

Land Adjacent to Acacia Walk, Beeston, Nottinghamshire An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

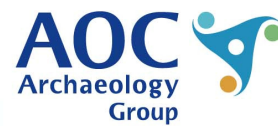
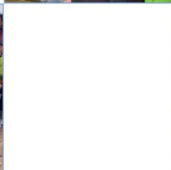
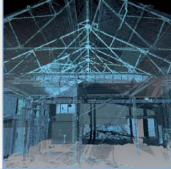
Planning Application Number: 08/00833/FUL

National Grid Reference Number: SK 5295 3685

AOC Project No: 30662

Site Code: NCMG 2010-28

Date: June 2010



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Land Adjacent to Acacia Walk, Beeston, Nottinghamshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Bowmer & Kirkland
High Edge Court,
Heage,
Belper,
Derbyshire,
DE56 2BW

National Grid Reference (NGR): SK 5295 3685

Postcode: NG9 2LR

Prepared by: Ian Hogg

Illustration by: Jonathan Moller

Date of Fieldwork: 12th March to 28th May 2010

Date of Report: June 2010

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Ian Hogg **Date:** June 2010

Approved by: Melissa Melikian **Date:** July 2010

Draft/Final Report Stage: Final **Date:** July 2010

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Unit 7
St Margarets Business Centre
Moor Mead Road
Twickenham
TW1 1JS

Tel. 020 8843 7380
Fax. 020 8892 0549
e-mail. london@aocarchaeology.com



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Non-Technical Summary

Between March and May 2010 AOC Archaeology conducted an Archaeological Watching Brief at the Land adjacent to Acacia Walk, Beeston, Nottinghamshire (NGR: SK 5295 3685) on behalf of Bowmer and Kirkland.

The natural deposits were overlain in the north of the site by a sequence of subsoil and topsoil, however horizontal truncation of these deposits had occurred across much of the west of the site. A number of 19th and 20th century building foundations were observed along the perimeter of the site, these included a large circular brick foundation in the southwest of the site, and a cellar in the east, most of these features relate to the Iron Foundry which previously occupied the site. The entire site was sealed by made ground deposits.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief at land adjacent to Acacia Walk, Beeston, Nottinghamshire (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site was located on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 5295 3685 and was bound by Station Road to the southwest, Acacia Walk to the northeast, High Street to the northwest and Middle Street to the southeast. The site was an irregular shaped plot of land covering an area of 16,982m² (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The development comprises the construction of a new retail store with associated car parking and petrol filling station.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Broxtowe Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Chris Robinson, Nottinghamshire County Council's Assistant Archaeology Officer.
- 2.2 Planning permission to undertake the development was granted in 2009 (Ref. No.: 08/00833/FUL), subject to conditions. Condition 13 states:

"No excavation or development shall take place within the application site until details of a scheme for archaeological treatment is submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall be implemented in full accordance with the approved details"

- 2.3 A desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken in 2005 (AOC 2005) as the first stage in the investigation. This document recommended a programme of archaeological work. Nottinghamshire County Council's Assistant Archaeology Officer has required an archaeological watching brief be undertaken due to the limited impact of the proposed development's foundations.
- 2.4 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 2010) (PPS5) and the recommendations of the desk-based assessment, a programme of archaeological work is to be undertaken.
- 2.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared as a method statement for the archaeological works, which was approved by the monitor, Chris Robinson, Nottinghamshire County Council's Assistant Archaeology Officer (AOC 2010).

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The site is located on Trent Valley alluvium which overlies Triassic Mercia Mudstone and Sherwood Sandstone. Beeston sits between the flood plain of the River Trent and northern hills on an old terrace worn out of older gravel beds.
- 3.2 Geotechnical site investigations were undertaken in 1998 by Joynes Pike & Associates Ltd (JPA 1998). The logs of that work indicated that the natural horizon was approximately 1.5m – 2m below ground level.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The following information is drawn from the desk-based assessment (AOC 2005).

The Prehistoric Period (c. 500,000 BP – AD 43)

- 4.2 The earliest archaeological evidence within the vicinity of the site is prehistoric. 16 axes and 30 flint flakes were recovered from Tottle Brook, some 800m to the east of the site, while a gravel pit found at Stoney Street contained four handaxes and two flint flakes, 370m to the north of the site. A prehistoric blade of translucent grey flint with rough secondary working along one edge was found in the garden of 167 Wollaton Road to the north.

The Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)

- 4.3 There is little evidence for Roman activity within the vicinity of the site. A Roman road followed the northern boundary of the Trent from Derby down the Derwent River to Sawley, where excavations uncovered a fortlet, just to the south of Beeston.

The Early Medieval (AD 410-1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066-1550)

- 4.4 Although there is no archaeological evidence within the vicinity of the site for Saxon activity, landscape patterns suggest that the Saxons did inhabit the area. The first field patterns are attributed to the Saxons, using two large fields for winter and spring cropping while the third stood fallow. It has been suggested that two arable fields lay above the gravel terraces where Middle Street now stands, separated by a rough cattle track which came to be Wollaton Road.
- 4.5 It is recorded that in 874 the Danes came down the River Trent and camped at Radnor that winter. By 877 the land between Nottingham through to Derby was in the hands of the Danes. The Trent was first bridged in 920.

