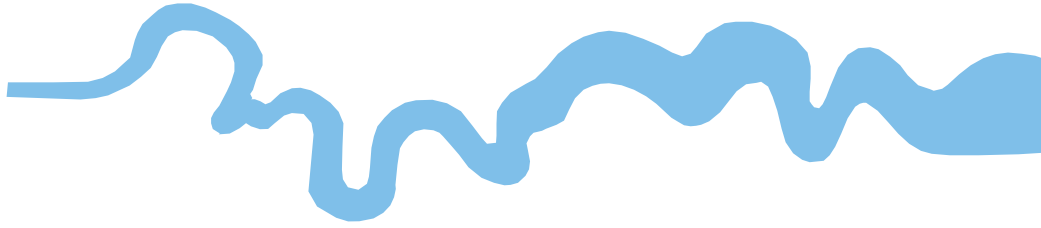


T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

**Land east of Loughborough Road, Ruddington,
Nottinghamshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Katie Taplin

Site Code: LRR23/56

(SK 5808 3257)

Land East of Loughborough Road, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For William Davis Ltd

by Katie Taplin

TVAS North Midlands

Site Code LRR 23/56

April 2023

Summary

Site name: Land east of Loughborough Road, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire

Grid reference: SK 5808 3257

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 9th – 23th March 2023

Project coordinator: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Helen Daniel and Josh Hargreaves

Site code: LRR23/56

Area of site: 0.42ha

Summary of results: The entire area subject to archaeological monitoring was observed during the course of topsoil stripping. This produced no evidence of archaeological remains having been present on site, at the depth exposed by the machine. Much disturbance from tree rooting was observed. No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 27.04.23
	Steve Preston ✓ 26.04.23

Land East of Loughborough Road, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Katie Taplin

Report 23/56

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on land east of Loughborough Road, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire (SK 5809 3258) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Gajos, of GHC Archaeology & Heritage Ltd., Bolham Hall Farm, Bolham, Retford DN22 9JQ on behalf of William Davis Ltd, Forest Field, Forest Road, Loughborough LE11 3NS.

Planning permission (21/01768/FUL) has been granted by Rushcliffe Borough Council for the construction of new houses and associated infrastructure on the site. The consent is subject to a condition (18) requiring a programme of archaeological work, in this instance comprising a watching brief during groundworks. This is in accordance with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and Rushcliffe Borough Council's policies on archaeology.

The watching brief was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Emily Gilliot, Community Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Helen Daniel and Katie Taplin, between 9th and 23rd March 2023 and the site code is LRR23/56. The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of the A60 in the village of Ruddington, 6.5km south of Nottingham (Fig. 1). Surrounded by residential development, the site lies adjacent to the recent development at Lace Fields. The bedrock geology is recorded as Arden Sandstone Formation – Sandstone (BGS 1974). The topography of the site slopes from a height of 48m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south-west corner to around 40m aOD in the south-east corner.

Archaeological background

Whilst the site itself has not previously been subject to archaeological assessment, as part of the residential development of 'Lace Fields' the surrounding land was subject to a desk based assessment (Pegasus 2019) which is summarized below.

Situated to the south-east of the historic core of Ruddington, the site likely formed part of the agricultural hinterland during the medieval period, with ridge and furrow earthworks identified to the north-east of the site. Historic map regression and aerial photographs confirm the site had been used for agricultural purposes since at least the 18th century and provided no evidence of significant post-medieval or modern archaeology. The assessment concluded that the potential for archaeological remains was low, mainly due to the limited amount of archaeological material found, the nearest a single sherd of Roman pottery 400m from the study area. The site is considered to have moderate-high potential for remains relating to agriculture, but low potential for more significant medieval remains (Pegasus 2019).

During the planning process, to further inform the mitigation strategy a geophysical survey was undertaken (Pre-Construct 2019). This identified traces of ridge and furrow and a former boundary or trackway, present on historical mapping from the early 19th century. Other anomalies, possibly representing pits and enclosure ditches, were roughly on the same alignment as the former cultivation.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the ground works. This was to involve constant archaeological monitoring during all groundworks likely to expose, damage or destroy any archaeological remains which may be present below the ground. Principally this was to include observation of any reduction of ground level, and topsoil stripping. All mechanical excavation was carried out using a ditching bucket. Archaeological deposits under threat from groundworks were to be sampled sufficiently to characterize, date and determine their significance. Sufficient time was allowed to carry out the objectives within the groundwork contractors' schedules, without causing any undue delay. The potential and significance of any such deposits located was to be assessed according to research priorities as set out in the *Historic England Research Agenda* (HE 2017) and where relevant, those research aims outlined in the *East Midlands Regional Research Framework* (Knight *et al.* 2012).

