



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF

LAND TO THE WEST AND
SOUTH OF ST JOHN THE
BAPTIST CHURCH MAIN ST
STANFORD ON SOAR
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LE12 5QA

GRID REF: NGR 454262 321961
PLANNING: 14/02368/FUL

SITE CODE: SOSO 15
OASIS ID: MIDLANDA1-228877

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NOVEMBER 2015

Specialist & Independent Historic
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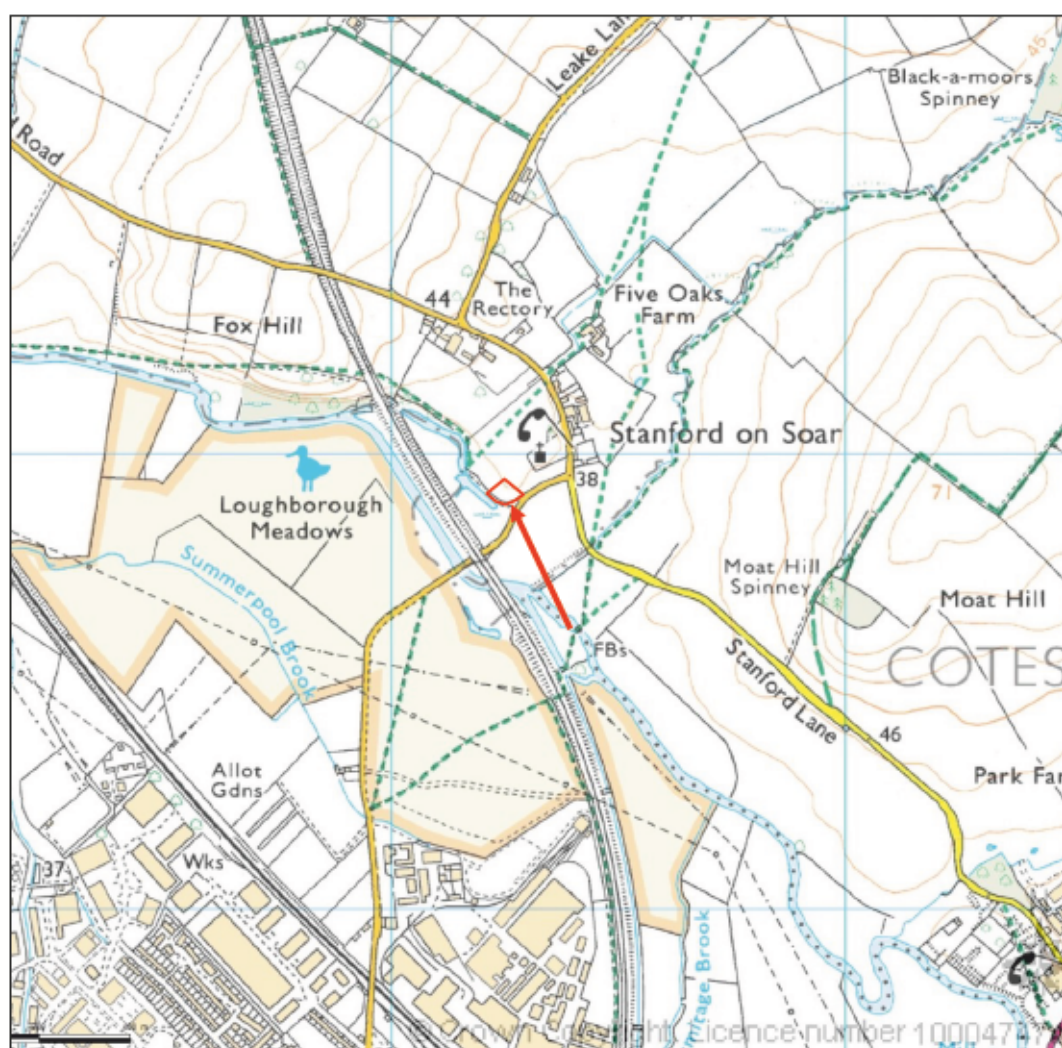
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Fig.1: Location Map 1:25000 @ A4

Fig.2: Location Plan 1:2500 @ A4

Fig.3: Plans & Sections 1:500 & 1:20 @ A3

- A archaeological watching brief was undertaken on Land to the West and South of St John The Baptist Church, Main St, Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire, LE2 5QA. This was conducted by Midland Archaeological Services during the construction of stabling and a ménage area.
- This programme of work concluded that the remains of medieval earthworks were present, topsoil and re-deposited Roman building material, along with a solitary 3/4th century Roman pottery sherd.



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Fig.1: Location Map 1:25000

1.0 Introduction

Midland Archaeological Services were commissioned by Alex Tailby to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of stabling and a ménage area on Land to the West and South of St John The Baptist Church, Main St, Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire, LE2 5QA, hereafter called the Site.

2.0 Location and Description

Stanford on Soar is situated approximately 24.00km south of Nottingham in the administrative district of Rushcliffe Borough Council. The Site is located just to the west and south of St John The Baptist Church, Main St and to the immediate north of Meadow Lane. The Site forms a small rectangular area centred on NGR 454262 321961 at 38.00m AOD. The underlying geology of the Site area comprises a solid geology of Wanlip Member-Sand and Gravel with superficial deposits of Edwalton Member-Mudstone.¹ (figs. 1, 2, 3).