Post-Medieval (c. AD 1550 – 1900)

- 4.6 At the time of the Norman Conquest the lands formally held by Alfeg, Alwin and Ulchel were taken from them and given by William the Conqueror to his son, William de Peverel, the Earl of Nottingham. This included a demesne in Beeston. De Peverel founded the Priory of Lenton in 1103-8 and as a result acquired the right for Beeston to hold a priest's post.
- 4.7 The earliest historical records of the area are from the Domesday Book which records Beeston as *Bestune* although it is certain that the town existed as a feature earlier than this.
- 4.8 The land surrounding Beeston appears to have changed little between the time of the Norman Conquest and the medieval period. Settlement within the town grew slowly with the building of a church and vicarage in the area of Church Street, and included the building of the Cross and the Manor House. These features are located close together and are indicative of the centre of village authority. The cross, originally located in the area where four roads meet, was a stone pillar, with steps surmounted by the cross feature.
- 4.9 Associated with the religious form of authority was the manor. The De Peverell family who originally owned the manor title fell into disgrace and the estate was forfeited to the King, who subsequently gave the manor to a branch of family called Bellocampo.
- 4.10 Beyond the manor house and its demesne the houses of the villagers spread out near Middle Street, and small cottages were established around the area of land called the City and the street now named Nether Street. It is thought that the City area was Saxon in origin and continued to be the

centre of the village after the Normans. Houses of the period were wooden, built of wattle and daub, with a thatched roof.

5 Aims of the Investigation

5.1 The aims of the watching brief were defined as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of any archaeological deposits.
- To enable Chris Robinson, Nottinghamshire County Council's Assistant Archaeology Officer, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

5.2 The specific objectives of the investigation were to:

- Determine the presence of any remains of the medieval settlement on the site and to establish to what extent these survive or have been truncated by later development
- Determine the presence of any remains of the post-medieval industrial activity that so shaped the landscape of Beeston today.

5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 Methodology

6.1 The archaeologist was present to observe ground works, positioned outside the working area of the mechanical excavator, in the normal working arrangement. If access to the trench is needed the machine will cease operations and if necessary relocate to ensure safe access. Subject to safe access, the archaeologist will enter the trench to carry out close inspection or record limited sections.

6.2 Machining was done with a flat bladed bucket (toothless), and in horizontal spits, where practicable.

6.3 Archaeological recording, where not precluded by Health & Safety considerations, consisted of;

- Limited hand cleaning of archaeological sections and surfaces sufficient to establish the stratigraphic sequence exposed.
- The collection of dating evidence from *in-situ* deposits and spoil scans.
- A scaled photographic recording of representative exposed sections and surfaces, along with sufficient photographs to establish the setting and scale of the groundworks.
- A record of the datum levels of archaeological deposits.

6.4 Records were produced using either *pro-forma* context or trench record sheets and by the single context planning method and were compatible with those published by the Museum of London (MoL 1994).

- 6.5 A record of the full sequence of all archaeological deposits as revealed in the watching brief was made. Plans and sections of features were drawn at an appropriate scale, with sections drawn at 1:10.

7 Results

7.1 Pad Foundation Excavations

- 7.1.1 The pad foundation pits were conducted across the entire site, 192 pad foundation pits were monitored (Figure 3). Natural deposits were observed in all pits. This was in the form of a firm brownish red sandy clay (1015) and (1003), mainly in the south and southwest of the site; it was observed at a depth of between 0.70m and 1.55m below ground level. It was overlain by orange yellow sandy gravels (1014) and (1002), this deposit was between 0.50m and 1.20m in thickness; this deposit was the predominant natural observed across much of the site. In some pits in the northeast of the site another natural deposit was observed, it overlies (1014), it consisted of pale brownish grey sandy gravel 0.20m thick (1013).

- 7.1.2 The natural deposit was overlain by deposit of subsoil (1012) and (1001) and buried topsoil (1011). These deposits were observed in the majority of the pits across the north and east of the site, due to the significant horizontal truncation which had occurred across much west of site. The subsoil deposit (1012) consisted of firm yellowish brown sandy clay between 0.15m and 0.30m thick. The buried topsoil (1011), a firm dark greyish brown clay silt, varied in thickness between 0.10m and 0.70m.

- 7.1.3 All of the pits were sealed by a thick deposit of mixed made ground (1000) and (1010) and a layer of crush (1009). The made ground consisted of dark brown rubbly clay between 0.20m and 1.50m thick. The crush had been recently deposited and was between 0.10m and 0.20m thick.

- 7.1.4 Eight of the pad foundation pits contained archaeological features (PFP 1–8), all of which consisted of structural remains of the 19th and 20th centuries (Figures 3 and 5). PFP1 contained natural clays (1003) with a brick floor [1023] sitting directly on the natural clay. The floor [1004] was constructed from frogged red bricks 230mm long, 110mm wide and 75mm thick; the floor was bonded with lime mortar and the bricks were set in stretcher pattern. The floor measured 1.40m x 1.40m in size and was one brick course thick. The floor was overlain by three associated brick walls [1004], [1021] and [1022]. These walls were all identical in size and construction methods. The walls were constructed from the same bricks as floor [1023] bricks were bonded with lime mortar in English pattern and were two courses thick, the internal faces were lined with cement render. The walls each measured 1.40 x 0.22m x 0.40m, walls [1021] and [1022] were aligned northwest-southeast, while wall [1004] was aligned northeast-southwest. This feature seems likely to be a coal chute associated with the iron foundry seen on the 1885 OS map of the area. The walls were sealed by made ground (1000) and crush (1009).

