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Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological Evaluation at 54-56
High Pavement and 9-10 Short Hill,
Nottingham, NG1 1NB**

NGR: SK 57749 39620

Tim Higgins

ULAS Report No 2019-018

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Grid Ref: SK 57749 39620

Author: Tim Higgins

Client:

Planning Ref. 16/02249/PFUL3

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OASIS RECORD

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	Start/end dates	22nd January to 1st February 2019		
	Previous/Future Work	DBA		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
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	Current Land Use	Car Park		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	Medieval		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	16/02249/PFUL3		
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	Site Address/Postcode	54-56 High Pavement and 9- 10 Short Hill, Nottingham NG1 1NB		
	Study Area	0.25 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 577749 39620		
	Height OD	39.60m to 40.80m aOD		
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	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Richard Buckley		
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Contents

Summary	4
Introduction.....	4
Location and Geology.....	5
Based on excavations and observations since 1969. From Hunt 2014 after Young 1986. Site location shown by arrow.....	7
Historical and Archaeological Background	8
Archaeological Objectives	10
Methodology	10
Results.....	12
Finds.....	18
The Post Roman Ceramic and Miscellaneous Finds- Deborah Sawday.....	18
The Charred Plant Remains Adam Santer and Rachel Small.....	21
Discussion.....	24
Proposed Development Impact.....	25
Archive and publication.....	26
Acknowledgements.....	27
References.....	27

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location.....	5
Figure 2 Proposed Building Location	6
Figure 3 Development proposals (ground floor) Supplied by client	7
Figure 4 Defences of Saxon and Norman Nottingham.....	7
Figure 5: Location of trial trenches.....	11
Figure 6 Trench 1 archaeological features looking south east.....	12
Figure 7 Trench 1 looking north-west	12
Figure 8 Trench 1 Archaeological features.....	15
Figure 9 Sections Trench 1	15
Figure 10 Trench 2 looking north-west	16
Figure 11 Trench 3 looking west	17
Figure 12 Trench 4 looking west	18
Figure 13 Composite plan location of archaeology, basements and caves.....	26

Table 1 The Pottery, ceramic building material and misc. finds by context, fabric/material, number and weight.....	21
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Table 2 The environmental remains found in the samples	22
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An archaeological field evaluation at 54 – 56 High Pavement and 9 – 10 Short Hill, Nottingham (SK 57749 39620)

Tim Higgins

Summary

An archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at 54 – 56 High Pavement and 9 – 10 Short Hill, Nottingham, by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in response to development proposals for the refurbishment of existing buildings and for the construction of new residential accommodation in January 2019. Four trenches were excavated within the development site, which lies in an area defined as having archaeological potential due to its position on the south-eastern corner of the Saxon and medieval town of Nottingham. The evaluation revealed truncated medieval post holes, and a pit with a potential early post-medieval wall and demolition spreads. Both the medieval and post medieval deposits are thought to be associated with properties that once fronted on to High Pavement. The pottery sherds recovered from the features formed assemblage which as a whole dates from between the mid or later 12th or mid-13th century to the 15th or 17th century

The site archive will be held with Nottingham City Museum Galleries, under the accession code: NCMG 2019-11.

Introduction

An archaeological field evaluation (AFE) was undertaken as part of the requirements identified by the City Archaeologist at Nottingham City Council as archaeological advisor to the planning authority in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. The AFE was undertaken to assess whether any archaeological remains of significance were present within the proposed development site and propose suitable treatment to avoid or minimise damage by the development.

The archaeological potential of the plot was to be assessed by a phased programme of work, commencing with archaeological desk-based assessment (Hyam 2016). This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out in January 2019 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS).

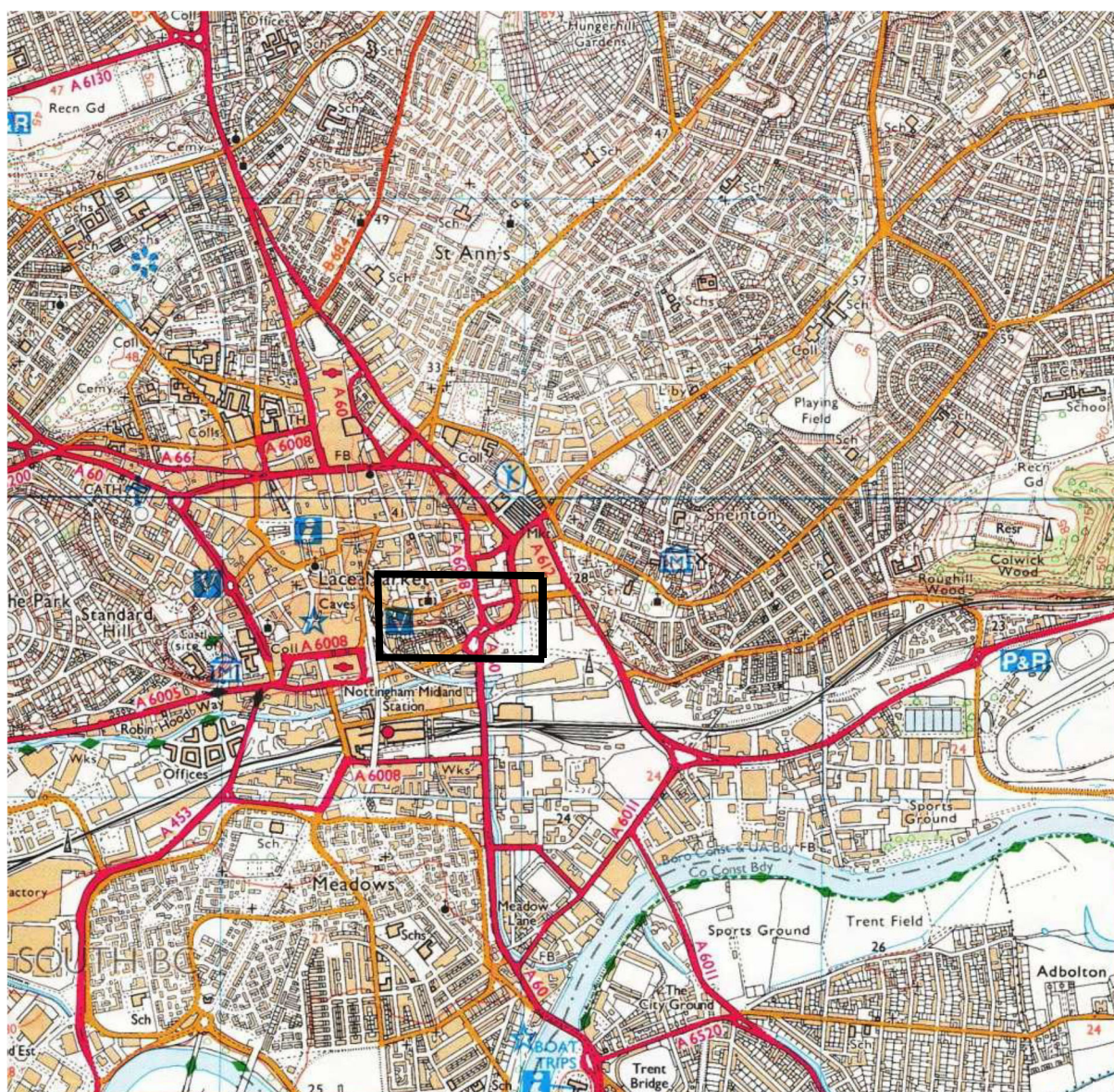


Figure 1: Site Location

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Location and Geology

The proposed development site is roughly rectangular in shape and encompasses all of Numbers 54 & 56 High Pavement, including the present car parking area to the south (rear) and east of Number 56, extending as far south as the retaining wall along the cliff edge. All of Number 10 Short Hill is included, as is the adjacent low-level car parking area to the west of it, accessed via a gateway beneath Short Hill opening onto Hollow Stone. Only the rear, four-storey plus basement warehouse section of 9 Short Hill is included within the development, this defining the west side of Trivett Square. The southern edge of the site is defined by a brick and stone retaining wall along the cliff edge of Malin Hill. The site occupies an area of approximately 0.25 hectares (Figure 2).

