An Archaeological Evaluation on land Adjacent to the A453 from the M1, Junction 24 to the A52 at Nottingham

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to the A453 between the M1, Junction 24 and the A52 at Nottingham by ULAS in January 2007. The work was commissioned by White Young Green.

In total 33 trial trenches were excavated in order to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological remains. Five trenches were excavated in Site 3, fifteen in Site 9, ten in Site 11, and three in Site 27.

The northern part of Site 3 was situated on a gravel terrace on which were a number of linear features which may represent settlement boundary ditches or drainage features associated with occupational or land use. Two pits were also encountered, one of which contained possible industrial material. A single sherd of early Saxon pottery from one of the ditches, combined with further Saxon debris recovered from the vicinity is suggestive of an early medieval date for the features.

The archaeological features at Site 9 were undated linears, probably drainage ditches of possible Roman date with the exception of a prehistoric pit containing a late Neolithic flint assemblage.

At Site 11 two post medieval or modern drainage ditches were encountered to the south of Mill Hill and a possible holloway of unknown date to north that could have been used as a route from land to the south of Clifton to the east.

Despite the lack of archaeological deposits encountered at Site 27 the presence of a ring ditch to the south demonstrates the presence of archaeological features in the vicinity.

The site archive will be held by the Historic & Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X. A6. 2007.

1. Introduction

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para 30), this document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land adjacent to the A453 from the M1, Junction 24 to the A52 at Clifton (Fig. 1).

The work was carried out at the request of the Highways Agency as part of the Environmental Assessment of the area to identify the impact of a new road from the

M1 Junction 24 to the A52 at Clifton, running alongside the existing A453. An archaeological desk-based assessment (Score 2006) identified the need for further work to identify the extent and nature of possible archaeological features along the line of the proposed road scheme. Geophysical survey had identified a number of potential archaeological features at various sites along the route and trial trenching was required to clarify the date, nature and extent of these features. Trench locations and excavation methodology were agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologists for Nottinghamshire County Council and Leicestershire County Council, in their capacity as archaeological advisor to the planning authorities.

The proposed road widening scheme covers the section of the A453 between the M1, Junction 24 to the Crusader Roundabout in Clifton which is approximately 11.5 km long, and comprises a 10km rural section between Junction 24 and the Crusader Roundabout, and a 1.5km urban section through Clifton between the Crusader Roundabout and the Farnborough Road/Fabis Drive junction.

The evaluation is focused on four areas in the rural section. Site 3 is situated on land to the west of the River Soar and to the south of the A453, Site 9 to the northwest of Glebe farm and to the south of the A453, Site 11 to the north and south of Mill Hill, just to the south of Clifton and to the north of the A453 and Site 27 to the east of M1 Junction 24 between the A543 and the A6 (Fig. 2).

