

**An Archaeological watching brief**

**Butt Field Recreation Ground, Station Street, Bingham,  
Nottinghamshire**

**NGR: SK 705 402**

**Tim Higgins**

**For: Bingham Town Council**

**Checked by**

**Signed**



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# **An Archaeological Watching Brief Butt Field Recreation Ground, Station Street, Bingham Nottinghamshire NGR SK 705 402**

**Tim Higgins**

## **1. Summary**

*An Archaeological watching brief of groundwork at Butt Field Recreation Ground Station Street, Bingham, Nottinghamshire (NGR SK 705 402) was undertaken by ULAS on behalf of Bingham Town Council. The initial groundwork involved demolition of outhouse tennis courts and tarmac surfaces. This was followed by the removal of overburden and ground reduction, and the excavation of new foundations for extended access road, car park and new clubhouse.*

*No significant archaeological finds or deposits were observed during the groundwork and the area of the recreation ground showed evidence of having been levelled in the past. The archive will be deposited with Nottingham City Council, Museums Service, subject to their confirmation.*

## **2. Introduction**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief of groundwork at Butt Field Recreation Ground, Station Street, Bingham, Nottinghamshire (SK 705 402), on behalf of Bingham Town Council. Rushcliffe Borough Council have granted planning permission for a new clubhouse with car park and access (P.A 07/02521/FUL) subject to an archaeological watching brief (Condition 11), during any ground works on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential.

The ground works involved ground clearance of the areas of an outhouse, tennis courts and tarmac surfaces and excavation of foundations. This followed the removal of overburden and ground reduction and excavation of foundation trenches for an extended access road and new clubhouse with car park.

The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16, Archaeology & Planning), paragraph 30. All archaeological work adhered to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

## **3. Site description, topography and geology**

The site is located directly between Bingham Industrial Park to the north and Bingham Railway Station to the south and lies at a height of *c.* 20m OD. The Ordnance Survey Drift Geology map sheet 169 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of sand and gravel underlying boulder clay.