All of the buildings on site are Grade II listed and are discussed in detail in the historic building impact assessment report (ULAS Report 2016-095). The area to the south and south-east of Numbers 54 and 56 is currently used as a car parking area. To the west of Number 10 Short

Hill is the basement of a late 19th-century building which was destroyed during the Second World War. This area is also currently used for car parking and is accessed via a short tunnel leading out to Hollow Stone.

The British Geological Survey map for Nottingham (1:50,000 sheet 126, Solid and Drift), shows the site as sitting on an outcrop of the Pebble Beds, a soft sandstone. The site is located on the southern edge of the outcrop upon which the historic core of Nottingham is located (Figure 1). The site is generally flat at around 40m OD. Immediately south of the cliff on Malin Hill the ground is at c.26m OD.

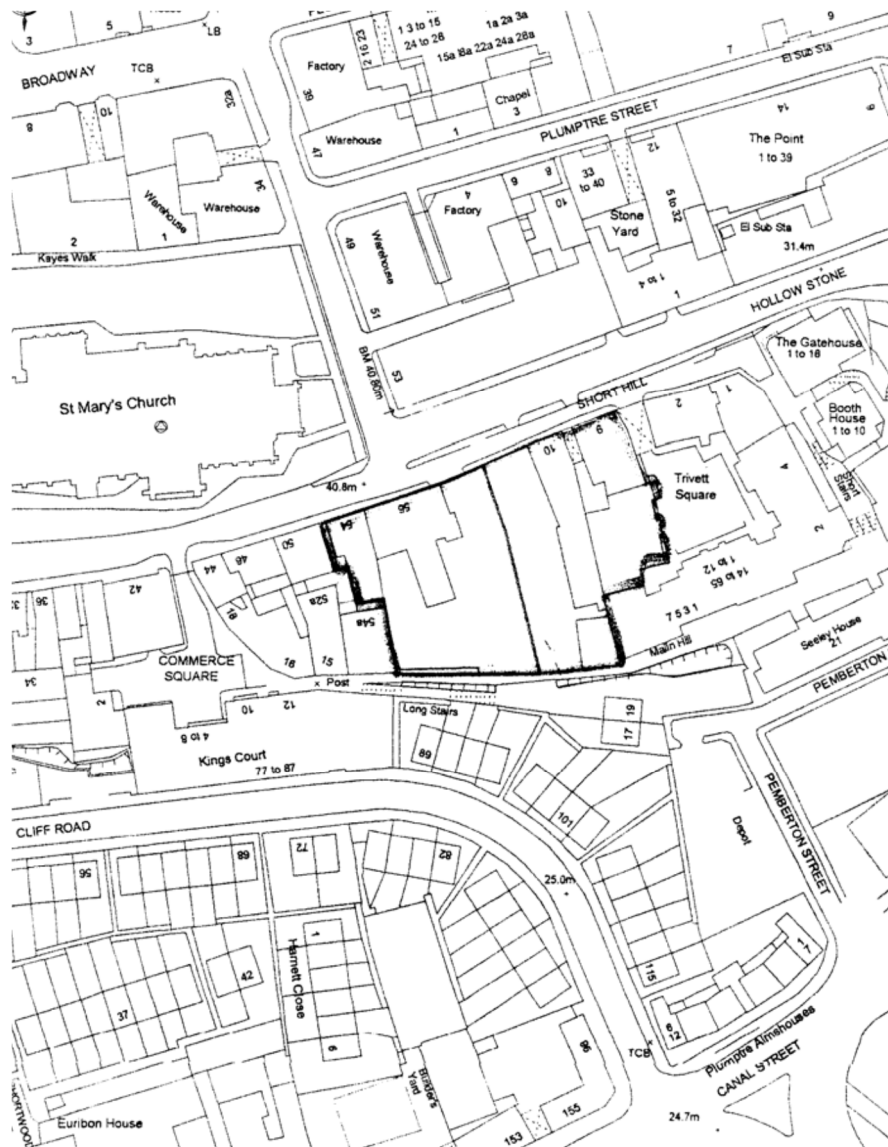


Figure 2 Proposed Building Location



Figure 3 Development proposals (ground floor) Supplied by client

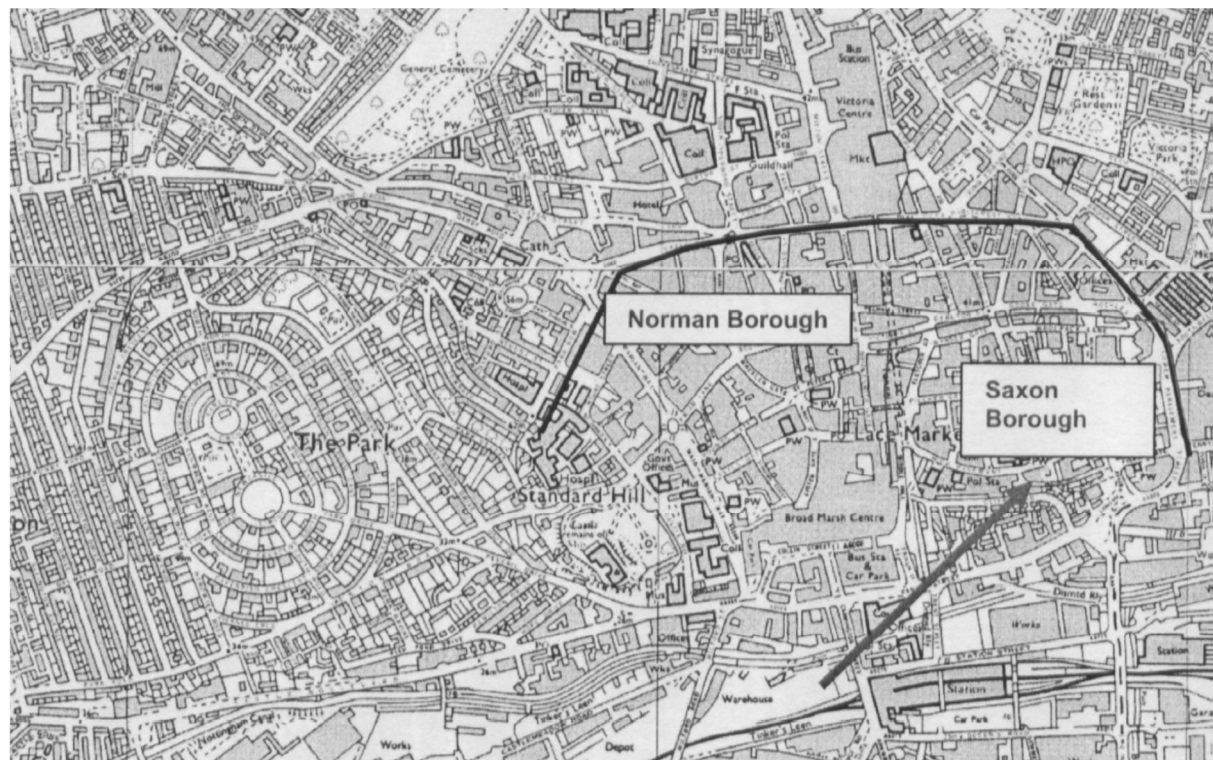


Figure 4 Defences of Saxon and Norman Nottingham

Based on excavations and observations since 1969. From Hunt 2014 after Young 1986. Site location shown by arrow.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies on the upper cliff edge that once defined the southern defence of the Saxon burh and is therefore within a likely area of Saxon and pre-Conquest activity (Young CSB, 1986) (Figure 4). An early phase of mid-Saxon settlement, pre-dating the burh has been postulated, lying some way to the north of the development area. However, the area, extent and even existence of this settlement is uncertain (Young, C.S.B. 1986, 1). Immediately to the north-west of the site, on the north side of High Pavement, is the church of St Mary's, which is the only known church within the original Saxon burh. Given the importance of the church, the site could be located in a high-status area. Whilst the fabric of the present church is of later medieval date, it almost certainly would have had a Saxon predecessor. The current boundary to the graveyard is recent, being built in the 18th century, and the cemetery may originally have been larger. This is hinted at by the small size of the present cemetery. There is however likely to be little chance of burials occurring within the development area. The possibility of encountering burials on site should therefore still be considered.

The site is very likely to have evidence of domestic settlement, perhaps similar to that seen in the excavations at Halifax Place, to the north-west of St Mary's. The excavations there revealed evidence of occupation beginning before the 10th century, together with evidence for pottery production dating to around 1000AD (Young G 1986).

An intra-mural road has been suggested (see Figure 4), running around the inner circuit of the defences of the Saxon burh. In the south of the burh, this ran along High Pavement and Hollowstone, and the defences are thought to follow the high ground overlooking the Broadmarsh and Narrowmarsh to the south. However, although work was carried out at Fisher Gate which saw the probable intra-mural road and at Drury Hill there have been no archaeological observations nearer to the proposed development site.

The Saxon Defences

The defences elsewhere in the burh, fall into at least two poorly-dated phases, the last of which may represent the recorded repairs by Edward the Elder in 918 (Young, C.S.B. 1986, 1-3). The defences of much of the burh consisted of a wide ditch and a probable earth or sand rampart (Young, C.S.B. 1986, 1-3). A palisade or similar barrier is likely to have topped the rampart. No evidence has yet been uncovered of any defences along the cliffs that define the southern edge of the burh (Young, C.S.B. 1986, 4). However this may be because there seems to have been almost no excavation in the area.

The Medieval Period

There is little available documentary evidence that is directly relevant to the development area. Granger notes that there are references to Hollowstone from 1357 and 1363, when a John Malyn is referred to, after whom perhaps the adjacent Malin Hill was named (Granger, 1908, 103-6). Another writer suggests that properties on the south side of High Pavement by St Mary's cemetery are referred to in two grants from around 1366. The site has the potential for preserving settlement evidence including building remains, either stretching back from the High Pavement frontage or perhaps fronting onto Malin Hill. A Malin Hill frontage is suggested by early post-medieval plans. As noted above, the site is almost opposite the church of St Mary's, the main church of the Saxon burh. This is likely to have had several phases of building and additions. However, the present church was rebuilt in the Perpendicular Style in the later medieval period. A fragment probably of the original Romanesque church exists in

