

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
and Watching Brief at the  
North and East Fields,  
King's Mill Hospital, Sutton in Ashfield,  
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire  
(centres SK 5096 6024 and SK 5137 6030)**

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## **An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief at the North and East Fields, King's Mill Hospital, Sutton in Ashfield, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (centres SK 5096 6024 and SK 5137 6030)**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief and evaluation was undertaken on land surrounding King's Mill Hospital, Sutton Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Skanska Central Nottinghamshire. The archaeological work was undertaken in two areas; the East Field, to the east of the hospital; the North Field, to the north. Both fields were previously laid to grass or set aside. Previous archaeological desk-based assessment of the King's Mill Hospital site and the east field had shown that no archaeological remains were known within the area, other than a possible crop mark in the North Field.*

*The lack of any known archaeological sites within the area of the East Field meant that a watching brief was undertaken in the field during the topsoil strip. No features of archaeological significance were recorded in the field. Five sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from the field, as well as a number of sherds of later date. These are presumed to have originated from manuring scatters.*

*Previous archaeological evaluation by geophysical survey was undertaken by Stratascan Limited within the North Field, which demonstrated a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin, including a previous known field boundary line. Evaluation by trial trench was undertaken over the area of the possible archaeological anomalies, which demonstrated that most were of geological origin. Watching briefs undertaken in the field during the topsoil strip revealed no finds or features of archaeological significance, other than the line of former field boundaries, land drains, a possible 'well' and the remains of former vegetation/woodland cover. A few sherds of modern pottery were noted within the field, but very few in comparison to the East Field.*

### **1 Introduction**

1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief and trial trench evaluation at the North Field and archaeological watching brief at the East Field, King's Mill Hospital, Sutton Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (SK 5096 6024 and SK 5137 6030 respectively). The North Field is to be temporarily used as a contractor's compound during the redevelopment of the King's Mill Hospital, and the East Field will be used as temporary visitor and staff car parking.

1.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services were previously commissioned to undertake Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments of the main hospital site and the East Field on behalf of Skanska Integrated Projects, as part of an initial appraisal of the site area to provide information for a Private Finance Initiative

(PFI) bid to demolish older and out-dated hospital buildings and rebuild with modern state-of-the-art structures.

1.3 The hospital lies on the northern side of Sutton Road, between Mansfield and Sutton in Ashfield (centred on NGR SK 5126 6005; figs. 1 and 2). The site of King's Mill Reservoir lies to the south. The Millbrook Mental Health Unit lies to the north with the John Eastwood Hospice and the Rokerfield Day Centre to the south adjacent to Sutton Road and Kings Mill Road East.

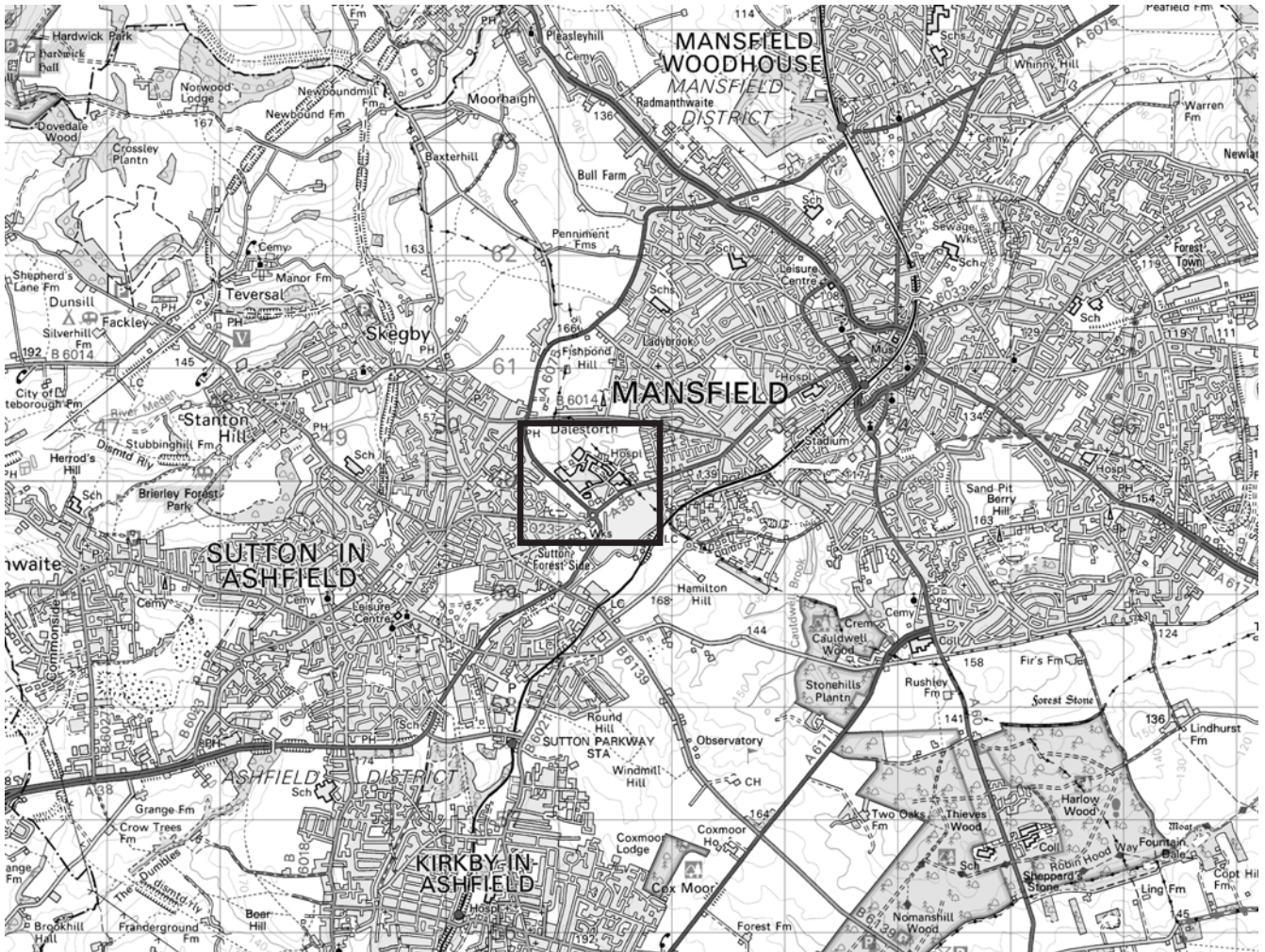


Figure 1: Location of King's Mill Hospital

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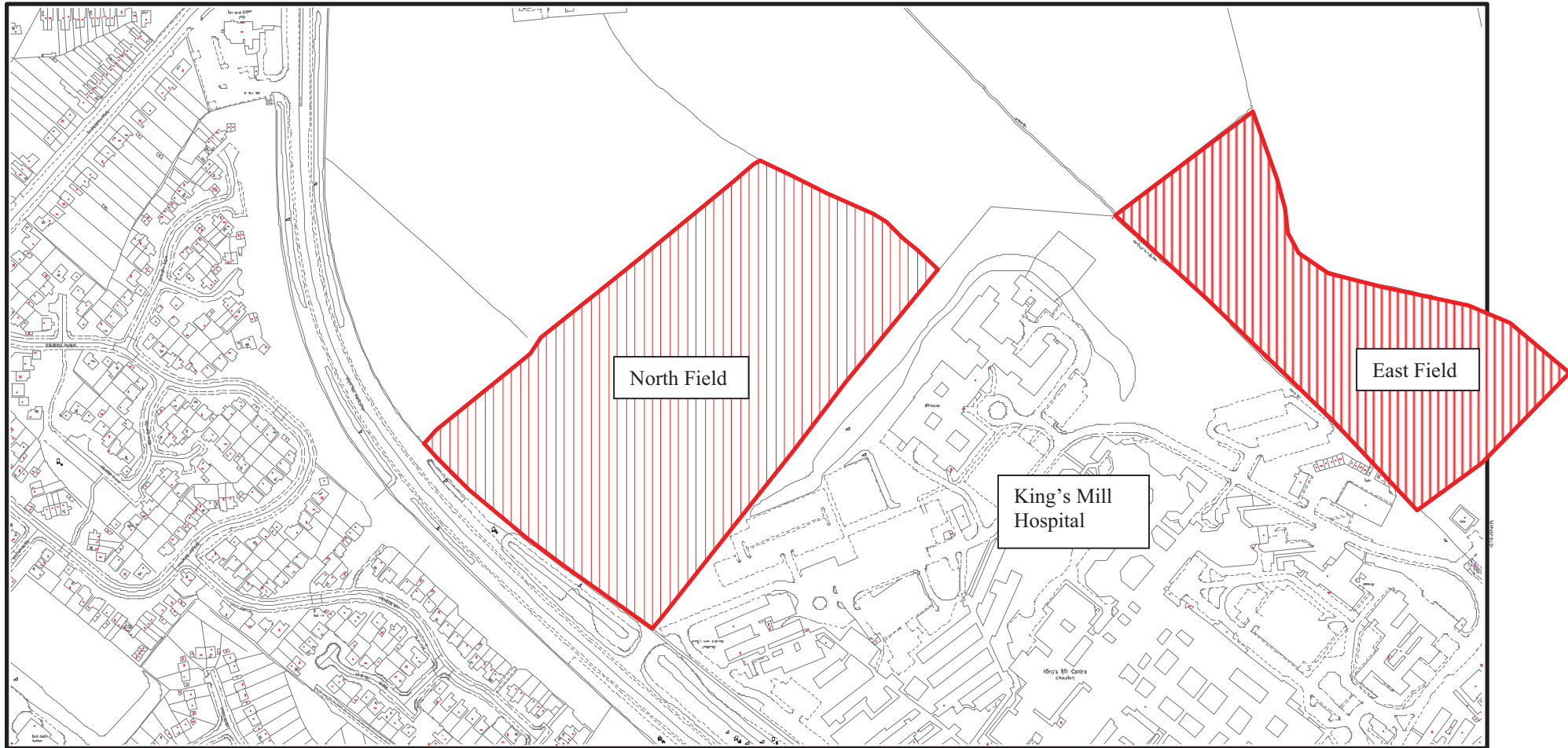