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- 7.1.5 PFP2 was located in the north of the site, the natural gravel (1014) was overlain by subsoil (1012), the subsoil was cut by a modern manhole [1005]. The manhole was constructed from frogged red bricks measuring 240mm x 110mm x 70mm, bonded with cement mortar. The feature was square and measured 1.20m x 1.20m x 1.00m. The manhole was sealed by 1.30m of made ground (1010) and 0.20m of crush (1009).

- 7.1.6 PFP3 was located in the north of the site and contained natural gravel (1014) overlain by subsoil (1012), overlying the subsoil was a concrete wall footing [1006], the footing was only visible in the

southwestern face of the pit, it measured 2.00m in length and 0.15m high. The foundation was sealed by buried topsoil (1011) 0.15m thick, made ground (1010) 1.50m thick and 0.10m of crush (1009).

- 7.1.7 PFP4 and PFP5 both contained a wall foundation [1007]. Natural yellow gravels (1014) were overlain by 0.30m of subsoil (1012) and 0.10m of buried topsoil (1011). Buried topsoil (1011) was cut by a concrete wall footing [1007]. Within PFP4 it ran southeast-northwest for 1.10m before turning southwest and running for 6.00m through PFP 5, where it turned southeast again and ran for 1.10m into the baulk. The foundation was 0.40m wide and 0.60m high, it probably formed a room of one of the buildings seen on the 1938 OS map (AOC 2005). The foundation was overlain by made ground (1010) 1.50m thick and crush (1009) 0.10m thick.
- 7.1.8 PFP 6, also located in the north of the site, contained an undisturbed sequence of natural gravel (1014), subsoil (1012) and topsoil (1011). The subsoil was cut by a large concrete foundation [1008], it measured 1.00m x 0.50m x 0.40m and was aligned northwest-southeast. The foundation was overlain by 1.00m of made ground (1010) and 0.10m of crush (1009).
- 7.1.9 PFP 7 was located in the southwest of the site, natural gravel (1014) was overlain by 0.40m of made ground (1010). The made ground was cut by a modern wall foundation [1019], it consisted of frogged red bricks measuring 230mm x 110mm x 70mm bonded with cement mortar, the foundation measured 1.50m x 0.40m x 0.55m and was aligned northeast-southwest. The foundation was sealed by crush (1009).
- 7.1.10 PFP 8 was also located in the southwest of the site. Natural yellow gravels (1014) were overlain by subsoil (1012) 0.20m thick and topsoil (1011) 0.14m thick, the topsoil was cut, in the southeastern corner of the trench, by a wall foundation [1016], it measured 0.20m x 0.35m x 0.90m and was constructed from unfrogged red bricks 230 x 110 x 70mm in size, and bonded with lime mortar. The wall foundation was overlain by 0.20m of made ground (1010) and 0.15m of crush (1009).

7.2 Attenuation Tank Excavation

- 7.2.1 The excavation of a pit for an attenuation tank was also monitored; the pit measured 48.00m x 9.00m at base and 2.00m deep (Figure 4). Natural clay (1015) was sealed by 0.40m of yellow gravels (1014), the gravels were cut by a circular wall foundation [1017] which was abutted by a smaller circular foundation [1020].
- 7.2.2 Brick foundation [1017] measured 12.5m in diameter, it was 0.50m wide and 1.90m high, it was constructed with frogged red bricks measuring 250mm x 120mm x 80mm bonded with cement mortar set in stretcher pattern. Foundation [1020] was constructed in the same way and abutted the southeastern side of [1017]; it measured 2.00m in diameter and was 0.30m wide and 1.90m high. Foundation [1017] was filled by reddish brown redeposited natural clay (1018) 1.90m thick. Foundation [1020] was filled with a mid grey ashy concrete [1024], 1.90m thick. These features would have probably had an industrial function related to the silk mill or the iron foundry which occupied the site in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, however, no maps show a circular feature of this size.
- 7.2.3 The brick structures were overlain by made ground (1010) which was 1.20m thick, this was sealed by 0.20m of crush (1009).

8 Finds

- 8.1 No finds were retained from the site. No environmental samples were taken.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 The investigation met its aims in establishing the absence of significant archaeological remains across the site. Much of the site had been heavily truncated, with the only features observed consisting of a series of 19th and 20th century wall foundations, drains and basements. Even where the ground was relatively undisturbed no archaeological features were noted.
- 9.2 The remains observed in the southeast of the site were probably associated with the 19th century iron foundry noted on the 1885 OS map (AOC 2005), the structure being consistent with one of an industrial function. The remains in the west of the site are most likely to be associated with the industrial buildings seen on the same map, while the structural features in the north of the site are likely to be of a later date as buildings are not recorded in this area of the site until the 1938 OS map (AOC 2005).