the entrance of a factory in Broadway, built in 1855. This consists of two adjoining round headed, window arches, with a small animal head at the junction between them. A fragment of a later coat of arms also survives. These were probably recovered during one of the many phases of restoration to the church. There is a possibility of architectural fragments from earlier phases of the church occurring on site, which while not being enough to allow reconstruction are nonetheless valuable clues to the development of the church.

Archaeology

Something of the archaeological potential of the site is indicated by excavations by G Black at Halifax Place roughly 170m to the west. Here evidence of occupation from the Iron Age onwards was revealed. Most significantly, a sequence of building remains were found, dating from c.900 through to the mid- 14th century when the site became a garden area (Young G. 1986). One of the significant features of the site was that the buildings were set well back from the frontages.

Excavations were also carried out on the site of the medieval Shire Hall, roughly 160m to the west of the development area (Kinsley 1995, 55-64). In spite of later disturbance, medieval structural remains and cut features survived on site, indicating at least three phases of medieval activity. Excavations at the nearby Old High Pavement School produced evidence of later medieval metalworking on site, although not bell casting as originally thought (Hunt 1985).

In summary, the site lies in an area of known medieval settlement, next to the church, which is likely to be a high status area. Although the frontages will have been largely destroyed by the existing buildings on site, it is quite possible that buildings might extend into the rear of the properties as seen at Halifax Place. Excavations nearby have shown the high archaeological potential of the area for medieval deposits and features

Post Medieval Defences

After the medieval period, the town came under threat on three subsequent occasions. The 1536 Pilgrimage of Grace saw armed northern rebels halted at the Trent Bridge crossing. Money is recorded as having been spent on unspecified improvements to the defences of the castle (SP I, lii, lxix). Whether any attention was paid to the rest of the town defences and, more specifically, the southern cliffs is unknown. The evidence for the Civil War defences does not seem to have been re-assessed since Butler's summary (Butler 1949, 26-53). He suggested that the southern defences of the town would have been formed by the River Leen. There seems to be no published evidence for Civil War defences along the edge of the cliff. However, given the presence of the Postern at Drury Hill and the access into the core of the town along Malin Hill and the Hollow Stone, some form of defence would have been prudent. Given the length of the conflict, there would also have been time to improve these defences. However, the account of Lucy Hutchinson suggests that the town's defences were neglected and that effort was mainly expended in the defence of the castle.

The final threat to the town came during the 1745 Jacobite rebellion. The rebels marched as far south as Derby and there was general alarm extending to Nottingham, and the recent demolition of the Chapel Bar caused severe recriminations against the Town Corporation (McLynn 1979, 63). The evidence is scant but it seems likely that the town defences were once again ignored in favour of the defences of the castle much as happened during the Civil War.

Archaeological Objectives

The archaeological evaluation had the potential to contribute to the following research aims:

The Medieval period (Lewis 2006, Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012

The evaluation may contribute towards research into the origins and development of medieval settlement, landscape and society. Environmental evidence could provide information on local environmental conditions as well as settlement activity, craft, industry and land use. Artefacts can assist in the development of a type series within the region and provide evidence for evidence for craft, industry and exchange across broad landscape areas. The evaluation has the potential to contribute to Research Agenda topics 7.1.2, 7.1.4, 7.2.1-7.2.4, 7.3.1-7.3.5, 7.5.4, 7.6.1-2, 7.7.1-7.7.5.

The main objectives of the evaluation will be:

To identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits.

To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works

To produce an archive and report of any results

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is 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.

Trench excavation is intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of the earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

Methodology

The Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Nottingham City Council proposed the investigation of two 20m by 1.6m wide trial trenches to achieve a 10% sample of the total site area of c.620 sq. m. The plan (Fig. 3) shows the proposed locations of the trenches. The trenches were located to provide a good spread across the available site area within the proposed building footprint.

