



# Land north of Abbey Lane Aslockton, Nottinghamshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amey Consulting, on behalf of Seven Trent Water, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during installation of a new water main. The monitored works comprised the excavation of three trenches in the eastern fields of the works route, which covered 0.77 hectares and was centred on NGR 473899 340250, north of Abbey Lane, Aslockton, Nottinghamshire.

Two of the three trenches were monitored and recorded during mechanical excavation, these were trenches 1 and 3. Trench 2 was excavated prior to commencement of the watching brief, and though part of the trench was re-excavated with a machine, the presence of any archaeological remains could not be determined.

There was little artefactual material recovered from the site; the earliest datable artefact was a residual prehistoric flint recovered from the subsoil in trench 3. Agricultural soils containing pottery and animal bone dating to the medieval and post-medieval period respectively were also recorded in trench 3, as well as a post-medieval brick post pad. Undated cut features were uncovered in trenches 1 and 3, comprising pits, a posthole and a ditch. The proximity of these monitored trenches to a known site of Iron Age/Romano-British occupation indicates that they could be part of this activity, perhaps on the periphery, though a lack of any artefact or ecofact evidence makes any further conclusions difficult.

The archaeological remains were well preserved, with little to no evidence of impacts from later activity.

Due to the nature of the deposits encountered, no environmental samples were collected.

## Acknowledgements

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# Land north of Abbey Lane, Aslockton, Nottinghamshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amey Consulting, on behalf of Severn Trent Water, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during installation of a new water main. The monitored works comprised the excavation of three open cut trenches in three eastern fields of the works route, which covered 0.77 ha, centred on NGR 473899 340250, north of Abbey Lane, Aslockton, Nottinghamshire, NG13 9AW (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out across three fields that had been identified as areas of archaeological potential from previous archaeological works which included a desk-based assessment (Allen Archaeology 2014), magnetometer survey (Allen Archaeology 2015) and trial trench evaluation (Allen Archaeology 2016).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2022). The Archaeology Leader for Nottinghamshire County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken between 10 February and 4 March 2022.
- 1.1.4 Trench 1 lay outside the site outlined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022), however, the additional section of trench was identified as requiring monitoring during the course of the installation works.

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

#### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The watching brief was located in three fields to the north of Abbey Lane, in the village of Aslockton, Nottinghamshire. The site is bounded to the south by residential housing and a primary school. Residential housing also lies to the north and east, while agricultural fields border the site to the west.
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels were between 16 m and 20 m OD.
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Branscombe Mudstone Formation with a superficial geology of river terrace deposits (undifferentiated sand and gravels) (British Geological Survey 2022).



## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was produced for a previous planning application on the site in 2014 (Allen Archaeology 2014). A summary of the results from the assessment are included here, supplemented by additional research using the Heritage Gateway portal.

### 2.2 Previous investigations related to the site

#### *Magnetometer survey 2015*

A magnetometer survey carried out by Allen Archaeology (Allen Archaeology 2015), on the field covered by trench 2 of the watching brief, identified several complex linear, curvilinear and pit-like features towards the central, south and south-west parts of the site. These were concluded to likely represent settlement and agricultural features of later Iron Age or Roman date.

#### *Trial trenching 2016*

2.2.1 Subsequent trial trenching carried out by Allen Archaeology (Allen Archaeology 2016) identified two phases of occupation across the site. The main phase comprised Late Iron Age to Romano-British enclosures on the periphery of a settlement, with environmental evidence of possible milling and drying of grain, either for storage or brewing. The second phase related to medieval and post-medieval furrows, which were present across the site.

#### *Trial trenching 2021*

2.2.2 Trial trenching conducted on land east of trench 1 and south-west of trench 2 (Allen Archaeology 2021) recorded no archaeologically significant deposits or features, indicating that the site lay outside the late Iron Age to Roman occupation recorded to the east.

### 2.3 Archaeological and historical context

#### *Neolithic/Bronze Age (4000–700 BC)*

2.3.1 This period is represented by finds located to the west and north-west of the site including worked flint, a sickle blade and a stone axe.

#### *Iron Age/Romano-British (700 BC–AD 410)*

2.3.2 The area of Aslockton was within the tribal territory of the *Corieltauvi* at the time of the Roman invasion. To the north of the site there is a large Iron Age/Romano-British complex, evident in cropmarks, that comprises enclosures, linear features and a large oval ditched enclosure that has an internal area of almost 20 ha. Excavation of a trial trench across the north-east enclosure boundary of this complex revealed structural features dating to the middle Iron Age to Romano-British period were focussed alongside the double ditched boundary.