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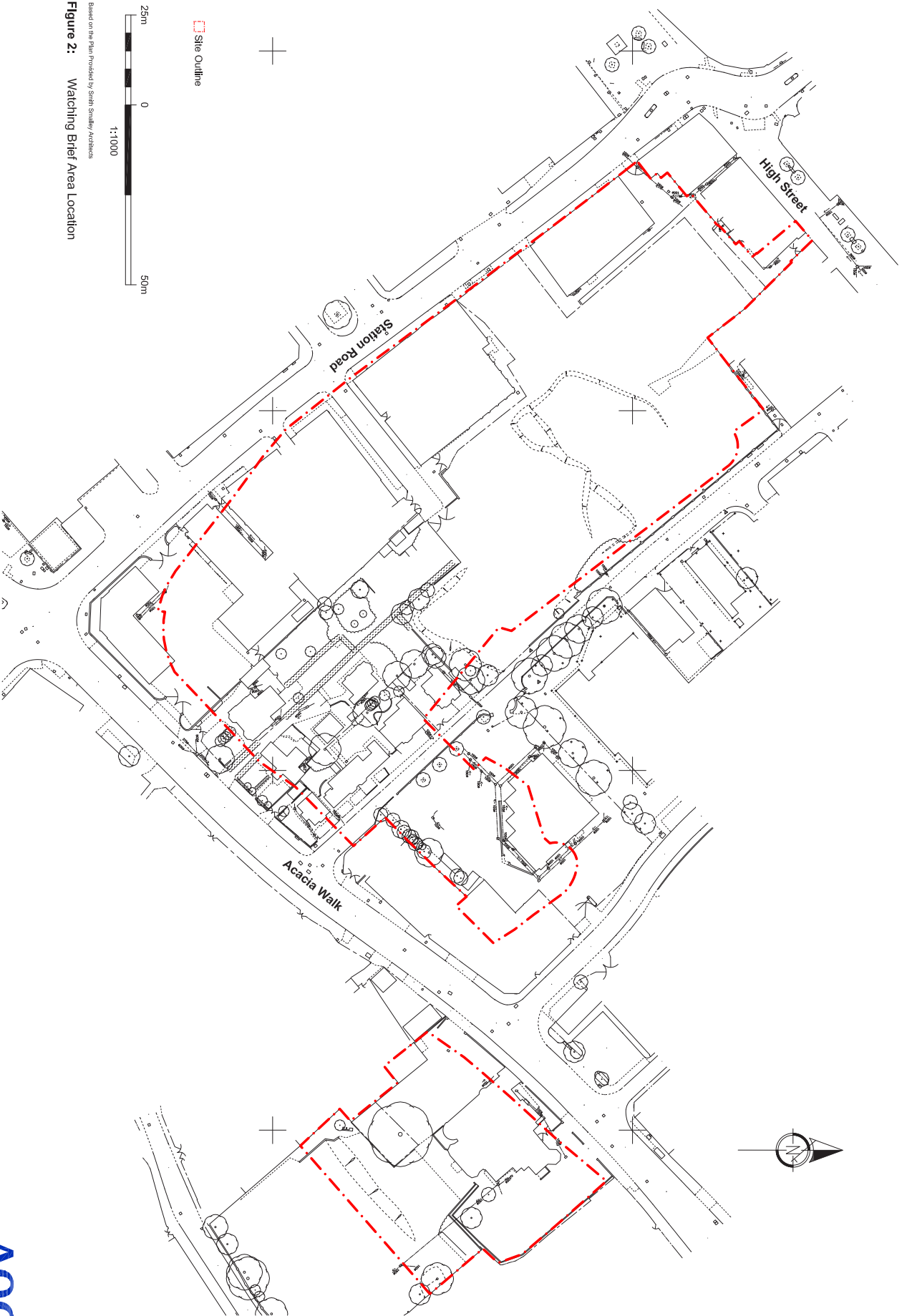
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Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Plan Provided by Spinn Studios Architects
Figure 2: Watching Brief Area Location



Figure 3: Watching Brief Pits

LAND ADJACENT TO ACACIA WALK, BEESTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