The initial location of both trenches was subject to a services plan survey and a CAT scan to locate any live services. The number position and length of the trenches within the car park subsequently had to be revised due to site constraints on site and also due to the initial results from Trench 2. . Due to site constraints Trench 1 would now measure 14.80m long x 4.00m wide but would still be located within the south-west corner of the car-park running north-west to south-east.

A second trench was located in the eastern half of and was orientated north to south direction. Trench 2 measured 14.00m long and 2.00m wide but results from the trench necessitated a change in the trench plan. Here, overburden was found to be over 2.00m deep to the limit of excavation, so this trench was to be shorter in length and stepped to allow safe access. To complete the evaluation and achieve the 10% sample size the number of trenches would be increased from two to four.

Trench 3 was located in the south-east corner and orientated north to south and measured 6.00m long and 3.50m wide. An additional fourth trench targeted the street frontage area and measured 4.50m long and 3.5m wide

Modern overburden was 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.

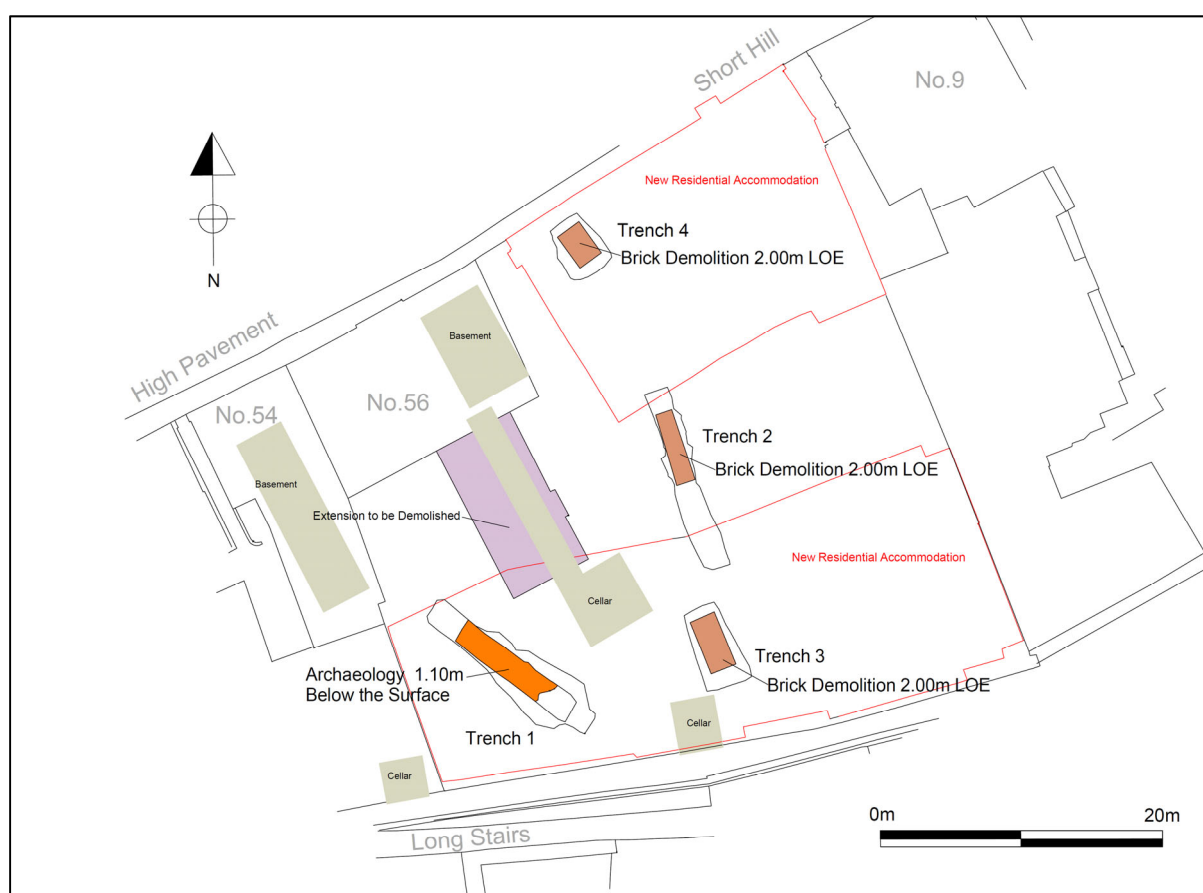


Figure 5: Location of trial trenches

Results

The four trial trenches covered a total area of 123 square metres, or 20% of the development footprint. A scatter of archaeological features was reached at a depth of 1.10m within Trench 1. These features were partially excavated for dating evidence and to help determine the depth and quality of archaeology. The remaining three trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 2.00m but no archaeological deposits were reached (Figure 4).



Figure 6 Trench 1 archaeological features looking south east



Figure 7 Trench 1 looking north-west

Trench 1

Length 1st step	14.70m
Width 1st Step	4.50m
Length lower trench	10.20mm
Width Lower trench	2.00m
Depth	Min 1.10m Max 1.55m
Current ground floor level	40.80m AOD
Top of Archaeology	39.70m AOD
Natural Substratum	39.70m AOD

Trench 1 was located towards the south-western corner of the development area and current car park, which measured at the top 14.70m long by 4.50m at wide (Figure 5). This trench had a maximum excavated depth of 1.55m (39.25m OD) below current ground floor surface and was stepped to allow safe access. A secondary lower trench measuring 10.20m long and 2.00m wide was excavated down the centre of the first trench. The natural substratum was reached within this lower trench at a minimum depth of 1.10m (39.70m AOD) and comprised pale-yellow soft sandstone. The top of the archaeological horizon was reached at the same depth.

At the southern end of the trench potentially large feature **[104]** was exposed orientated west to east. A trial slot measuring 1.50m long, 0.70m wide and 0.60m deep revealed natural undulating 45 degree sloping edge. This was thought to natural cliff edge of the southern edge of the sandstone outcrop upon which the historic core of city is located. The natural cliff face appears to be sealed under a deposit **(103)** reddish brown clay mixed with natural sand stone rubble and occasional tile or brick fragment (Figure 8 and Figure 9 Sect 1.04).

At the centre of the trench, cutting directly into the natural sandstone, three potential features were observed **[106]**, **[108]** and **[110]**. All three contained mid greyish-brown sandy loam mixed with occasional charcoal flecks. Excavation of feature **[106]** revealed an oval cut post hole with very steep sloping sides breaking sharply in flat base. This feature measured 0.70m long, 0.45m wide and 0.27m deep. No finds were retrieved from the feature (Figure 8 and Figure 9 Sect 1.02).

The other two features **[108]** and **[110]** appeared to be rectangular in shape but their full extent remained unknown as they ran beyond the edge of excavation. A slot was excavated into feature **[108]** measuring 0.70m long, 0.38m wide and 0.50m deep. It revealed a rectangular feature and very steep vertical sides. The base of the feature was not reached and these excavations suggests that the feature was a large deep pit that extends beyond the limits of excavation. Finds retrieved from the feature's fill **(107)** included late medieval pottery dated 13th - 14th century and fragments of animal bone. Environmental samples taken from these features contained not only charred plant remains and fish bones but other artefacts which included a small number of spheroids from metal working (Figure 8 and Figure 9 Sect 1.03).

