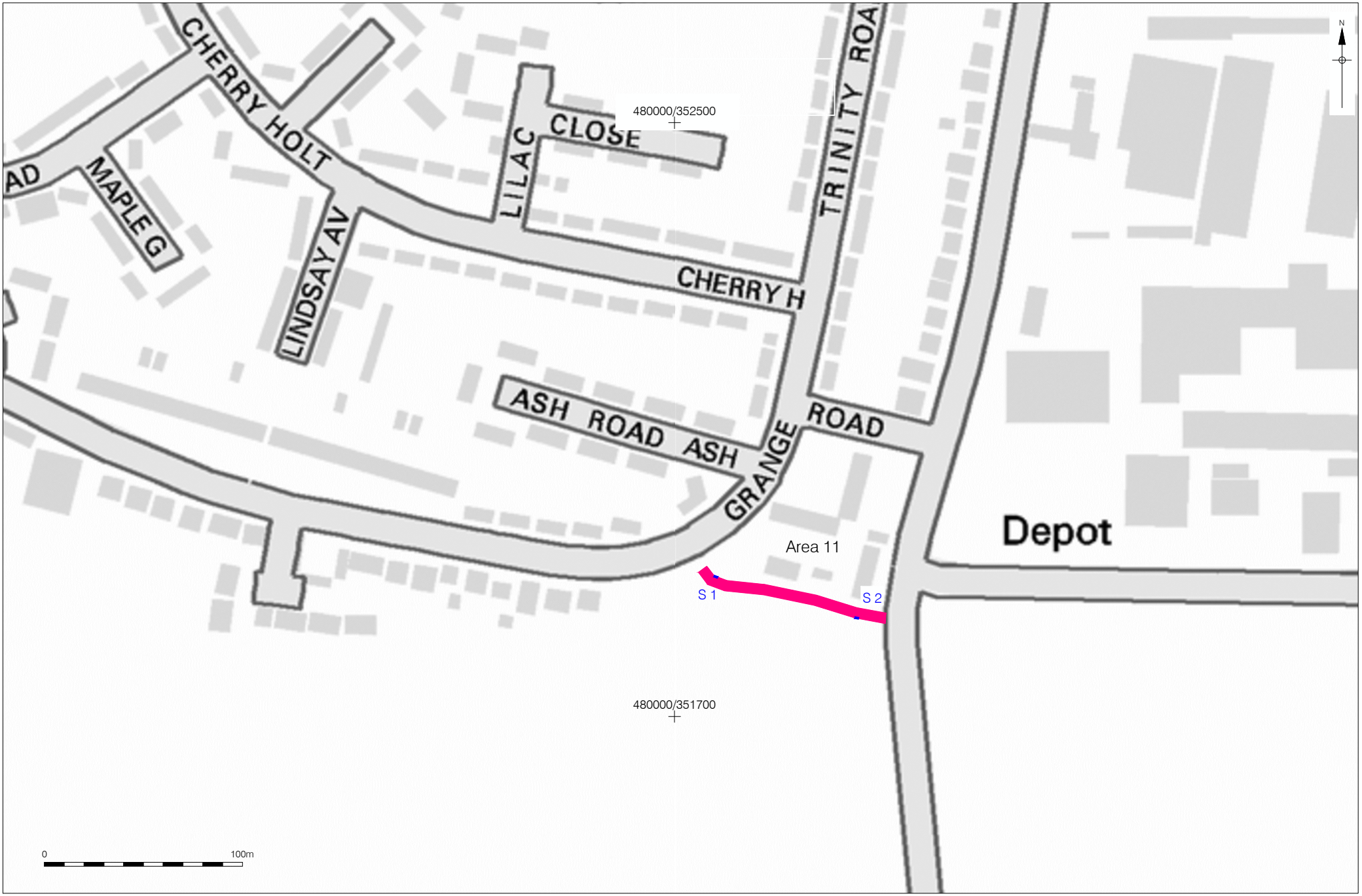

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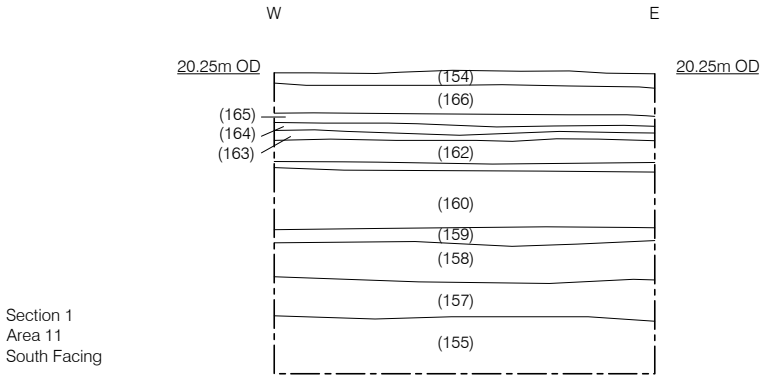
Figure 2
Location of Areas Monitored
1:2,500 at A4



Section 1
Area 11
South Facing

Section 2
Area 11
North Facing

0 1m

04/07/16 RM

Figure 3
Sections
1:20 at A4

APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: Northwest facing shot Area 11 general location shot

Plate 2: West facing view of topsoil strip along new access road.

Plate 3: North facing view of Section 3 showing the sequence of tarmac paths and underlying bedding layers

APPENDIX 2. CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Above	Below
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions			
154	Layer	Very dark grey brown	Silty clay	Frequent roots, plastic, glass, brick fragments	Topsoil later	156	
155	Layer	Pale brown	Silty clay	Occasional (>0.10m in diameter).)	Subsoil layer		156, 157
156	Surface	Mid grey	Tarmac		Modern path	156	155
157	Deposit	Mid light brown	Sandy silt	Frequent crushed tarmac, brick fragments and rubble	Bedding layer of path	155	158
158	Deposit	Mid brown	Sand	Occasional small rounded pebbles (>0.10m in diameter).	Bedding layer of path	157	159
159	Surface	Mid grey	Tarmac		Modern path	158	160
160	Deposit	Mid greyish brown	Sandy clay	Frequent small rounded pebbles (>0.10m in diameter).	Bedding layer of path	159	161
161	Deposit	Orange yellow	Gravel	Frequent small angular stones (>0.05m in diameter).	Bedding layer of path	160	162
162	Deposit	Mid-dark grey	Gravel/Tarmac	Frequent angular stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Bedding layer of path	163	161
163	Deposit	Mid brown	Gravel	Frequent small angular stones (>0.05m in diameter).	Bedding layer of path	162	164
164	Surface	Mid grey	Tarmac		Modern path	163	165

165	Deposit	Orange yellow		Frequent angular stones (>0.10m in diameter).	Bedding layer of path	166	164
166	Deposit	Dark grey	Gravel/Tarmac		Modern path	165	154

APPENDIX 3. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-258357

Project details

Project name	Land to the South of Newark, Nottinghamshire Phase 2:
Short description of the project	An archaeological observation was undertaken on the excavation of an access road associated with the second phase of redevelopment of land to the south of Newark, Nottinghamshire. Waterman Energy, Environment and Design Ltd commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. to undertake the archaeological observation on behalf of the Buckingham Group Contracting Limited. No archaeological features were discovered in this area. The removal of a section of modern tarmac path and associated bedding layers were observed which sealed top and subsoil layers and natural deposits. No finds were retrieved.
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2016 End: 21-07-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	NFNN16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NEWARK AND SHERWOOD NEWARK Land to the South of Newark, Nottinghamshire
Study area	0 Square metres
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	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Waterman Infrastructure and Environment Ltd

Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Waterman Infrastructure and Environment Ltd
Digital Contents	"none"
Paper Archive recipient	Nottingham museums service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

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