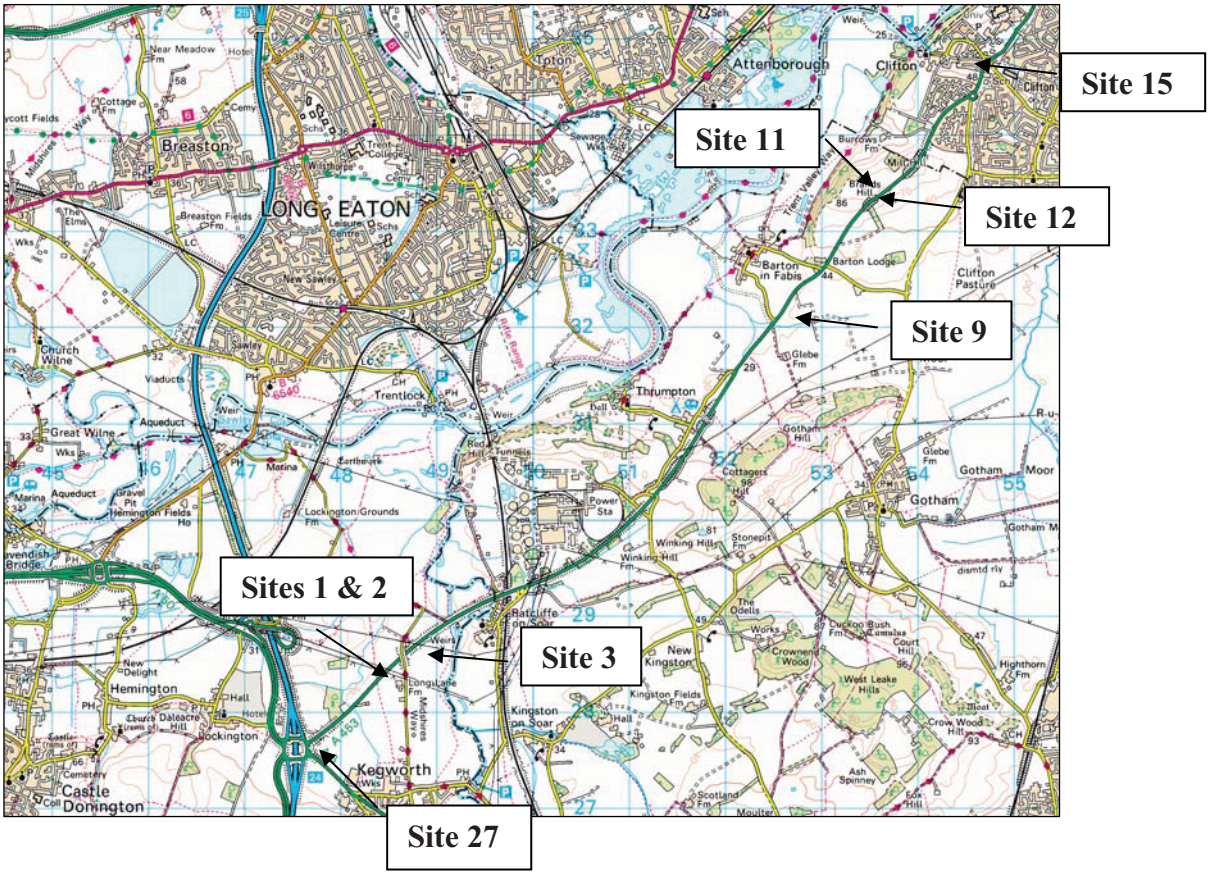

Figure 1. Evaluation area. Scale 1:50000

Trial trenching at Sites 1 and 2 (between Sites 3 and 27), which had originally been scheduled along with the rest of the trenches was not able to be carried out due to issues with the land owner.

2. Geology

The geology of the proposed route consists of drift deposits of alluvium, river terrace gravel and boulder clay, which overlie Mercia mudstone. Between the junction of the M1/A453 and the midland Mainline Railway are deposits of Wanlip, Syston and Hemington sand and gravel river terraces. Also in this segment of the A453 route are areas of silty sandy clay alluvium deposited by the River Trent in its floodplain, which may seal earlier archaeological deposits.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

Desk-based assessment

Assessments of the area were undertaken in the 1990s (TPAT 1992a, TPAT 1993b). This was followed by fieldwork including fieldwalking and limited geophysical survey (TPAT 1992b, Stratascan 1993a, 1993b). This was updated by an archaeological desk-based assessment in 2006 (Score 2006) which is summarised here.

> The study area lies close to the River Soar/River Trent confluence and the desk-based assessment has shown that the region has been utilised since early prehistoric times. Finds of flint and prehistoric cropmarks are common along the length of the route including evidence for ring ditches that may be burial mounds, possibly belonging to one of the barrow cemeteries in the region. At Red Hill there is evidence for Iron Age activity including a shrine and there are a number of undated cropmarks whose form is suggestive of an Iron Age date. There is also a possible fortified site at Brands Hill with associated lynchets and a number of Roman sites in the area containing evidence for earlier settlement and activity prior to their development.
>
> A Romano-British presence in the area of the road corridor is shown by several pottery scatters. Scheduled monuments in the area include the Lockington villa, Red Hill with its evidence for occupation and ritual activity and burial along with Glebe Farm Roman villa close to the road. There is also the possibility that a Roman road crosses the A453 near Long Lane by the River Soar on its way to Red Hill. Current evidence suggests that the road may lie beneath Long Lane itself although the exact alignment is unknown.
>
> The modern settlement pattern hints that the study area was well populated before the Conquest. All four of the villages appear in Domesday Book (1086) suggesting that they were well established prior to this. One site close to the road corridor shows significant evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity.
>
> Later medieval activity in the study area is mostly confined to the buildings and layout of the villages. Aerial photographs indicate that much of the study area has

the remnants of ploughed out ridge and furrow suggesting it was cultivated during the medieval period.

Many of the post-medieval sites on HER (Historic Environment Record) reflect the growing industrialisation of the Trent Valley and include a number of mines used to extract the extensive deposits of Gypsum in the area. Associated sites in the study area include a number of tramways, quarries and mills as well as the dominant feature of the Radcliffe on Soar Power Station built in the 1960s.