Towards the northern end of the trench a linear wall foundation **[111]** was observed, aligned north to south. The full extent of the wall remains unknown as it was only partially exposed. A trial slot excavated across the centre of the feature revealed a regular 'U'-shape cut in section with very steep sides that broke sharply into a flat base. The wall measured at least 2.60m in length by at least 0.55m wide and had a depth of 0.30m. The foundation comprised two courses of sub-rectangular sandstone laid in a squared random pattern **(112)**. The wall appeared to be

bonded with a dark pink clay mixed with occasional charcoal. A fragment of re-used medieval tile was found within the fabric of the wall (Figure 8 and Figure 9 Sect 2.02).

At the northern edge of the trench, a potential stone-block pavement surface **(115)** was visible. This surface comprised two squared sandstone blocks measuring 0.50m by 0.50m and laid in linear pattern orientated south-west to north-east. The surface appeared to be worn and is thought to be perhaps associated with wall **[111]** located 2.00m to the south. A series of demolition spreads **(113)** and **(114)** appeared to have been deposited between the wall and the pavement. Test slots excavated into the spreads revealed an underlying deposit **(114)** of reddish brown sandy loam mixed with frequent charcoal flecks, crushed sandstone fragments and tile overlying sand stone natural. This deposit had a minimum length of 3.00m, width of 2.00m and depth of 0.15m. Overlying spread **(113)** comprised mid brownish sandy loam mixed with abundant charcoal flecks and occasional crushed sand stone fragments. It measured 1.50m long, 1.20m wide and 0.18m deep. The pottery and tile found associated with these spreads **(113)** and **(114)** included post-medieval pottery dated 15th-17th century and a fragment of animal bone. Environmental samples taken from these spread **(113)** contained charred plant remains and fish bones.

Directly overlying the natural geology and archaeological features was a thick layer of mixed modern overburden **(100)** that consisted of mixed sandy loam soils mixed with layers of modern brick demolition rubble. Towards the southern end of the trench, a modern brick foundation, 0.20m thick, was observed overlying the mixed overburden and located at depth of 0.30m below the current ground surface. These brick foundations were sealed by a layer of modern overburden between 0.20m and 0.40m deep which consisted of crushed brick rubble and tarmac.