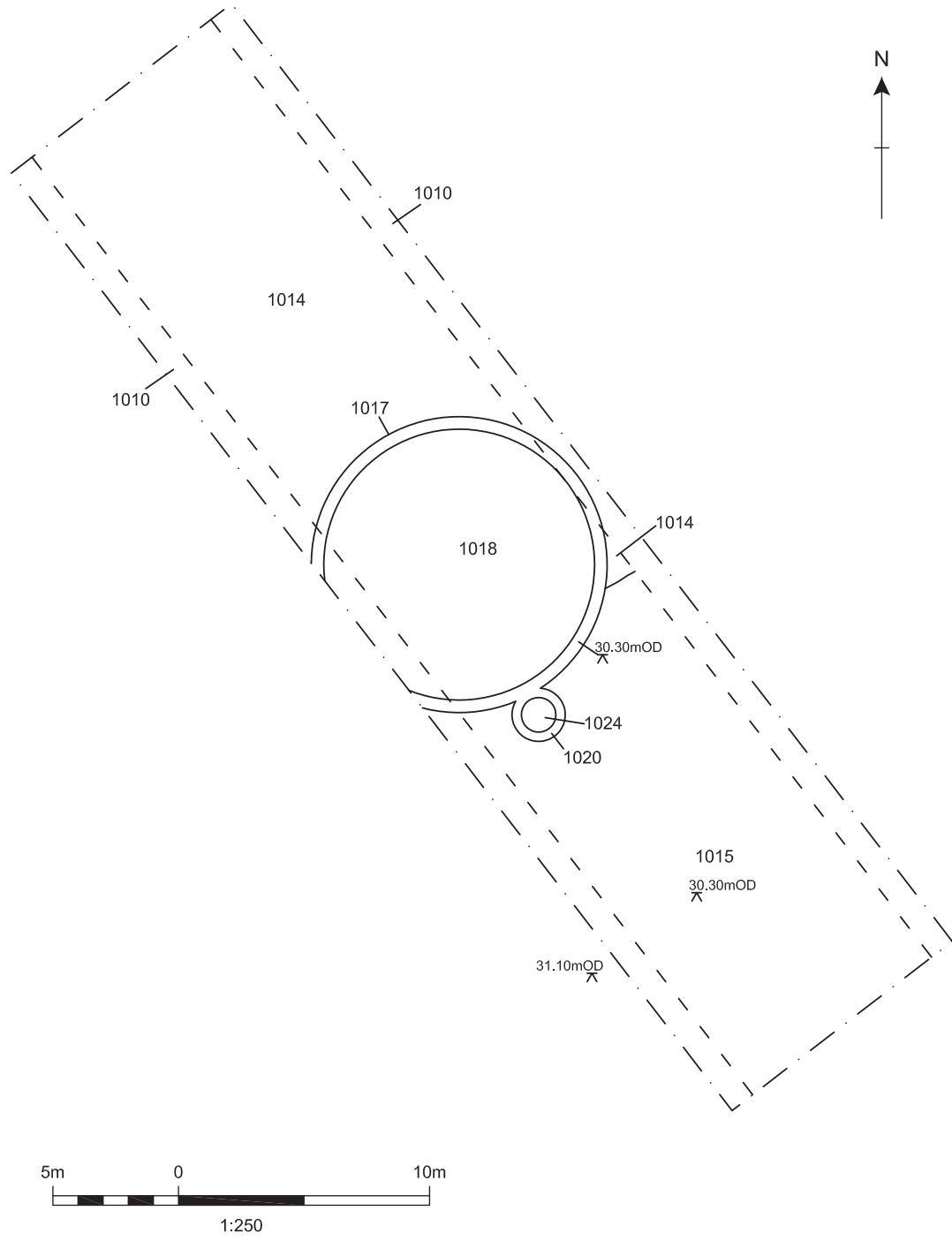


Figure 4: Plan of the Attenuation Pit

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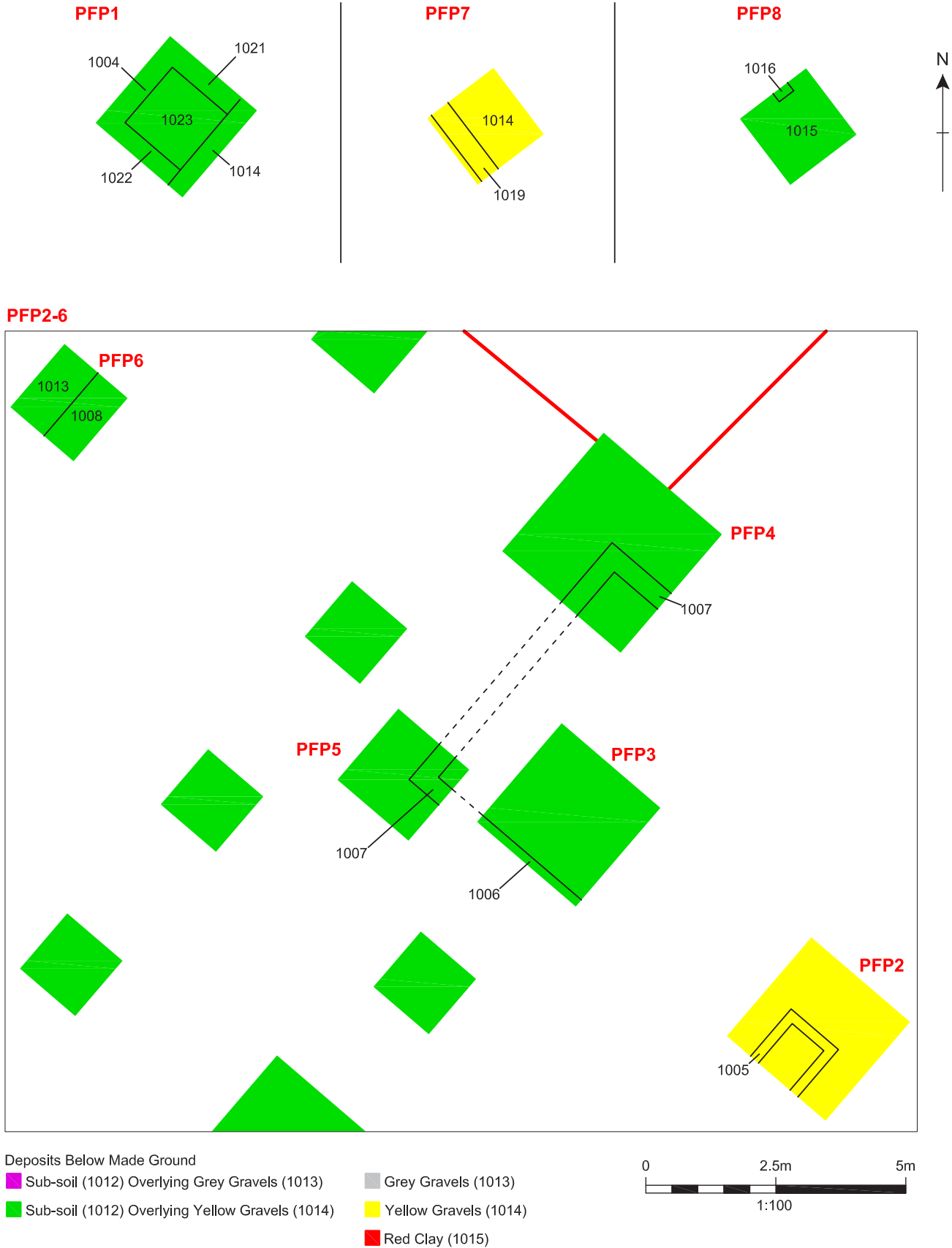