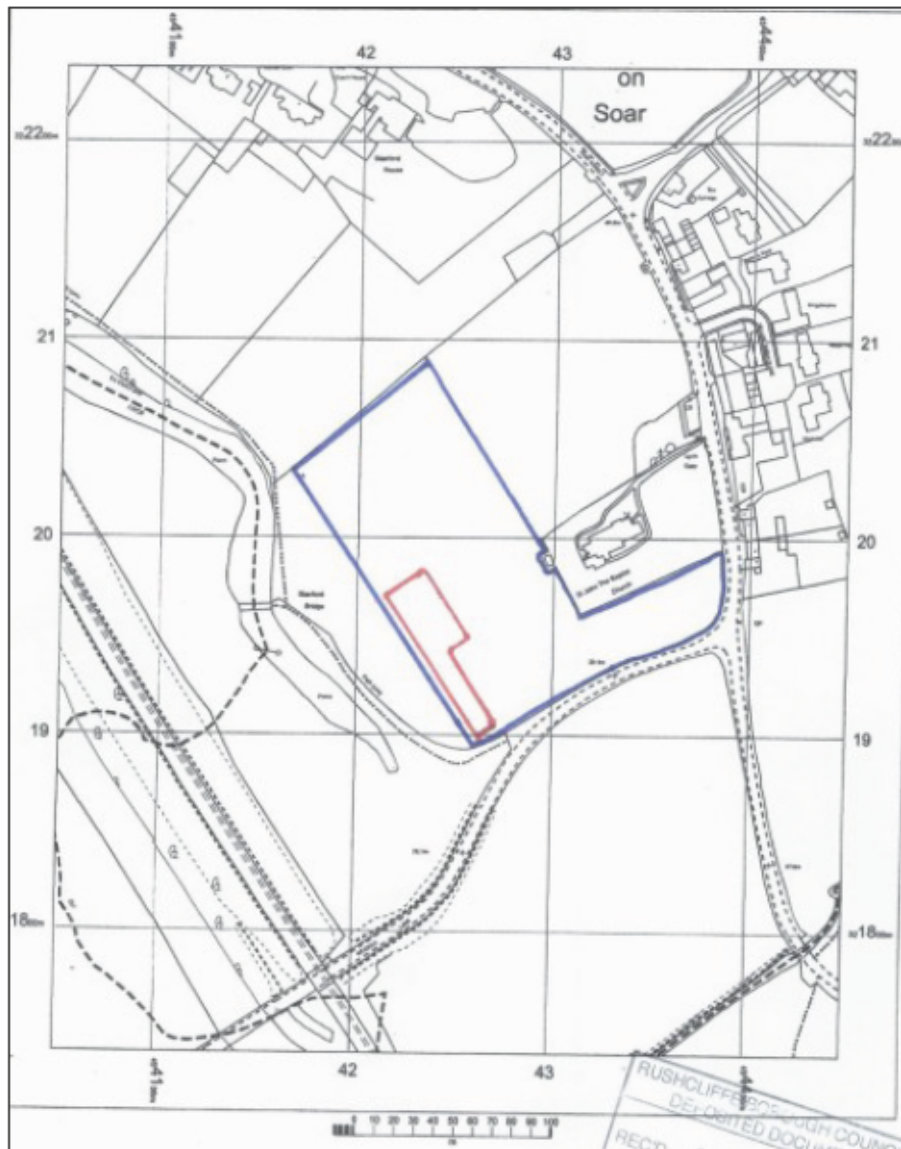


Fig.2: Location Plan 1:2500

¹ BGS 2003

3.0 Planning Background

Rushcliffe Borough Council have granted permission for the construction of a barn, ménage and stables with associated drive and hard standing (ref: 14/02368/FUL).

Permission is subject to conditions and at the request of the Local Authority with recommendation from the Senior Archaeologist Nottinghamshire County Council (SA) that:

(11) No development shall take place within the application site until details of a scheme for archaeological mitigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Borough Council. Thereafter the scheme shall be implemented in full accordance with the approved details. This scheme should cover; topographic survey of an appropriate area of the development site; proposals for ground works to build levels up with imported fill and archaeological monitoring of top soil stripping.

(12) No development shall take place until the applicants or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme for a watching brief to be carried out during the construction or excavation work on the 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 prior to the commencement of the development of the site.

Prior to this archaeological watching brief and in compliance with (11) above, Midland Archaeological Services commissioned, on behalf of the client, a full 3D topographic survey of the upstanding earthworks of the Site area² (Appendix 3).

4.0 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to accurately record and interpret any archaeological features, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts during the groundworks, thus preserving them by record.

This was obtained through the following objectives: to produce a fully detailed drawn and photographic record of any archaeology encountered and supplemented by a full written description.

5.0 Methodology

The objective of this archaeological watching brief was to investigate the archaeological potential of the site, to ensure that any deposits and features, artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest, are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards, to record the ménage area during and after soil stripping.

All spoil was visually observed and metal detected for archaeological artefacts. Deposits and features identified were subject to cleaning by hand in order to access their nature, dimensions and to attempt to recover dateable material. These

² Planas, M., 2015

investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions which were complemented by colour photographs and scale drawings in both plan and section.

Two monitoring visits were undertaken by the author on the 14th of May and 14th October 2015.

Archive Creation

On completion of the fieldwork all photographic films were processed by a specialist laboratory and scanned at a resolution of 600dpi for selective inclusion within this report.

All field notes and drawings were checked for completeness and ordered into a documentary archive based on the requirements of the receiving museum. The basic archive includes:

1. 2 photographic registers
2. 1 context register
3. 1 drawing register
4. 1 context sheets
5. 1 drawing sheet

6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The village of Stanford on Soar is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD, the lord being Roger of Bully. The settlement comprised of 3 villagers, 2 smallholders and 5 freemen.³ there was 2 ploughlands, 1 lord's plough team and 2 men's ploughteams, along with 11 acres of meadow and a mill. The name of the village is derived from the Old English of *Stān+ford*, meaning 'stone ford' or 'stony ford'.⁴

7.0 Results

A total of one context was recorded across the Site area.

Topsoil (001), was consistent across the Site and of various depths and thicknesses. (fig.3, Appendix 1,2).

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The only archaeological feature observed throughout the area was the prominent medieval earthworks previously recorded. Frequent Roman cbm, predominately; *tegula* and *tesserae* were recorded 0.15-0.20m below the current land surface, to the north and north east of the main site area. Mixed in among the cbm was flecks and small fragments of Roman hydraulic lime mortar *Opus signinum*. A solitary Roman pottery fragment dated to the 3-4th c. was recovered from the service run trench located to the extreme south of the Site (fig. 3, Appendix 2, 3, 4, 5).

³ Williams, A. and Martin, G. H. (eds.), 1992

⁴ Mills, AD., 1993

The discovery of *tesserae* does tie in with accounts from the early 1900's, when *tesserae* of the same description were found during the digging of a grave in the church yard of the adjacent St John The Baptist Church which lies to the east of the Site. Re-used Roman tile is also evident within the fabric of the church.