2.3.3 Several enclosures, known from cropmarks, dating to the Late Iron Age and early Romano-British period have been identified close to the site. The enclosures and pit-like features are evidence for settlement and agricultural activity during this period.

2.3.4 Several find spots of Roman pottery lie to the east and the north of the site.





*Saxon (AD 410–1066)*

- 2.3.5 A male burial with a straight two-edged sword and a lance head found during gravel quarrying to the north of the site in 1893 represents the only excavated evidence for activity during this period.

*Medieval (AD 1066–1500)*

- 2.3.6 The origin of the name Aslockton points to a Scandinavian origin. The *Domesday Book* of 1086 listed 25 villagers suggesting the village was a substantial size. Several burials of medieval date have been recorded within the wider area.
- 2.3.7 Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556), Archbishop of Canterbury and leader of the English Reformation originated from Aslockton and the family estate, including Cranmer's Mound or Mount, a motte and bailey castle, lies to the east.
- 2.3.8 A further medieval moated site is located to the south of the motte and bailey comprising a moat, fishponds, leats and a boundary bank and ditch.
- 2.3.9 The church of St. John of Beverley in Whatton is a grade II\* listed building dating in parts to the 14th century. Rebuilding during the 19th century included the chancel, south aisle, nave and tower. The boundary wall of the later date is grade II listed. The Holy Trinity Chapel was first mentioned in AD 1147 and lies to the south-east of the site.
- 2.3.10 Further medieval evidence in the area is represented by a cross shaft and 15th-century lantern cross head south-west of the site and three medieval bridges.

*Post-medieval (AD 1500–1800)*

- 2.3.11 Industry developed during the post-medieval period and is represented by a windmill depicted on the 1774 survey of Nottinghamshire, a malting house to the west of the site and a pumping station shown on historic mapping from 1780.

*Modern (1800–present)*

- 2.3.12 The grade II listed parish church of Aslockton, St. Thomas, was built in the 19th century. Aslockton and Whatton have several well-preserved houses of the 19th and 20th century.

*Undated*

- 2.3.13 A large number of undated monuments was mostly identified as earthworks and cropmarks from the National Mapping Programme. A hollow-way or ditch, land terracing and a large mound lie less than 100 m from the boundary of the field where the site is located.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

- 3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and as defined in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:
- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
  - provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an



archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and

- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

## **3.2 Objectives**

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

## **3.3 Research framework**

3.3.1 If relevant, works will aim to address research questions from the East Midlands Research Agenda (Research Frameworks 2022). The most relevant research questions, based on the knowledge of the site set out in the WSI, were:

- How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundary networks develop over time?
- Can we chart more closely the processes of agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems?

## **4 FIELDWORK METHODS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The watching brief monitored the excavation of trenches (trenches 1 and 3) across two fields on the eastern extent of the works. The central section of the pipeline (trench 2) was excavated prior to attendance by an archaeologist and so was largely viewed post-excavation. A section of the trench was re-machined under the supervision of the attending archaeologist.

### **4.2 Fieldwork methods**

#### *General*

4.2.1 Within each of the three trenches, a 10 m wide easement was stripped of overburden. A 2 m wide pipe trench was then excavated in each. The three trenches lay across three fields.



- 4.2.2 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area, with the exception of trench 2, where initial mechanical excavation occurred before the attending archaeologist was present on site. The trench was partially re-excavated with a machine, however, once the attending archaeologist was present on site.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.
- 4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

#### *Recording*

- 4.2.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey.
- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features in trench 3. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm. A Garmin Etrex handset surveyed the location of the archaeological features in trench 1, with a three-dimensional accuracy of c. 4 m.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

### **4.3 Finds and environmental strategies**

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022). Guidelines for the treatment of artefacts and environmental remains were in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description).

### **4.4 Monitoring**

- 4.4.1 The Archaeological Leader for Nottinghamshire County Council monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Archaeological Leader for Nottinghamshire County Council.