The desk-based assessment identified the need for further evaluatory work on several of the sites and recommended a programme of geophysical survey followed by targeted trial trenching.

Geophysical Survey
The results of the previous geophysical survey undertaken in 1992 and 1993 included work on Sites 11 and Site 9.

Site 9
Two areas of detailed geophysical survey were undertaken immediately north-west of the Scheduled Monument villa at Glebe Farm. The results showed some faint anomalies possibly of archaeological origin (TPAT 1992b).

Site 11
A large swathe of rapid scanning was undertaken north of the A453 from just north-east of Barton Lodge to Mill Hill Spinney. This was followed by detailed gradiometry on two areas. South of burrows farm a number of circular and linear anomalies that could be archaeological were identified. A square enclosure shaped feature was also noted at the south-west end of the survey (Stratascan 1993a). Further north-east another area produced along with ridge and furrow, a squarish shape that could be an enclosure and is likely to be the same feature identified as a cropmark on the HER. .

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Stratascan in 2006 – 2007. This comprised some magnetic susceptibility scanning over large areas followed by detailed gradiometer survey on 11 separate areas (Smalley 2007). The results of the detailed survey are summarised below.

Sites 1 and 2
Prehistoric flint scatters and features had previously been noted to the north of the A453 in this area and it was thought possible that these might extend south of the roadline. Detailed geophysical survey of three areas was undertaken (Fig. 2). Further trial trenching was recommended to investigate these features although to date an agreement to excavate has not been forthcoming. The area furthest north was dominated by north-south linear anomalies interpreted as related to agricultural activity. A couple of other linear anomalies suggesting possible ditches and a bank (Possibly relating to an old field boundary) as well as several pit like features were also seen. The two areas south of this produced an L-shaped feature – possibly the corner of a small enclosure, and two parallel linears with a number of pits. A possible bank was also noted (Fig. 2).

Site 3
This area is the site of a potential Saxon settlement with associated metalworking identified by fieldwalking. Two areas were subjected to detailed gradiometry. The south-eastern part of the area produced a great deal of disturbance with just one area containing possible archaeological features. These comprised a north-east – south-west linear and a number of small pit-like features. The north-west side of the site in contrast produced a number of positive and associated negative features suggestive of bank and ditch features, as well as a number of north-east – south-west orientated linear anomalies and scattered pits. An area in the centre appeared to have been subject to some ground disturbance. Interesting this area lies on slightly higher ground than the land to the south-west and the two areas are separated by a palaeochannel.

Site 9
Glebe Farm is the site of a Scheduled Monument of a Roman villa. Previous geophysical survey had been undertaken immediately north-west of the farm with possible archaeological features identified. Although the known archaeological features associated with the villa and enclosures are limited to the higher ground away from the road, no previous work had been carried out and it was possible that features could extend. Rapid scanning was undertaken on a large area between Barton Lane and Glebe Farm. Based on this survey two areas of detailed geophysical survey were undertaken. The northernmost area included a number of features probably associated with ploughing activity along with a possible modern disturbance. However there were several linears and pits in the north-west area along with two bank-like features. The southern area gain picked up parallel features probably representative of ploughing with three linears and a few possible pits.

Site 12
A small cropmark, not noted on the HER was recorded during the original aerial photograph search by TPAT (TPAT 1993b). An area covering the location of the cropmark was surveyed – this produced a number of positive linear and area anomalies and several pit-like features (Fig. 3). All of these could be archaeological. Although no similar feature was noted in the cropmark area, there are a couple of rounded linears there that could have caused the cropmark. Changes to the road layout, however meant that this site would not be affected by the road scheme and therefore no further work was required.

Site 15
Two areas focussed on Site 15 which was a grassed piece of land opposite Clifton Village Green. Clifton village contains a number of listed buildings and it thought possible that traces of early buildings might exist beneath the grassed areas. The results were dominated by disturbance and possible service trenches (Fig. 4). One area of rubble that could be structural was noted to the south-east, but as this lay outside the area of impact no further archaeological work was required.

Site 27
A cropmark of a ring ditch noted on the HER lies in the field immediately east of Junction 24. Rapid scanning was undertaken here followed by an area of detailed gradiometry. Parallel marks likely to be associated with ploughing were noted along

with linear and area anomalies suggesting archaeological cut features, as well as a negative anomaly suggestive of a bank or earthwork.

4. Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

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

All work follows the *Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct* and adheres to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological evaluations.*

5. Methodology

In total five trenches each measuring 25m long and 1.5m wide were excavated at Site 3, fifteen trenches of the same dimensions at site 9, ten at Site 11, and three at Site 27.

The topsoil and subsoil was removed in spits by machine with a toothless ditching bucket under full supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata was encountered.

Each trench was hand cleaned. Samples of the archaeological deposits located were hand excavated and planned addressing the aims and objectives of the evaluation. Measured drawings of all archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:500. The location of the trenches was surveyed using an EDM and all plans were tied into the National Grid.

All excavated sections were recorded and drawn at a scale of 1:20 and were levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

6. Results

Site 3

Five trenches were located at Site 3 (potential Saxon settlement) targeting specific features identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 5).

Trench 26 (see Fig. 6)
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.54m (min) – 0.74m (max)

Orientation: N-S

Trench 26 targeted a number of geophysical linear anomalies representing cut features of a possible archaeological origin as well as possible banked features.

Between 0.23m in the north and 0.40m to the south of dark grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing mid orange brown silty sand subsoil beneath which at between 0.34m and 0.65m was natural substratum. To the north this consisted of pale yellow brown sand and to the south dark brown sands and gravels

A number of archaeological deposits were located in the north end of the trench, one of which, cut [042] was excavated. It was a southeast to northwest aligned linear up to 1.20m in width and 0.35m in depth. The fill, (039) was dark grey sandy silt and contained a single sherd of early Saxon pottery. This feature cut an earlier feature or layer (038) which produced no dating evidence.

Trench 27
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.28m (min) – 0.40m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Trench 27 targeted a single northeast to southwest aligned geophysical anomaly representing a cut feature of probable archaeological origin.

Between 0.20m and 0.30m of dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil was removed revealing patches of mid orange brown sandy silt subsoil beneath which at a depth of between 0.26m and 0.38m was natural substratum consisting of dark brown sands and gravels

The geophysical anomaly, cut [032] was located in the north eastern end of the trench. It was up to 1.90m in width and 0.37m in depth and contained mid orange brown silty sand fill (033). To the south west two shallow pits were encountered, cuts [034] and [036]. The fill of cut [034] was clean dark orange brown clayey silt which contrasted sharply with the fill from cut [036] which had a high concentration of burnt stone within a clay and charcoal matrix suggestive of cooking or industrial activity. No dating evidence was encountered in any of the fills though the Saxon features to the northeast and presence of Saxon and Roman finds within the field suggest a possible date of some antiquity for the features.

Trench 28
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.44m (min) – 0.64m (max)
Orientation: N-S

Trench 28 targeted a number of irregular pit-like anomalies representing cut features of a possible archaeological origin.

Between 0.28m and 0.41m of mid grey sandy silty topsoil was removed revealing orange brown sandy silt sand subsoil beneath which at between 0.44m and 0.64m was natural substratum. To the north this consisted of pale yellow brown sandy silt and to the south dark brown sands and gravels

In the centre of the trench was a very shallow or truncated east to west aligned feature, cut [030]. It was 2.64m in width and up to 0.12m in depth and contained a mid orange brown sandy silt fill, (031). No finds were recovered to assist with dating and its truncated nature makes interpretation difficult though it is likely to be a ditch or furrow.

Trench 29
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.34m (min) – 1.04m (max)
Orientation: W-E

Trench 29 targeted a number of cut features, possibly a ditch and a pit, and a negative anomaly, possibly a bank.

Between 0.29m and 0.48m of mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil was removed revealing mid orange brown silty sand subsoil beneath which at between 0.34m in the east and 1.02 in the west natural substratum was encountered. To the east this consisted of dark brown sands and gravels and to the west pale yellow brown sand.

A single archaeological feature, a possible ditch terminal, was revealed in the eastern end of the trench, cut [028]. It was aligned northwest to southeast and was 1.80m in width and 0.36m in depth. The fill, (029) was mid yellowish brown sand which contained no dating evidence. No evidence for the possible bank was noted.

Trench 30 (see fig. 2)
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.65m (min) – 1.06m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Trench 30 targeted a negative geophysical anomaly in the south western end of the trench of possible archaeological origin.

Approximately 0.30m of mid grey brown clayey silt topsoil was removed revealing orange brown silty sandy clay subsoil beneath which at between 0.48m and 0.60m was natural substratum consisting of pinky orange sand and gravels.