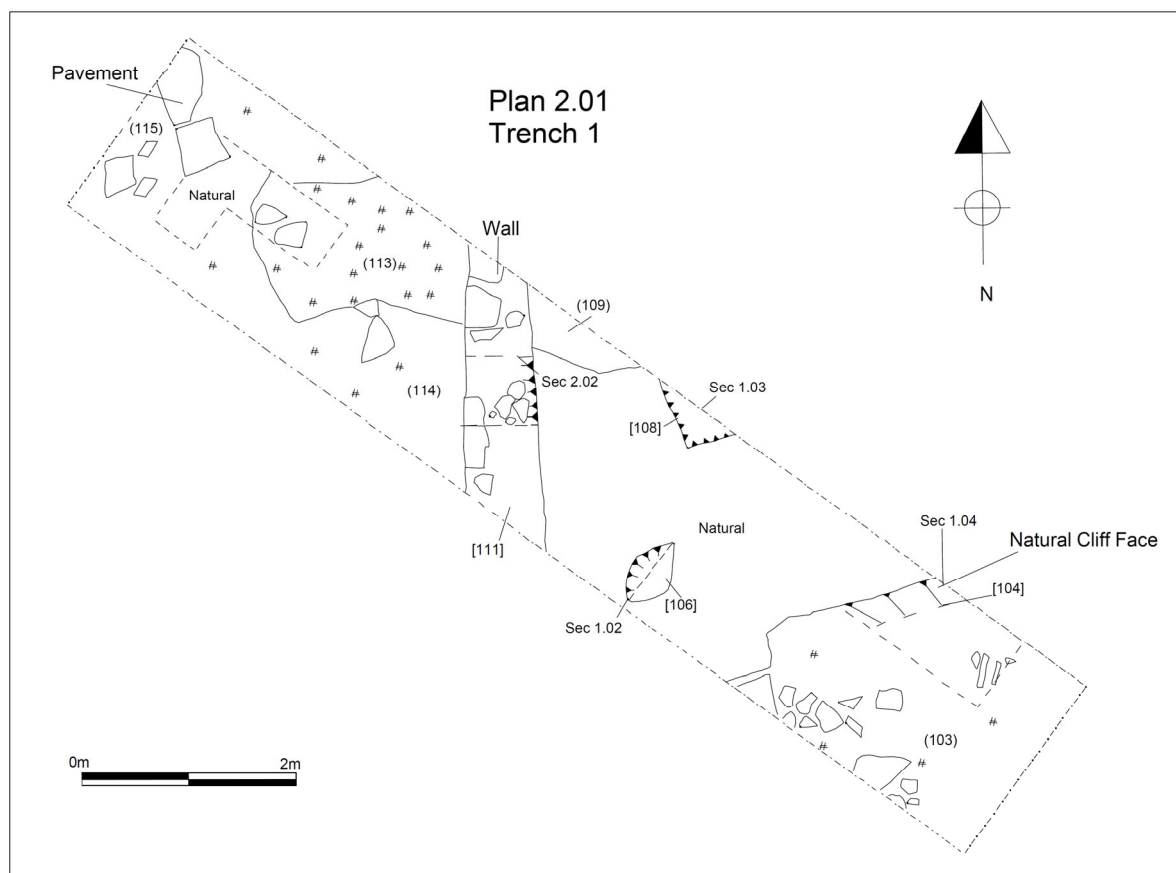


Figure 8 Trench 1 Archaeological features

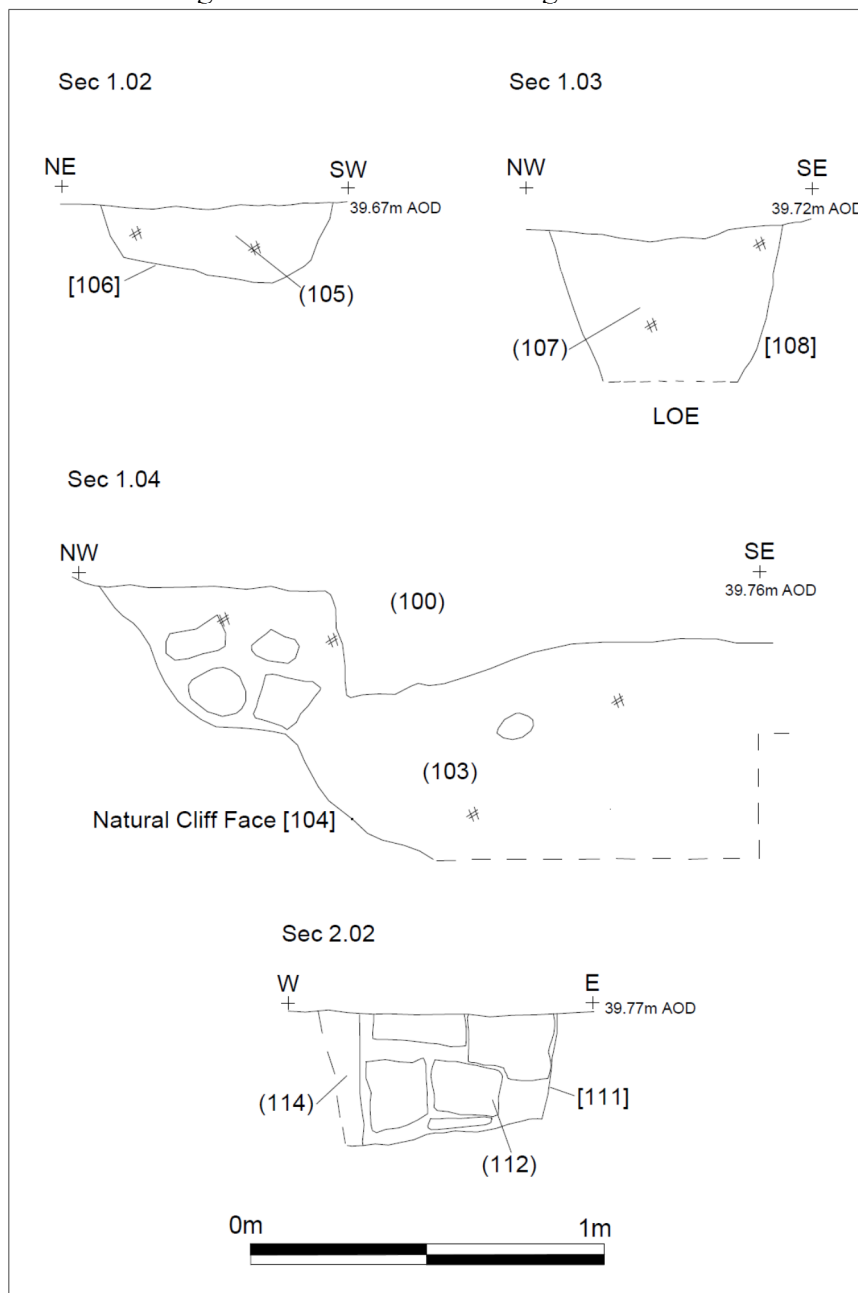


Figure 9 Sections Trench 1

Trench 2

Length 1st step	14.00m
Width 1st Step	2.40m
Length lower trench	7.00m
Width Lower trench	2.00m
Depth	2.00mm
Current ground floor level	40.80m AOD
Top of Archaeology	None
Natural Substratum	Not reached



Figure 10 Trench 2 looking north-west

A second trench was located in the eastern half of the car park and orientated north to south (Figure 4). Trench 2 measured 14.00m long and 2.40m wide, however after excavation of the trench had started the initial results necessitated a change in plan. Within this trench the overburden was found to be over 1.00m deep and consisted of very loose brick rubble. As excavations continued to a depth of 1.00m the sides started to collapse and back fill the trench. Excavations were halted and new trench design was devised. The trench was to be partly back filled, shorter in length and stepped to allow safe access. This new trench measured 7.00m long and 2.00m wide. Machine excavations continued to a depth of 1.50m and at this point a very mixed compacted garden soil was encountered. A hand excavated trial slot measuring 0.50m deep revealed more brick demolition below the soil and it is likely that garden soil was redeposited material. Excavations at 2.00m were halted for safety reasons as the sides of the trench were likely to collapse. The heavily disturbed 19th- to 20th-century brick work appeared to be within deep basements that were hastily backfilled with loose demolition material. These deep basements are likely to have truncated or removed any potential medieval or post-medieval deposits within this locality.

Trench 3

Length 1st step	6.00m
Width 1st Step	3.50m
Length lower trench	4.10m
Width Lower trench	2.00m
Depth	2.00mm
Current ground floor level	40.80m aOD
Top of Archaeology	None
Natural Substratum	Not reached

Trench 3 was located in the south-east corner of the car park and orientated north to south and measured 6.00m long and 3.50m wide (Figure 5). This trench was to be shorter in length and stepped to allow safe access. The initial trench was excavated to a depth 1.00m, then a second trench measuring 4.10m long, 2.00m wide and 1.00m deep was then excavated down the centre. Within this trench the overburden measured over 2.00m deep and comprised of very loose modern brick rubble. At this point excavations were halted at 2.00m as the trench sides had collapsed and back filled the trench. The loosely compacted demolition material appears to be within deep basement.



Figure 11 Trench 3 looking west

Trench 4

Length 1st step	4.50m
Width 1st Step	3.50m
Length lower trench	2.80m

Width Lower trench	2.00m
Depth	2.00m
Current ground floor level	40.80m aOD
Top of Archaeology	None
Natural Substratum	Not reached

An additional fourth trench targeted the street frontage area and measured 4.50m long and 3.5m wide (Figure 5). This trench was to be shorter in length and stepped to allow safe access. The initial trench was excavated to a depth of 1.00m and then stepped with a second trench excavated down the centre measuring 2.80m long, 2.00m wide and 1.00m deep. Within this trench the overburden was found to be over 2.00m deep and comprised very loose brick rubble. At this point excavations were halted at a depth of 2.00m as the trench sides continued to collapse and back fill the trench. The disturbed 19th- to 20th-century brick work appeared to be within another deep basement that was backfilled with loose demolition material. This deep basement is likely to have truncated and removed any potential medieval or post-medieval street frontage deposits.



Figure 12 Trench 4 looking west

Finds

The Post Roman Ceramic and Miscellaneous Finds- Deborah Sawday

The Ceramic Finds

The pottery assemblage was made up of eight sherds, weighing 189 grams representing a count of eight vessels. Thirty-five fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 4.823 kg and representing approximately fifteen to twenty nib tiles were also recovered.

Condition

The condition of the pottery was good with relatively little abrasion. Much of the nib tile was fragmentary and abraded, some larger pieces did survive however, giving an average weight of 137.8 grams.

Methodology

The pottery and tile was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016) and the Nottingham fabric series (Nailor and Young 2001). The results are shown below (table 1).

The Ceramic record

The pottery assemblage was predominantly made up of undiagnostic body sherds save for a large externally sooted body sherd from a cooking pot or jar in Coarse Shelly ware, possibly Potterhanworth ware. The thin walled and glazed Midland Purple ware and the rounded form of the Cistercian ware suggested that these were part of a hollow ware vessels, a jug and a cup respectively.

Though abraded and fragmentary the nib tile, which was in a red bodied sandy fabric, was of note. The tile had been moulded, and most fragments including the seven surviving nibs were roughly made and finished, though most had been smoothed on the exterior surface. Unfortunately no dimensions were recoverable save for the thickness of the tile which varied between 12 and 15mm and was similar to tile dating from the early 13th century at Drury Hill. However, there was no evidence here of the double nibs or of the peg holes recorded at the latter site (MacCormick 2008, fig.8.1-3). The fabric of at least two of the tiles from [108] and [111] was reminiscent of Nottingham Splashed ware.

The surviving evidence suggested the nibs were an integral part of the tile and had been formed and projected from what would have been the upper surface of the tile whilst in the mould. Once removed, what had been the innermost sanded surface of the tile had been smoothed, so that when the nib was hung from the laths *in situ* the smoothed surface would be exposed to the elements unlike other examples from Leicester and elsewhere, where, once on the roof, the sanded surface was on the exterior (Allin 1981, 65).

One or two fragments appeared to be more finely made and finished with cut edges; these included a green glazed fragment in context 112, and another with brown glaze in context 114.

No co-joining fragments between different contexts were recorded.

Conclusion

The medieval pottery from the back-fill of the partially excavated pit [108] and the wall footing [111], appears to be typical of the locality (Nailor and Young 2001), the post-medieval sherd in [108] apparently representing later contamination (T. Higgins, pers. comm.). The assemblage as a whole dates from between the mid or later 12th or mid-13th century to the 16th or 17th century.