## **5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Two of the three trenches contained archaeological features (trenches 1 and 3; **Fig's. 2a and 2b**). The central trench (trench 2) was largely excavated prior to attendance by an

archaeologist, though a section was re-machined under monitoring conditions. No archaeological remains were seen in the reopened section and plant movement had negatively impacted the remaining trench base to an extent that any potential archaeological remains could not be seen (**Fig. 3**).

5.1.2 The only dated feature was a post-medieval post pad found in the base of trench 3.

5.1.3 All the cut features were undated and comprised seven pits, one posthole and one ditch. In trench 3 the cut features were sealed by potential agricultural soils from which a sherd of medieval pottery was recovered, suggesting they could date to the medieval period or earlier, although the pottery may have been residual, and the features later in date.

## 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 Natural substrate comprising mid-reddish brown clay (202, 302), light yellowish brown silty clay (102) or mid-brown sand (310) was uncovered between 0.25 and 0.67 m below ground level (BGL) in all three trenches.

5.2.2 In trench 1 a tree-throw hole (109) was recorded containing a single silty sand fill and evidence of heavy rooting. Overlying the natural substrate and cut features was a mid-brown silty clay subsoil (101), measuring 0.18 m thick.

5.2.3 At the eastern end of trench 3, overlying the cut features, was a series of buried soil horizons likely to be former agricultural soils. The deposits, or layers, comprised dark to mid-grey brown silt or silty clay containing medieval pottery (311) or animal bone (313 and 314; **Fig. 4**), some of which is likely to be post-medieval in date, and measured up to 0.32 m thick in total. Sealing these soils was a subsoil comprising mid-grey brown sandy silt (301) or mid-reddish brown silty clay (312), measuring 0.21 m thick.

5.2.4 A topsoil comprising mid-grey brown silty clay (100) and sandy silt (200 and 300) formed the ground surface across all three trenches. The layer measured between 0.12 and 0.25 m thick.

## 5.3 Post-medieval

5.3.1 A brick post-pad (309; **Fig. 5**) was present in trench 3 at the base of the trench. The pad was formed from red bricks, which were bonded with cement mortar. The pad was left *in situ*.

## 5.4 Uncertain date

5.4.1 Seven pits (104, 106, 111, 113 (**Fig. 6**), 115, 304 and 306) were present across the monitored area, four in trench 1 and two in trench 3. The pits varied in size, ranging from 0.09 to 0.64 m in depth and mainly contained a single fill of grey brown sandy clay or silt. Two exceptions were pits 106 (**Fig. 7**) and 306 (**Fig. 8**), which contained two fills; the primary fills comprised gravelly sand or clay, resulting from initial weathering. The pit fills were largely sterile and homogeneous, which makes determining their date and function difficult.

5.4.2 A single, shallow posthole (317) was recorded in trench 3, measuring 0.05 m deep and containing a single sandy silt fill.

5.4.3 A north–south ditch (319; **Fig. 9**) was recorded in trench 3. The ditch had a flat-based, shallow profile along its length, which had filled up with redeposited natural (303) clay and grey brown clay silt (318) once it had gone out of use. The ditch was possibly an old boundary or trackway.



## 6 FINDS EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered, consisting largely of animal bone. Datable finds (worked flint, pottery) range in date from prehistoric to post-medieval. All finds came from trench 3.
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1** All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Description	Animal Bone	Pottery	Other Finds
301	Subsoil	5/68	1/21	1 flint
311	Buried soil horizon		1/4	
313	Buried soil horizon	30/89		
314	Buried soil horizon	20/48		
<b>Totals</b>		<b>55/205</b>	<b>2/25</b>	

### 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 Of the two sherds of pottery recovered, one is medieval and the other post-medieval. The medieval sherd, from 311, is from the collared, internally bevelled rim of a jug in a glazed sandy ware, almost certainly a Nottingham product, probably Nottingham Reduced Green Glazed ware, dating late 13th–late 14th century. This sherd provided the only dating evidence (and was the only find) from layer 311.
- 6.2.2 The second sherd, from subsoil 301, is a post-medieval black-glazed redware dating to the 17th century or later. This is an undiagnostic body sherd.

### 6.3 Worked flint

- 6.3.1 A single prehistoric flint flake with some edge damage was recovered from subsoil 301. In the absence of any chronologically distinctive features this item cannot be more closely dated.