No archaeological deposits were encountered to account for the geophysical anomaly and it is possible that it lies slightly further to the south-west.

Site 9
A number of trenches were excavated targeting geophysical features recording during surveys in the 1990s close to the villa. Four trenches were located to look at possible features identified from the survey (Fig. 7; Trenches 6-9). Further trenches were located to look at the blank areas that would be impacted by the road and a balancing pond (Fig. 7; Trenches 1-5). Further geophysical survey was undertaken to the north-east of the farm and six more trenches were excavated targeting featues making a total of fifteen trenches excavated in this area (Fig. 8; Trenches 20-25).

Trench 01
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.42m (min) - 0.75m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Approximately 0.35m of dark reddish brown weak silty clay topsoil was removed revealing a layer of reddish brown weak silty clay subsoil. Beneath it, at a depth of *c*. 0.50m below ground level, was Mercia mudstone consisting of reddish brown clay.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 02
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.42m (min) - 0.55m (max)
Orientation: NW-SE

Approximately 0.35m of dark brown firm sandy silt topsoil was removed revealing a layer of reddish brown firm silty clay subsoil. Beneath it, at a depth of *c*. 0.50m below ground level, was red sandy clay Mercia mudstone.

Located in the northwest end of the trench was a linear feature, cut [013]. It ran east to west and contained very dark brown to dark grey silty clay fill (014). It was 0.30m in width and up to 0.10m in depth. No finds were recovered to assist with dating.

Trench 03
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.40m (min) - 0.56m (max)
Orientation: SW-NE

Approximately 0.35m of dark brown firm sandy silty clay topsoil was removed revealing dark brown firm silty clay subsoil. Beneath it, at a depth of *c*. 0.50m below ground level, was red to blue grey Mercia mudstone.

No archaeological deposits were located.

Trench 04
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.49m (min) - 0.68m (max)
Orientation: NW-SE

Approximately 0.30m of very dark brown firm clayey silt topsoil was removed revealing a similar layer of dark brown to greyish brown firm silty clay subsoil. Beneath it, at a depth of *c*. 0.60m below ground level, was Mercia mudstone consisting of red clay and bluish grey silty sand.

Located in the northwest half of the trench was a linear feature, cut [011]. It ran northeast to southwest and was up to 0.12m in depth and contained very dark grey silty clay fill (012). No finds were recovered to assist with dating.

Trench 05
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.46m (min) - 0.65m (max)
Orientation: NW-SE

Between 0.32m and 0.46m of very dark brown firm silty clay topsoil was removed revealing a layer of dark grey firm silty clay subsoil. Beneath it, at a depth of between 0.46m and 0.65m below ground level, was Mercia mudstone consisting of red clay with blue sandstone bands.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 06
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.70m (min) - 0.80m (max)
Orientation: N-S

Trench 6 targeted an irregular geophysical anomaly of probable agricultural origin.

Approximately 0.30m of very dark brownish grey weak sandy silty clay topsoil was removed revealing a layer of dark reddish brown weak sandy silt subsoil. Beneath it, at a depth of *c*. 0.70m below ground level, was a possible alluvial layer or material deposited from the adjacent A453 drainage ditch, which consisted of mottled grey to brownish orange silt which exceeded a depth of 1.20m which may account for the geophysical anomaly.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 07
Length: 25m

Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.65m (min) - 0.80m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Trench 07 targeted three linear geophysical anomalies of probable agricultural origin and one curvilinear cut feature.

Approximately 0.35m of dark grey weak sandy silt topsoil was removed revealing a layer of colluvium consisting of dark reddish brown weak sandy silt. Beneath it, at a depth of *c*. 0.70m below ground level, was natural substratum consisting of brownish red sand.

No archaeological deposits were encountered to account for the geophysical anomalies.

Trench 08
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.65m (min) - 0.80m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Trench 08 targeted two curvilinear cut features of probable archaeological origin.

Approximately 0.35m of dark greyish brown friable clayey silt topsoil was removed revealing a layer of colluvium consisting of mid orange brown friable clayey silt. Beneath it, at a depth of *c*. 0.65m below ground level, was natural substratum consisting of light yellowish brown loose silty sand.

Located in the southern half of the trench was a west to east aligned linear feature, cut [008] though the possibility that it is a large pit cannot be ruled out. It was 1.80m in width and up to 0.40m in depth and contained a primary fill consisting of mid orange brown silty sand (010) and a secondary fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (009). No finds were recovered to assist with dating.