The material recorded during this watching brief is most likely the result of medieval re-use of an available material, quarried close by to level up and construct the raised earthen house platforms of the medieval settlement, rather than representing 'in situ' Roman features. The presence of this material could suggest the presence of a Roman building somewhere close by, the type of lime mortar recorded is indicative of that used in predominately wet areas, i.e. bath houses.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology required the monitoring of the development area (stable/barn area and ménage area with associated service runs). These activities were undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator with a bladed bucket which was fitted to a back operating arm.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Midland Archaeological Services would like to thank Alex Tailby for this commission and Ursula Spence, Senior Archaeologist Nottinghamshire County Council for advice prior to and during this project.

11.0 Site Archive

An archive of written, drawn and photographic elements will be retained be deposited at the Nottinghamshire County Archive.

12.0 References

Archaeological Data Service 2012 (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>)

BGS 2003 Melton Mowbray, Sheet 142. 1:50 000 Solid and Drift Edition, British Geological Survey, Keyworth.

Mills, A. D., 1993, *English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press.

Planas, M., 2015 Land to the West & South of St John The Baptist Church Stanford on Soar Nottinghamshire, *Earthwork Survey*. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

Williams, A. and Martin, G. H. (eds.), 1992, *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin Books, London.

Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

- (001)** Mid brown/greay loamy silt 0.30m thick with poorly sorted sub-rounded, rounded stones 5-10mm in size, occasional charcoal flecks and Roman CBM and infrequent Roman pottery. Topsoil.

Appendix 2: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Site area looking north.



Plate 2: Site area machined looking north.



Plate 3: Concentration of Roman CBM looking north east..



Plate 4: Service trench looking east.



Plate 5: Section 1 looking south.



Plate 6: Ménage area looking north west.



Plate 7: Ménage area fully machined looking north west.

Appendix 3: Roman Tile

Tile from Land to the West and South of St John The Baptist Church, Main St, Stanford on Soar, Notts (Site SOSO15)

Paul Blinkhorn

Seven fragments of Romano-British roof tile weighing 2258g were noted in the topsoil. Six of the fragments were from tegulae, and one from an imbrex. Two of the fragments were somewhat over-fired, distorted and cracked, and may be manufacturing waste. No complete dimensions survived, other than thickness. Four of the tegulae had part of the flange surviving, with three being rounded and the other squared.

Five of the tegula fragments (2007g) were in a sandy fabric with sparse calcareous inclusions up to 2mm, and rare quartzite pebbles up to 5mm. They were all 25 – 35mm thick. The calcareous material had burnt out of the over-fired examples. The other fragment, and the piece of imbrex, were in a slightly sandy fabric with few visible inclusions. These were thinner, with the tegula 20mm thick, and the imbrex 12mm.

The topsoil also produced a single fragment of box-flue tile weighing 103g. It is 15mm thick. It is in a very sandy fabric, with fairly dense quartz up to 1mm, although most is 0.5mm or less. The surviving outer surface has fragments of criss-crossed combing.

Appendix 4: Tessera

Tile from Land to the West and South of St John The Baptist Church, Main St, Stanford on Soar, Notts (Site SOSO15)

Steve Williams

Thirty fragments of Romano-British *tesserae* weighing 768g were recovered from topsoil (001).

These were in the form of roughly hewn cubes made from the local limestone, blue/grey in colour with some light brown banding, measuring approximately (15 x 24mm) in dimension.

Four of these *tesserae* retained some traces of a pinkish lime mortar known as *Opus signinum*, while some wear was apparent on some of the pieces and may indicate that these surfaces were uppermost in any surface they formed, thus becoming worn due to foot traffic.

Appendix 5: Pottery

Pottery from Land to the West and South of St John The Baptist Church, Main St, Stanford on Soar, Notts (Site SOSO15)

Ian Rowlandson

A single grey ware sherd (12g) was retrieved from the topsoil context 001. The sherd was high fired and burnished externally and was from a closed vessel, probably a jar. The sherd can be dated to the Roman period, most probably the 3rd or 4th century AD.

Appendix 6: Earthwork Survey

Land to the West & South
of St John The Baptist Church
Stanford On Soar
Nottinghamshire
(NGR 454262, 321961)

Earthwork Survey

Planning Application Ref. 14/02368/FUL



May 2015

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

for

Midland Archaeological Services

Souterrain

Archaeological Services Ltd



**Land to the West and South
of St John The Baptist Church
Stanford on Soar
Nottinghamshire
NGR 454262, 321961**

(Planning Ref.14/02368/FUL)

Earthwork Survey

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

Project No. SOU15-400

May 2015

for

Midland Archaeological Services

(cover map: reproduced from the 1884-92 Ordnance Survey maps of Leicestershire
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- Figure 6 Profile 1

Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Field survey and report by Mercedes Planas BA, MSc, MSc (Eng), MCIJFA

Report edited by Martin Wilson BA Hons, MAAIS, MCIJFA, MIEnvSc, MEAGE, FSA Scot.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 29th of April 2015, Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) carried out a survey of earthworks related to a medieval settlement, on land to the west and south of the church of St John The Baptist, Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire (Fig. 1). The survey was undertaken on the behalf of Midland Archaeological Services.
- 1.2 The work was carried out in compliance with Condition 11 of Rushcliffe Borough Council planning permission 14/02368/FUL granted on the 20th March 2015.
- 1.3 The survey was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Midland Archaeological Services¹.

2. SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 2.1 This document is an illustrated archive report of the results of the survey. It conforms to a methodology agreed in advance of the survey by the County Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 2.2 The results of the survey are to be integrated with the overall project archive compiled by Midland Archaeological Services.

3. THE SURVEY AREA

- 3.1 The site is located just to the west and south of the church of St John The Baptist, Main Street, and north of Meadow Lane. The survey area comprises part of a pasture field. It covers an area of 0.48 ha, centred at NGR 454262, 321946.
- 3.2 At the time of the survey the grass was between 0.3m to 0.4m high, with the exception of approximately 2000 sq.m, which had been cropped short by grazing horses. The weather at the time of survey was clear.
- 3.3 The field contains earthworks in very low relief which pertain to a medieval settlement. The variation in height across the area of survey is between 39.15m and 40.50m OD. The area of survey contains earthworks that are understood to be the remains of building platforms and a hollow-way.
- 3.4 The area selected for survey extended beyond the proposed development footprint: to the NE side by 20m and to the NW by c. 2.7m, the latter due to the presence of livestock.

4. PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

- 4.1 The purpose of the field survey was:
 1. To gain a clearer understanding of the morphological characteristics and extent of earthworks;

¹ Midland Archaeological Services, 14th April 2015. *Written Scheme of Investigation, Archaeological Topographic Survey and Watching Brief, Land to the West and South of St John The Baptist Church, Main St, Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire, LE12 5QA, 14/02368/FUL.*

2. To provide an accurately measured survey and an illustrative and descriptive archive record of surviving historic landscape features.

5. SURVEY METHOD

- 5.1 The earthworks were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and orthometric heights. Data was recorded using RTK Differential GPS with plan precision generally from 4mm to 20mm, and height precision between 6mm to 25mm. For profiles, data was recorded at intervals of c. 0.50m.
- 5.2 Data was logged at intervals of approximately 2 -3 m across the Survey Area in order to provide an adequate representation of topographical relief.

6. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

- 6.1 The results of the field survey are depicted in a series of scaled plans. Figure 1 shows the survey area in plan, also giving the direction of photographs (Section 9) and the location of a profile across the hollow-way (Fig. 6). Figure 2 depicts the earthworks as hachured slopes. Figure 3 shows the contours of the surveyed area. Figures 4 and 5 provide two views of a 3D digital elevation model of the earthworks generated by survey data.
- 6.2 The data was processed with Leica Geo Office 6 and Surfer 8.01. The digital elevation model was produced using the triangulation with linear interpolation method.

7. OBSERVATIONS

- 7.1 The hollow-way on the northwest side of the Survey Area is clearly discernible (section 9, 1-4), and continues to the west beyond the property boundary (section 9, 8).
- 7.2 Archaeological visibility at the time of the survey was poor due to the low relief of earthworks and the height of the grass. Notwithstanding this, the resolution of data via logging intervals (*ante.* 5.2) has resulted in clear definition of a rectangular platform (Figures 3 to 5).

8. ARCHIVE

- 8.1 This report, photographs and survey data is to be submitted to Midland Archaeological Services for integration to the final site archive.
- 8.2 An OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – www.oasis.ac.uk) record is to be ultimately compiled on completion of the Midland Archaeological Services investigation project. This will allow electronic copies of the report to be made available to researchers.