### 6.1 Animal bone

- 6.1.1 The partial remains of a dog and sheep were recovered from undated burial soil horizons 313 and 314. The dog bones, from 313, comprise the cervical and upper thoracic vertebrae, ribs, scapula, radius, metacarpals, and phalanges from an adult medium sized animal. The sheep bones, from 314, include the parietal part of the skull, from a naturally polled (i.e., hornless breed) juvenile animal, together with a thoracic vertebra, fragments of rib, scapula and humerus or femur shaft. The overall size of the sheep bones indicates that they are from an improved breed and likely to be post-medieval in date.
- 6.1.2 Two fragments of sheep/goat tibia and the distal end of a dog humerus were recovered from post-medieval subsoil layer 301 and are probably redeposited bones from the partial skeletons.



## **7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **7.1 General**

7.1.1 Due to the nature of the deposits encountered, no environmental samples were collected.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

### **8.1 Summary**

8.1.1 The watching brief uncovered archaeological remains evenly distributed across two of the three recorded trenches. Nearly all of the features were undated and comprised seven pits, a posthole and a shallow ditch. A post-medieval post pad was also uncovered in trench 3. The cut features were overlain by subsoil in trench 1 and additional medieval or post-medieval agricultural soils in trench 3.

8.1.2 For the majority of the site the watching brief aims and general objectives have been met as far as they can with the data available and the archaeological remains have been preserved in record. The extent, character, condition and quality of the surviving archaeological remains have been determined, though their date is uncertain. Despite the lack of datable material present it has been possible to make some suggestion of placing the results of this watching brief within the wider archaeological context. However, the research objectives relating to agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems cannot be met due to the small number of features uncovered and inability to place the features securely in context. Unfortunately, in trench 2 the trench was mechanically excavated prior to attendance by an archaeologist. The archaeological record therefore was unable to be fully completed in this section of the works.

### **8.2 Discussion**

8.2.1 Previous archaeological interventions in the field occupied by trench 2 uncovered remains of Iron Age to Romano-British occupation, with a focus in the northern and southern sections of the site. Although the undated features uncovered during the watching brief lay outside this recorded area of occupation it is probable that some, or all, of these features were part of this occupation activity, and were possibly located on its periphery. This proposed association is based on the proximity of the watching brief to the area of Iron Age/Romano-British occupation, as well as an absence of other activity in the vicinity, besides the medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow. There is, however, a lack of dating evidence to confirm this suggestion.

8.2.2 The archaeological remains were well preserved with little evidence of truncation, particularly in trench 3 where subsequent agricultural soils protected the underlying cut features from agricultural activity such as ploughing.

## **9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **9.1 Museum**

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield. Nottingham Museum and Art Gallery has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under an accession code to be confirmed. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

## 9.2 Preparation of the archive

### *Physical archive*

- 9.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records and graphics, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Nottingham Museum and Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 file of paper records

### *Digital archive*

- 9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

## 9.3 Selection strategy

- 9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.
- 9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

### *Finds*

- 9.3.5 This is a very small assemblage and its archaeological significance and further research potential are correspondingly limited. Datable finds have served to indicate prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity, but in insufficient quantities to suggest that this was anything other than sporadic. There are no items of intrinsic interest. On the basis of the small quantities recovered, retention of the finds is not recommended, but this should be reviewed in the event of any further fieldwork on the site.
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#### *Documentary records*

- 9.3.6 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

#### *Digital data*

- 9.3.7 Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is recommended that only selected digital data are deposited with ADS, an approach commensurate with the scale and significance of the project. Deposition will involve the uploading of the site report via OASIS only.

### **9.4 Security copy**

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

### **9.5 OASIS**

- 9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Archaeological Leader for Nottinghamshire County Council on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

## **10 COPYRIGHT**

### **10.1 Archive and report copyright**

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

### **10.2 Third party data copyright**

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.





