

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
of Land at Carlton Park, King Edward Avenue,  
Narborough, Leicestershire (SP 540 984).**

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**Checked by Project Manager**

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**For: Next Generation Clubs Ltd.**

**University of Leicester Archaeological Services**

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**1. Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Next Generation Clubs on land at Carlton Park, King Edward Avenue, Narborough, Leicestershire (SP 540 984). This work was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of an indoor racquet and fitness centre with car park.*

*In total eight trenches were excavated from which it was concluded that previous twentieth century re-landscaping had caused extensive disturbance. No archaeological features were revealed except a stone field drain of unknown date in Trench 04.*

*The site archive will be held by the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council.*

**2. Introduction**

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by ULAS on land at Carlton Park, King Edwards Avenue, Narborough, Leicestershire (SP 540 984, fig.1and 2) which was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of an indoor racquet and fitness centre with car parks. The development area had been identified as an area of archaeological potential from information held in the Leicestershire and Rutland Sites and Monuments Record, that showed that it is close to sites where archaeological artefacts have been discovered (Fig. 4).

The evaluation was part of the requirements for an archaeological impact assessment for Blaby District Council following Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30 detailed in the *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Next Generation Club, Carlton Park, Narborough, Leicestershire* from Leicestershire County Council, Natural and Historic Environment Team, Community Services as advisors to the planning authority (30.07.2004).

The work followed the Design Specification for Archaeological Work (ULAS 03-170), and was undertaken by ULAS between the 20th and 24th of September 2004.

### **3. Geology**

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Boulder Clay. The land lies at a height of c.90m. OD.

### **4. Archaeological Background**

Two Neolithic flint axes have been found in the vicinity of the evaluation area, one in association with other worked flints, on the site of the Carlton Hayes Hospital, 300m to the west of the area (LE7132; NGR SP 537 984). The second was found on the site of Red Hill School, 0.8 km to the south west. (LE7133; NGR SP 531 977).

A prehistoric flint flake and a keeled core were found at the Mill Lane Allotments, 250m to the northwest of the evaluation area (LE7379; NGR SP 541 987).

A late Neolithic transverse- type arrowhead was found 0.9 km to the north east of the evaluation area (LE7125; NGR SP 544 993), west of Johnstone Spinney.

A late Iron Age/Roman occupation site has been identified at Johnstone Spinney, (LE99, LE101; NGR SP 546 994), 0.9km to the north west of the evaluation area.

The Roman Fosse Way travels northeast- southwest through Leicestershire and within 200m of the evaluation area (Old SMR Ref. 59NW BW; SP 542 983).

A Roman Villa was recorded by watching brief during the construction of Red Hill School in 1983, 0.9km to the south west of the evaluation area (LE247; NGR 531 977). These limited excavations also revealed evidence of metal-working associated with the villa (LE248).

A Roman coin was found in 1911, during the construction of the Carlton Hayes Hospital, 200m to the west of the evaluation area (LE7718; NGR SP537 984).

A hollow way, believed to represent the medieval course of Forest Road is located 0.7km to the south of the evaluation area (LE238; NGR SP538 977).

### **5. Historical Background**

Narborough was originally known as Norburg, a name taken from Old English *north* (north) *burh* (fortified place; Bourne, 1977, 50). Other known spellings are Norburgh, Northburgh and Narboro. It is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, and it has been suggested by Nichols (1804; Vol. IV:II, 813-818) that Narborough may have been included with nearby Huncote, which was, at the time of the survey, a village of 'considerable note', held by the Earls of Warwick.

During the reign of King John (1199-1216), the Manor of Norburg was held by Fulk FitzWaryne. The lands were subsequently seized by King Henry III and given to the Earls of Warwick. In 1219 the manor was returned to Waryne on condition that a weekly market be held there.

In the Itinerary of 1280 the manor of Northburgh was held by William Boteler of Wemme and it is written that Nothburgh, Enderby (*Andretesbie*) and Huncote (*Hunecote*) answered collectively under one *vill*.

In 1318 King Edward II granted a weekly Tuesday market to William Boteler and a yearly fair to be held on the eve and the day of the nativity of St. John the Baptist. From the Botelers the manor of Northburgh descended, 'through heirs female to the noble families of Ferrars, Greistoke and Dacres'.

In 1564 there were 38 families in Narborough. In 1622 Elizabeth Dacre married William Howard, taking the manor to the Dukes of Norfolk. The manor was sold by Norfolk to Walter Hastings of Kirby, esq. and sold again to the Wollastons of Shenton.

The enclosure of Narborough took place in 1752. In 1800 Narborough comprised 107 houses and 115 families, with 275 males and 276 females, of whom 80 are described as agricultural workers and 311 employed in trade and manufacture.

At the time of Nichols' writing in 1811, the manor is reported as belonging to one Thomas Paras, esq.

The evaluation area lies within Narborough parish, on its border with Enderby parish and is not included on either the Tithe nor the Enclosure maps for these parishes.

The 1st edition 1888 O.S. (map XXXVI.12. Fig. 5) shows the evaluation area lying within the fields north of Narborough village, cut through by a hedge. There are no buildings depicted in this area.