Trench 09
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 051m (min) - 0.86m (max)
Orientation: NW-SE

Approximately 0.35m of dark grey brown clay silt topsoil was removed revealing a mid orange brown layer of silty sand colluvium beneath which, at a depth of between 0.48m and 0.70m below ground level, was light yellow brown sand natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 20
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.36m (min) - 0.48m (max)
Orientation: W-S

Trench 20 targeted geophysical anomalies in the west and east of the trench suggestive of ditches, although the original trench location had to be moved to avoid overhead power cables..

Between 0.26m and 0.42m of mid grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing pinkish orange silty clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered to account for the geophysical anomalies.

Trench 21
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.43m (min) - 0.53m (max)
Orientation: NW-SE

Trench 21 was located in the vicinity of a number of geophysical anomalies interpreted as possible ditches, pits and banks of possible archaeological origin.. Again this trench had to be moved further west to avoid overhead power cables.

Between 0.32m and 0.39m of mid grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing pinkish orange silty clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 22
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.35m (min) - 0.67m (max)
Orientation: N-S

Trench 22 targeted a number of east to west aligned geophysical anomalies thought to be agricultural in nature.

Between 0.21m and 0.45m of mid grey brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing brick red clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered to account for the geophysical anomalies.

Trench 23

Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.64m (min) – 1.45m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Trench 23 targeted a number of north to south aligned geophysical anomalies thought to be agricultural in nature and two cut features outside the road easement but which could extend into the area.

Approximately 0.35m of mid grey brown clayey silt sand topsoil was removed revealing mid brown silty sand and gravel subsoil beneath which at between 0.43m and 0.73m was yellow orange sand and gravel natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 24 (see Fig. 9)
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.65m (min) – 1.20m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Trench 24 targeted a number of north to south aligned geophysical anomalies thought to be the remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture and a single cut feature, possibly a pit, of archaeological origin.

Approximately 0.35m of dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil was removed revealing mid brown sandy silt subsoil beneath which at between 0.78m and 0.86m was orange sand natural substratum.

Located in the north eastern half of the trench two features were encountered. The first was a V-shaped linear, cut [017], orientated northwest to southeast that measured up to 2.00m in width and 0.88m in depth. The possible remains of a bank, (023) were noted to the southwest. No finds were recovered to assist with dating though the proximity of the Glebe Farm Roman villa suggests a possible Romano-British date. The second feature, cut [024] was irregular in shape, up to 1.65m in width and 0.80m in depth though it's full extent was not established. The uppermost mid grey sandy silt fill, (025) contained prehistoric flint work of probable late Neolithic date. It is possible that the linear is one of the parallel features thought to be agricultural in date. The prehistoric pit matches with the location of the geophysical feature.

Trench 25
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.89m (min) – 1.17m (max)
Orientation: NW-SE

Trench 25 targeted a northeast to southwest aligned geophysical anomaly representing a cut feature of probable archaeological origin.

Approximately 0.40m of dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil was removed revealing mid orange brown sandy silt subsoil beneath which at between 0.86m and 0.92m was orange sand natural substratum.

Located in the north western half of the trench was a linear feature, cut [018]. It was V-shaped and was up to 2.50m in width and 1.40m in depth and contained a primary fill, (019) consisting of yellowish brown sandy silt and a secondary fill (022) of orangish brown silty sand. This feature shares a number of characteristics with [017], though there was no evidence of a bank, and is probably from the same period.

Site 11
Ten trenches were excavated at Site 11, targeting a number of geophysical anomalies and looking at the blank areas between (Figs 10 - 11).

Trench 10
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.39m (min) - 0.62m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Trench 10 targeted a rectilinear geophysical anomaly.

Between 0.19m and 0.49m of mid greyish brown topsoil was removed revealing pinkish orange sandy clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered to account for the geophysical anomaly.

Trench 11 (Figs 12 - 13)
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.32m (min) - 0.42m (max)
Orientation: W-E

Trench 11 targeted a linear feature.

Approximately 0.30m of clayey silt topsoil was removed revealing light orange brown silty clay natural substratum.

In the eastern end of the trench a north to south aligned linear feature, cut [006] was encountered. It was 0.80m in width and 0.15m in depth and contained mid greyish brown clayey silt fill (007). Pottery recovered from the fill suggests a post medieval or modern date for silting up of the ditch.

Trench 12
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.40m (min) - 0.50m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Trench 12 targeted a west to east aligned geophysical anomaly.

Approximately 0.35m of clayey silt topsoil was removed revealing light orange brown silty clay natural substratum.