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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Trench data

Trench No 1		Length Unknown	Width Unknown	Depth 0.30 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Topsoil	Medium brown with slight grey hue silty clay loam. Frequent small rooting from overlying vegetation. Freshly ploughed soil.	0–0.12
102		Subsoil	Medium brown silty sandy clay. Occasional small sub-rounded stones <5 cm.	0.12–0.30
103		Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay loam. Occasional small sub-rounded stones <4 cm. Compact. Frequent plough scars running N-S.	0.30+
104	105	Pit	Sub-circular pit with shallow, concave sides and a sloping base. Length: 0.60 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth: 0.09 m.	0.30–0.39
105	104	Secondary fill	Mid-brown with a grey hue silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones <3 cm, frequent small rooting	0.30–0.39
106	107, 108	Pit	Sub-circular pit with steep, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.84 m. Width: 0.76 m. Depth: 0.29 m.	0.30–0.59
107	106	Secondary fill	Mid-greyish brown sandy clay with 1% sub-rounded coarse gravel	0.30–0.45
108	106	Primary fill	Mid-orangey brown sandy clay with 3% sub-rounded coarse gravel	0.45–0.59
109	110	Tree-throw hole	Irregular tree-throw hole with irregular, irregular sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: 0.76 m. Width: 0.58 m. Depth: 0.28 m.	0.30–0.59+
110	109	Secondary fill	Mid-brown silty sand with 1% sub-rounded to rounded coarse gravel	0.30–0.59+
111	112	Pit	Circular pit with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Diameter: 0.64 m. Depth: 0.10 m.	0.30–0.40
112	111	Secondary fill	Mid-blackish brown sandy clay with 1% sub-rounded to rounded coarse gravel	0.30–0.40
113	114	Pit	Sub-circular pit with irregular, irregular sides and a flat base. Length: 0.96 m. Width: 0.94 m. Depth: 0.41 m.	0.30–0.71
114	113	Secondary fill	Dark brownish grey sandy clay with 1% sub-rounded to rounded coarse gravel	0.30–0.71
115	116	Pit	Sub-circular pit with irregular, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.90 m. Width: >0.98 m. Depth: 0.40 m.	0.30–0.70
116	115	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with 1% sub-angular to rounded coarse gravel	0.30–0.70



Trench No 2		Length Unknown	Width Unknown	Depth 0.25 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy silt. Infrequent (30%) sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles, very poorly sorted and 10-50 mm in size. Some of the stone is unworked flint pebbles and nodules, angular and sub-angular in shape, very poorly sorted and 5-40 mm in size. Layer is homogeneous, moderately compact and well defined against natural. Field ploughed and used for crops.	0.0–0.25
202		Natural	Mid-orangey red sandy, with rare patches of light whiteish grey, clay. Rare (10%) sub-rounded pebbles and cobbles, poorly sorted and 20-100 mm in size. Well compacted and well defined against topsoil.	0.25+

Trench No 3		Length Unknown	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.38 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
300		Topsoil	Mid-slightly greyish brown sandy silt	0.0–0.17
301		Subsoil	Mid-grey brown clayey, sandy silt, with rare rounded, small pebbles	0.17–0.38
302		Natural	Mid-brownish red clay	0.38 +
303		Redeposited natural	Mid-pinkish brown silty clay	0.17–0.35
304	305	Pit	Sub-circular pit with steep, straight sides and a sloping base. Length: >0.85 m. Width: 0.75 m. Depth: 0.14 m.	0.38–0.54
305	304	Secondary fill	Mid- to dark blackish brown sandy silt	0.38–0.54
306	307, 308	Pit	Sub-circular pit with steep, convex sides and a flat base. Length: >0.70 m. Width: >0.45 m. Depth: 0.64 m.	0.38–1.02
307	306	Secondary fill	Mid-brown loam with occasional pea grit, sub-angular gravel and flint chips	0.38–76
308	306	Primary fill	Mid- to dark grey brown gritty sand with occasional pea grit, sub-angular gravel	0.76–1.02
309		Post pad	Square post pad with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from red unfrogged brick and bonded with cement mortar.	0.28
310		Natural	Mid-brown sand with pea grit	
311		Spread	Mid-grey brown silty clay sand	0.35
312		Subsoil	Mid-reddish brown clayey silt	0.25
313		Spread	Mid- to dark grey brown, almost black silt	0.28
314		Spread	Mid-grey brown sandy silt with occasional flint and gravel stones	0.25
315		Number not used	Void.	
316	317	Secondary fill	Mid- to dark brown silt	0.28–0.33
317	316	Posthole	Circular posthole with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.05 m.	0.28–0.33
318	319	Secondary fill	Mid- to dark grey brown clay silt	
319	318	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned north to south and a flat base. Depth: 0.20 m.	