The 2nd edition O.S. of 1904 (map XXXVI.12. Fig. 6) shows the evaluation area to have undergone no change since 1888.

The 3rd and 4th O.S. maps of 1916 and 1938 (XXXVI.12; Figs. 7 & 8) shows the area surrounding the evaluation area to have undergone considerable change, with the construction of the Leicestershire and Rutland Lunatic Asylum, immediately to the west of the site. The hedge boundaries seen to cross the site on earlier O.S. maps have been removed and the land appears to be part of the grounds of the asylum, although no building developments are shown within it.

The most recent O.S. map, SP 5498 of 1989, shows no further development to have taken place within the evaluation area. The most recent developer plans, however, show that significant redevelopment has occurred over recent years (Fig. 2). The Leicestershire and Rutland Asylum has been demolished and been replaced by a business park, with access roads surrounding the current evaluation area. A pond has

been excavated to the south of the and there are two buildings located within the area itself.

## **6. Aims**

The archaeological work is to ascertain whether any significant archaeological remains are present within the area to be developed and to establish their extent, date, quality, character, form and potential including environmental evidence. Recording archaeological deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

## **7. Methodology**

The evaluation was to comprise the excavation by a JCB with toothless ditching bucket of trial trenching totalling c.400sq metres (nine 30 x 1.5m trenches) providing a 2% sample of the area. The final ninth trench, however, was not excavated as the trenches surrounding it proved to be archaeologically barren (Fig. 3).

The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision until archaeological deposits, undisturbed strata or c. 1.2m (whichever is higher) were encountered.

All layers and potential archaeological deposits were investigated and recorded.

## **8. Results**

The trenches revealed that the site contained a layer of soft, mid to dark greyish-brown silty clay topsoil that varied in depth between 0.15m and 0.52m. Small quantities of building debris including bricks and mortar were present throughout. In all eight trenches the subsoil beneath consisted of bands of soft dark to mid greyish-brown and red-brown silty clays and sandy clays that contained up to 25% building debris including tarmac, engineering bricks and plastic. The thickness of the subsoil varied between 0.08m and 0.86m. The top of natural Boulder Clay consisted of reddish-brown clay with small quantities of light grey sandstone and was encountered at a depth of between 0.37m and 1.10m.

The only archaeological feature encountered was a field drain that pre-dated the subsoil and cut the Boulder Clay. It was excavated and recorded in the SW end of Trench 4. It was orientated W-E and was constructed of granite. No finds were recovered to enable a date to be assigned.

### Trench 1

| <b>Interval</b>       | <b>0m NW</b> | <b>5m</b> | <b>10m</b> | <b>15m</b> | <b>20m</b> | <b>25m</b> | <b>30m SE</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Topsoil Depth</b>  | 0.48m        | 0.35m     | 0.35m      | 0.36m      | 0.39m      | 0.50m      | 0.52m         |
| <b>Subsoil Depth</b>  | 0.60m        | 0.44m     | 0.54m      | 0.60m      | 0.50m      | 0.60m      | 0.74m         |
| <b>Top of Natural</b> | 0.60m        | 0.44m     | 0.54m      | 0.60m      | 0.50m      | 0.60m      | 0.74m         |
| <b>Base of Trench</b> | 0.61m        | 0.52m     | 0.58m      | 0.61m      | 0.59m      | 0.63m      | 0.78m         |

### Trench 2

| <b>Interval</b>       | <b>0m NW</b> | <b>5m</b> | <b>10m</b> | <b>15m</b> | <b>20m</b> | <b>25m</b> | <b>31m SE</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Topsoil Depth</b>  | 0.36m        | 0.42m     | 0.26m      | 0.28m      | 0.43m      | 0.29m      | 0.22m         |
| <b>Subsoil Depth</b>  | 1.04m        | 1.01m     | 0.86m      | 0.90m      | 0.91m      | 0.89m      | 0.90m         |
| <b>Top of Natural</b> | 1.04m        | 1.01m     | 0.86m      | 0.90m      | 0.91m      | 0.89m      | 0.90m         |
| <b>Base of Trench</b> | 1.08m        | 1.04m     | 1.00m      | 1.01m      | 0.99m      | 0.94m      | 0.95m         |

### Trench 3

| <b>Interval</b>       | <b>0m SW</b> | <b>5m</b> | <b>10m</b> | <b>15m</b> | <b>20m</b> | <b>25m</b> | <b>30m NE</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Topsoil Depth</b>  | 0.24m        | 0.19m     | 0.16m      | 0.18m      | 0.24m      | 0.19m      | 0.20m         |
| <b>Subsoil Depth</b>  | 1.10m        | 0.85m     | 0.68m      | 0.72m      | 0.66m      | 0.90m      | 0.91m         |
| <b>Top of Natural</b> | 1.10m        | 0.85m     | 0.68m      | 0.72m      | 0.66m      | 0.90m      | 0.91m         |
| <b>Base of Trench</b> | 1.16m        | 1.20m     | 0.79m      | 0.74m      | 0.86m      | 0.95m      | 0.97m         |