A southeast to northwest aligned linear feature, cut [005] was exposed in the centre of the trench which is probably the anomaly noted in the geophysical survey. It was 1.22m in width up to 0.24m in depth and possessed a light greyish brown clayey silt fill (004) which contained modern pottery.

Trench 13
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.30m (min) – 1.10m (max)
Orientation: NW-SE

Trench 13 targeted two circular negative geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin.

Approximately 0.30m of mid greyish brown clayey silt topsoil was removed revealing light orange brown silty clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered to account for the geophysical anomalies.

Trench 14
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.45m (min) - 0.70m (max)
Orientation: E-W

Approximately 0.30m of mid greyish brown clayey silt was removed revealing light silty clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 15
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.31m (min) - 0.50m (max)

Orientation: N-S

Approximately 0.30m of mid orange brown clayey silt was removed revealing brownish pink silty clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 16
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.35m (min) - 0.55m (max)
Orientation: W-E

Approximately 0.30m of mid greyish brown clayey silt topsoil was removed revealing mid reddish brown silty clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 17 (see figs 12 - 13)
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.30m (min) - 0.99m (max)
Orientation: N-S

Trench 17 targeted a geophysical anomaly representing a cut feature of probable archaeological origin which runs east for *c*. 30m before turning to the north for a further *c*. 50m.

Between 0.18m and 0.48m of mid greyish brown clayey silt topsoil was removed revealing pinkish orange silty clay natural substratum.

Located in the centre of the trench roughly where the geophysical feature was noted was a large east to west aligned linear, cut [001] which was 12.60m in width and exceeded 1.50m in depth. It contained fill (002) which consisted of re-deposited natural substratum with clumps of red clay and mottles of gypsum. No finds were recovered to assist with dating.

Trench 18
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.27m (min) - 0.43m (max)
Orientation: W-E

Trench 18 was located over the northern part of the geophysical anomaly which Trench 17 also targeted.

Approximately 0.30m of mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil was removed revealing pinkish orange silty clay natural substratum.

The feature encountered in Trench 17 was not located during the excavation, suggesting that either the trench was placed too far to the north thereby missing the feature or that it didn't continue this far to the north. The feature could actually continue to the west as suggested by intermittent, low earthworks in the far west of the field.

Trench 19
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.26m (min) - 0.39m (max)
Orientation: NW-SE

Trench 19 targeted a number of linear and sub-rectangular geophysical anomalies, tentatively interpreted as either associated with ploughing or a modern trackway.

Approximately 0.30m of mid greyish brown clayey silt topsoil was removed revealing orange brown silty clay natural substratum.

No archaeological deposits were encountered to account for the geophysical anomalies.

Site 27
Site 27 contained a possible ring ditch noted on the HER. Three features were excavated here in order to check the apparent blank area that would be affected by the road scheme (Figure 14). Trench 31 would also have picked up the possible continuation of a bank feature noted on the geophysical survey.

Trench 31
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.33m (min) – 0.43m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Between 0.22m and 0.33m mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil was removed revealing natural substratum consisting of pale yellowish orange silty sand with occasional gravel patches.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 32
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.41m (min) – 0.59m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Between 0.26m and 0.34m mid brownish grey silty sand topsoil was removed revealing natural substratum consisting of pinky orange clayey sand with occasional gravel patches.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 33
Length: 25m
Width: 1.5m
Depth: 0.31m (min) – 0.39m (max)
Orientation: NE-SW

Between 0.22m and 0.32m mid grey sandy silt topsoil was removed revealing natural substratum consisting of pale yellowish orange silty sand with occasional gravel patches.

No archaeological deposits were encountered.

7. Conclusion

Site 3

The four trenches located in the northern part of the site are either partially or wholly situated on a slight visible rise which the evaluation has established to be a gravel terrace. This extends to the south and southwest though is not perceptible to the west possibly due to previous work on the A453 artificially raising the ground level thus masking the terrace. It is on such gravel terraces lying above the floodplain that earlier settlements are likely to be located and it is to such settlements that the Romano-British and Saxon finds found in the field during previous work undoubtedly relate. There is a palaeochannel identified by LiDAR analysis separating the field. So far all of the finds from fieldwalking and the majority of the features from geophysical survey are located on the northern side on the higher ground (most of the finds were from just south-east of Trenches 26 – 29). This either suggests that the palaeochannel marks the limit of the possible settlement, or that alluvium is obscuring any features as this area is supposed to be alluvial, although sands and gravel were noted at 0.6m in Trench 30.