9. PHOTOGRAPHS



1. Hollow-way, facing NNE



2. Hollow-way, facing NE



3. Hollow-way and NW end of platform, facing SE



4. SE end of platform, looking NW towards hollow-way



5. Platform, viewed from the NE



6. SW part of the Survey Area, viewed from the NE

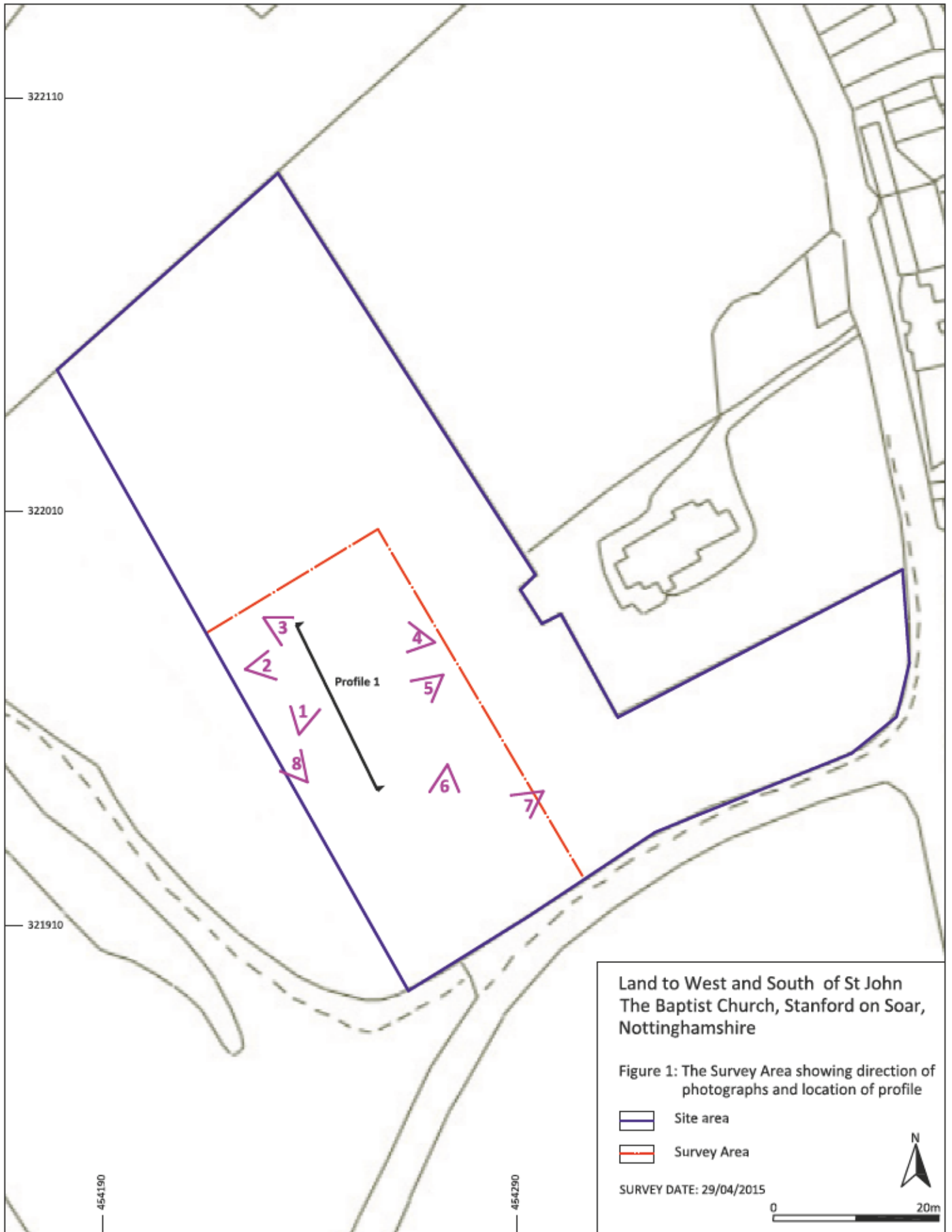


7. South part of the Survey Area, facing W

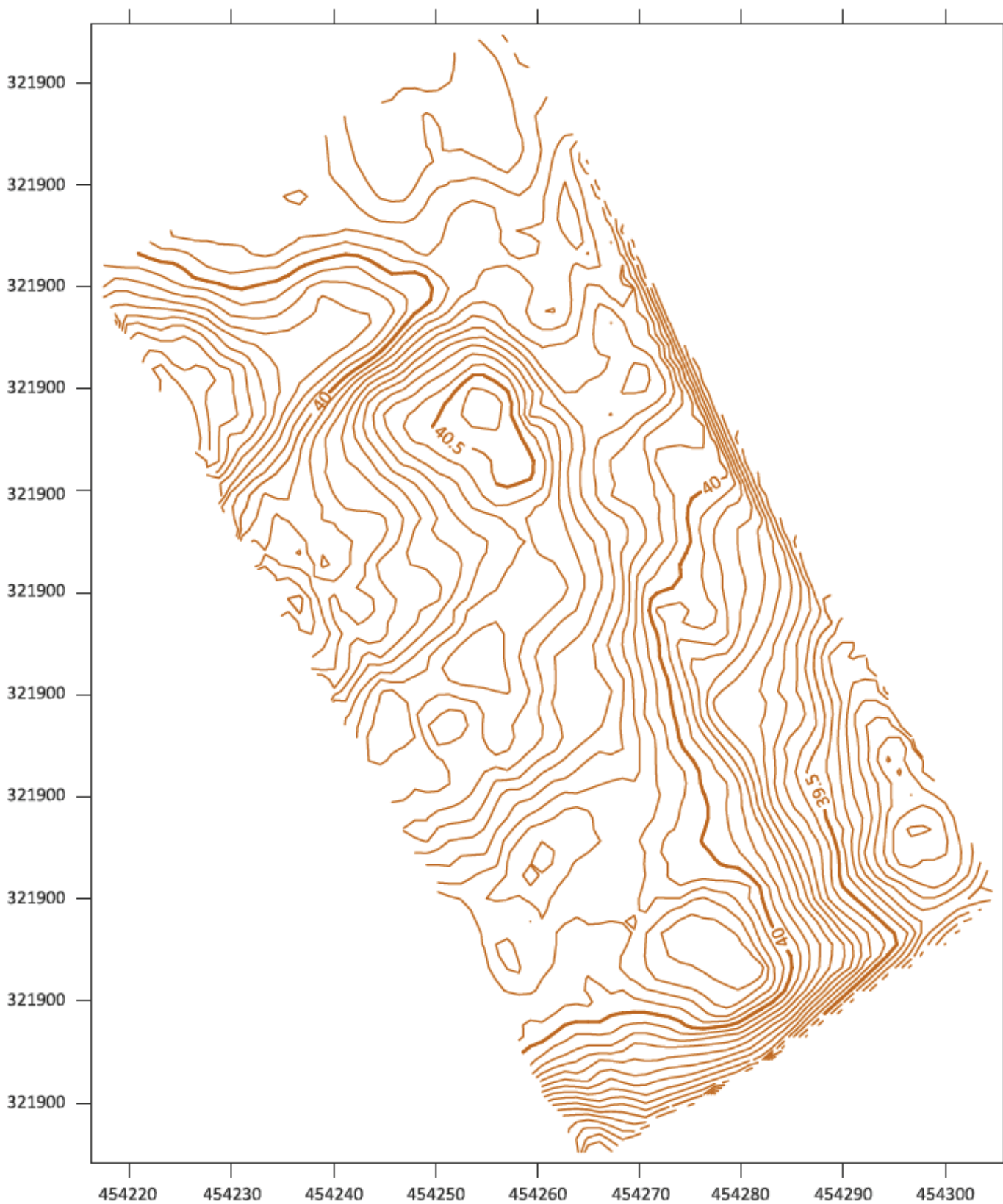


8. Continuation of the hollow-way beyond SW boundary