Most of the roof tile was found in the wall footing context [111], with a few outliers in the pits [108] and [104]. The tile is dated generally from the 13th century at Nottingham (MacCormick 2008), and whilst this date probably applies to the roughly made examples here, including what may be examples in Nottingham Splashed ware, typologically, the more finely made examples suggest a slightly later date. Mortar was found on both the surfaces of at least one tile, the torching occurring presumably where tiles had overlapped on the roof, suggesting that the material had indeed originally been used for roofing and subsequently re-used as infill in the wall foundations.

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	
POT				
100 [108] pit	NSP – Nottingham Splashed ware	1	21	Flat – base fragment with splashed glaze on interior. Coarse fabric suggests c.1150-c.1250 date.
100	PMX – Coarse ware	1	57	Oxidised body, slipped and glazed internally - ?Ticknall, 16 th - 17 th C+. – contamination?
107 [108]	?POTT – Potterhanworth ware	2	76	Coarse shelly ware. Hand-made body fragments, sooted externally – 13 th C+
107	LMOC – Sandy Grey ware	1	14	Body, light grey hard fired, medium sized quartz - ?14 th -15 th C.
114 [111] wall footing	MP – Midland Purple	2	14	Thin walled, brown glazed, probably from a jug - 15 th – 16 th C.
114	CIST - Cistercian	1	7	Hollow ware body, brown glazed mid/late 15th – 17th C.
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL – NIB TILE.				
100 [108]	EA - Earthenware	1	93	Abraded, hand-made, sanded on one surface. Possibly in NSP - Nottingham Splashed ware, maximum thickness, 15mm.
100	EA	1	131	Hand-made, red bodied sandy fabric, moulded edge, one surface sanded, the other roughly smoothed. Maximum thickness 15mm.
103 [104] modern	EA	1	441	Hand-made, red bodied sandy fabric, nib projecting from sanded surface. Very roughly made and finished.
103	EA	1	104	As above, with broken nib.
103	EA	2	185	As above, smoothed on unsanded surface.
112 [111]	EA	1	12	Iron rich, hand-made fragment, one surface sanded, the other smoothed. Possibly in NSP – Nottingham Splashed ware, maximum thickness c.13mm.
112	EA	1	313	Red bodied, sandy fabric, two cut edges, maximum thickness c.21mm. Green glaze on upper, sanded surface, spot of glaze on smooth lower surface.
113 [111]	EA	1	104	Red bodied, sandy fabric, abraded, very roughly made, undulating surface, moulded edge, maximum thickness c.12mm. Trace of broken nib with thumbing at base.
113	EA	9	947	Red bodied, sandy fabric, abraded, very roughly made, moulded edges, complete nib with single

				thumb smear at base apparently protruding from rough surface. Upper surface smeared longitudinally – and one smear at right angles. Maximum thickness c.15mm, and of tile 30mm. Traces of mortar, torching, on 2 fragments.
113	EA	1	441	Fabric and finish as above, very roughly made nib projecting from rough sanded surface, exterior smoothed longitudinally, tile thickness c.14mm.
113	EA	5	947	Fabric and finish as above, roughly made nib protruding from sanded side, pronounced longitudinal smoothing on upper surface. Tile thickness c.14mm.
114 [111]	EA	1	224	Iron rich sandy fabric, finish as above, roughly made nib with pronounced thumb smear at base protruding from sanded side, tile thickness c.14mm.
114	EA	3	515	Iron rich sandy fabric as above, longitudinal smearing, and mortar on both surfaces, (where tiles overlapped on roof). Thick walled, c.18mm. Trace of brown glaze on one edge.
114	EA	6	308	Iron rich sandy fabric as above, Misc. tile fragments, max. width 18mm.
114	EA	1	58	Iron rich sandy fabric as above. Tile fragment with cut edge and trace of brown glaze, max. thickness 17mm.
MISC.				
100	Animal bone	2		
107	Animal bone	3		
114	Animal bone	6		
114	Fe	1		Nail
113	Glass	1		Modern contamination - discarded
113	Charcoal		3	

Table 1 The Pottery, ceramic building material and misc. finds by context, fabric/material, number and weight

The Charred Plant Remains Adam Santer and Rachel Small

Introduction

During an archaeological evaluation at High Pavement, Nottingham four samples were taken for the analysis of charred plant remains. Sample 1 was taken from the fill (105) of post-hole [106], sample 2 was taken from the fill (107) of pit [108], sample 3 was taken from the fill (113) of construction cut [111], and sample 4 was taken from the fill (103) of pit [104]. All of the samples dated to the medieval period. The results are presented here along with a discussion about what they can tell us about past diet and crop husbandry strategies at the site

Methodology

The samples consisted of a light orangey brown sandy-silt and were processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were riffled and 25 percent of each was sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under an x10-40 stereo microscope. The heavy residues were sorted in their entirety. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and their names and habitat information follow Stace (1991).

Results

All of the samples contained charred plant remains and fish scales. The remains were found in low densities (less than 5 items per litre). The highest density of plant remains was found in sample 2, which was taken from pit [108], and contained 3.2 items per litre.

The samples included a mix of grains, chaff and wild foods/seeds. It was possible to identify some of the grains as barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) and free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* spp.). Free-threshing rachis was also present but this was not well preserved enough to identify it as either bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) or rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum* L.). A straw culm node was also present. Fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana* L.) were found and a small number of wild seeds including large and small grass (Poaceae), dock (*Rumex* spp.), elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) and vetch (*Vicia* spp.). These weeds are indicative of cultivated and/or disturbed lands and hedgerows.

Other artefacts present included fish bones and scales, these were recovered from the flots and residues of all samples. A small number of spheroids from metal working were also recovered from sample 2.

Sample	1	2	3	4	
Context	105	107	113	103	
Cut	106	108	111	104	
Feature type	Post-hole	Pit	Construction cut	Pit	
Date	Medieval	Medieval	Post-medieval	Post-medieval	
Grain					
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	1		1		Barley
<i>Triticum</i> sp. Free threshing		3			Free threshing wheat
Indeterminate cereal	5	7			Indeterminate cereal
Nut					
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.		5	1		Hazelnut shell
Chaff					
<i>Triticum</i> sp. rachis internode			3		Free-threshing wheat rachis internode
Straw culm node		1	1		Straw culm node
Wild seeds					
Poaceae (large)	3	2			Large grass
Poaceae (small)		1			Small grass
<i>Rumex</i> sp.			1		Dock
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.			1		Elder
<i>Vicia</i> sp.			2		Vetch
Other					
Fish scale	3	5	1	1	Fish scale
Fish bone	1			1	Fish bone
Industrial residue		2			Industrial residue
Total no. of plant remains	9	19	10	0	
Soil volume (L)	7	6	4	8	
Items per litre	1.3	3.2	2.5	0.0	

Table 2 The environmental remains found in the samples

Conclusion and Statement of Potential

The remains are likely to represent scatters of waste from processing crops for consumption. The low numbers of remains limit further conclusions as to the diet and crop processing at the site. Based on the results, the site has low potential for the recovery of large quantities of plant remains which would aid understanding. However, processing of samples for fish bone may be beneficial to understanding past diet at the site. If further excavation occurs at the site or in the near vicinity a suitable sampling strategy should be implemented for their collection.

Discussion

Natural Substratum

A natural sandstone substratum was reached at minimum depth of 39.70m aOD in Trenches 1 at a depth of 1.10m below the modern ground floor level.

Archaeological Levels

The very top of archaeological levels was found at a level of 39.70m aOD at 1.60m in Trench 1 where features were observed cutting directly into the natural sandstone substratum.

Medieval

Evidence of medieval activity was found in Trench 1 and the top of the deposits was generally found at levels of between 39.70m and 39.80m AOD. The medieval levels had all been truncated in the post-medieval period, principally by horticulture and other activities in the back yards of properties that once fronted on to High Pavement.

Due to the limitations of test trench evaluation, the available evidence is not sufficient to fully characterise the remains, but the surviving excavated medieval archaeology consisted broadly of a pit and timber post holes. The pottery and tile found associated within these deposits and features suggests a probable date of the 13th- to 14th –century. The medieval deposits, are thought to be associated with potential medieval properties that once fronted on to High Pavement. A nearby excavation at Halifax Place, roughly 170m to the west, revealed evidence of occupation dated to the mid- 14th century (Young G. 1986). One of the significant features of the site was that the buildings were set well back from the frontages.

Other excavations carried out in the locality include the site of the medieval Shire Hall, roughly 160m to the west of the development area (Kinsley 1995, 55-64) which revealed at least three phases of medieval activity. Another at the nearby Old High Pavement School produced evidence of later medieval metalworking on site (Hunt 1985). Environmental samples taken from the medieval feature excavated on this evaluation contained not only charred plant remains and fish bones but other artefacts which included a small number of spheroids from metal working.

Post-Medieval

Towards the northern end of Trench 1, other features found included a potential stone boundary wall foundation, pavement surface and demolition spreads. All these features are thought to be back yard activity associated with early post-medieval housing that once occupied High Pavement. The pottery and tile found associated with these features suggest a potential 15th to 17th century date

Excavations at the southern end of Trench 1 revealed a natural cliff edge that had been a landscaped and sealed under a deposit that had extended the natural cliff face and formed a terrace projecting southward towards Malin Hill. The archaeological features and natural cliff face were all sealed under 19th to 20th-century overburden that probably dates to a period when the current buildings fronting on to High Pavement were modified and extended into rear of the property.

Modern

The trenches to the east of the site demonstrated the presence of extensive basements more than 2.00m deep, apparently filled hurriedly with demolition material (no doubt following the Second World War bombing of the site Scott Lomax pers. comm.). The basement is likely to relate to the former building which stood on this site and which is first shown on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map (Hyam 2016).

Archaeological potential in this area is low but given the depth of excavation or the works there is some potential for deep rock-cut features.

Proposed Development Impact

MDA Consulting Limited has provided a plan of the footprint for the proposed new building

The footprint for the new building coincides with the evaluation Trench 1 located in the south-west corner of the development and archaeological potential is high. Potential archaeological surfaces were observed in the trench at a depth of 1.10m below the present (39.70m aOD) (Figure 13).

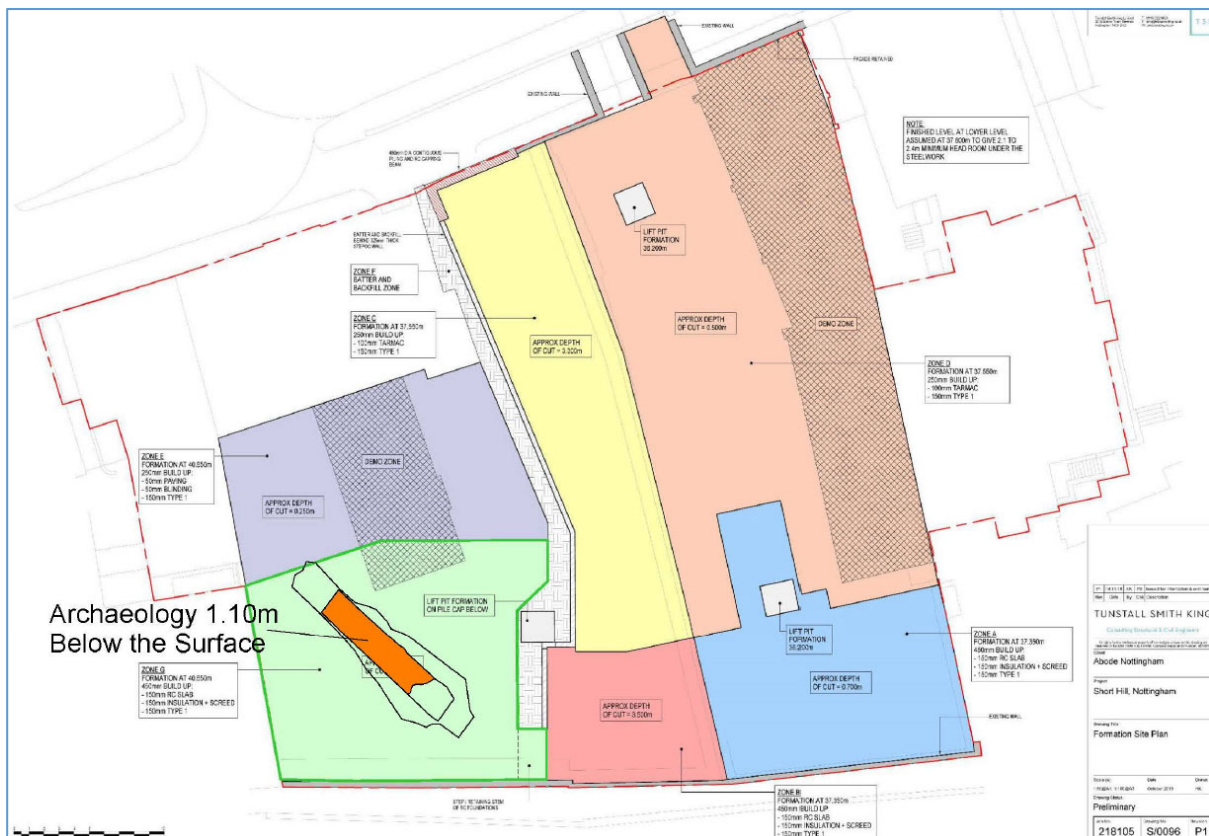


Figure 13 Proposed formation levels for the new buildings

The proposed formation levels for the new building indicate that the depth of excavation for the new building in the area of trench 1 is about 450mm below present (Figure 13) and should not therefore truncate the archaeology which lies at a depth of 1.10m below present. Depending on the engineering requirements of the new building, if piling is the choice of foundation then Historic England Piling and Archaeology (Historic England 2015) provides guidance on assessing the impact and will help make a clear and an informed decision about any proposed piling schemes and their potential impact upon archaeological remains.

In view of the fact that the archaeological deposits on this site are dense and slightly complicated and are only sealed beneath a 1.00m of overburden, it is probable that any ground beams and formation levels cannot be accommodated within the depth of the overburden, thereby having an impact on the archaeology. This then leaves the piles themselves and it will be a matter for further discussion with the City Archaeologist to determine whether such damage is acceptable.

The evaluation trenches 2 3 and 4 excavated on the east side of the car park suggest archaeological potential in this area is low but given the depth of excavation or the works there is some potential for deep rock-cut features.



Figure 14 Composite plan location of archaeology, basements and caves

Archive and publication

A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will normally be presented within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating to the investigations undertaken.

The archive consists of:

A copy of the report,

Indices

4 trench sheets

13 context sheets

2 plan and section drawing sheets

Digital with contact prints, photographic index

Finds

The site archive will be held by Nottingham City Museum and Galleries under the accession number NCMG 2019-11

A summary of the work will be published in the *Transactions of the Thorton Society* in due course.

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