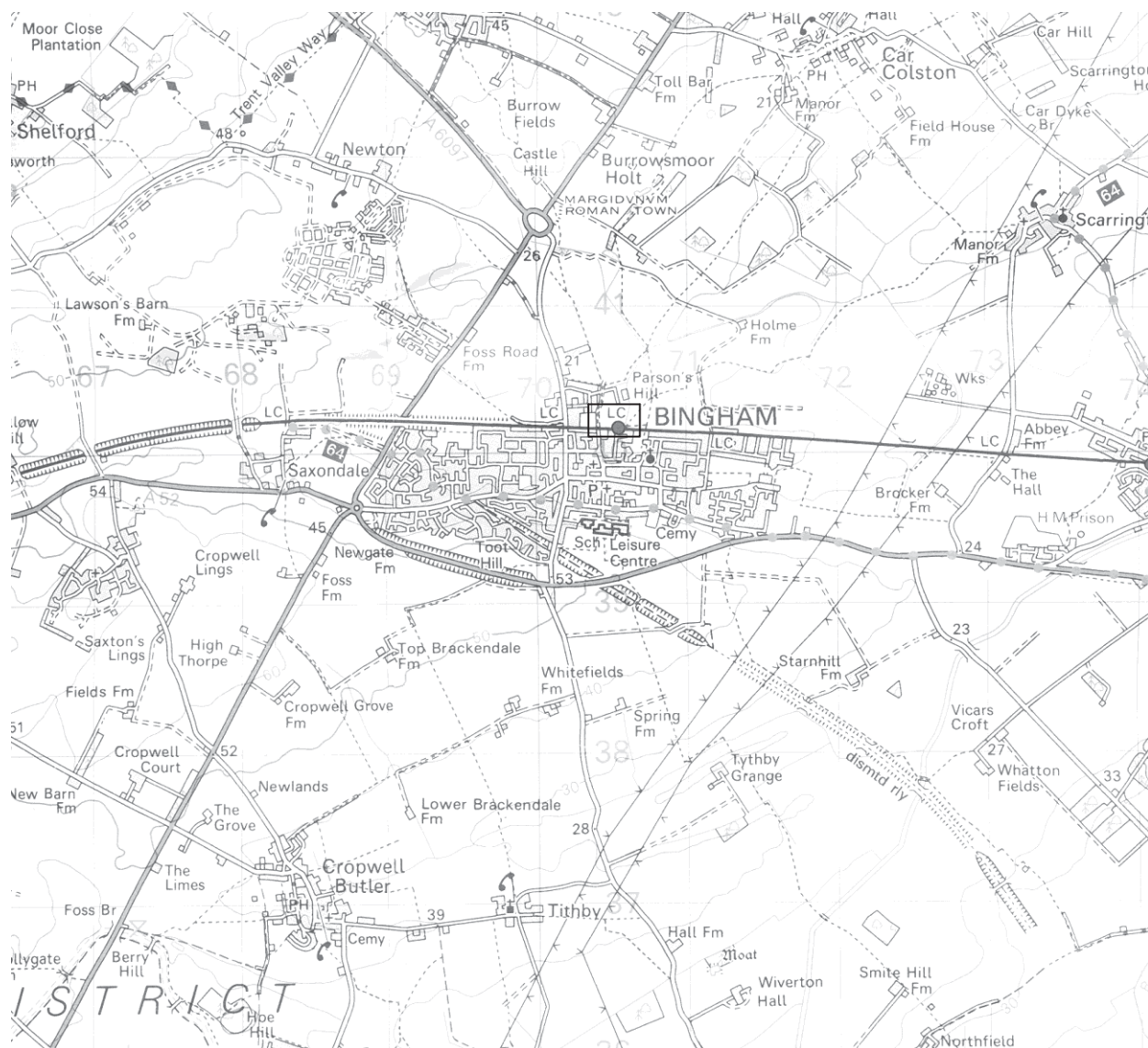


Figure 1: Site location

#### 4. Archaeological and Historical background

4.1 The proposed development site lies within an area of archaeological importance close to the historic settlement core of Bingham. Bingham also lies 1km to the south of the Roman settlement of *Margidunum* and 1km east of the Roman Fosse Way. Bingham originated as an Anglo-Saxon village.

The Domesday Survey reveals that the last landowner before the Norman Conquest in 1066 was Tostig, a nobleman of Danish descent, but by 1086 the manor was in the possession of a Norman baron, Roger de Busli (<http://www.bingham-tc.gov.uk>). At the time of the Domesday Survey the population was about 250 people and the annual rental for the village was £10. Henry III granted the manor to Ralph Bugg a wealthy Nottingham merchant in 1265. The family took the name of their manor and he became Ralph de Bingham. In 1314 Alice de Bingham, widow of Ralph's son Richard de Bingham, claimed the right to hold a market every Thursday, with a fair on 6 days a year. The market was discontinued at the end of the 19th century following the opening of the Nottingham to Grantham railway. The annual rent due to

the Lord of the Manor in 1586 was £95.14s.7½d. Records of 1674 show that there was a total of 117 households in Bingham, possibly a population of 600-700.

The present church, St Mary and All Saints, lies *c.* 200m south-east of the development area and was built in the early 13th century although the font dates in part from the early Norman period (late 11th century). The font is believed to have come from an earlier church which was possibly built in the 10th century. Medieval burials have been found which may have been associated with a chapel of St Helen on Kirkhill.



Figure 2 Location of the development proposals (from Alan Joyce Architects dwg. No. 5907 B 01F (4))

## 5. Aims and method.

5.1 The aims through archaeological monitoring and observation were

1. To identify the presence/absence of earlier building phases or any archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

All work and archaeological deposits encountered were recorded in adherence to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the standard policy and practice of ULAS as set out in the design specification (appendix 1) and the University's Health and Safety policy.



Figure 3: Groundwork excavations area strip

## 6. Results

Initial groundwork involved demolition of an outhouse and ground clearance of the foundations of a tennis court and tarmac surfaces. A site visit was undertaken on the 7th July 2008 when a visual inspection was conducted of the site. It was noted that a temporary access road had already been excavated and a stone surface laid. The recreation grounds comprised of playing fields, tennis courts and outhouse. The initial visual inspection suggested that recreation grounds had probably been extensively landscaped and levelled in the past.

A second visual inspection was conducted on 22nd July 2008 during demolition of above ground structures and site the strip. The groundworks comprised the removal of modern hardcore, gravel, tarmac and concrete surfaces. The ground reduction was undertaken using a Caterpillar Small Track-Type Tractor with toothed bucket. No archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered during this inspection of the site.