Figure 2: Location of North Field and East Field, King's Mill Hospital

## 2 Project Background

(Based on 'Brief – Archaeology and Built Heritage' prepared by Skanska Integrated Projects – Report No. SIP-MAS-SPEC-02, Revision 1)

### 2.1 *Site Description*

2.1.1 The Kings Mill Hospital is based in the western sector of Central Nottinghamshire between the towns of Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield. The total site is approximately 22 hectares bordering the A38 to the southeast and Kings Mill Road East (A6075) is to the southwest. The principle and secondary access points are currently from the A38. The site is centred on National Grid Reference SK 512 600 (Figures 1 and 2).

2.1.2 The North Field is located to the north of the main Kings Mill Hospital site and will be used as contractor's compounds etc. during the project at the Hospital.

2.1.2 The underlying geology of the hospital site area is boulder clays overlying sandstone. Deeper geological strata include coal measures that have been previously extracted beneath the proposed development area. These mines are of modern date and are of such great depth that archaeological deposits will not have been affected.

### 2.2 *The Project Proposals*

2.2.1 The process of concentrating all of the Sherwood Forest Hospital NHS Trusts' acute services in one location results in a requirement for a new hospital that will contain approximately 42,750 sq m more floor space than currently exists on the Kings Mill Hospital site. The existing hospital measures approximately 70,750 sq m.

2.2.2 The new Kings Mill hospital will be approximately 113,500 sq m, of which about 80,800 sq m will be new-build, 13,800 sq m refurbished existing accommodation and 18,900 sq m of the retained estate.

2.2.3 The Kings Mill hospital currently has 566 beds and 24 day case spaces. The new hospital scheme will have 840 beds of which 131 will be one-day case or 24 hour beds.

2.2.4 The existing site layout is as detailed in Drawing No. STL-KMH-DWG-P-619 Rev.P1 – 'Plan Showing The Site Boundary, North And East Fields And Local Environment' – Appendix A.

### 2.3 *Background*

2.3.1 University of Leicester Archaeological Services has carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed redevelopment of the Kings Mill Hospital (Meek 2004).

2.3.2 The results of the archaeological desk-based assessment for the King's Mill Hospital were summarised as follows:

*...The (archaeological desk-based) assessment has shown that no known archaeological deposits have been recorded within the boundaries of the site, other than the location of a former post-medieval brick kiln (in the south-east corner). The Nottinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record indicates a series of undated cropmarks (presumably prehistoric) exist to the north of the hospital site, including one possible linear cropmark that is present within a field directly to the north in which a contractor's compound may be placed. To the*

*south-east of the hospital site lies the former location of both the post-medieval and earlier medieval 'King's Mill's. The site of the earlier mill now lies submerged beneath the King's Mill Reservoir, the former location of the post-medieval King's Mill lies at the eastern end of the reservoir adjacent to the River Maun. The viaduct associated with the early Mansfield and Pinxton railway also lies to the south-east of the hospital, and is a scheduled ancient monument (Nottinghamshire SAM 152). A hoard of Roman coins was also found in this area during straightening of the railway. The proposed development area is therefore seen as having limited archaeological potential, although the area has not been previously subject to any systematic archaeological investigation. The buildings associated with the earliest phase of the hospital are of some historical interest, being built in 1940 by the Emergency Medical Service during World War II. (Meek 2004)*

2.3.3 An additional desk-based assessment was prepared for an area of proposed temporary visitor and staff car parking on the eastern side of the Hospital, the East Field. The results of the archaeological desk-based assessment were summarised as follows:

*...The (archaeological desk-based) assessment has shown that no known archaeological deposits have been recorded within the proposed development area. The Nottinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record indicates a series of undated cropmarks (presumably prehistoric) exist some way to the north-east. To the south-east of the site lies the former location of both the post-medieval and earlier medieval 'King's Mill's. The site of the earlier mill now lies submerged beneath the King's Mill Reservoir, the former location of the post-medieval King's Mill lies at the eastern end of the reservoir adjacent to the River Maun. The viaduct associated with the early Mansfield and Pinxton railway also lies to the south-east of the hospital, and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Nottinghamshire SAM 152). A hoard of Roman coins was also found in this area during straightening of the railway.*

*The field in which the car park is proposed is currently laid to grass. There is no visible evidence for archaeological remains in the form of earthworks. There appears to have been no previous development of the site area, and thus archaeological remains, if present, are likely to lie close to the present ground surface. The proposed development area is seen as having limited archaeological potential, although the area has not been previously subject to any systematic archaeological investigation. It is recommended that a watching brief should be undertaken during the initial site strip of the area, with contingency for salvage excavation if significant archaeological deposits are revealed. (Meek 2005).*

2.3.3 An overview archaeological assessment for the North field is contained within the main archaeological report (**KINGS MILL HOSPITAL, FULL PLANNING APPLICATION, ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESKBASED ASSESSMENT**, Report No. ULAS-KMH-REP-P-851 Rev. P1, **June 2004**) submitted with the Full Planning

## Application.

2.3.4 The North Field was identified in the Full Planning Application for Kings Mill Hospital as the 'location of temporary contractors car park and compound' that is to be developed as permitted development, under general permitted development order 1995, Schedule 2, Part 4. The East Field was to be converted into car parking for visitors and staff to the hospital during the development and to be subject to an archaeological watching brief during the initial topsoil strip of the site area. The results of the watching brief are incorporated into this report.

## 2.4 *Geophysical Survey*

2.4.1 Due to the presence of the linear cropmark recorded on the Nottinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record in the North Field, it was recommended, following discussions with the Archaeological Officer for Nottinghamshire County Council, in her capacity as archaeological advisor to the planning authority, that the area should be subject to a geophysical survey. This survey was undertaken by Stratascan Limited, and revealed a number of anomalies within the field that were considered to be of likely archaeological origin (Fig. 3). The anomalies were indicative of earth-cut features such as ditches and pits, mostly of large size with irregular edges.

2.4.2 The general layout of the features (Fig. 3) show the line of a former field boundary running around raised ground in the central part of the site, aligned north-south and turning east-west (visible on earlier maps of the area – Fig. 4). On the northern side of the field boundary were anomalies that suggested a rectilinear enclosure with a number of other internal features and a few external features also, all implying earth-cut features such as ditches and gullies. The north-western part of the site (to the west of the field boundary) has another parallel ditch with a circular anomaly to the west of this, provisionally interpreted as a potential Iron Age or Romano-British round house, due to its diameter and appearance. A few anomalies of uncertain origin were visible in the north-eastern half of the site, whereas no anomalies at all were recorded in the south-western corner of the site.

2.4.3 Following the geophysical survey the initial mitigation measure of the erection of a fence surrounding the central area of the North Field where the strongest geophysical anomalies were recorded was undertaken, in order to prevent accidental ingress from machinery and construction works, prior to further archaeological investigation work within the area.

2.4.4 A program of further archaeological investigative work was prepared by ULAS in consultation with Skanska, which was approved by the Archaeological Officer of Nottinghamshire County Council. The works comprised the implementation of an intensive archaeological watching brief during the topsoil strip of the western part of the site; the trial trench evaluation of a 2% sample of the area of strong geophysical anomalies in the central part of the site; and a 1% sample by trial trench of the eastern part of the North Field.

2.4.5 This report presents the results of the archaeological watching brief of the western area of the field, the 2% sample trial trench evaluation of the central area and 1% sample trial trench evaluation of the eastern area.



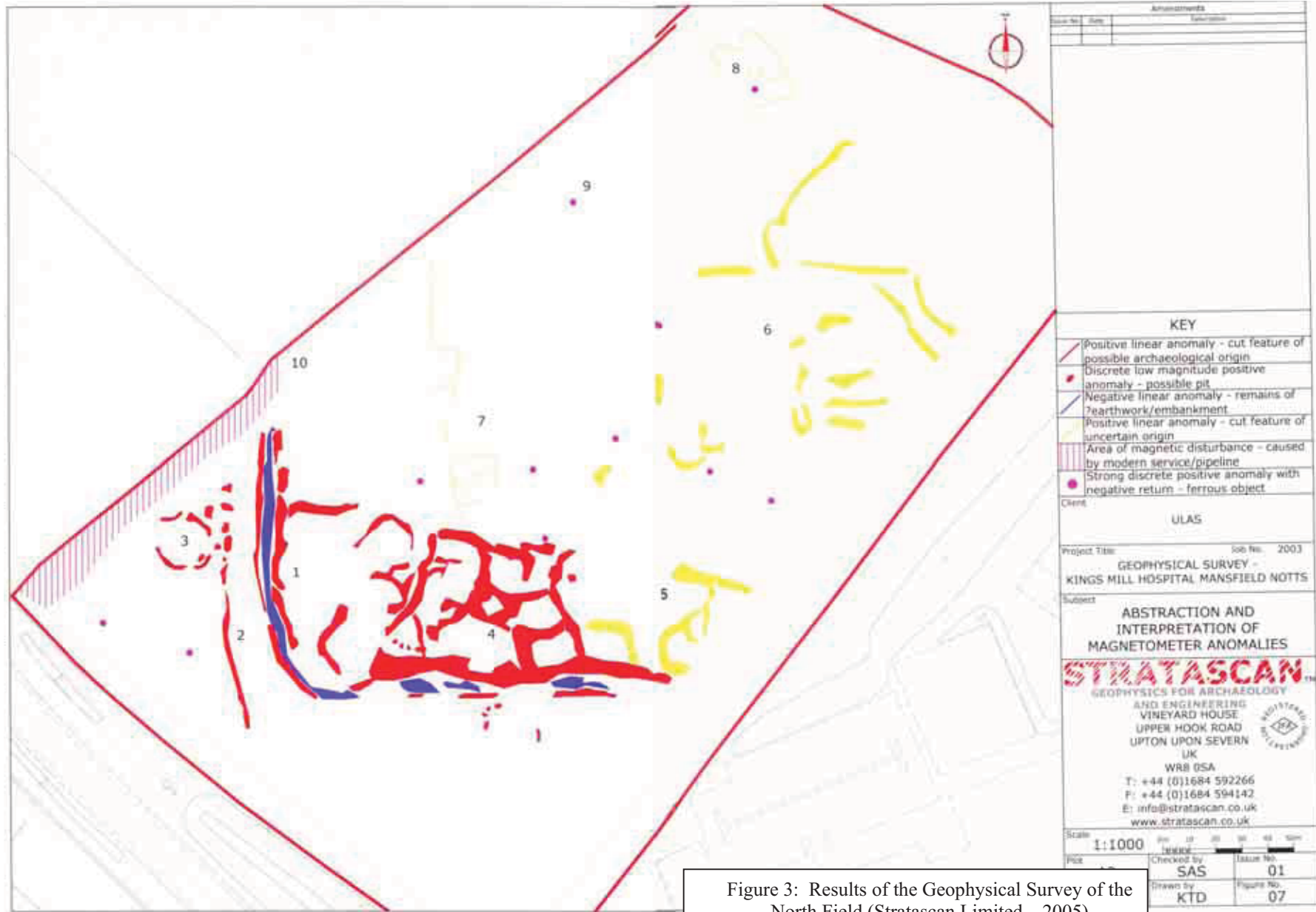


Figure 3: Results of the Geophysical Survey of the North Field (Stratascan Limited – 2005)

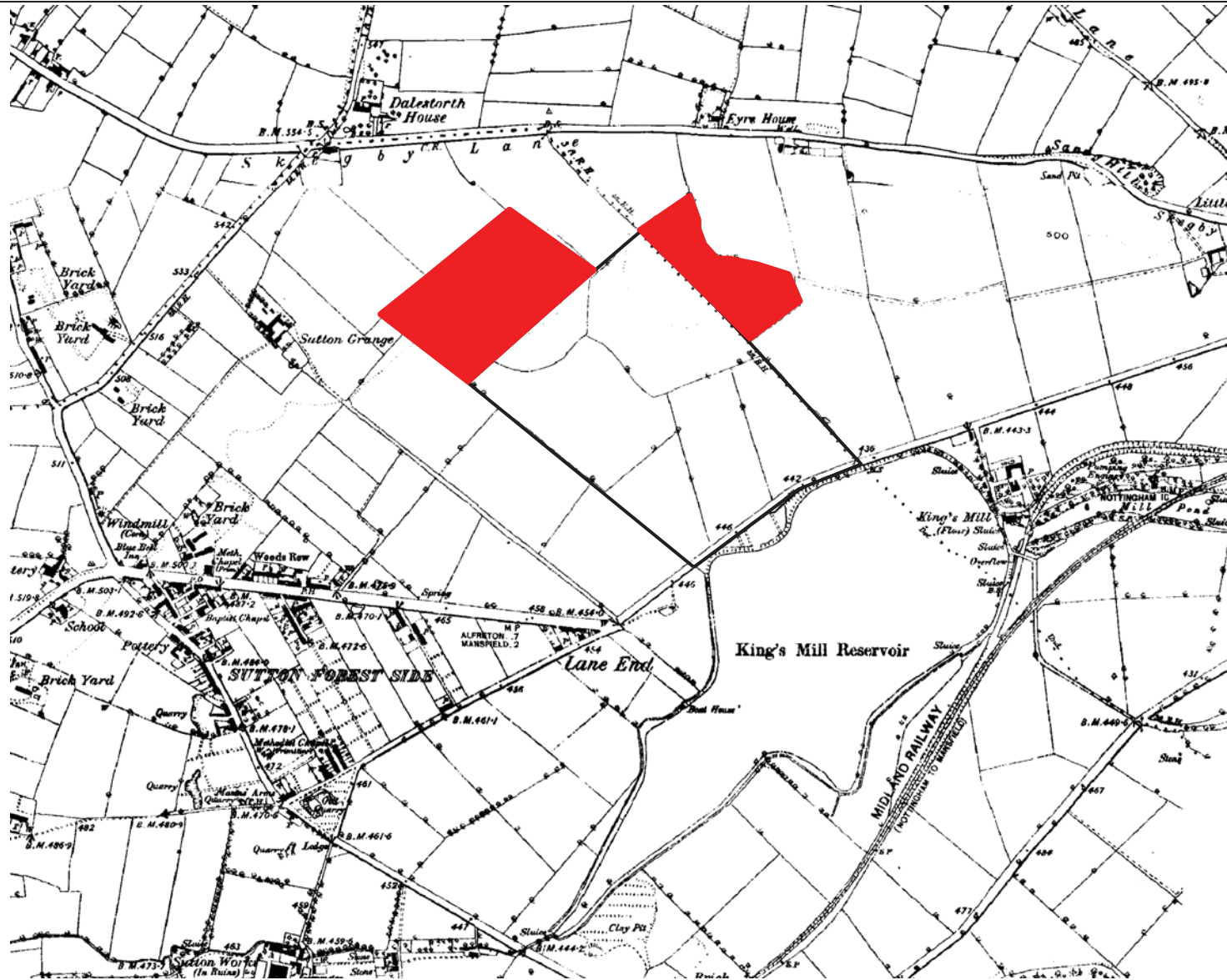


Figure 4: 1887 Ordnance Survey map 6'' showing North and East Fields, and outline of King's Mill Hospital area  
Note the field boundary within the North Field

## **4 Archaeological Objectives**

4.1 The main objectives of the archaeological watching brief and evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.
- To assess the need for further mitigation in respect of any archaeology present within the North and East Fields.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the archaeological works was to establish the nature, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from proposed development.

4.3 For the East Field, the archaeological watching brief was designed to identify the presence or absence of archaeological deposits during the initial topsoil strip, with a contingency for further excavation and investigation, should significant archaeological deposits be revealed.

4.4 For the North Field, the archaeological watching brief would deal with any archaeological remains uncovered by the works in the western part of the field. The archaeological evaluation by trial trench was designed to expose a *c.*2% sample of the central, fenced area of the North Field and a 1% sample of the eastern area of the field (excluding the topsoil dump area in the north-central part and badger set in the north-eastern corner of the field) onto archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural substrata.

## **5. Methodology**

### **5.1 *General Methodology and Standards***

5.1.1 All work was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and complied with their Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (1999) and for Field Evaluation (1999).

5.1.2 Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken during the project. This included a site visit by the Project Manager to ensure professional standards were being maintained and the objectives set out in the brief were being met.

5.1.3 External monitoring procedures included a visit by Elaine Willett, the Assistant Archaeological Officer at Nottinghamshire County Council in her capacity as archaeological advisor to the planning authority.

### **5.2 *Watching Brief Methodology***

5.2.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment for the East Field indicated that it contained no known archaeological remains. The natural topography of the land was particularly undulating and considered to be an unlikely place for past settlement activity. It was considered that a watching brief should be undertaken during the initial topsoil strip of the site, in the hope that if any archaeological remains were present they would be recognised and a stage of contingency excavation and investigation could be implemented if necessary.

5.2.2 For the western side of the North Field the results of the geophysical survey indicated no anomalies of possible archaeological origin were present. An intensive watching brief was implemented for this part of the North Field.

5.2.2 One or more archaeologists were present during all topsoil removal of the western area, which was undertaken by tracked excavator using a flat bladed bucket.

5.2.3 The exposed surface was not tracked over by machine or dumpers until it had been satisfactorily investigated by the attending archaeologists.

5.2.4 All exposed features of likely archaeological origin were investigated. Features were planned and recorded using standard ULAS procedures.

### **5.3 Trial Trench Methodology**

5.3.1 As proposed in the design specification (ULAS Design Specification 05-346-01 dated 2005), a c.2% sample of the central, fenced area of the North Field, was evaluated by trial trench. A c.1% sample of the eastern area was evaluated by trial trench.

5.3.2 Topsoil and overburden was removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision by tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to a width of c.2.0m and down to the top of potential archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first.

5.3.3 The proposed trench location plan was included within the design specification, and closely adhered to during the evaluation exercise, with the trenches being located using a hand held GPS.

5.3.4 The trench locations were designed to target anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey, including the larger linear features (having the appearance of an enclosure), features within the possible enclosure, the location of the former field boundary and the area of the possible roundhouse, all within the central, fenced area of the North Field. The possible anomalies recorded in the eastern part of the site were also targeted.

5.3.5 The intention was to evaluate a 2% sample of the central area of the site, that had been fenced prior to the start of the evaluation, that contained the most promising geophysical survey results, including a potential Iron Age D-shaped enclosure. This central area was approximately 1.3ha in size, a 2% sample being the equivalent of six 30m x 1.6m trenches. The trenches were actually machined using a 2m wide bucket, creating a larger sample of the field, and additional lengths of trenches were also machined to further test for the presence / absence of archaeological remains.

5.3.6 A 1% sample was also proposed to be evaluated by trial trench in the eastern part of the field, to the south of the proposed topsoil storage area and away from the badger set in the north-eastern corner of the field. A few geophysical anomalies were revealed within this part of the North Field, although their origin was considered likely to be geological. This area was approximately 1.98ha in size, and a 1% sample being the equivalent of four 30m x 1.6m trenches.

5.3.7 Any possible archaeological features revealed in the trenches were hand cleaned, investigated and recorded. All sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and deposits described in accordance with the ULAS fieldwork recording manual. A comprehensive black and white and digital photographic record of the

evaluation work was compiled.

## **6. Results**

### ***6.1 Results of watching brief within East Field***

6.1.1 The topsoil strip of the east field commenced during the week beginning 20th June 2005. The site area was visited on Thursday 23rd June 2005 following the commencement of the topsoil strip to ensure that there was a suitable area of the field open for archaeological observation.

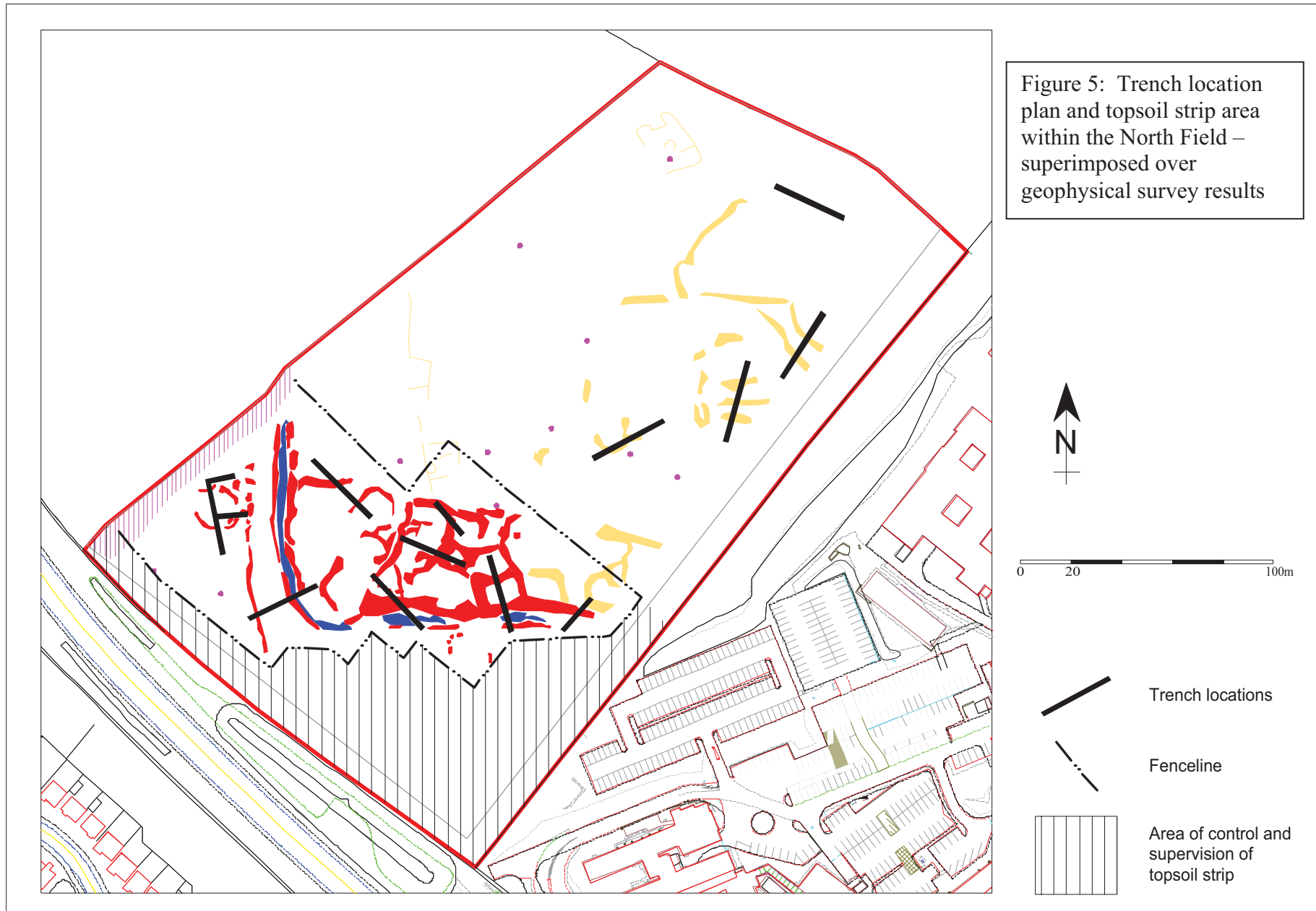
6.1.2 Topsoil stripping was undertaken using an array of machines including tracked excavators, bulldozers and box scrapers.

6.1.3 The topsoil was recorded as being between 0.25 to 0.35m depth across the site area. The topsoil was a very friable, brown silt sand.

6.1.4 The resultant surface left following machining was a light brown to yellow sand undisturbed natural soil, with areas of compacted sand and clayey sand material also present. The machining had left the surface fairly clean, and as it had been very dry, wheel ruts had caused minimal damage to the exposed surface.

6.1.5 The stripped area was walked across in transects and any potential archaeological feature was investigated, but all turned out to be either remnants of former vegetation cover or remnants of topsoil. New areas of stripping were also monitored during the visit, but again no features of archaeological origin were revealed.

6.1.6 A number of finds were recovered during the walkover of the stripped area, although these all originated from the topsoil or loose material on the stripped surface. The finds were widely dispersed and no concentrations were apparent. Nearly all of the finds were ceramic of relatively modern date (post-1850) and of small size, consistent with manuring scatters. Five sherds of mid-late 18th century date were also recovered.



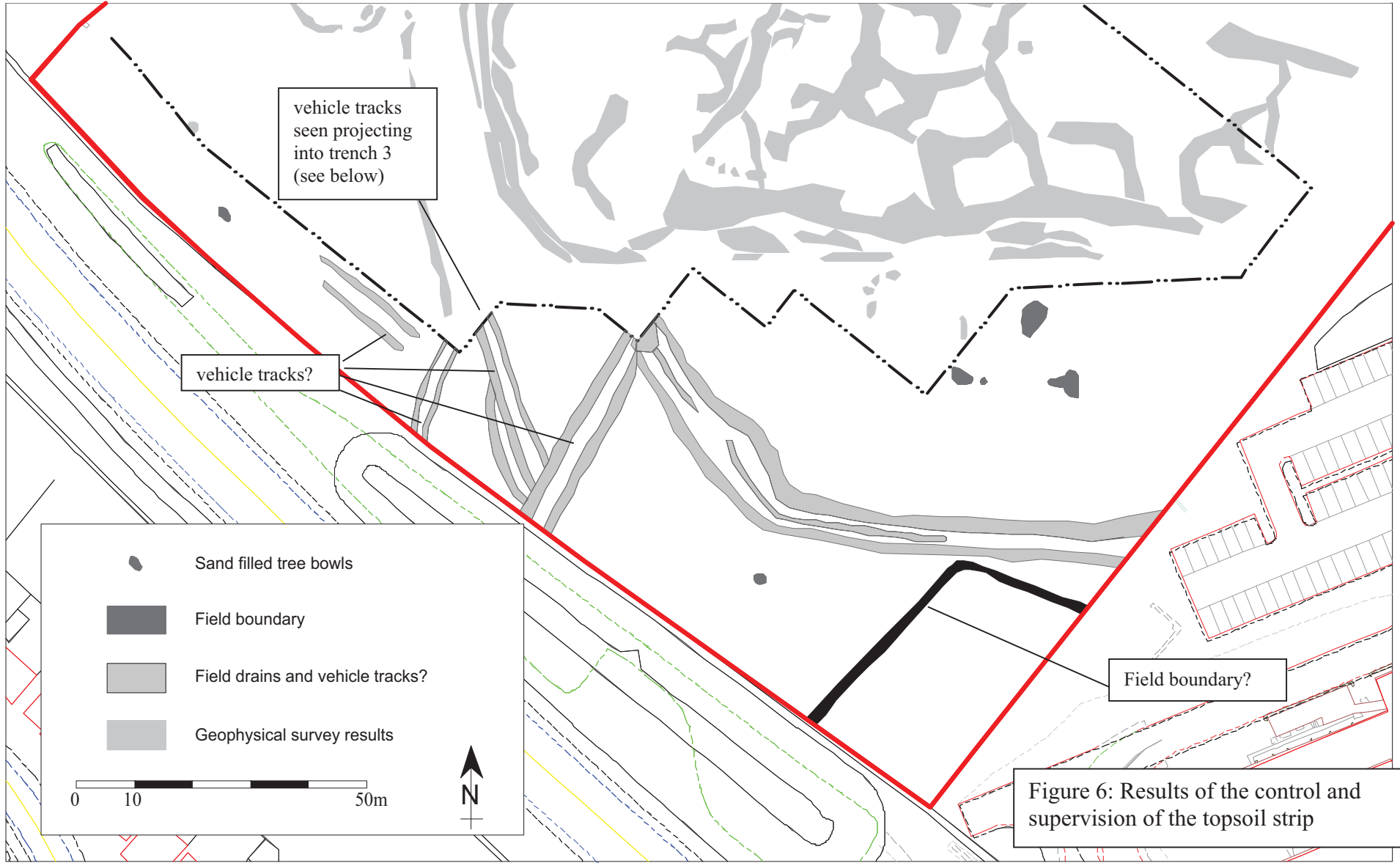


Figure 6: Results of the control and supervision of the topsoil strip

## ***6.2 Results of Control and Supervision of Topsoil Stripping Western Side of North Field***

6.2.1 The western part of the North Field was machined using a tracked excavator using a 2m wide toothless bucket, with spoil removed from the area by dumper trucks. The dumper trucks did not traverse over the stripped area, unless given permission by the archaeologist once the surface had been investigated and cleared of archaeology.

6.2.2 At least one archaeologist was present during the topsoil strip observing the stripped surface and ensuring machining was undertaken to the correct depth. Any potential archaeological remains revealed were investigated and recorded where necessary using standard ULAS procedures.

6.2.3 Topsoil across the area was a very friable, brown, silt sand. The exposed surface beneath was a very light brown / yellow or reddish orange undisturbed sand natural.

6.2.4 The majority of features uncovered in the north-western part of the field were interpreted as the remains of former vegetation on the site, being very dark, organic / humic fills with many root fragments still visible. This area of the field is known to have been previously wooded (Sanderson map of 1835 – see desk-based assessments).

6.2.5 Towards the south-west corner of the field linear features were revealed that once investigated could be seen to be both agricultural land drains and plough marks.

6.2.6 The central part of this area also contained sets of roughly parallel, irregular and shallow features. On investigation these had the appearance of vehicle tracks, possibly tractor marks or similar? These could have been caused during agricultural processes on the field, or potentially associated with the clearance of woodland from the site (removal of remaining tree stumps?).

6.2.7 A second set of parallel features was also recorded on the eastern edge of this area. The features were investigated and shown to be shallow and ditch like, possibly the remains of a former set of field boundaries.

6.2.8 An irregular pit like feature was also recorded in the south-eastern part of the area which contained a stone originally thought to be a fragment of quern stone, but on subsequent investigation this has been discounted.

6.2.9 A linear feature of approximately 2m width was noted in the south-eastern part of the stripped area. It was machined to a depth of 1.20m by machine and seen to have vertical sides, but was not bottomed. The shape suggested it had originally been excavated by a machine, and its inert fills suggested that it may have been a service trench, although there are no records of one being present within this area.



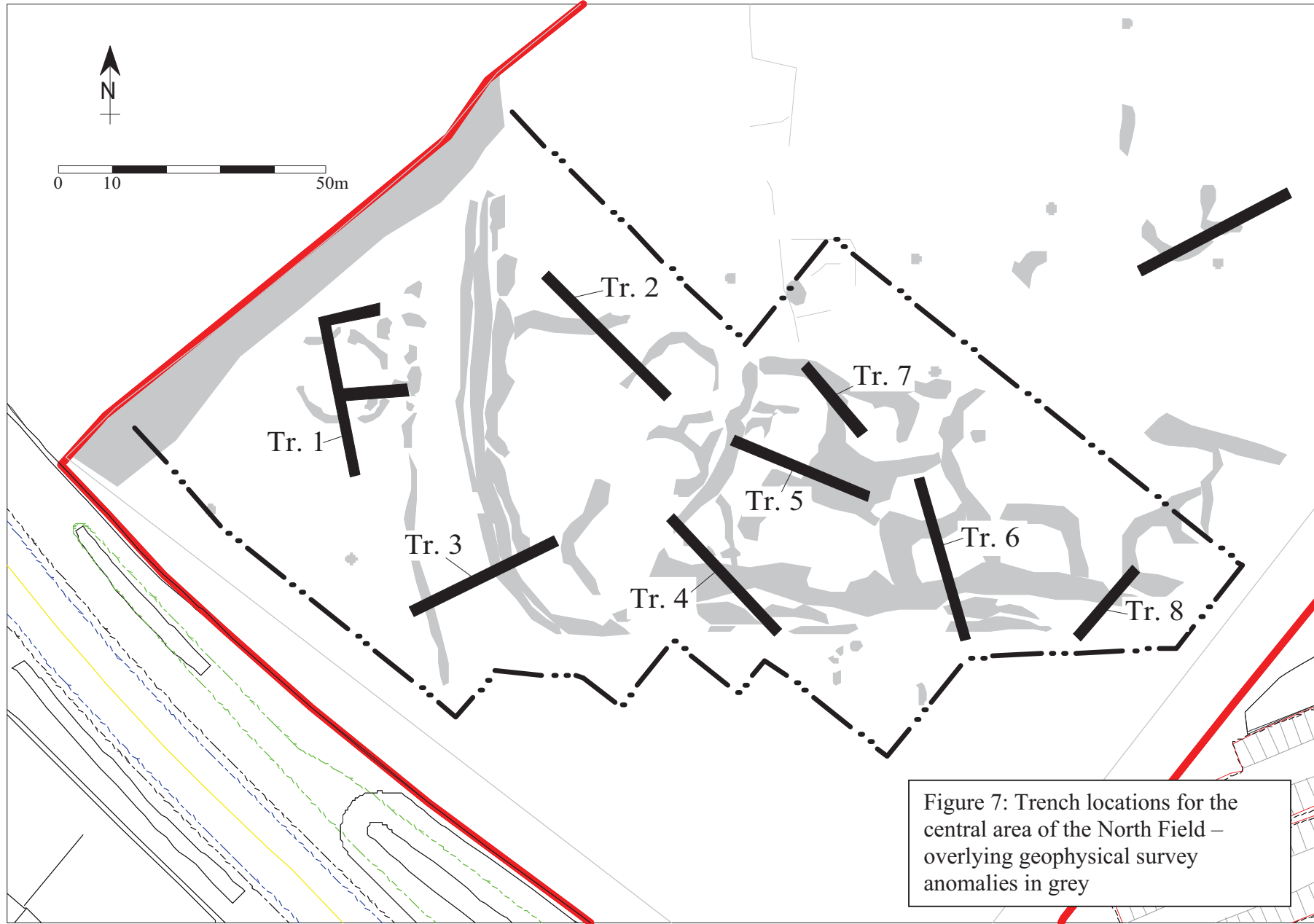


Figure 7: Trench locations for the central area of the North Field – overlying geophysical survey anomalies in grey

### 6.3 Results of Evaluation in the Central Area

The topsoil above all trenches was loose, mid grey brown sandy silt with on average 1-2% rounded stones ranging up to 80mm diameter in some instances.

#### 6.3.1 Trench 1

*Trench Length:* 30m, with a 12m and a 11m extension to the east

*Trench Width:* 2m

*Total Area:* 106 sq m

Alignment	South						North
Top m OD / Bottom m OD	151.54						152.50
Bottom m OD	151.18						152.080
Interval from end (m)	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
Topsoil depth (metres)	0.4	0.39	0.34	0.41	0.38	0.46	0.34

Trench 1 (plan 02) was located in the western corner of the central area, on a low lying part of the site. The trench was located to target the circular anomaly suggested by the geophysical survey, and extended to the east in two parts (forming an F-shape trench).

A number of small pit like features were observed in the trench filled with very dark organic / humic material (including roots etc). These have been interpreted as the remains of former vegetation cover in the area (lying within an area indicated as being wooded on the 1835 Sanderson map). Other irregular linear features and hollows were noted within the trench, all presumed to be of the same origin.

Modern field drains were revealed within the trench constructed of interlocking red ceramic pipes (approx. length 330mm) at base.

The undisturbed natural revealed within this trench comprised gravel patches set within very light yellow – almost white sands.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed within the trench. No natural features corresponding to the geophysical survey results could be ascertained.

#### 6.3.2 Trench 2

*Trench Length:* 32m

*Trench Width:* 2m

*Total Area:* 64 sq m

Alignment	South-East						North-West
Top m OD	157.73						155.86
Bottom m OD	157.17						155.55
Interval from end (m)	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
Topsoil depth	0.4	0.42	0.38	0.3	0.4	0.39	0.45

Trench 2 was located in the northern part of the fenced central area, on the upper part of the field. The trench was located to target two curvilinear features indicated by the geophysical survey.

The undisturbed natural within the trench comprised a mid red orange silty sand, mostly

friable in nature with areas of more compact sands also present.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed and no clear indication of either of the geophysical survey anomalies was revealed within the trench.

### 6.3.3 Trench 3

*Trench Length: 30m*

*Trench Width: 2m*

*Total Area: 60 sq m*

<b>Alignment</b>	<b>West</b>						<b>East</b>
<b>Top m OD</b>	150.96						154.61
<b>Bottom m OD</b>	150.46						154.26
<b>Interval from end (m)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Topsoil depth</b>	0.44	0.4	0.49	0.41	0.35	0.34	0.27

Trench 3 was located in the south-western part of the fenced central area, partially on the low lying part of the site and partially on the slope of the land rising up to the upper part of the field. The trench was located to target the large curvilinear feature circuiting the brow of the rise in the land (former field boundary location) and also a linear feature in the low lying part of the site.

The undisturbed natural was light orange grey at the eastern end of the trench becoming more mixed after 3 metres from the east end.

One land drain was revealed within the trench. A pair of possible vehicle tracks was also recorded (leading to those seen to the west in the topsoil stripped area) of less than 30mm depth. Plough scars were also noted.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed and no clear indication of the geophysical survey anomalies was revealed within the trench.

### 6.3.4 Trench 4

*Trench Length: 29.5m*

*Trench Width: 2m*

*Total Area: 59 sq m*

<b>Alignment</b>	<b>North-West</b>						<b>South-East</b>
<b>Top m OD</b>	155.86						153.62
<b>Bottom m OD</b>	155.43						152.91
<b>Interval from end (m)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Topsoil depth</b>	0.32	0.39	0.3	0.28	0.32	0.43	0.48

Trench 4 was located in the middle of the southern part of the fenced area, on the higher part of the field. The trench was located to target a large group of anomalies indicated on the geophysical survey, including the line of the former field boundary.

The undisturbed natural within the trench was a light grey orange sand with a light grey silty sand at the south-western end.

A number of shallow plough marks running west - east across the trench were noted.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed. No clear indication of the geophysical survey anomalies was revealed within the trench, although it should be noted that the change in the natural to a grey silty sand occurred where the former field boundary would have been located.

6.3.5 Trench 5

Trench Length: 28m  
 Trench Width: 2m  
 Total Area: 56 sq m

Alignment	West						East
Top m OD	157.33						156.31
Bottom m OD	156.78						155.92
Interval from end (m)	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
Topsoil depth	0.31	0.37	0.46	0.3	0.38	0.37	0.32

Trench 5 was located to the north of trench 4 on the upper part of the field. The trench was located to target a group of anomalies indicated on the geophysical survey.

The undisturbed natural within the trench was a pale greyish orange sand throughout with some harder, more compact areas.

A few shallow plough marks running across the trench were noted.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed. No clear indication of the geophysical survey anomalies was revealed within the trench.

6.3.6 Trench 6

Trench Length: 31.5m  
 Trench Width: 2m  
 Total Area: 63 sq m

Alignment	North						South
Top m OD	156.20						153.14
Bottom m OD	155.85						152.78
Interval from end (m)	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
Topsoil depth	0.35	0.3	0.38	0.45	0.37	0.37	0.36

Trench 6 was located to the east of trenches 4 and 5 on slight south-facing slope. The trench was located to target a large group of anomalies indicated on the geophysical survey, including the possible former field boundary.

The undisturbed natural within the trench comprised light brown orange silty sand with patches of a darker red orange silty sand (more compact) for the majority of the trench. The southern part of the trench comprised a natural that was a pale grey silty sand.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed, although three plough scars were noted. No clear indication of the geophysical survey anomalies was revealed within the trench, although it should be noted that the change in the natural to a grey silty sand occurred where the former field boundary would have been located.

### 6.3.7 Trench 7

*Trench Length:* 16.5m

*Trench Width:* 2m

*Total Area:* 33 sq m

<b>Alignment</b>	<b>North-West</b>						<b>South-East</b>
<b>Top m OD</b>	158.56						157.17
<b>Bottom m OD</b>	158.03						156.75
<b>Interval from end (m)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>End</b>
<b>Topsoil depth</b>	0.4	0.28	0.31	0.35	0.28	End	End

Trench 7 was located in the north central part of the fenced area on the upper part of the field. It was located to target a large anomaly recorded on the geophysical survey. The trench was additional to the specification intended to further clarify the origins of the geophysical survey anomalies.

The undisturbed natural comprised mid-red orange silty sand throughout.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed and no clear indication of the geophysical survey anomaly was revealed within the trench.

### 6.3.8 Trench 8

*Trench Length:* 17m

*Trench Width:* 2m

*Total Area:* 34 sq m

<b>Alignment</b>	<b>N-N-East</b>						<b>S-S-West</b>
<b>Top m OD</b>	154.51						153.14
<b>Bottom m OD</b>	153.98						152.53
<b>Interval from end (m)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>End</b>
<b>Topsoil depth</b>	0.38	0.43	0.4	0.44	0.42	End	End

Trench 8 was located in the south-eastern part of the fenced area in a lower part of the field, on the south facing slope. The trench was located to target the former line of the field boundary indicated by the geophysical survey.

The undisturbed natural comprised a mid brown orange silty sand with a pale grey silty sand present at the southern end.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed, although a land drain was recorded passing east-west across the trench. No clear indication of the geophysical survey anomaly was revealed within the trench, although it should be noted that the change in the natural to a grey silty sand occurred where the former field boundary would have been located.



Figure 8: Trench locations for the eastern end of the North Field – overlying geophysical survey anomalies in grey

#### 6.4 Results of Evaluation in the Eastern part of the North Field

##### 6.4.1 Trench 9

Trench Length: 31.5m

Trench Width: 2m

Total Area: 63 sq m

Alignment	West						East
Top m OD	158.85						159.07
Bottom m OD	158.41						158.61
Interval from end (m)	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
Topsoil depth	0.3	0.33	0.4	0.36	0.4	0.34	0.3

Trench 9 was located in the south-western part of the eastern area. The trench was located to target possible anomalies recorded on the geophysical survey.

The undisturbed natural comprised a light to mid brown orange silty sand.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed and no clear indication of the geophysical survey anomalies was revealed within the trench.

#### 6.4.2 Trench 10

*Trench Length:* 33m

*Trench Width:* 2m

*Total Area:* 66 sq m

<b>Alignment</b>	<b>South</b>						<b>North</b>
<b>Top m OD</b>	156.92						155.79
<b>Bottom m OD</b>	156.52						155.35
<b>Interval from end (m)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Topsoil depth</b>	0.32	0.33	0.35	0.38	0.36	0.3	0.35

Trench 10 was located to the north of trench 9 targeting possible features recorded on the geophysical survey.

The undisturbed natural comprised a mid brown orange silty sand.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed and no clear indication of the geophysical survey anomalies was revealed within the trench.

#### 6.4.3 Trench 11

*Trench Length:* 30.5m

*Trench Width:* 2m

*Total Area:* 61 sq m

<b>Alignment</b>	<b>South-West</b>						<b>North-East</b>
<b>Top m OD</b>	155.04						152.29
<b>Bottom m OD</b>	154.56						151.77
<b>Interval from end (m)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Topsoil depth</b>	0.4	0.38	0.41	0.42	0.61	0.45	0.44

Trench 11 was located to the north of trench 10, again located to target possible anomalies indicated on the geophysical survey.

The undisturbed natural of the trench at the south-western end comprised a light brown orange silty sand material, changing to pale grey of the same consistence for the remainder of the base of the trench.

A probable pipe trench or unlined field drain measuring 1.46m wide and 0.36m deep running in a south-easterly direction was noted at the northern end of the trench. All former services or pipes had been removed. The feature was very straight and appeared modern. Land drains on similar alignments were also noted in the trench. No finds were recovered from the features other than fragments of ceramic land drains.

No significant finds or features were revealed within the trench. The geophysical anomalies recorded may relate to the land drains and modern pipe trench.

#### 6.4.4 Trench 12

*Trench Length:* 30m

*Trench Width:* 2m

*Total Area:* 61 sq m

<b>Alignment</b>	<b>South-East</b>						<b>North-West</b>
<b>Top m OD</b>	151.03						152.37
<b>Bottom m OD</b>	150.72						151.83
<b>Interval from end (m)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Topsoil depth</b>	0.4	0.49	0.39	0.40	0.38	0.44	0.50

Trench 12 was located in the northern part of the area targeting an area where no features were recorded on the geophysical survey.

The undisturbed natural comprised a pale orange grey silty sand throughout.

A modern pipe or service trench approximately 1.1m wide and 1.2m metres deep running in south-westerly direction was noted within the trench. All former services or pipes had been removed.

No features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed within the trench.

### 6.5 Results of the Watching Brief North Field

6.5.1 Following the disappointing results of the archaeological evaluation no further archaeological investigation was required in the North Field, except a watching brief that was undertaken during the topsoil strip of the field.

6.5.2 During the topsoil strip of the North Field a brick lined 'well' was noted adjacent to the field boundary in the north-western part of the field by the contractors. The 'well' was made known to the attending archaeologist.

6.5.3 The 'well' had a 0.55m internal diameter, and 1.20m diameter in total for its cut. The bricks used in its construction were 0.20 x 0.12 x 0.08m in size. They were unbonded, and roughly constructed. On the northern edge of the 'well' at a shallow depth was a horseshoe land drain that fed into it. At least two other land drains / culverts were noted at the base of the visible feature at a depth of 2.40m, leading to the north and south.

6.5.4 The size of the feature would seem to be very narrow for a well. It may have been used for agricultural purposes, being fed by both land drains and a deeper culvert.

6.5.5 The 'well' had been covered by two large stone slabs, one of which was removed during machining. The ground in this area was noted as being quite boggy.





Plate 1: View into 'well' showing current water table level



Plate 2: View illustrating construction



Plate 3: Horseshoe land drain at top of 'well'  
– note that the drain was dry

## 8 Conclusions

### 8.1 *The East Field*

8.1.1 No archaeological features were recorded during the topsoil strip of the east field. A number of ceramic artefacts were recovered from the topsoil of the site, the majority of which were modern, although 5 sherds of mid-late 18th century pottery were also recovered. The number of finds scattered across the site area was notably very few.

8.1.2 The finds from the field are most likely associated with manuring scatters. The material would have been originally discarded within rubbish middens, associated with waste disposal from nearby settlements, and then spread across the fields as fertiliser. Such a spread of material was not noted within the North Field.

8.1.3 A sample of the modern material (mid 19th century onwards) was collected for

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analysis and has been subsequently discarded.

## **8.2 The North Field**

8.2.1 The North Field was formerly partially covered by Grange Woods, as indicated on the 1835 Sanderson map of Mansfield. The woods lay on the downslope part of the field and curved around the contour of the hill. The watching brief and evaluation demonstrated the presence of numerous irregular shaped patches of humic material that are presumably the remains of tree root bowls.

8.2.2 The woodland is not indicated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area or any subsequent editions. It was presumably cleared in the mid – late 19th century.

8.2.3 The possible vehicle tracks visible beneath the topsoil are likely to have originated from vehicles traversing the site area, possibly in wet weather conditions, causing the tracks to dig deeper into the ground (and remain visible in the undisturbed natural soil below the topsoil). The vehicles may have been agricultural or potentially military in origin (associated with the World War II Hospital) or conceivably whilst removing remaining tree stumps from woodland clearance?

8.2.4 The Sanderson map and early Ordnance Survey maps show field boundaries present in two places within the North Field (Figure 9). The first circuits the higher ground within the field, the line of which was visible on the geophysical survey. The second boundary can be seen to form a right angle in the south-west corner of the field. A ditch was clearly visible during the watching brief in this part of the field and its location corresponds almost exactly with that of the field boundary (Figure 9).

8.2.5 The trial trenches located within the central part of the field that were intended to identify the anomalies recorded on the geophysical survey were disappointing. The locations of the survey were accurately plotted and would have been crossed by the trial trenches. No clear evidence for the origins of the anomalies was revealed, but potential causes of the anomalies are discussed below.

8.2.6 The trenches that crossed the field boundary around the upper part of the field, as indicated by the geophysical survey, did reveal areas of sand of different character to the rest of the trenches, being somewhat greyer and siltier in appearance. These could have conceivably been the remains of a backfilled ditch or a levelled out bank of material that formed the former boundary.

8.2.7 The possible circular anomaly noted in the lower part of the field was targeted by Trench 1. This trench was extended in an attempt to clarify the presence or absence of the feature. No clear features corresponding with the anomaly were noted, although the trench contained a number of pits and hollows that were filled with very silty and humic material, the remains of former vegetation cover within the field. The natural ground in this part of the field was particularly soft, with light coloured sands.

8.2.8 In many of the trenches on the upper part of the field the undisturbed natural soil was noted as being comprised of mainly friable sands with patches of firmer compacted sands within it. There was little or no colour difference between these sands. The differences in the physical characteristics (geologically derived) of these natural sands could conceivably have created the anomalies recorded on the geophysical survey. The initial interpretation of these results, prior to intrusive archaeological works had anticipated a possible archaeological origin. This highlights the fact that geophysical survey results cannot be used on their own to confirm the

presence or absence of archaeological activity, although very rarely does anything as initially convincing as these results turn out to be non-archaeological.

8.2.9 In a number of areas within the trenches that overlay the geophysical survey anomalies, the trenches were excavated deeper into the underlying natural ground. This was undertaken to ensure that possible archaeological deposits were not sealed beneath plough or other agriculturally derived subsoils. This revealed that the bases of the trenches were indeed machined onto undisturbed natural soils.

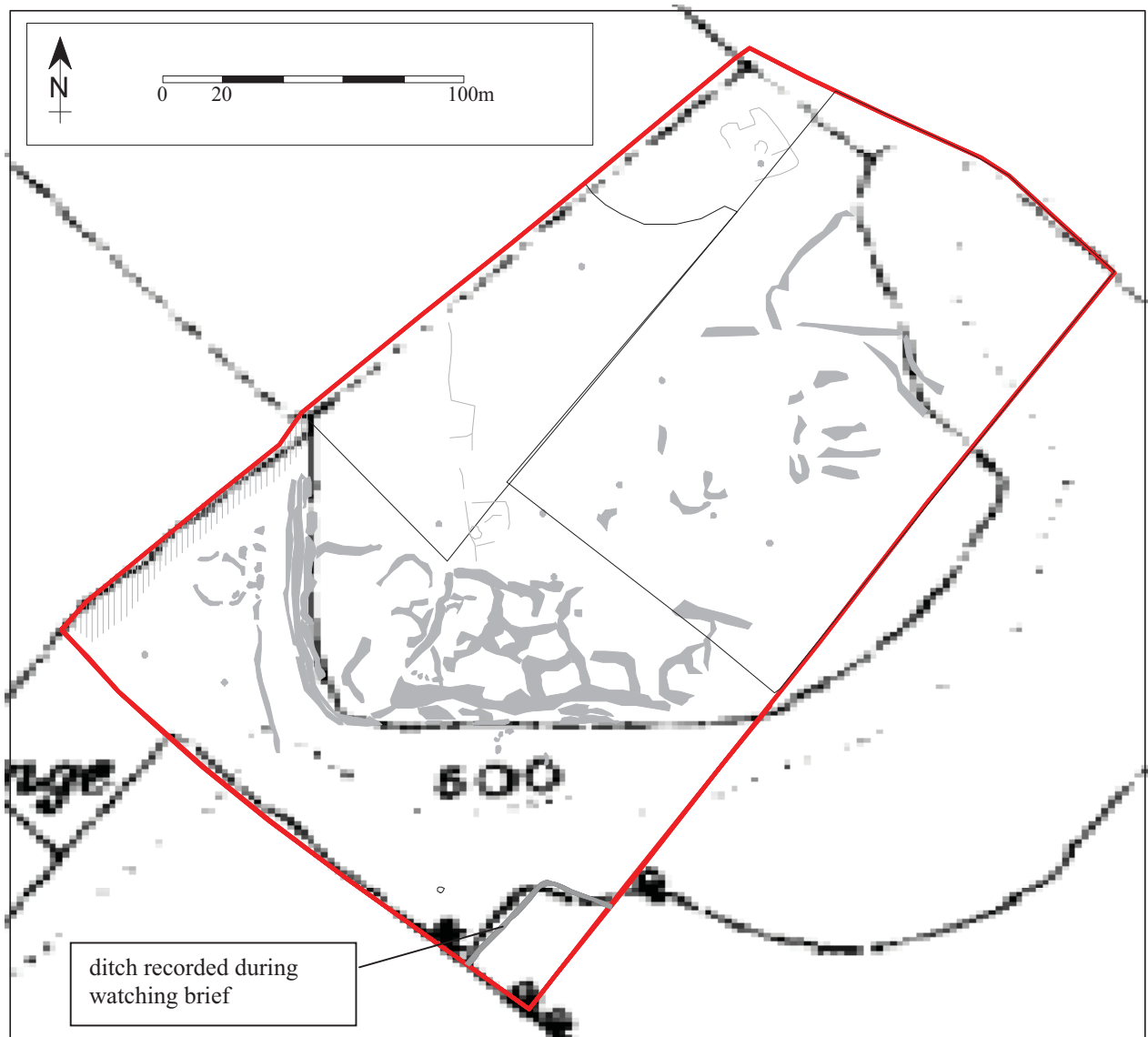


Figure 9: Superimposed geophysical survey / watching brief results over 1887 Ordnance Survey map of area showing correlation of former field boundaries.

8.2.10 The main conclusions of the archaeological evaluation were that the origin of the geophysical survey anomalies was not considered to be archaeological. No further archaeological investigation was required in the North Field following the evaluation, as agreed with Elaine Willett Archaeological Officer with

Nottinghamshire County Council following a site meeting during the works, except a watching brief that was undertaken during the topsoil strip of the field. Further record of the differences in the character of the sands was made during this watching brief, which showed more distinct differences in friable and compact sands following a few months of weathering.

8.2.11 During the topsoil strip of the North Field a brick lined 'well' was noted adjacent to the field boundary in the north-western part of the field. The 'well' was presumably associated with agricultural practices in the area. The well was left intact but backfilled with permeable material –to make it safe but also allow the passage of water at the base.

8.2.12 Only a few widely dispersed sherds of modern ceramic material were noted across the North Field. This may suggest that the field had not been subject to manuring like the East Field, which is likely for the lower level parts of the North Field, as much of it had been previously woodland.

**James Meek**  
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**January 2006**

### **References**

- Meek, J., 2004 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of King's Mill Hospital, Sutton in Ashfield, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (centre SK 5126 6005), ULAS Report No: 2004-105*
- Meek, J., 2005 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of the proposed Temporary East Field Car Park, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (centre SK 5137 6030), ULAS Report No. 2005-003*
- Skanska 2005 *Kings Mill Hospital & Mansfield Community Hospital Brief – Archaeology & Built Heritage, Skanska Report No. SIP-MAS-SPEC- 02, Revision 01, 2005*

**APPENDIX:**

**The medieval and later pottery and miscellaneous finds from a watching brief at Kings Mill Hospital (East Field), Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.**

D. Sawday

A sample of the pottery in the field, consisting of twenty-five sherds, was examined and catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999), (Davies and Sawday, 2004).

All the material was late post medieval or modern in date. The pottery is probably the result of the practice of manuring the fields with 'night soil' and associated rubbish from the adjacent town during the later eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

***Bibliography***

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley, *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Mon. **5**, 165-213.

Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 2004. 'Medieval and Later Pottery and Tile' in N. Finn 2004 *The Origins of a Leicester Suburb*. British Archaeological Reports (British Series) **372**, 86-99.

Site/Parish: Kings Mill Hospital (East Field), Mansfield, Notts. Accession No/ Doc Ref: KMHO5 Material: Pottery Site Type: Open Fields	Submitter: J. Meek Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Id: 13.1.06 Method of Recovery: watching brief
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Context	Ware	Sherd nos.	Weight grams	Comments
EF	Blackware	1	2	Mid/late 18 <sup>th</sup> C.
EF	Mottled ware	2	13	Mid/late 18 <sup>th</sup> C.
EF	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	2	20	Late 18th C.
EF	Earthenware	1	7	Flower Pot, wheel thrown, probably 19 <sup>th</sup> C.
EF	Cream ware	1	2	Yellow glazed interior and exterior with brown and white bands, probably early 19 <sup>th</sup> C.
EF	Miscellaneous Earthenwares/Stonewares	18	172	Modern (discarded)