Figure 5: Plans of the Pile Foundation Pits Containing Archaeological Features

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
1000	Made ground	-	-	0.65m
1001	Subsoil	-	-	0.60m
1002	Natural yellow gravels	-	-	0.90m
1003	Natural red clays	-	-	0.50m
1004	Cellar Walls	1.40m	0.30m	0.40m
1005	Wall Foundation	1.20m	1.20m	1.00m
1006	Wall Foundation	2.00m	-	0.15m
1007	Wall Foundation	6.00m	0.40m	0.60m
1008	Wall Foundation	1.00m	0.50m	0.40m
1009	Crush	-	-	0.20m
1010	Made ground	-	-	1.30m
1011	Buried Topsoil	-	-	0.10m
1012	Subsoil	-	-	0.30m
1013	Natural grey gravels	-	-	0.20m
1014	Natural yellow gravels	-	-	1.00m
1015	Natural red clays	-	-	0.90m
1016	Wall Foundation	0.20m	0.35m	0.90m
1017	Circular brick foundation	12.50m	0.50m	1.90m
1018	Fill of brick foundation	11.50m	11.50m	1.90m
1019	Wall Foundation	1.50m	0.40m	0.55m
1020	Circular brick foundation	2.00m	0.30m	1.90m
1021	Cellar Wall	1.40m	0.30m	0.40m
1022	Cellar Wall	1.40m	0.30m	0.40m
1023	Cellar Floor	1.40m	1.40m	0.10m
1024	Concrete foundation fill	1.40m	1.40m	1.90m

Appendix B – Oasis Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-78576

Project details

Project name Land at Acacia Walk, Beeston, Nottinghamshire

Short description of the project The natural deposits were overlain in the north of the site by a sequence of subsoil and topsoil, however horizontal truncation of these deposits had occurred across much of the west of the site. A number of 19th and 20th century building foundations were observed along the perimeter of the site, these included a large circular brick foundation in the southwest of the site, and a cellar in the east, most of these features relate to the Iron Foundry which previously occupied the site. The entire site was sealed by made ground deposits.

Project dates Start: 12-03-2010 End: 28-05-2010

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project codes reference 30662 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project codes reference NCMG 2010-28 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type WALLS Post Medieval

Monument type CELLAR Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BROXTOWE BEESTON Land adjacent to Acacia Walk, Beeston

Postcode NG9 2AW

Study area 16982.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SK 5295 3685 52.9261285715 -1.212262294310 52 55 34 N 001 12 44 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project originator brief Nottinghamshire County Council

Project originator design AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Meklissa Melikian

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Project supervisor Les Capon

Type of
sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of
sponsor/funding body Bowmer and Kirkland

Project archives

Physical Archive
Exists? No

Physical Archive
recipient AOC Archaeology

Digital Archive
recipient AOC Archaeology

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media
available 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'

Paper Archive
recipient AOC Archaeology

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media
available 'Context sheet', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'

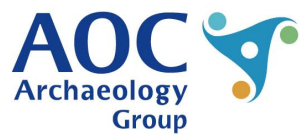
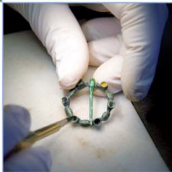
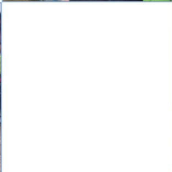
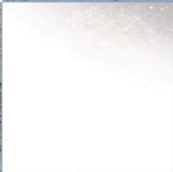
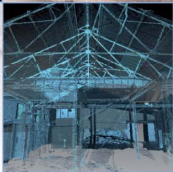
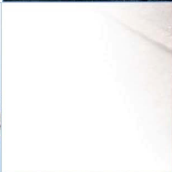
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AOC Archaeology Group, Unit 7, St Margarets Business Centre, Moor Mead Road, Twickenham TW1 1JS
tel: 020 8843 7380 | fax: 020 8892 0549 | e-mail: london@aocarchaeology.com