## Appendix 2 OASIS record

**OASIS ID (UID):** wessexar1-505640

**Project Name:** Watching Brief at Land north of Abbey Lane, Aslockton, Nottinghamshire

**Activity type:** Watching Brief

**Project Identifier(s):** 258230

**Planning Id:** [no data]

**Reason for Investigation:** Heritage management

**Organisation Responsible for work:** Wessex Archaeology

**Project Dates:** 10-Feb-2022 - 04-Mar-2022

**HER:** Nottinghamshire HER

**HER Identifiers:** [no data]

**Project Methodology:** The monitored works comprised topsoil and subsoil removal from three 10 m wide soil strips and 2 m wide pipe trenches across three fields. The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.

**Project Results:** There was little artefactual material recovered from the site; the earliest datable artefact was a residual prehistoric flint recovered from the subsoil in trench 3. Agricultural soils containing pottery and animal bone dating to the medieval and post-medieval period respectively were also recorded in trench 3, as well as a post-medieval brick post pad. Undated cut features were uncovered in trenches 1 and 3, comprising pits, a posthole and a ditch. The proximity of these monitored trenches to a known site of Iron Age/Romano-British occupation indicates that they could be part of this activity, perhaps on the periphery, though a lack of any artefact or ecofact evidence makes any further conclusions difficult. The archaeological remains were well preserved, with little to no evidence of impacts from later activity. Due to the nature of the deposits encountered, no environmental samples were collected.

