



**University of  
Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**An Archaeological Strip, map and sample excavation  
on Land at Tollerton Airfield, Tollerton, Nottinghamshire**

**NGR: SK 6174 3612**



Stephen Baker

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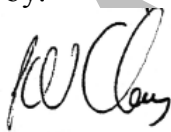
**An Archaeological Strip, map and sample excavation on  
Land at Tollerton Airfield, Tollerton, Nottinghamshire**

**(SK 6174 3612)**

**Stephen Baker**

**For: Spire Healthcare Ltd.**

Approved by:



**Signed**

**Date:** 29/06/2015

**Name:** Patrick Clay

**University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services**

University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614  
[www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)

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## **An Archaeological Strip, map and sample excavation on Land at Tollerton Airfield, Tollerton, Nottinghamshire.**

### **Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological Strip, map and sample excavation on land at Tollerton Airfield, Tollerton, Nottinghamshire on 25th - 26th June 2015. The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development.*

*The Strip, map and sample excavation initially involved the excavation of 12 trenches to sample the proposed development area. Evidence of undated field systems were identified but no remains or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.*

*The archive will be held by ULAS pending deposition in a suitable repository under accession number ULAS15.722.*

### **1. Introduction**

An archaeological Strip, map and sample excavation was carried out by ULAS for Spire Healthcare Ltd (SK 61743612). This was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development (Planning application no.11/00965/OUT)

The fieldwork is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

The definition of archaeological excavation, taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological excavations* (2015) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field Strip, map and sample excavation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

### **2. Site Description, Topography and Geology**

The application area lies in Tollerton parish in Rushcliffe Borough, south-east of the city of Nottingham.

Planning permission has been granted for a new hospital. The following planning condition has been attached to the permission: *No development or intrusive site clearance*

*shall take place until details of an archaeological scheme of treatment and recording has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Borough Council. The scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.*

Nottinghamshire County Council Conservation Team, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority have requested that the scheme of archaeological work, should comprise a strip map and sample excavation commencing with exploratory trial trenches.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 126 (Nottingham) indicates that the underlying geology of the area is likely to consist of Sandstone of the Arden Sandstone Formation, The site comprises approximately 0.9 hectares and lies at a height of approximately 53m above Ordnance Datum.

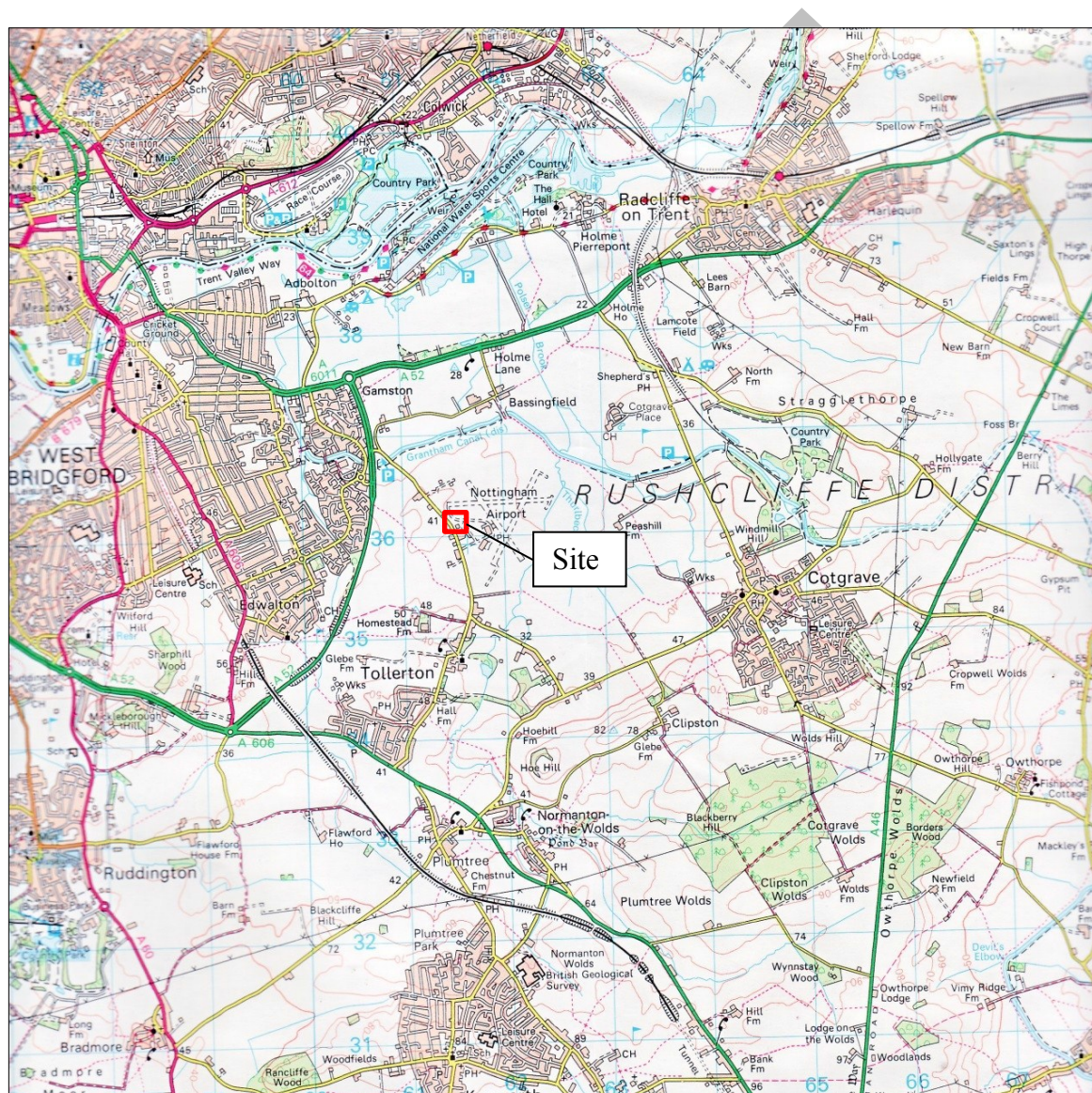


Figure 1: Site Location

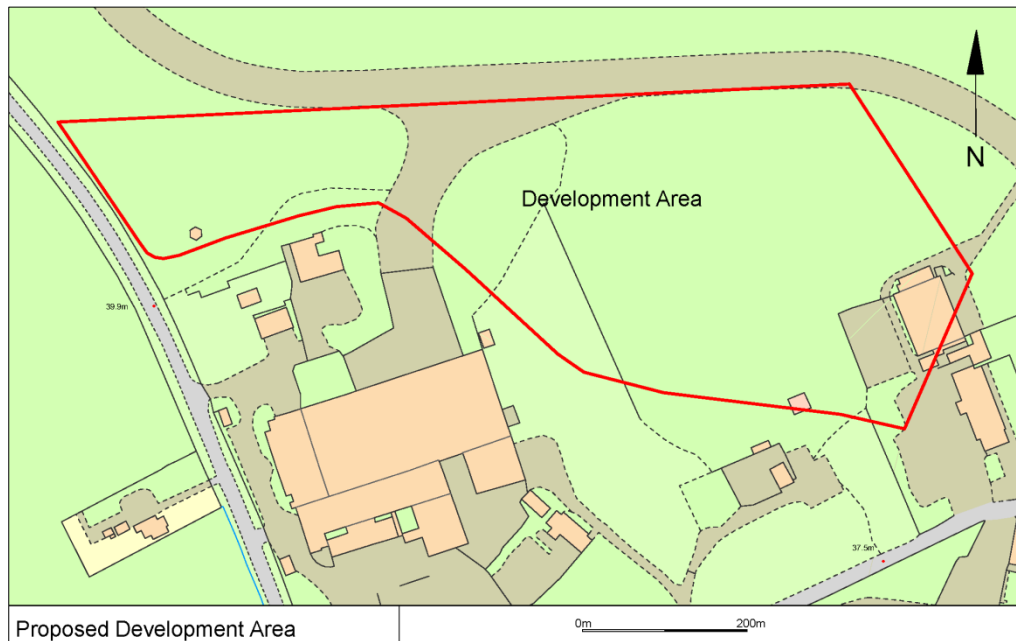


Figure 2: Proposed Development Area

The work comprises the demolition of the existing dwelling with associated flat and GP surgery and the erection of four detached dwellings with associated access drives and garages. The development proposals include works (e.g. foundations, services and landscaping) likely to impact upon those remains and Nottinghamshire County Council Conservation Team as archaeological advisors to the planning authority required that an Strip, map and sample excavation with initial trial trenching was undertaken prior to development to assess the location, extent, significance and character of any buried archaeological remains.



Figure 3. Plan of the proposed development

### **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the Hospital site (Browning and Clay 2014). The Historic Environment Record for Nottinghamshire indicates that known heritage assets including Listed pillboxes are within the vicinity of the application area and it has the potential to contain further buried archaeological deposits. The wider archaeological landscape is particularly rich in Iron Age and Romano-British remains. To the north of the application area are a variety of cropmarks, which may represent archaeological features of this date and in addition medieval village earthworks have been recorded close to Bassingfield and Tollerton.

### **4. Aims and Objectives**

All exploratory and mitigation work will be considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006) and strategy (Knight et al 2012), along with targeting national research aims, highlighted as English Heritage's critical research priorities for the Roman period (EH 2012). Potential research objectives that this scheme might contribute towards include the following:

*The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al. 2012, 70-81).*

There are several Roman sites within the vicinity including the major Roman road, the Fosse Way, and the excavation had the potential to contribute to knowledge on rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts could identify trade links and economy.

*Medieval (Lewis 2006; Knight et al 2012)*

The area lies close to the medieval village core and had some potential to contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and East Midlands Research Strategy 6.7.7.2 (Knight et al 2012, 94; Lewis 2006).

The main objectives of the Strip, map and sample excavation were to:

- identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the Strip, map and sample excavation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

### **5. Methodology (**

Figure )

To establish whether archaeological deposits were present a total of 12 trenches were distributed randomly across the development area in order to achieve as wide as possible



sample. Based on the results of the exploratory trenching the extent of any further stripping, if necessary, would be decided. Four of the trenches were located in the western side and eight in the eastern side of the site. Ten of these were between c. 20m - 30m in length and two (Trenches 7 & 10) were shorter at c. 7m – 12m, the excavation of these abandoned due to constraints identified whilst on site. The site of each trench was scanned using the CAT scanner before each excavation was undertaken. Although there was clear evidence for linear remains representing field systems, there was no evidence for the survival of archaeological features or deposits in any of the trenches excavated.

Topsoil and overburden were removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appeared worthy of preservation in situ, or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of Strip, map and sample excavation.

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits were recorded using standard procedures as per the ULAS recording manual and outlined in the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, Clay 2015).

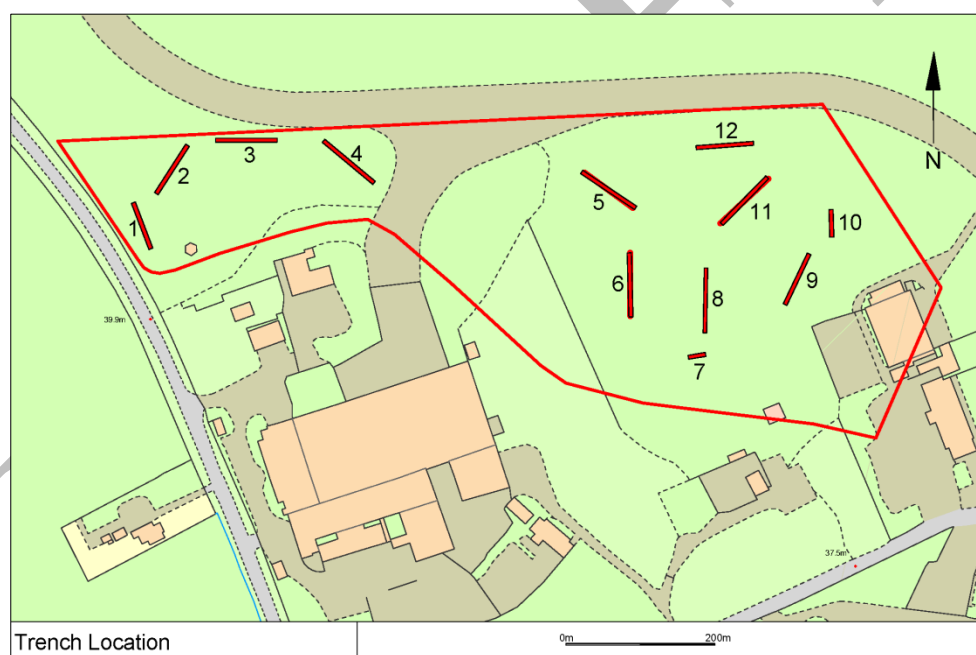


Figure 4: Trench locations

### ***Constraints***

An electricity service, orientated east – west, ran approximately along the northern perimeter of the site and Trenches 2, 3 and 12 were positioned to avoid this. Trench 7 was abandoned after a nearby reading from the CAT survey appear to turn and traverse the site of the proposed trench and, after WW11 Ordnance recognition training, the excavation of Trench 10 was curtailed on discovery of a suspicious metal object needing further investigation and clearance. A listed Pill-box had to be avoided proximal to Trenches 1 – 4 in the west of the site and a strip of land along the southern perimeter was classed as

posing a risk from asbestos, the same area showing evidence at ground level of recent disturbance.

## 6. Results

### *Trenches 1 – 4*

Ranging in length between *c.* 21 – 29m, four trenches were located to sample the west of the proposed development area. Each was excavated to the level of the red/brown clay substratum between *c.* 0.34 – 0.57m deep. All four trenches revealed evidence for field systems represented by the remains of north-west to south-east orientated furrows. No archaeological features or deposits were observed in these trenches.



Figure 5. Trench 1 viewed from the north.



Figure 6 Trench 2 viewed from the north-east



Figure 7 Trench 3 viewed from the west.

Figure 8 Trench 4 viewed from the north-west

### ***Trenches 5 – 12***

Concentrated in the eastern side of the proposed development area, Trenches 5 – 12 were between *c.*7.0 – 28.30m in length. The same red/brown clay natural substratum with grey clay patches was recorded at maximum depths of 0.40 – 0.76m. The evidence for north-west to south-east aligned furrows was confirmed by all but two of these trenches (Trenches 8 & 10), and Trenches 9 – 11 had been subject to modern disturbance. None of the trenches revealed the presence for any archaeological features or deposits.



Figure 9 Trench 5 viewed from the north-west.



Figure 10 Trench 6 viewed from the north



Figure 11 Trench 7 viewed from the north-west. Figure 12. Trench 8 viewed from the south



Figure 13. Trench 9 viewed from the south-west.

Figure 14. Trench 10 viewed from the south



Figure 15. Trench 11 viewed from the south-west.

Figure 16. Trench 12 viewed from the east.

Table 1 Trench details

TRENCH	ORIENTATION	LENGTH AND WIDTH (metres)	TOPSOIL THICKNESS (metres)	SUBSOIL THICKNESS (metres)	DESCRIPTION	TRENCH DEPTH (MIN-MAX metres)
1	NNW - SSE	21.40 x 1.80	0.14 – 0.25	0.07 – 0.12	Furrows No archaeological deposits	0.27 – 0.34
2	NE - SW	25 x 1.80	0.16 – 0.21	0.03 – 0.20	Furrows No archaeological deposits	0.22 – 0.50
3	E - W	26.70 x 1.80	0.18 – 0.21	0.13 – 0.20	Furrows No archaeological deposits	0.38 – 0.49
4	WNW - ESE	28.60 x 1.80	0.18 -0.26	0.16 -0.26	Furrows No archaeological deposits	0.41 – 0.57
5	NW - SE	28.20 x 1.80	0.14 – 0.23	0.04 – 0.25	Furrows No archaeological deposits	0.27 – 0.54
6	N - S	27.90 x 1.80	0.15 – 0.23	0.08 – 0.14	Furrows No archaeological deposits	0.30 – 0.40
7	E - W	7.60 x 1.80	0.22 – 0.25	0.18 – 0.36	Furrows No archaeological deposits	0.51 – 0.76
8	N - S	28.10 x 1.80	0.23 – 0.26	0.06 – 0.32	No archaeological deposits	0.39 – 0.68
9	NE - SW	24.30 x 1.80	0.13 – 0.25	0.11 – 0.12	Furrows, modern disturbance, no archaeological deposits	0.34 – 0.46
10	N - S	12 x 1.80	N/A	N/A	Modern disturbance, no archaeological deposits	N/A
11	NW - SE	28.30 x 1.80	0.18 – 0.30	0.09 – 0.25	Furrows, modern disturbance, no archaeological deposits	0.38 – 0.61
12	E - W	25 x 1.80	0.19 – 0.22	0.10 – 0.20	Furrows No archaeological deposits	0.38 – 0.53

## 7. Conclusion

Although evidence for medieval field systems in the form of ploughed out furrows was observed in the majority of the Strip, map and sample excavation trenches excavated, none revealed any deposits or features of archaeological significance. These are probably evidence for open field cultivation north of Tollerton.

The shallow depth of the topsoil above the natural substratum suggests that the area may have been levelled for the construction of the airfield. If any archaeological remains had been present they are likely to have been disturbed by such levelling.

## 8. Archive

The completed archive will be held by ULAS pending deposition in a suitable repository under accession number ULAS15.722.

- 12 trench recording sheets

- 1 photographic recording sheet
- CD containing digital photographs and report
- Unbound copy of this report
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York, under ID: universi1-144988. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	An Archaeological Strip, map and sample excavation on Land at Tollerton Airfield, Tollerton, Nottinghamshire
Summary	<p>University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological Strip, map and sample excavation by trial trenching on land at Tollerton Airfield, Tollerton, Nottinghamshire on 25th - 26th June 2015. The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed residential development.</p> <p>The Strip, map and sample excavation involved the excavation of 12 trenches to sample the proposed development area. Evidence of undated field systems were identified but no remains or deposits of archaeological interest.</p> <p>Pending a permanent deposition location the archive will be held temporarily by ULAS under accession number ULAS15.722.</p>
Project Type	Strip, map and sample excavation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Stephen Baker
Previous/Future work	Previous: none / Future: unknown
Current Land Use	Commercial/Airfield
Development Type	Healthcare/commercial
Reason for Investigation	NPPF, Section 12
Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition N. 11/00965/OUT
Site Co ordinates	SK 6174 3612
Height OD	40m OD
Start/end dates of field work	25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2015
Archive Recipient	Nottingham County Council
Study Area	c.3.1ha
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession ID: ULAS15.722 OASIS form ID: universi1-

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## 10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken on behalf of Spire Healthcare Ltd and was carried out by Stephen Baker. Patrick Clay managed the project.

Stephen Baker  
University of Leicester Archaeological Services,  
School of Archaeology & Ancient History,  
University of Leicester,  
Leicester LE1 7RH.

Tel: 0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614  
E-mail: [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

30.06.2015

## Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester Archaeological  
Services (ULAS)  
University of Leicester,  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

**T:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**E:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)



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