#### Trench 4

| <b>Interval</b>       | <b>0m SW</b> | <b>5m</b> | <b>10m</b> | <b>15m</b> | <b>20m</b> | <b>25m</b> | <b>30m NE</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Topsoil Depth</b>  | 0.32m        | 0.3m      | 0.34m      | 0.28m      | 0.15m      | 0.2m       | 0.28m         |
| <b>Subsoil Depth</b>  | 0.80m        | 0.79m     | 0.78m      | 0.63m      | 0.55m      | 0.51m      | 0.66m         |
| <b>Top of Natural</b> | 0.80m        | 0.79m     | 0.78m      | 0.63m      | 0.55m      | 0.51m      | 0.66m         |
| <b>Base of Trench</b> | 0.89m        | 0.86m     | 0.84m      | 0.69m      | 0.66m      | 0.56m      | 0.72m         |

#### Trench 5

| <b>Interval</b>       | <b>0m SW</b> | <b>5m</b> | <b>10m</b> | <b>15m</b> | <b>20m</b> | <b>25m</b> | <b>30m NE</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Topsoil Depth</b>  | 0.18m        | 0.20m     | 0.36m      | 0.18m      | 0.22m      | 0.17m      | 0.16m         |
| <b>Subsoil Depth</b>  | 0.62m        | 0.66m     | 1.05m      | 0.69m      | 0.70m      | 0.76m      | 0.64m         |
| <b>Top of Natural</b> | 0.62m        | 0.66m     | 1.05m      | 0.69m      | 0.70m      | 0.76m      | 0.64m         |
| <b>Base of Trench</b> | 0.70m        | 0.68m     | 1.10m      | 0.75m      | 0.78m      | 0.87m      | 0.77m         |

#### Trench 6

| <b>Interval</b>       | <b>0m NW</b> | <b>5m</b> | <b>10m</b> | <b>15m</b> | <b>20m</b> | <b>25m</b> | <b>30m SE</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Topsoil Depth</b>  | 0.26m        | 0.42m     | 0.38m      | 0.38m      | 0.29m      | 0.2m       | 0.22m         |
| <b>Subsoil Depth</b>  | 0.42m        | 0.59m     | 0.50m      | 0.47m      | 0.37m      | 0.52m      | 0.50m         |
| <b>Top of Natural</b> | 0.42m        | 0.59m     | 0.50m      | 0.47m      | 0.37m      | 0.52m      | 0.50m         |
| <b>Base of Trench</b> | 0.43m        | 0.63m     | 0.52m      | 0.55m      | 0.46m      | 0.60m      | 0.68m         |



### Trench 7

| Interval              | 0m SW | 5m    | 10m   | 15m   | 20m   | 25m   | 30m NE |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| <b>Topsoil Depth</b>  | 0.22m | 0.49m | 0.25m | 0.38m | 0.37m | 0.34m | 0.33m  |
| <b>Subsoil Depth</b>  | 0.72m | 1.07m | 0.86m | 0.85m | 0.78m | 0.62m | 0.36m  |
| <b>Top of Natural</b> | 0.72m | 1.07m | 0.86m | 0.85m | 0.78m | 0.62m | 0.36m  |
| <b>Base of Trench</b> | 0.80m | 1.20m | 0.94m | 0.94m | 0.83m | 0.67m | 0.44m  |

### Trench 8

| Interval              | 0m SW | 5m    | 10m   | 15m   | 20m   | 25m   | 30m NE |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| <b>Topsoil Depth</b>  | 0.29m | 0.26m | 0.22m | 0.17m | 0.34m | 0.24m | 0.26m  |
| <b>Subsoil Depth</b>  | 1.16m | 1.09m | 1.03m | 0.83m | 0.89m | 1.03m | 0.91m  |
| <b>Top of Natural</b> | 1.16m | 1.09m | 1.03m | 0.83m | 0.89m | 1.03m | 0.91m  |
| <b>Base of Trench</b> | 1.20m | 1.19m | 1.13m | 0.94m | 1.01m | 1.09m | 1.00m  |

## 9. Conclusion

The trial trenching would suggest that there has been considerable landscaping in the evaluation area during the twentieth century connected with the demolition of the Leicestershire and Rutland Asylum and creation of the business park and access roads. Further likely disturbance occurred with the excavation of the pond to the south of the evaluation area and the construction of buildings and car park within the area itself.

However, there is still potential for archaeological deposits to have survived the landscaping as demonstrated by the field drain in Trench 4.

## 10. References

Bourne, J., 1981 *Place Names of Leicestershire and Rutland* Leicestershire County Council Libraries and Information Service

Liddle, P. 1983 Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland. *Transactions of The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 58, 1982-83, 75-77.

Nichols, J., 1810 *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicestershire* Vol. IV:II, 813-818. J. Nichols and Son, London

## **11. Sources**

LMARS Leicestershire Museums: Sites and Monuments Records, Jewry Wall Museum.

LRO Leicestershire Record Office maps and records

OS maps sheet XXXVI.12 (1888, 1904, 1916, 1938) 1:2500; SP 5498, 5398 (1989, 1992) 1:2500; SP 59 NW (1982) and 1:50000 Leicester Sheet 140; Site Plans (Next Generation Clubs Ltd); and British Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 155 (1978 ed)

## **12. Acknowledgements**

This evaluation was supervised by Matthew Hurford with the assistance of Martyn Henson. Dr. Patrick Clay managed the project.

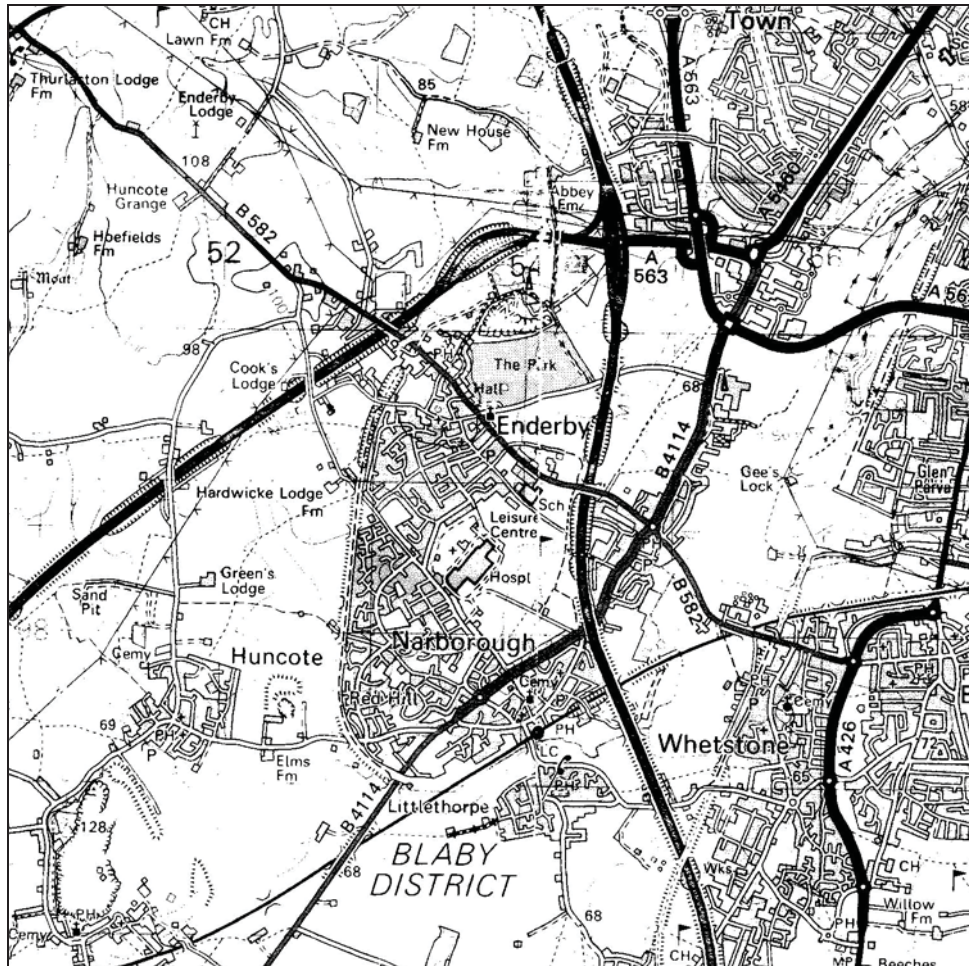


Figure 1. Location of the evaluation area at Narborough, Leicestershire (SP 540 984).  
Scale 1:50,000

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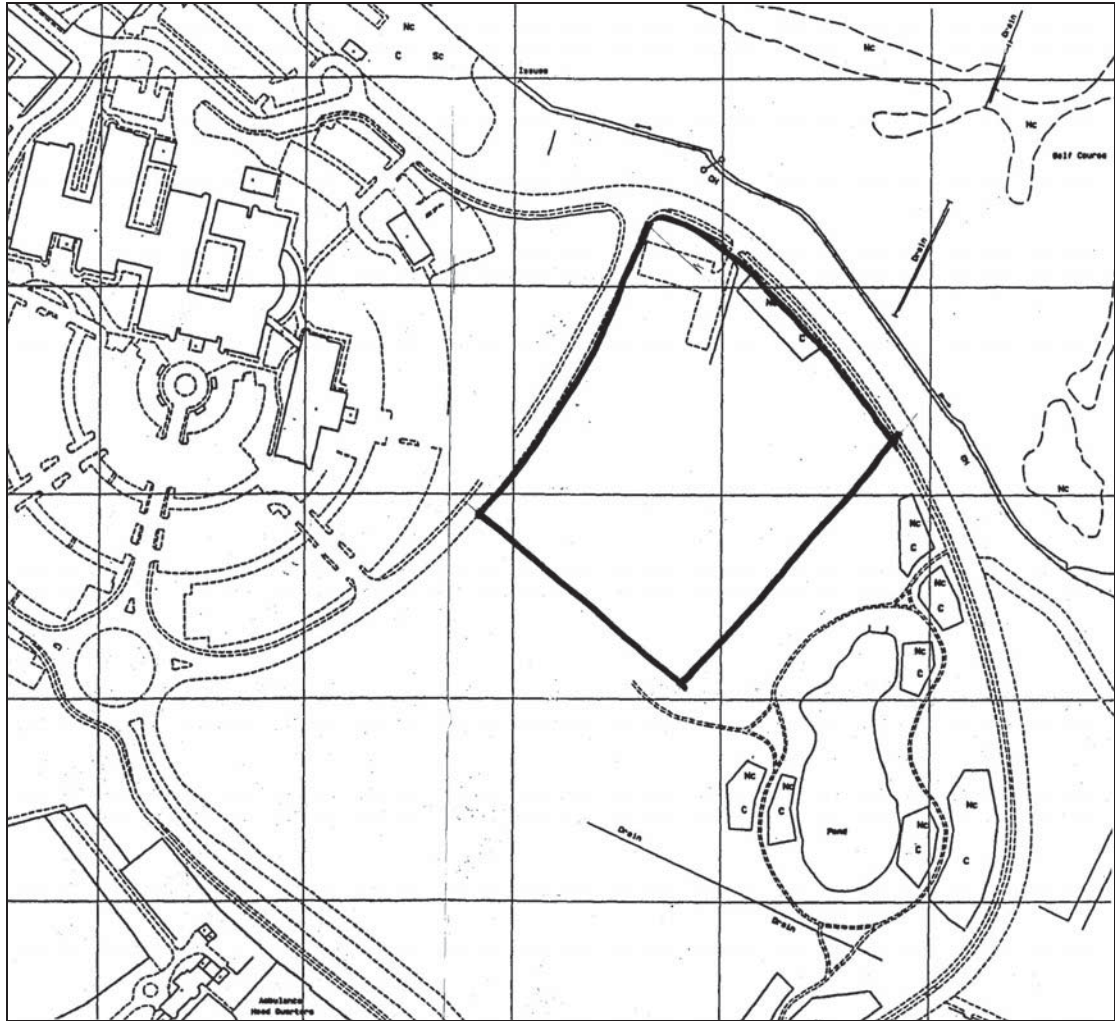


Figure 2. Location of the evaluation area at Carlton Park, King Edwards Avenue, Narborough, Leicestershire (SP 540 984). Scale 1:2500

Taken from plan supplied by the developer

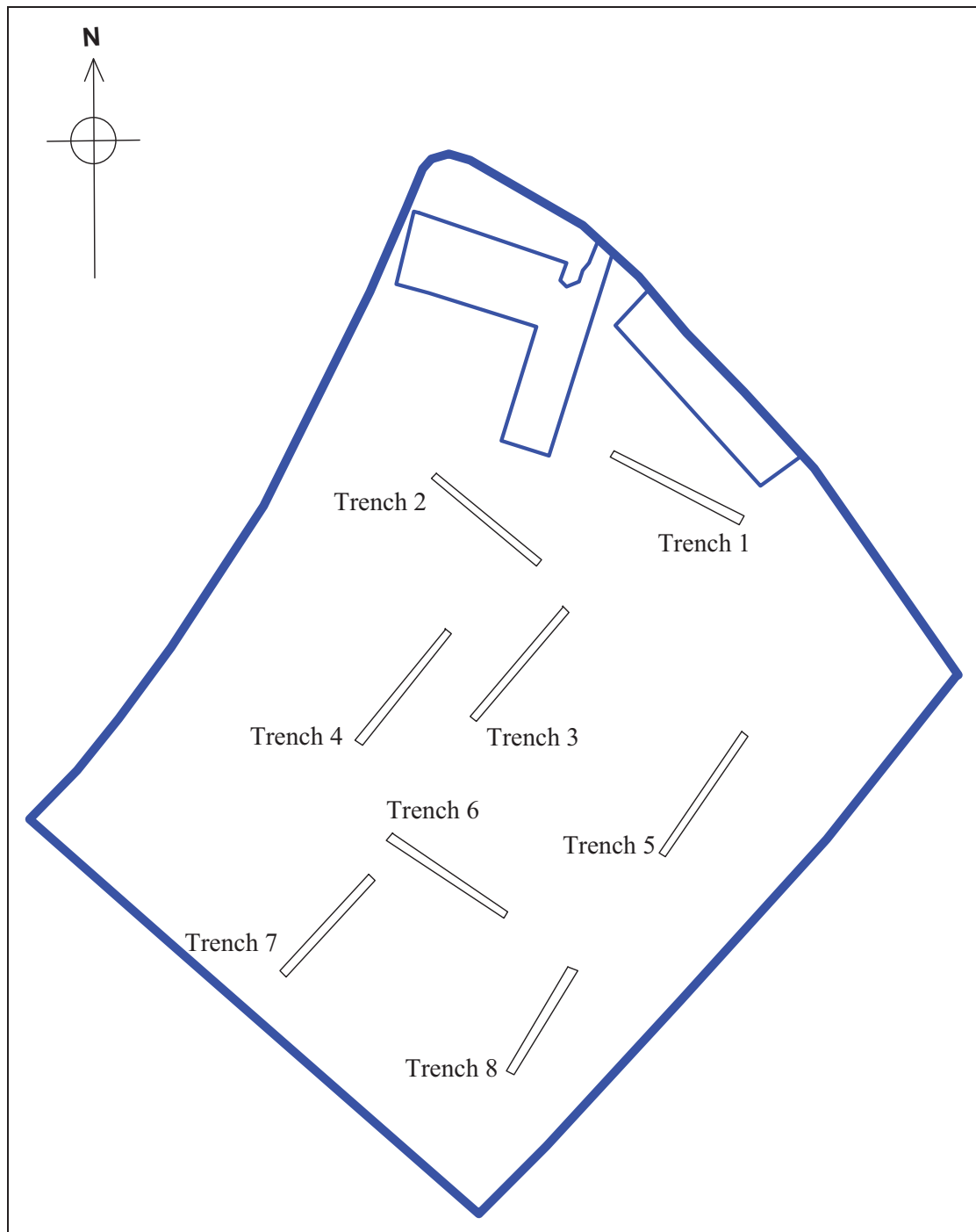


Figure 3. Trench location plan (not to scale)



Figure 4. Location of the evaluation area at Narborough, Leicestershire, showing the location of sites on the Leicestershire and Rutland sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Scale 1:10,000

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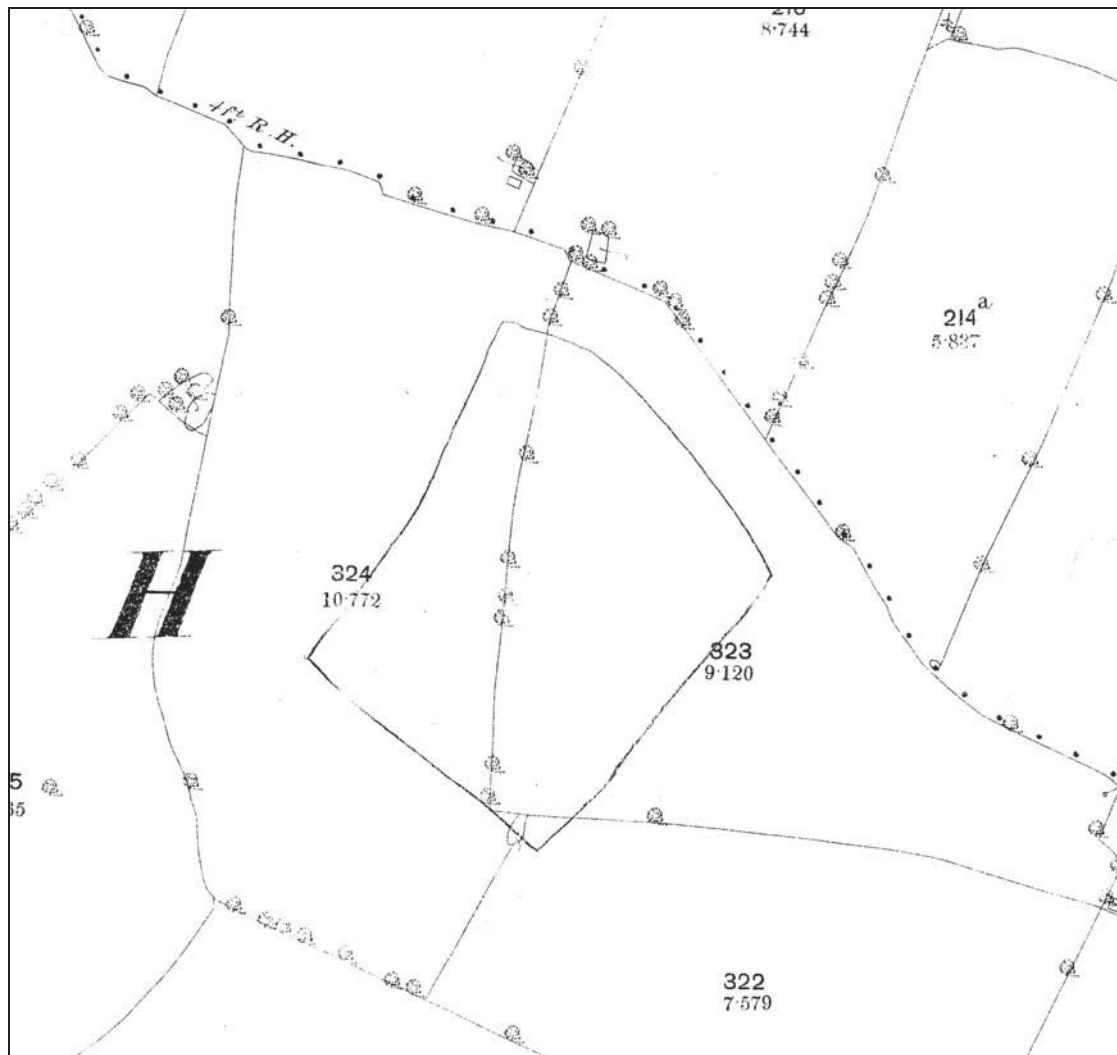


Figure 5. Ordnance Survey 1st edition map XXXVI.12 1888, with the evaluation area highlighted. Scale 1:2500

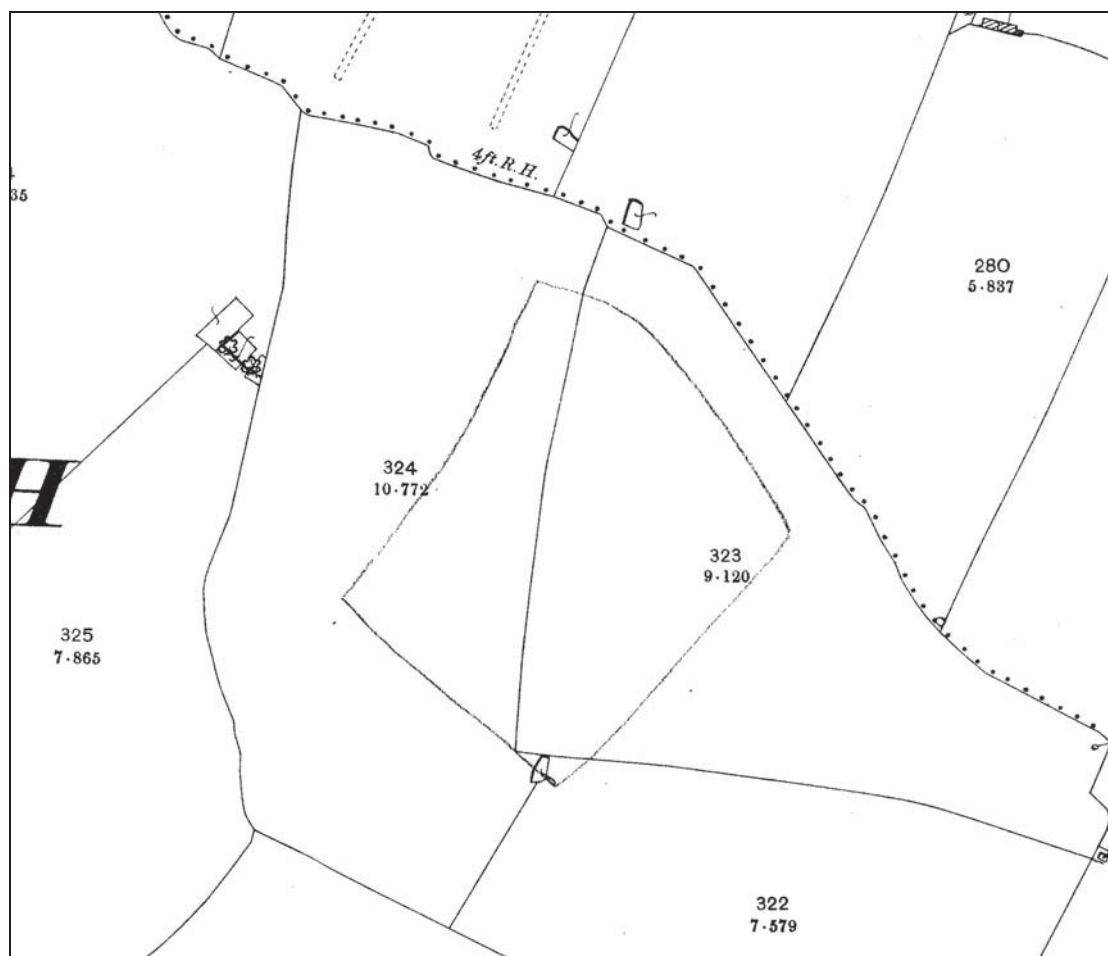


Figure 6. Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map XXXVI.12 1904, with evaluation area highlighted. Scale 1:25000