### Keywords:

**Subject/Period:** Pit: UNCERTAIN

FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

**Subject/Period:** Ditch: UNCERTAIN

FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

**Subject/Period:** Buried Soil Horizon: MEDIEVAL

FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

**Subject/Period:** Buried Soil Horizon: POST MEDIEVAL

FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

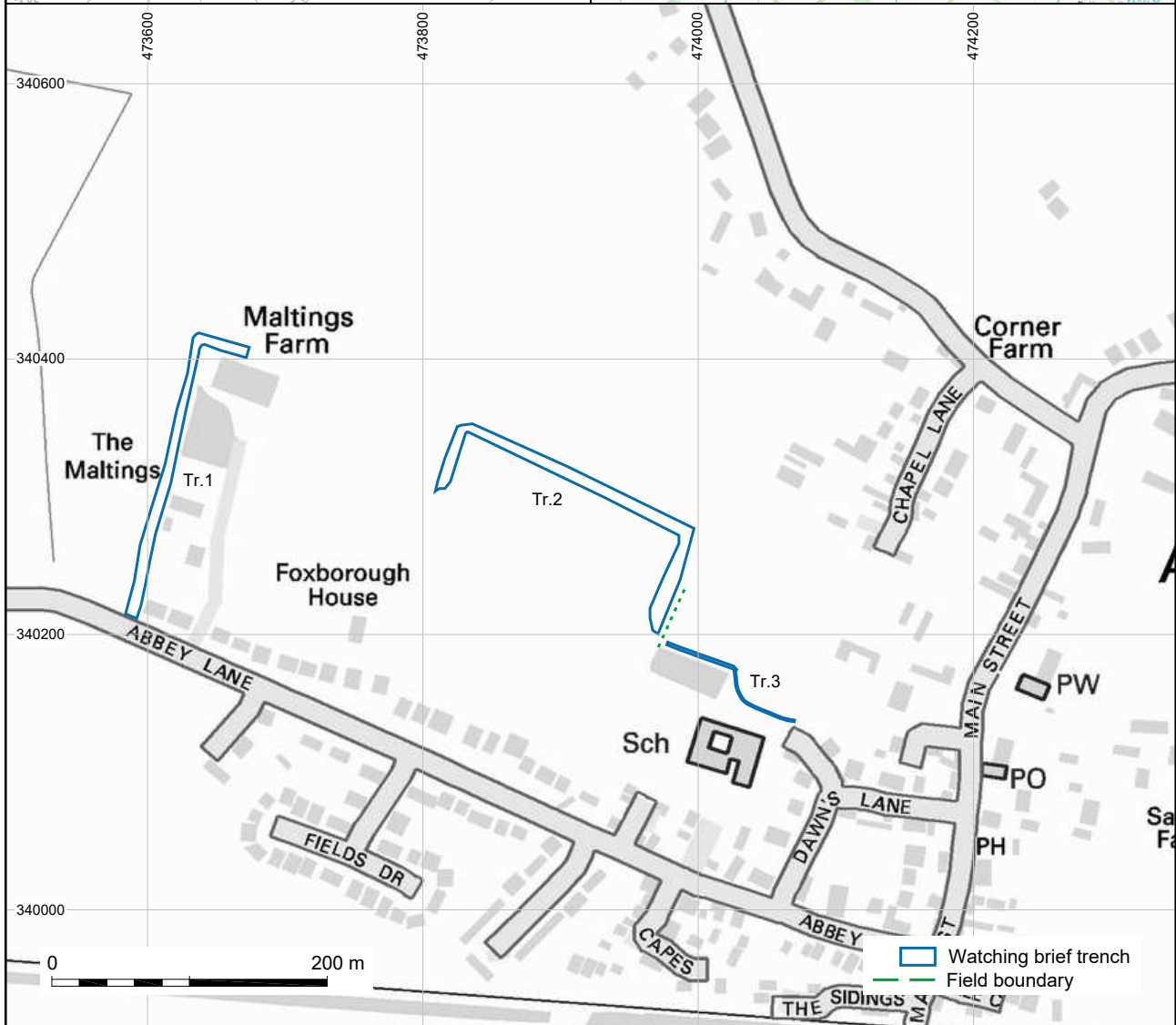
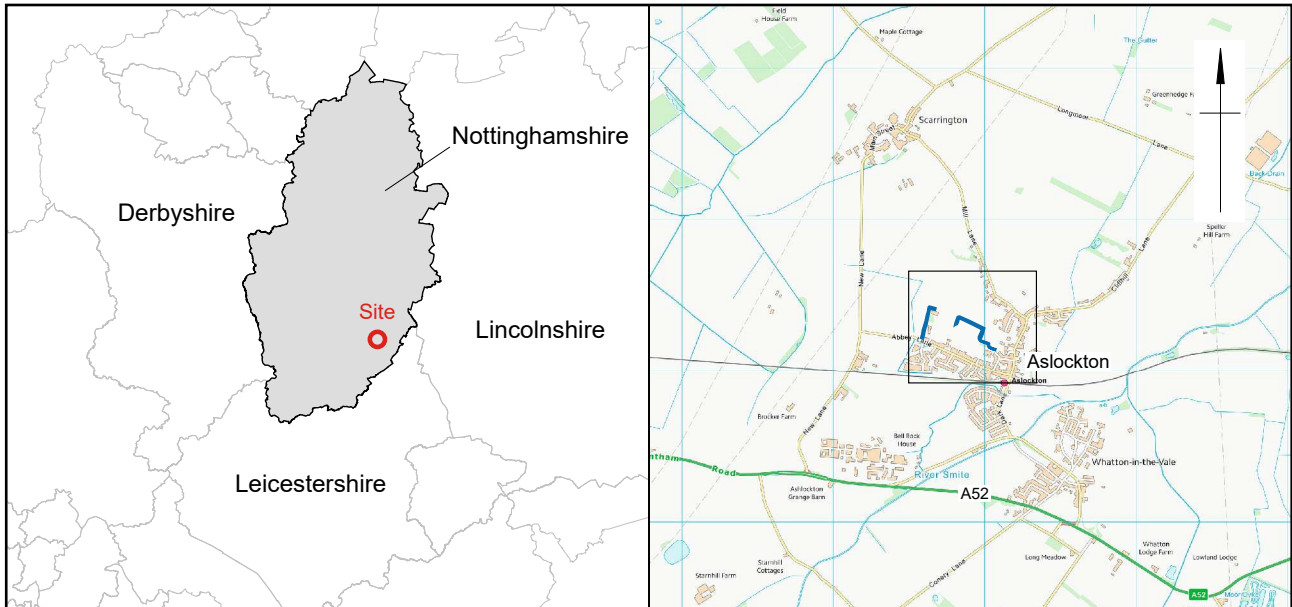
### Archive:

Physical Archive - to be deposited with Nottingham City Museums and Galleries

### Reports in OASIS:

Jackson-Slater, C., (2022). *Watching Brief at Land North of Abbey Lane, Aslockton, Nottinghamshire*.