10. FIGURES





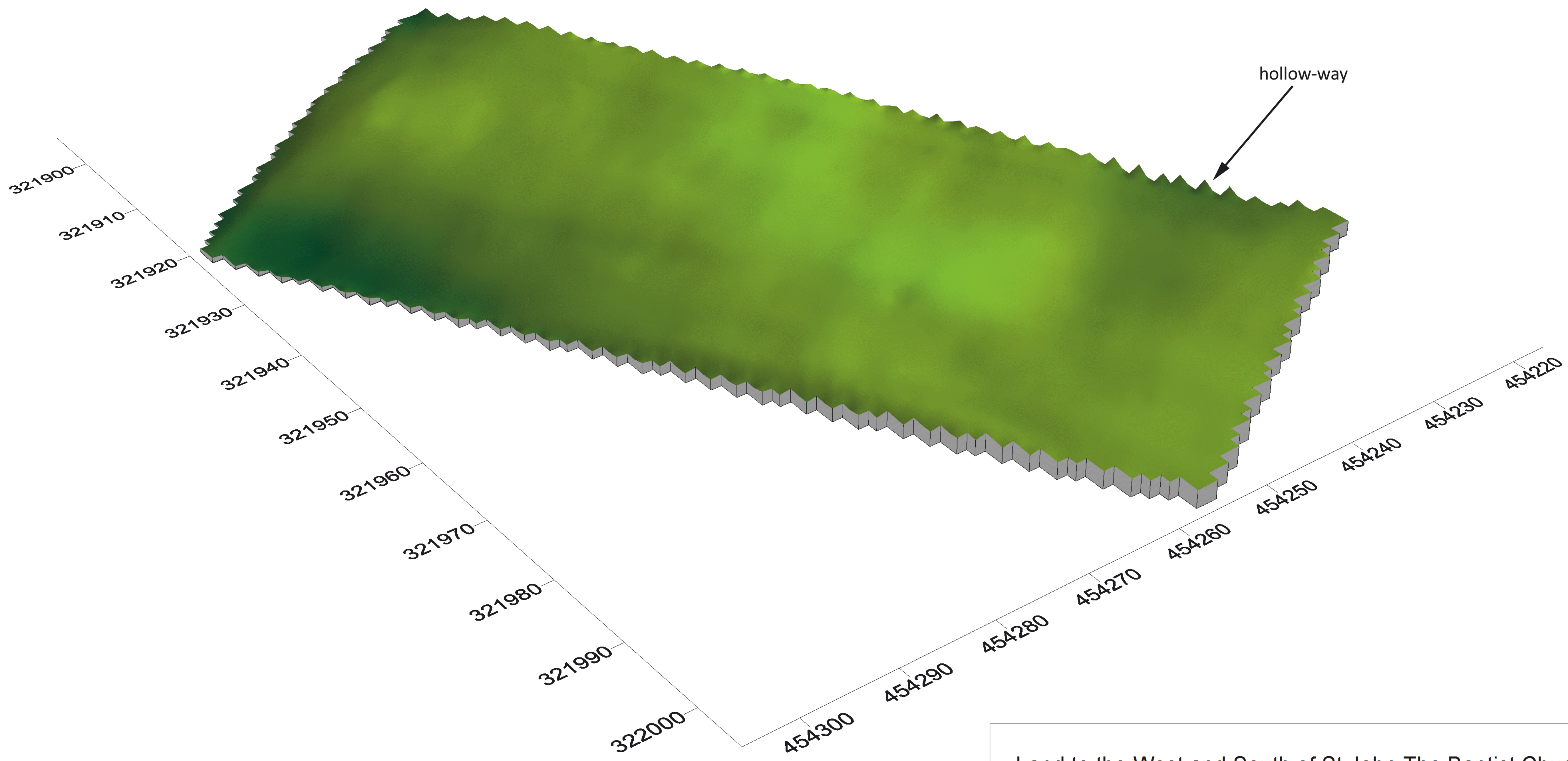


Land to West and South of St John The Baptist Church,
Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire

Figure 3: Contour Plan of the Survey Area
(intervals of 0.05m)

SURVEY DATE: 29/04/2015





hollow-way

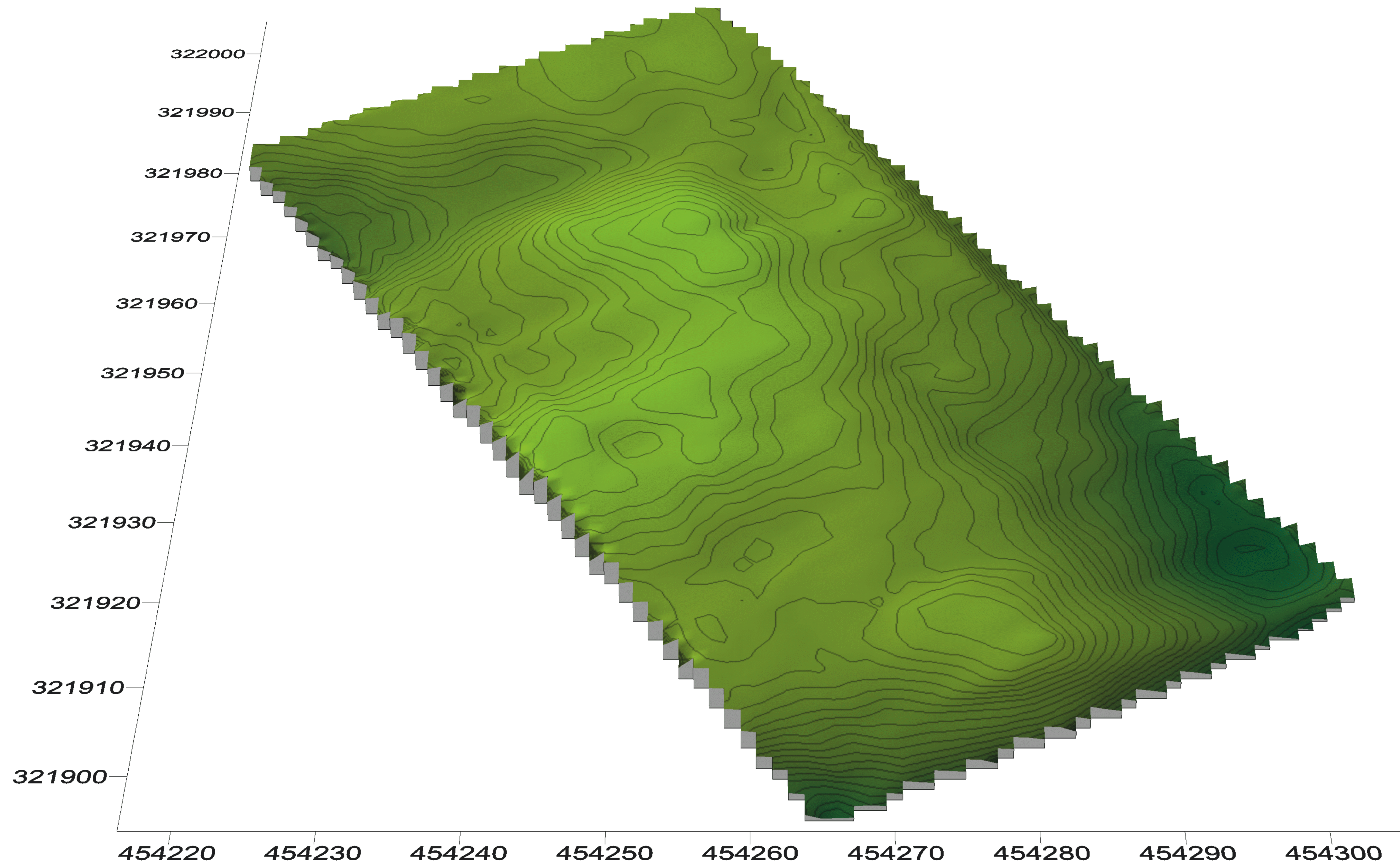
Land to the West and South of St John The Baptist Church
Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire

Figure 4: Digital Elevation Model of Earthworks (view to the southwest)

Vertical scale exaggerated

Survey Date: 29/04/2015



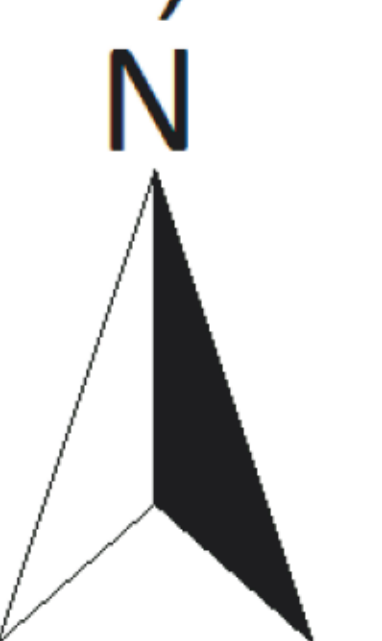


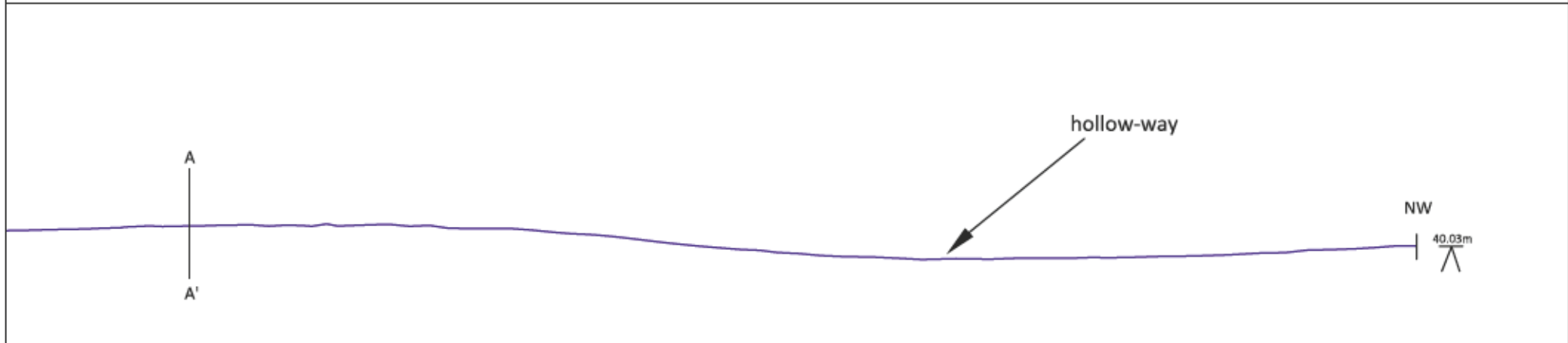
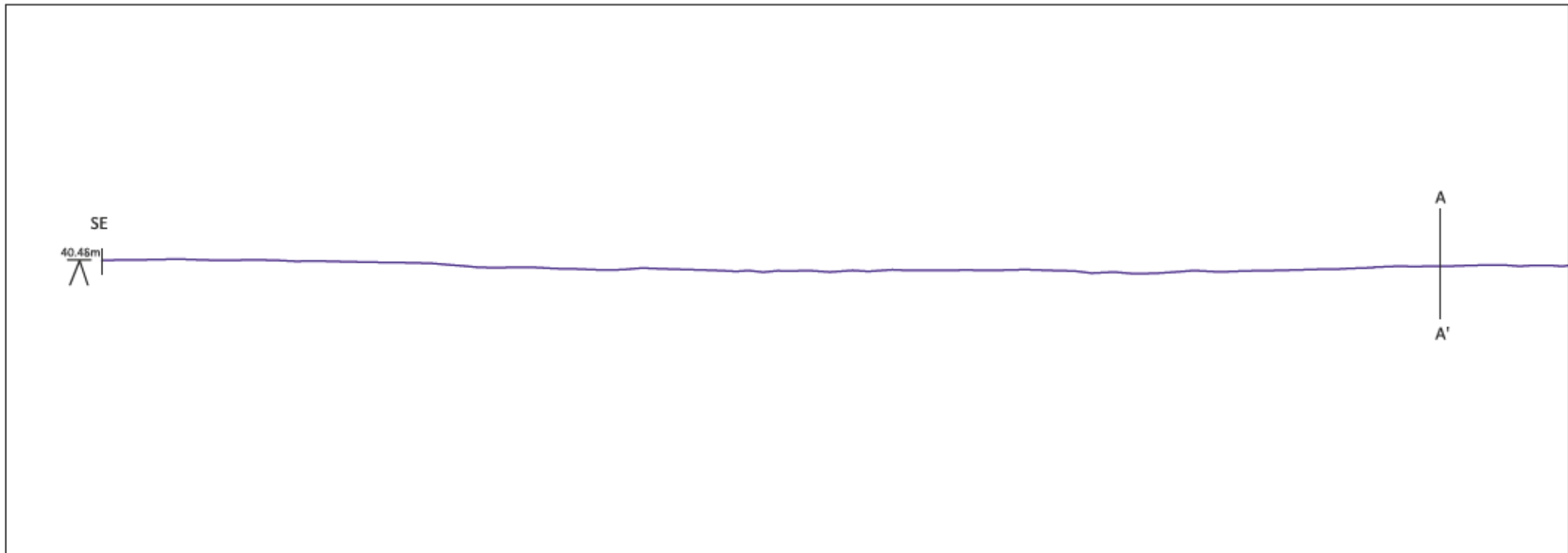
Land to the West and South of St John The Baptist Church
Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire

Figure 5: Digital Elevation Model of Earthworks (view to the north)

Vertical scale exaggerated

Survey Date: 29/04/2015





Land to West and South of St John The Baptist Church, Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire

Figure 6: Profile 1

SCALE@A4 1:100 0 4m
SURVEY DATE: 29/04/2015

Appendix 7: Oasis**OASIS ID: midlanda1-228877****Project details**

Project name	Stanford on Soar
Short description of the project	Watching brief during construction of stables/barn and menage.
Project dates	Start: 14-05-2015 End: 14-10-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SOSO 15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	14/02368/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	EARTHWORKS Medieval
Monument type	EARTHWORKS Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RUSHCLIFFE STANFORD ON SOAR Land to the West and South of St John the Baptist Church Main St, Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire, LE12 QA
Postcode	LE12 5QA
Study area	1198 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 454262 321961 52.884980724502 -1.324835514132 52 53 05 N 001 19 29 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Project creators

Name of	Midland Archaeological Services
---------	---------------------------------

Organisation	
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Midland Archaeological Services
Project director/manager	S.L.W Williams
Project supervisor	S.L.W.Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

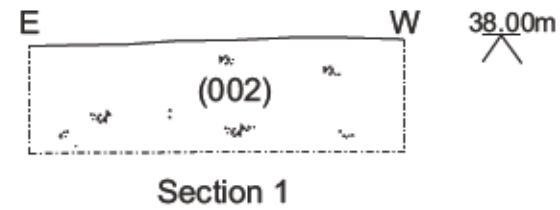
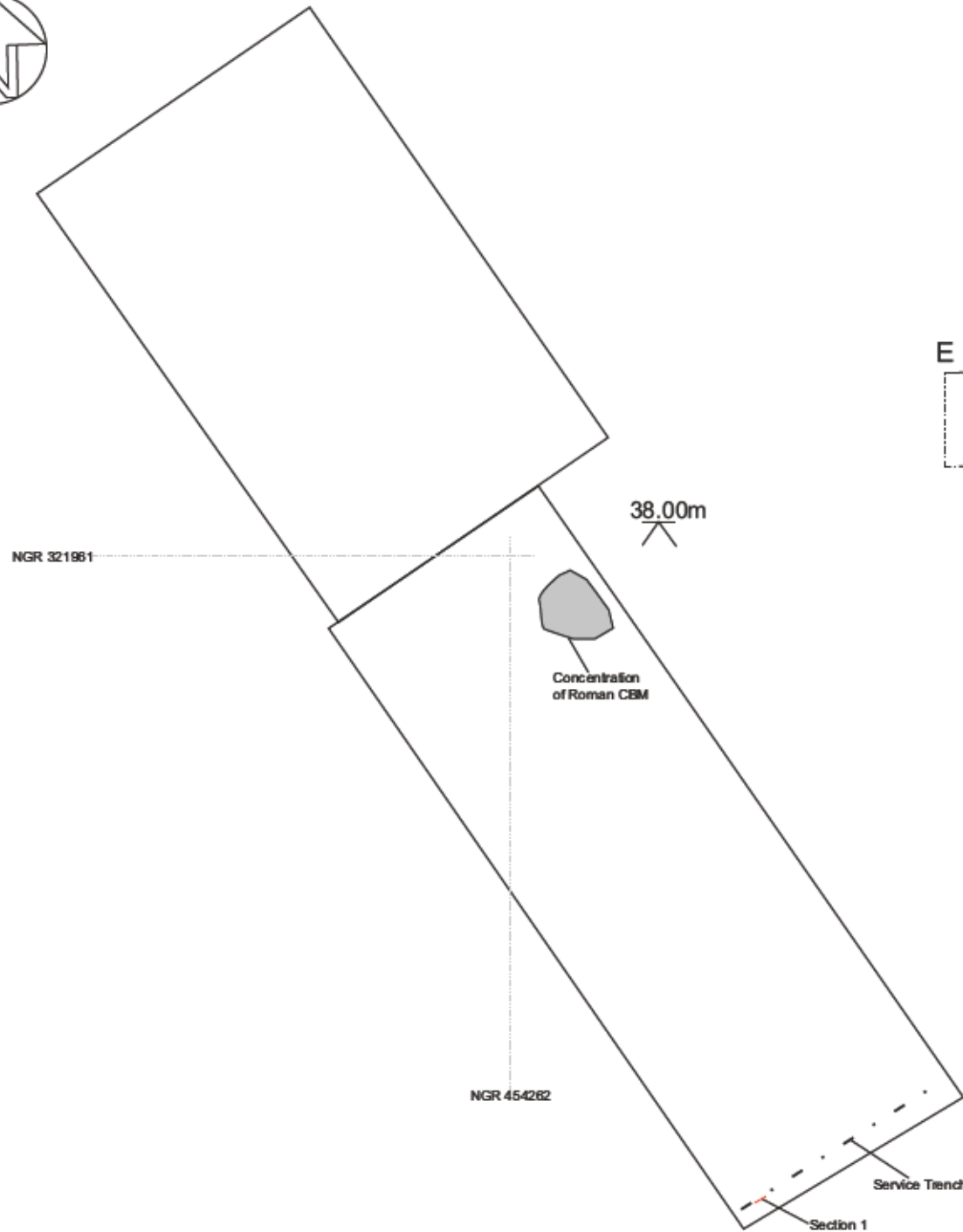
Physical Archive recipient	Nottinghamshire
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Nottinghamshire
Digital Contents	"none"
Paper Archive recipient	Nottinghamshire
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"


Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Land to the West and South of St John The Baptist Church, Main Street, Stanford on Soar, Nottinghamshire, LE12 5QA
Author(s)/Editor(s)	S.Williams
Other bibliographic details	MAS/411/15
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Midland Archaeological Services Lincolnshire
Place of issue or publication	Midland Archaeological Services Lincolnshire
Description	Watching brief undertaken during small scale development of the site for stables/barn and associated ménage. Prior to the watching brief a full topographic 3D survey was undertaken. Romano-British pottery, roof tile,

tesserae were recovered and had been re-used for the levelling up of the medieval house platforms which comprised the upstanding earthworks.

Entered by Steve Williams (info@midarch.co.uk)
Entered on 3 November 2015



Drawing No: 411/3/15		
Project: Land to the West and South of St John The Baptist Church, Main Street, Stanford on Soar.		
Fig. 3: Plan & Section		
Scale: 1:500 & 1:20@A3		Site Code: SOSO 15
Dm SLW	Chk	Date 03/11/2015
Midland Archaeological Services Old House 59 Church Street Digby Lincoln LN 4 3LZ Telephone: 01526 321 966 info@midarch.co.uk		 MIDLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES