



UNIVERSITY OF
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Archaeological Services

**Archaeological attendance and
recording during groundworks at
St. Thomas More RC Church,
Glenwood Avenue,
Wollaton, Nottingham
(SK 52030 39472)**

Leon Hunt



ULAS Report No 2018-184
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recording during groundworks at
St. Thomas More RC Church,
Glenwood Avenue,
Wollaton, Nottingham
(SK 52030 39472)**

for

St. Thomas More RC Parish

Planning application No. 16/02298/PFUL3

Filename/Version	Checked by	Date
18-214 draft	Vicki Score	15/11/2018
2018-184	Vicki Score	11/12/2018

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ULAS Report Number 2018-184
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Accession Number
ULAS_18-214

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Leon Hunt

Summary

An archaeological inspection was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during ground-works at St. Thomas More Roman Catholic church, Glenwood Avenue, Wollaton, Nottingham (SK 52030 39472).

The work was required as a condition of the planning consent, issued by Nottingham City Council, for extensions to the existing church, a new church hall and new car park.

Ground-works were monitored during the stripping of the site to finished formation levels. The sequence of soils mainly consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil lying over sand and sandstone. Made-up ground and tip lines were observed in the south-west facing section close to the boundary with the adjacent presbytery.

No archaeological features or artefacts associated with archaeological features were observed or recovered during the archaeological work.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Parish to carry out an archaeological inspection during ground-works at St. Thomas More Roman Catholic church, Glenwood Avenue, Wollaton, Nottingham (NGR: SK 52030 39472).

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

The work was required as a condition of the planning consent, issued by Nottingham City Council, for extensions to the existing church, a new church hall and new car park.

The proposed development area was an existing car park and grassed area.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

The town of Wollaton lies around 4 miles west of the City of Nottingham (Fig. 1). St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church lies on the north-eastern side of Glenwood Avenue, with the car park and grass lying adjacent to the south-east along the junction with Bramcote Lane (Fig. 2).

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Lenton Sandstone Formation. The church itself and the car park lie on flat ground at a height of around 51m aOD, but the grassed area slopes down from Bramcote Lane from around 55m aOD.

The car park consists of an asphalted area of car park spaces interspaced by raised kerbs. The rest of the proposed development area was covered in well-tended grass. The proposed development area covers around 1600 square metres.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological excavation is to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the strip plan and sample excavation are:

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

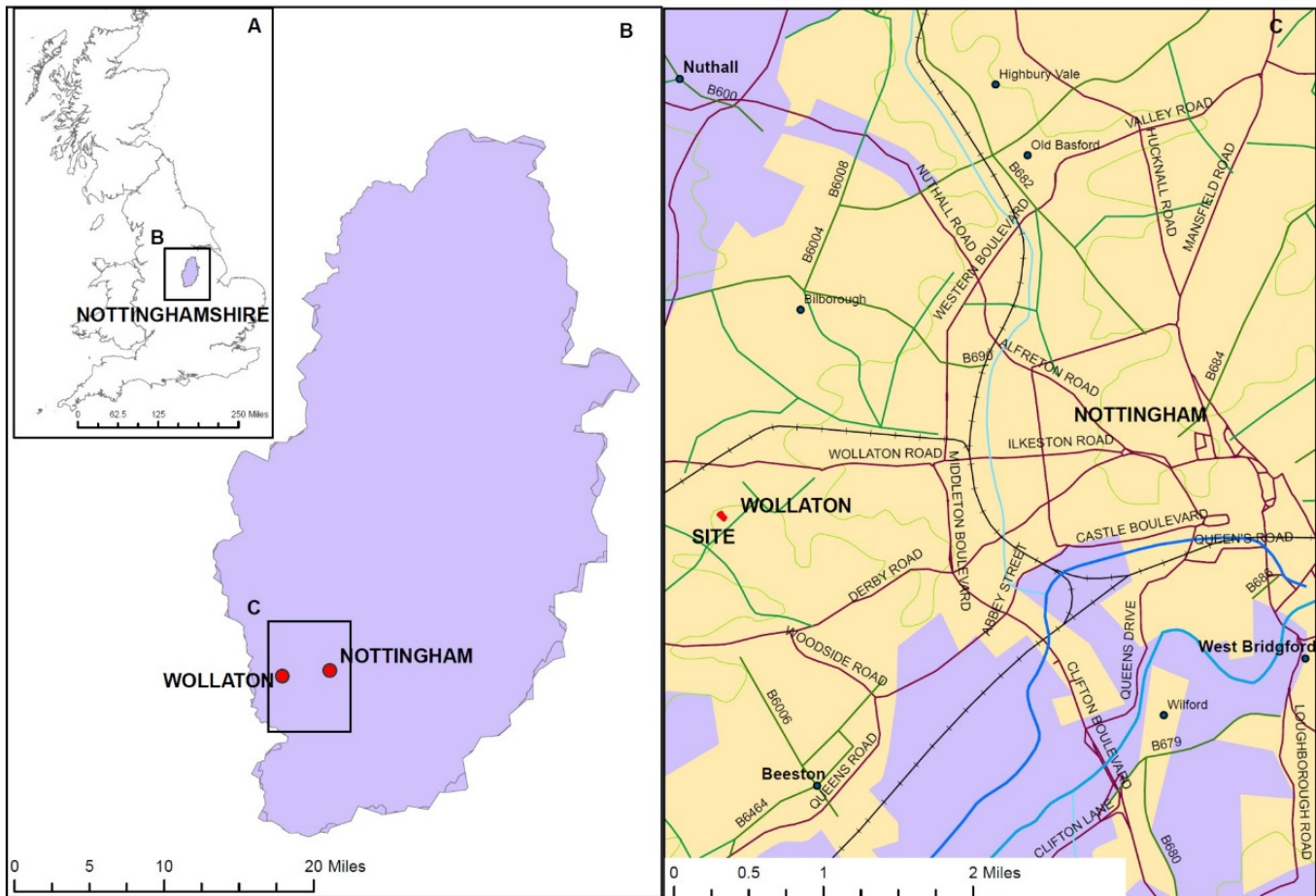


Figure 1: Site Location
Contains Ordnance Survey Data

Archaeological Background

Wollaton is a Domesday village with the land of Olaveston belonging to Ulfi the Saxon prior to the Norman Invasion. The Willoughby's rebuilt or expanded the Manor House in the 15th century and Wollaton Hall to the east was built in the 16th century.

The proposed development area lies outside the historic core of the village and early edition OS maps show the land as fields with the neighbouring grave yard marked thus before the development of the area and the construction of the church.

The Church of St Thomas More was built in 1955-56 to serve a new housing estate at Wollaton. It was originally intended to be both a church and a church hall with the sanctuary and altar hidden behind a folding screen which could be closed when the hall was being used for social functions although it was always intended that a separate church would be built alongside.

Remains of a Roman furnace, interpreted as a probable cremation kiln, were found a short distance from the site. Cremated bone and Roman pottery was found to be associated with the structure. An axe hammer and bronze socketed celt were also found in the vicinity. This raises the potential for important archaeological remains within the site (including potential evidence of occupation during the Roman period – a period of occupation which is poorly understood in the city).

The desk-based assessment (DBA) produced by ULAS (Clarke 2012) concluded that there was 'some potential for earth-fast Roman archaeological deposits to be present within the development area, with lower potential for the presence of prehistoric deposits. In view of the limited scale of the previous development on site, any such deposits that are present on site are likely to be relatively well-preserved and close to the ground surface'.



Figure 2: Location of proposed development area. Plan provided by developer

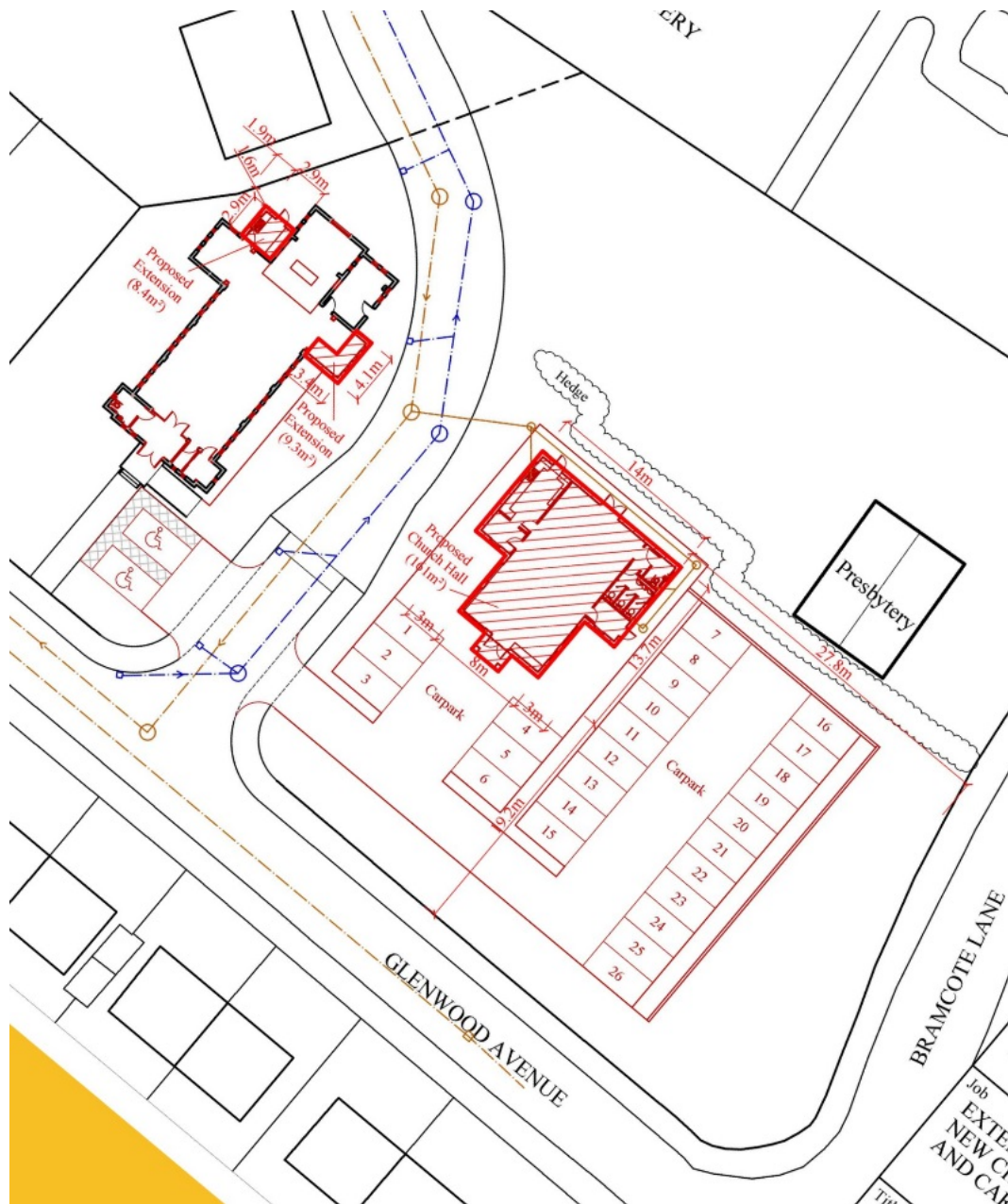


Figure 3: Plan of proposed development. Provided by developer

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014b).

A *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work* was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken (ULAS 2018).

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works.

The work was carried out by a large tracked excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket. The spoil was removed using a front-tip dumper (Fig. 4).



Figure 4: Work in progress, looking north

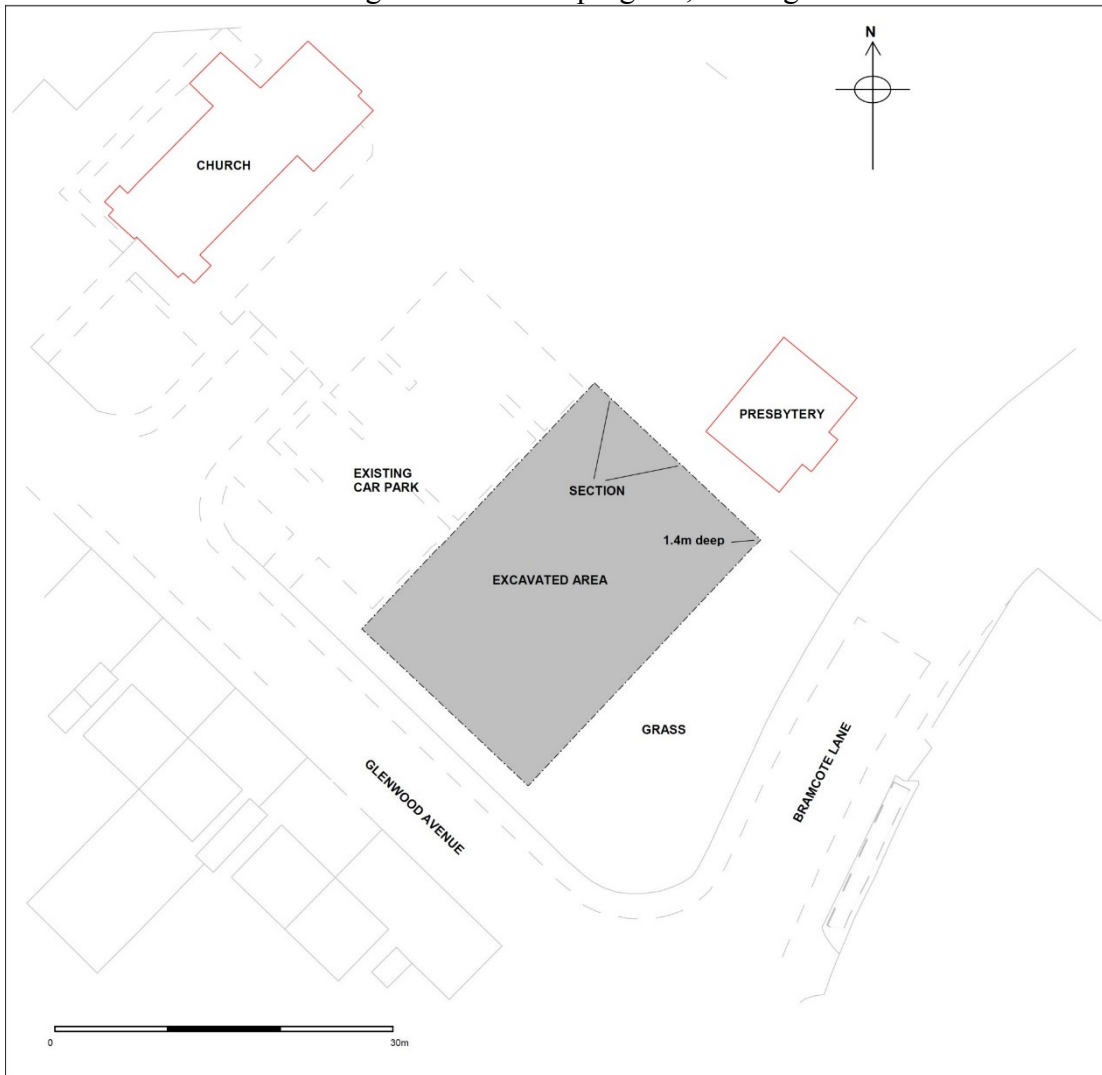


Figure 5: Plan of development area with observations

Results

The site was visited on the mornings of 6th and 7th of December 2017 and the afternoon of 12th December 2017. The site was initially stripped of the turf layer down onto the thin topsoil, broadly from south-east to north-west, and from south-west to north-east to form an area measuring around 20m by 30m (Fig. 5).

A small area measuring 2m x 2m was then excavated close to the boundary with the neighbouring garden of the presbytery building to the east of the site. This was excavated under supervision of an ecologist in order to check for badger activity. The badgers had been active within the grave yard to the north-east of the site. The sequence within this small area consisted of around 0.3m of brown silty topsoil down to orange red sand/ sandstone. No badger activity was noted.

The area was then stripped to the finished reduced level starting in the eastern corner of the site and moving slowly to the north-west and then south-west (Fig. 6). Across most of the site the sequence consisted of 0.20m of topsoil over 0.10m of subsoil down to the aforementioned sand and sandstone. With the land falling substantially from south-east to north-west the depth of the dig in the north-west corner was around 1.4m deep down to around 0.70m at the western end. No features were seen within the excavated areas.



Figure 6: Work in progress on full depth dig, north-east corner



Figure 7: Excavations at north-western end of site, looking south-west



Figure 8: Tip line visible in south-west facing section of excavation

Along the north-eastern edge of the site the full section across the site could be seen. At the western end this consisted of 0.70m of mixed made-up ground and topsoil down to the base. Around 10m from the eastern end of the section a tip line could be identified showing that the deep topsoil was mainly infill of a steep hollow here, possibly associated with the construction of the nearby presbytery and the garden to the rear, of which this section formed the southern extent. Under the mixed topsoil lay a buried topsoil layer over red sandstone (Fig. 8).

By the visit of 12th December the area was almost completely stripped down to the required formation level. No further inspections were made. No archaeological features or artefacts associated with archaeological features were discovered during the archaeological attendance.



Figure 9: Excavations almost complete, looking north-east

Conclusion

The land at St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church in Wollaton had potential for Roman remains due to the presence of known Roman remains in the vicinity.

The excavations during the groundworks for the development adjacent to the church revealed undisturbed ground across most of the site with a sequence of thin topsoil and subsoil layers overlying sand and sandstone sub-stratum.

At the north-eastern end of the site where the area met the adjacent land of the presbytery, the section created here revealed redeposited mixed topsoil and made-up ground lying over an earlier topsoil layer, most likely representing disturbance of the natural land surface from when the presbytery building was constructed and the adjacent gardens landscaped.

No archaeological remains were revealed during the archaeological attendance and no archaeological artefacts were recovered during the development.

References

CIFA, 2014a Codes of Conduct

CIFA, 2014b *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Clarke, S., 2012 *An archaeological desk-based assessment for land adjacent to St Thomas More Church, Glenwood Avenue, Wollaton, Nottinghamshire (SK 52012 39493)*. ULAS Report No. 2012-140

ULAS 2018 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work: St Thomas More RC Church, Wollaton, Nottingham*.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank St. Thomas More RC Parish for the work. Leon Hunt would like to thank Andy Page for his help and co-operation with the project. The archaeological attendance was carried out by Leon Hunt of ULAS.

Archive

The archive for this project will be retained by ULAS with site code ULAS_18-214 with the view of depositing the archive in the future with a museum body with an accession number. It consists of the following:

- 1 Copy of unbound report ULAS Report No. 2018-184
- 2 Watching Brief Recording Sheets
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- 1 Photo Record

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14-11-2018

Appendix: OASIS Data Entry

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological

Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-333764		
	Project Name	St. Thomas More RC Church		
	Start/end dates of field work	6-12-2017 to 12-12-2017		
	Previous/Future Work	Not known/ No		
	Project Type	Archaeological Attendance (watching brief)		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Car Park/ open space		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	16/02298/PFUL3		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	St. Thomas More RC Church, Glenwood Road, Wollaton, Nottingham		
	Study Area	1600 sq. m		
	Site Coordinates	SK 52030 39472		
	Height OD	51m-55m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority- Nottingham City Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Patrick Clay		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Leon Hunt		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	St. Thomas More RC Parish		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	ULAS	ULAS	ULAS
	ID (Acc. No.)	ULAS_18-214	ULAS_18-214	ULAS_18-214
	Contents	None	Photos	Report-Watching Brief Forms
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks at St. Thomas More RC Church, Glenwood Avenue, Wollaton, Nottingham (SK 52030 39472)		
	Author	Hunt, L		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2018-184		
	Date	2016		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		



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