Sheffield: Wessex Archaeology. 258230.3



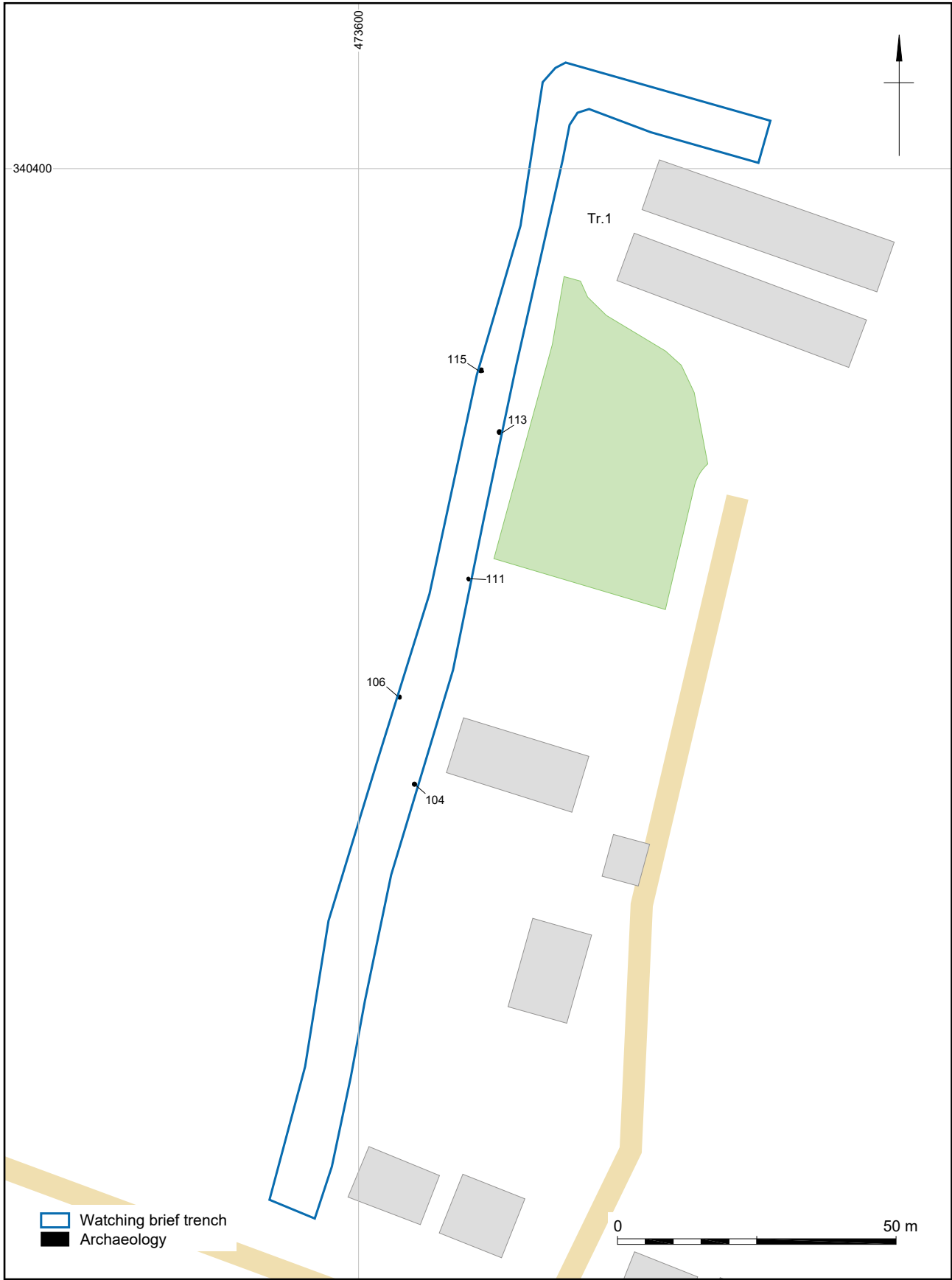
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Site location

Figure 1



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Trench 1

Figure 2a



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Trenches 2 and 3: geophysical survey

Figure 2b





Figure 3: Trench 2, facing east, scales 1 m



Figure 4: Trench 3, buried soil 313 and subsoil 312, facing south, scales 1 m and 0.2 m


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Figure 5: Trench 3, post pad 309, facing south-west, scale 0.2 m



Figure 6: Trench 1, pit 113, facing north, scale 1 m


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Figure 7: Trench 1, pit 106, facing north, scale 0.3 m



Figure 8: Trench 3, pits 304 and 306 (l-r), facing south-west, scale 1 m



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Figure 9: Trench 3, ditch 319, facing north, scales 1 m and 0.2 m

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