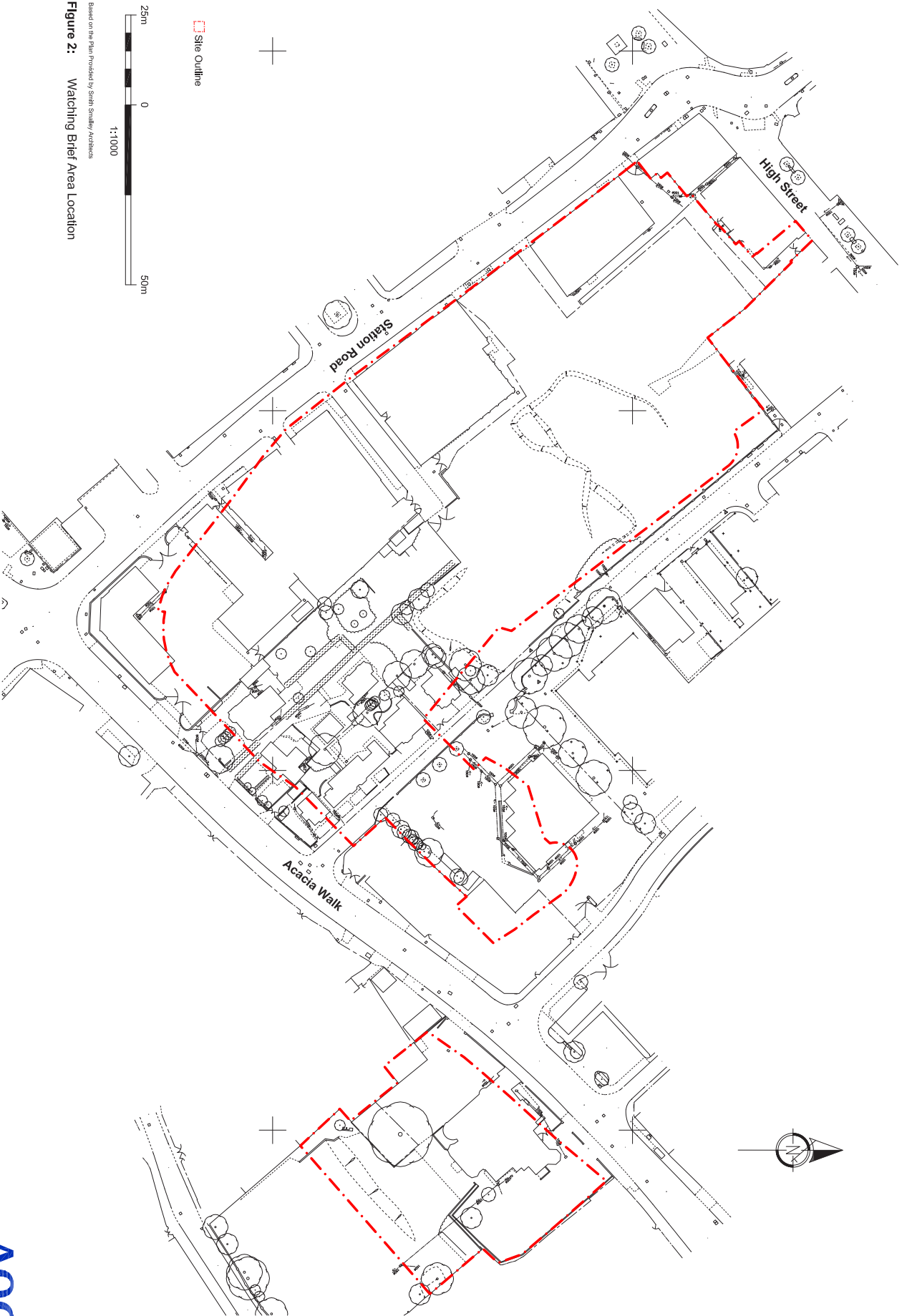
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Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Plan Provided by Spinn Studios Architects
Figure 2: Watching Brief Area Location



Figure 3: Watching Brief Pits

LAND ADJACENT TO ACACIA WALK, BEESTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