The evaluation trenches have demonstrated the presence of archaeology on the terrace in the form of linear features which may represent settlement boundary ditches or drainage features associated with occupational or land use. The pits encountered could have had a number of uses though one certainly appears to have either domestic or industrial material filling it. A Romano-British or Saxon date is likely for these features as large amount of pottery and other debris from these periods has been recovered from this area. Furthermore the pottery sherd from the northern most trench indicates that the concentration of features are likely to be of Saxon date, and the features are likely to be related to the pottery scatter further south-east. One

trench showed evidence for stratigraphy with features cutting through other earlier features.

Site 9

The archaeological features were located to the north of Glebe Farm either side of the access road to the farm. The majority were undated linear features, probably boundary or drainage ditches and previous fieldwalking in this area produced hardly any finds. Their proximity to the Glebe Farm Roman villa makes a Romano-British date for them feasible, although they are unlikely to be related to the villa itself.

The most interesting feature though was an irregular pit of prehistoric date on the higher ground to the north (Trench 24), which contained a middle to late Neolithic flint assemblage. The flint suggests a possible temporary settlement area or camp and it is possible that further associated features might be located within the area.

Site 11

Two post medieval or modern drainage ditches were encountered to the south of Mill Hill along with a large ditch (Trench 17). Although this ditch was in the right place for the sub-square enclosure noted during the geophysical survey, the lack of the northern section in Trench 18 and its character make it unlikely that this feature is a prehistoric enclosure. The feature is on a similar alignment with the county/city boundary which is currently a public bridleway on the opposite side of the A453 and lines up with a number of slight earthworks to the west. It may well be the remnants of a hollow way of unknown date that was possibly used as a route from land to the south of Clifton.

Site 27

Despite the presence of a ring ditch to the south, no archaeological features were noted in the area affected by the road scheme.

8 Archive

The site archive consists of 1 drawing index sheet, 1 drawing record sheet, 16 drawings, 14 photo record sheets, 4 EDM survey sheets, 1 context summary sheet, 33 trench recording sheets, 42 context sheets, 7 sheets of black white photographs with 7 negative sheets and digital duplicates on CD, 3 EDM surveys on CD, 2 sets of scale drawings showing the locations of all the trenches and geophysical anomalies and the finds. The archive is listed under the Accession number X.A6 2007 and will be deposited with the relevant authority.

9. Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1 The Ceramic Finds from an Evaluation on land Adjacent to the A453 from the M1, Junction 24 to the A52 at Nottingham, Accession No: X.A6 2007

D. Sawday

The finds were catalogued with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999), (Davies and Sawday 2004). The results are shown below (Table 1).

Location	Cut	Fill	Fabric/ware	Nos.	Grams	Comments
Site 11 Tr 12	[005]	(004)	SW5 - Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	109	Ink bottle, complete - modern
Site 11 Tr 11	[006]	(007)	EA2 - Earthenware	5	346	Wide mouthed bowl or pancheon, post medieval/modern
Site 11 Tr 12	[005]	(004)	China clay	1		Fragment of plain bowl with leaf seam - modern
Site 11 Tr 12	[005]	(004)	EA - Earthenware	1	23	Modern tile.
Site 3 Tr 26	[042]	(039)	Early Saxon	1	2	450-650 AD

Table 1: The finds by fabric, numbers and weight (grams)

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Davies, S., and Sawday, D., 1999. 'The Post Roman Pottery and Tile' *in* A. Connor and R. Buckley, 1999, 165-213.
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Appendix 2 The Flint Finds from an Evaluation on land Adjacent to the A453 from the M1, Junction 24 to the A52 at Nottingham, Accession No: X.A6 2007

L. Cooper.

The results of the flint analysis are shown below (Table 1)

Location	Cut	Fill	Description	Nos.	Comments
Site 9 Tr 24	[024]	(025)	End scraper	1	Likely to be exotic and resembles middle to late Neolithic examples. Exceptionally large size for the region.
Site 9 Tr 24	[024]	(025)	Retouched tertiary flake	1	Irregular knife. Likely to be exotic.
Site 9 Tr 24	[024]	(025)	Tertiary flake	1	Likely cutting flake
Site 9 Tr 24	[024]	(025)	Tertiary flake fragment	1	
Site 9 Tr 24	[024]	(025)	Secondary flake fragment	1	
Site 9 Tr 24	[024]	(025)	Flake core	1	Burnt

Table 1.