A third site visit was undertaken on 4th August 2008 during excavation of foundation trenches the club house and car park. The ground works comprised an area that was

machine stripped of topsoil and reduced to depth 0.60m below ground level using a Caterpillar Small Track-Type Tractor with toothed bucket. The stripped area and spoil heaps were walked over and visually inspected and no archaeological deposits, features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered. The underlying geology observed during the machine strip comprised pale grey boulder clay mixed with the occasional rounded pebble.

The spoil heap appeared to only contain modern artefacts consisting of occasional modern brick and pottery sherds. The natural ground horizon inspected in the various sections from the ground works appeared to have no sub-soils and may have been horizontally truncated and levelled in the past.

## **7. Conclusion.**

Observation of initial groundwork has revealed an absence of significant archaeological deposits. The natural horizons inspected in various sections from the groundworks appeared to have been levelled in the past. The topsoil appeared to have been removed in past and re-deposited. The evidence suggests that the recreation fields may have been extensively levelled and landscaped in the past.

## **8. Acknowledgements and publication**

I would like to thank the clients Bingham Town Council for their help and co-operation on site. The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the fieldwork was carried out by the author, Tim Higgins and Alice Forward all of ULAS.

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) Online Access to the index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

## **9. Archive**

A full copy of the archive as defined in *The Guidelines For the Preparation Of Excavation Archives For Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and the *Standards In The Museum: Care Of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives and Assessments for all finds* (RFG/FRG) will usually be presented to within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all records directly relating to the investigation undertaken.

The archive consists of 1 copy of this report, 3 watching brief recording forms, 1 copy of site location plans, 1 copy brief for archaeological work 1 photo index form, 1 colour digital photo contact sheet, and 1 CD containing 2 digital photos.

Subject to confirmation it will be deposited with Nottingham City Council under accession number NCMG 2009-2.

## 10. Bibliography

MAP 2: *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992 *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* 1992 (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993 *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993)

SMA 1993 *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* 1993 (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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## Appendix 1 Oasis Summary

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	An archaeological watching brief of groundwork at Butt Field Recreation Ground, Station Street, Bingham, Nottinghamshire.
Project Type	Archaeological watching brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Tim Higgins
Previous/Future work	Unknown
Current Land Use	Recreation Park
Development Type	Clubhouse and car park
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	NGR : SK 705 402
Start/end dates of field work	15/07/08 to 04/08/08
Archive Recipient	Nottingham City Council
<b>Study Area *</b>	Approx 100 square meters



## Appendix 2. Design Specification

### UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

#### Design Specification for archaeological work

*Butt Field Recreation Ground, Station Street, Bingham, Nottinghamshire  
(SK 705 402)*

*Planning Application: 07/02521/FUL*

*Planning Authority: Rushcliffe Borough Council*

*For: Bingham Town Council*

#### 1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG16, Archaeology and Planning), para.30, this specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority (Condition 11), of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for a new clubhouse with car park and access Butt Field Recreation Ground, Station Street, Bingham, Nottinghamshire (SK 705 402).

1.2 All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

#### 2 Background

##### 2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief is required to cover ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions (Condition 11) required by Rushcliffe Borough Council following recommendations from Nottinghamshire County Council, Environment as advisors to the planning authority.

##### 2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological importance within the historic settlement core of Bingham.

#### 3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and foundation and service trench excavation by the client's contractors:

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

## 4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

4.2 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.3 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.5 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and only be removed under a Ministry of Justice Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of Bingham Town Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, as appropriate.

## 5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour digital images, as appropriate, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

## **6 Report and Archive**

6.1 A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Sites and Monuments Record and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the 'Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage' (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (MGC 1992) and 'Guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds (other than fired clay objects) (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 1993) will be presented to Nottinghamshire County Council SMR and an appropriate registered within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

## **7 Publication**

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

## **8 Timetable and Staffing**

8.1 The watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks. An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits during the work in consultation with the contractors.

## **9 Health and Safety**

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (revised 2007) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

## **10 Insurance**

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

## **11. Bibliography**

MAP 2, *The management of archaeological projects* 2nd edition English Heritage 1991

MGC 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission)

RFG/FRG 1993, *Guidelines for the preparation of site archives* (Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700)

SMA 1993, *Selection, retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (Society of Museum Archaeologists)

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