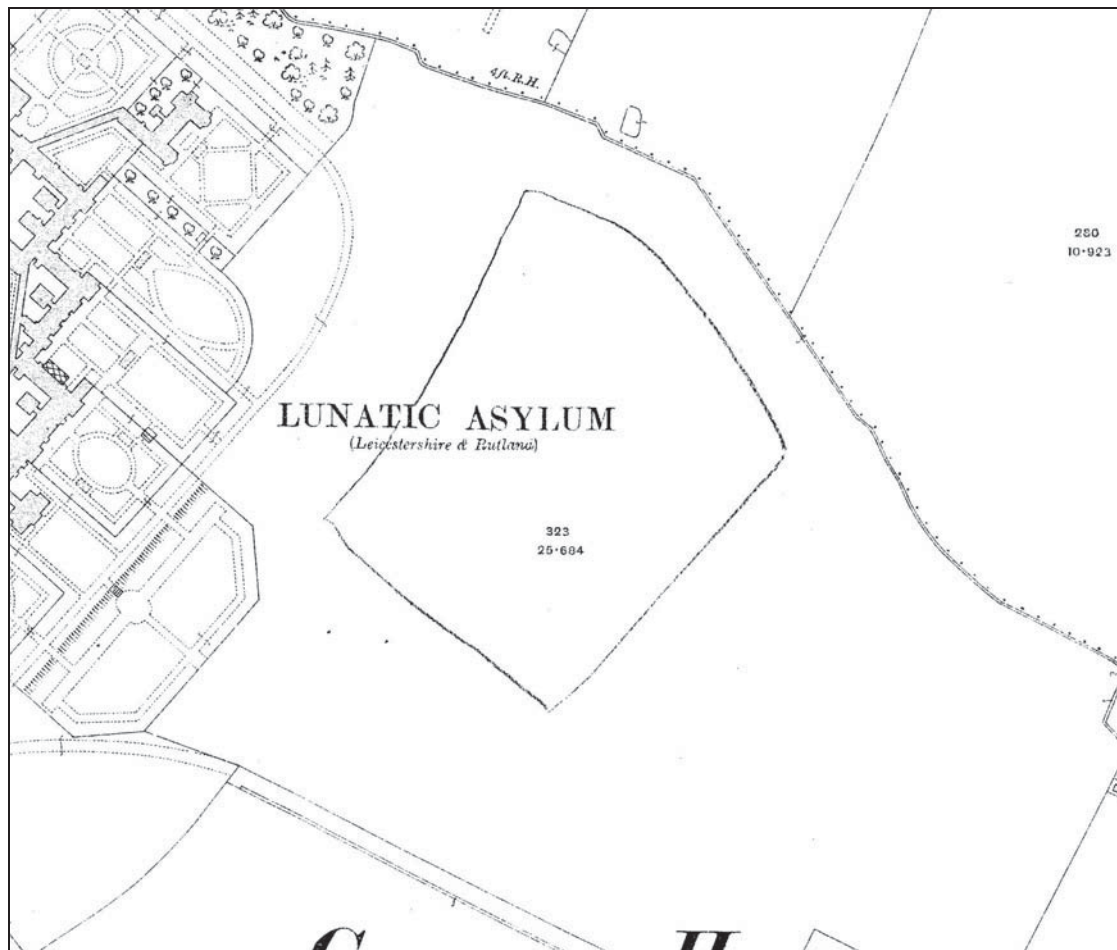


Figure 7. Ordnance Survey map XXXVI.12 1916, with evaluation area highlighted.  
Scale 1:2500

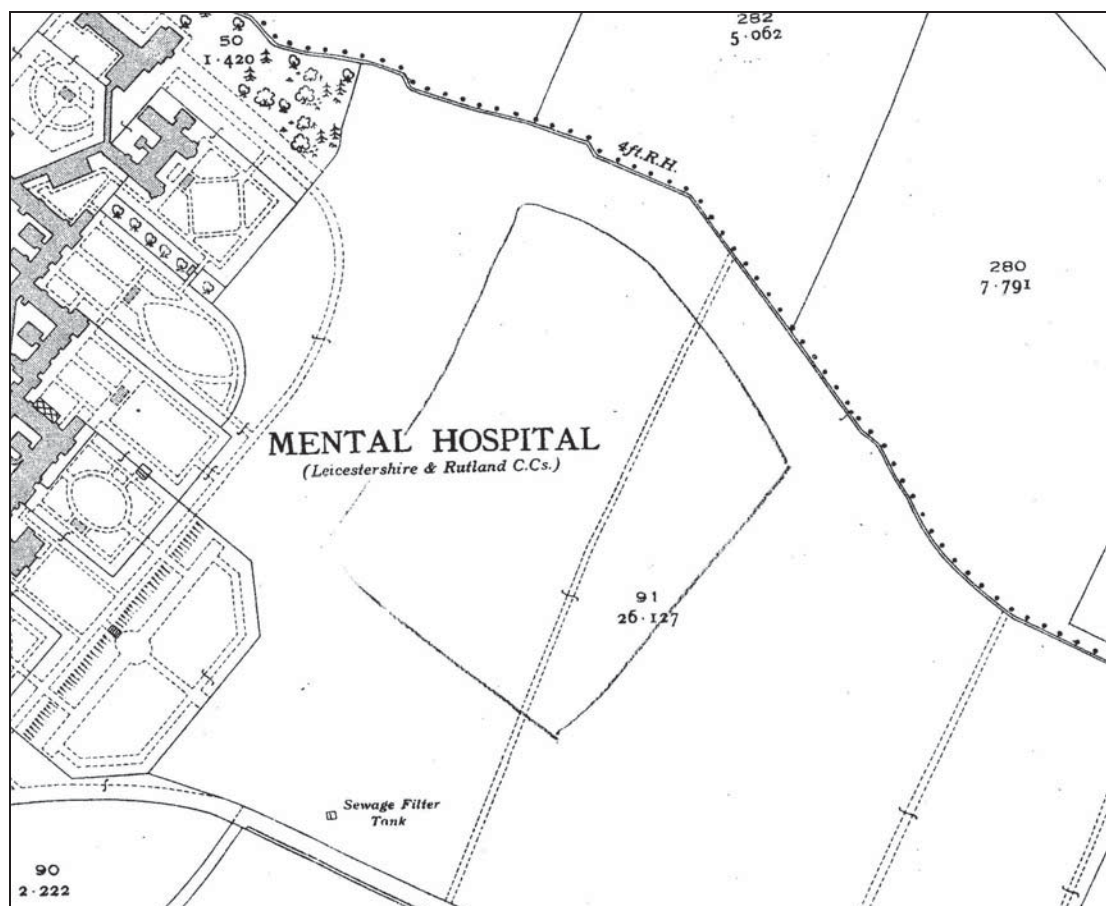


Figure 8. Ordnance Survey map XXXVI.12 1938, with evaluation area highlighted.  
Scale 1:2500