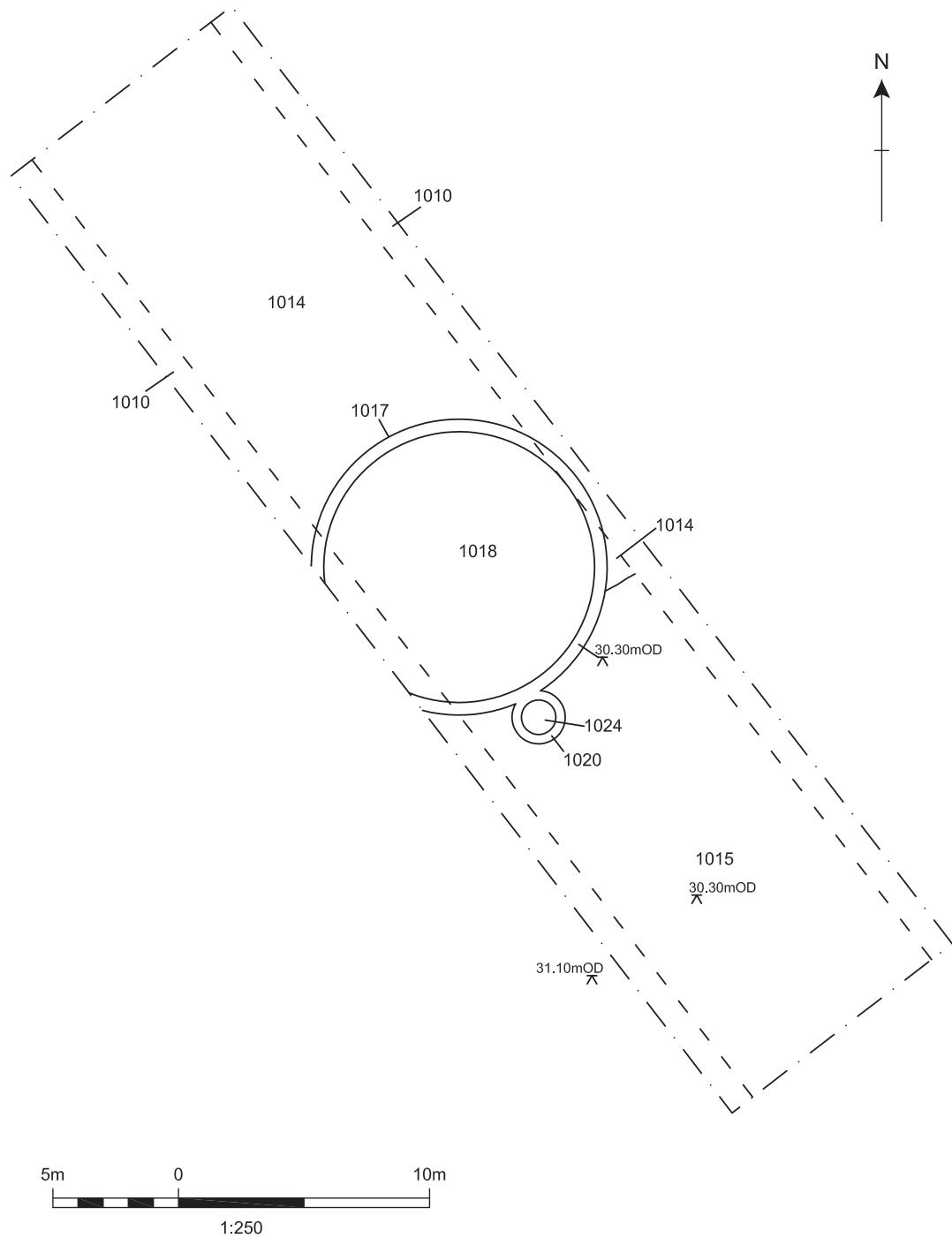


Figure 4: Plan of the Attenuation Pit

LAND ADJACENT TO ACACIA WALK, BEESTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

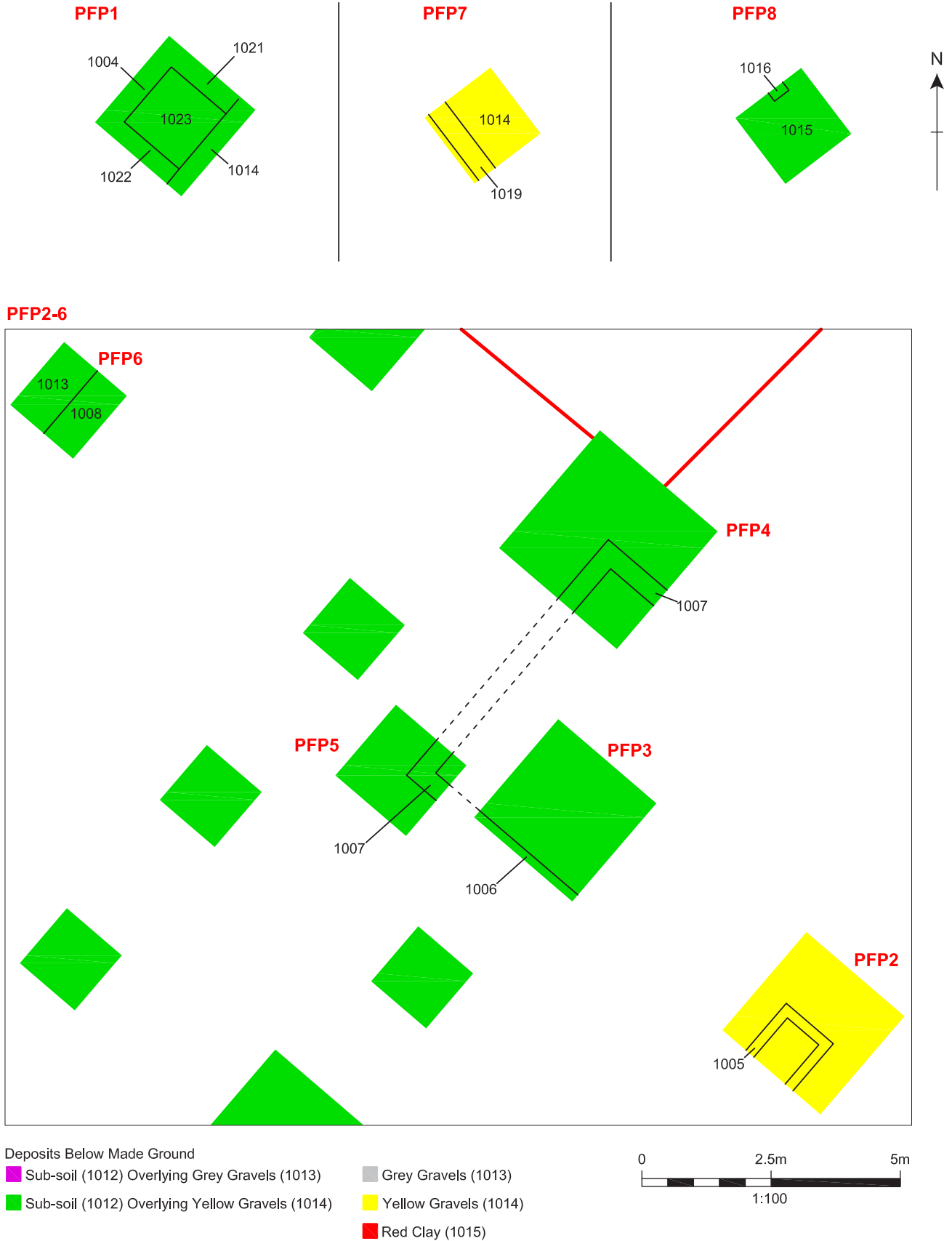


Figure 5: Plans of the Pile Foundation Pits Containing Archaeological Features