Results

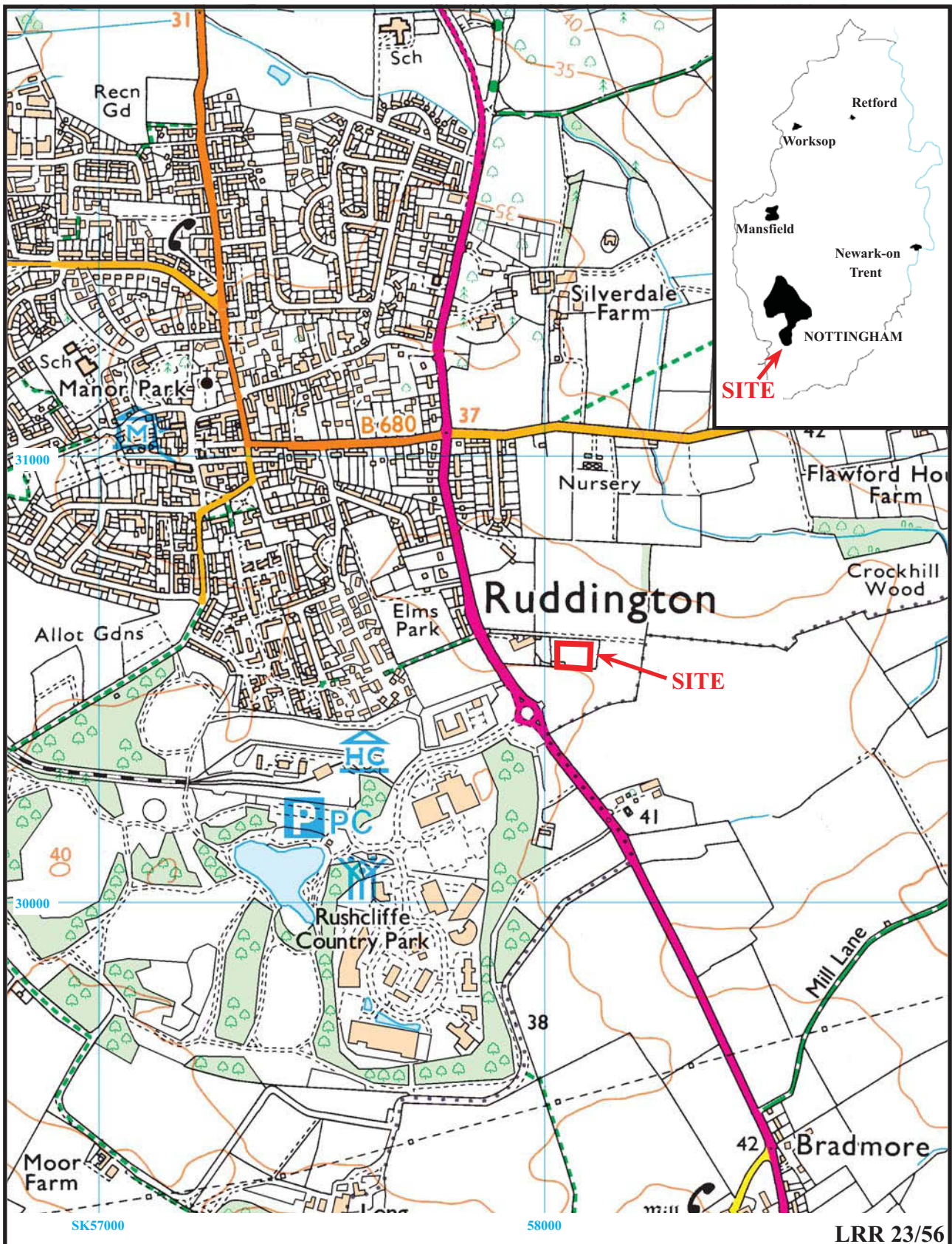
The watching brief was carried out as intended and involved monitoring the removal of topsoil from the whole site, in strips. The area monitored measured 0.42ha, up to 56m in width and 88m in length (Fig. 2). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33-0.42m of black-brown, silty sand topsoil above orange-brown sandy clay subsoil above pink-grey clay natural geology which was visible in places (Fig. 3; Pls 1 and 2). The stripping of the topsoil showed that the ground had been greatly disturbed by tree rooting. The site was not stripped uniformly to an archaeological level, only to expose the subsoil layer and no features were recorded or finds recovered. No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

The entire area subject to archaeological monitoring was observed during the course of topsoil stripping. This produced no evidence of archaeological remains having been present on site, at the depth exposed by the machine. It was noted that extensive disturbance from tree rooting was present.

References

- BGS, 2002, *British Geological Survey*, sheet **142** solid and drift 1:50,000, Keyworth
- Knight D, Vyner B, and Allen C, 2012, *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust
- NPPF, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Pegasus, 2021, 'Desk-based Assessment: Land off Loughborough Road Ruddington', Unpubl report **P20-2335**, Locington
- Pre-Construct Geophysics, 2019, 'Geophysical Survey Report Land to the east of Loughborough road, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire', Unpubl report, Lincoln

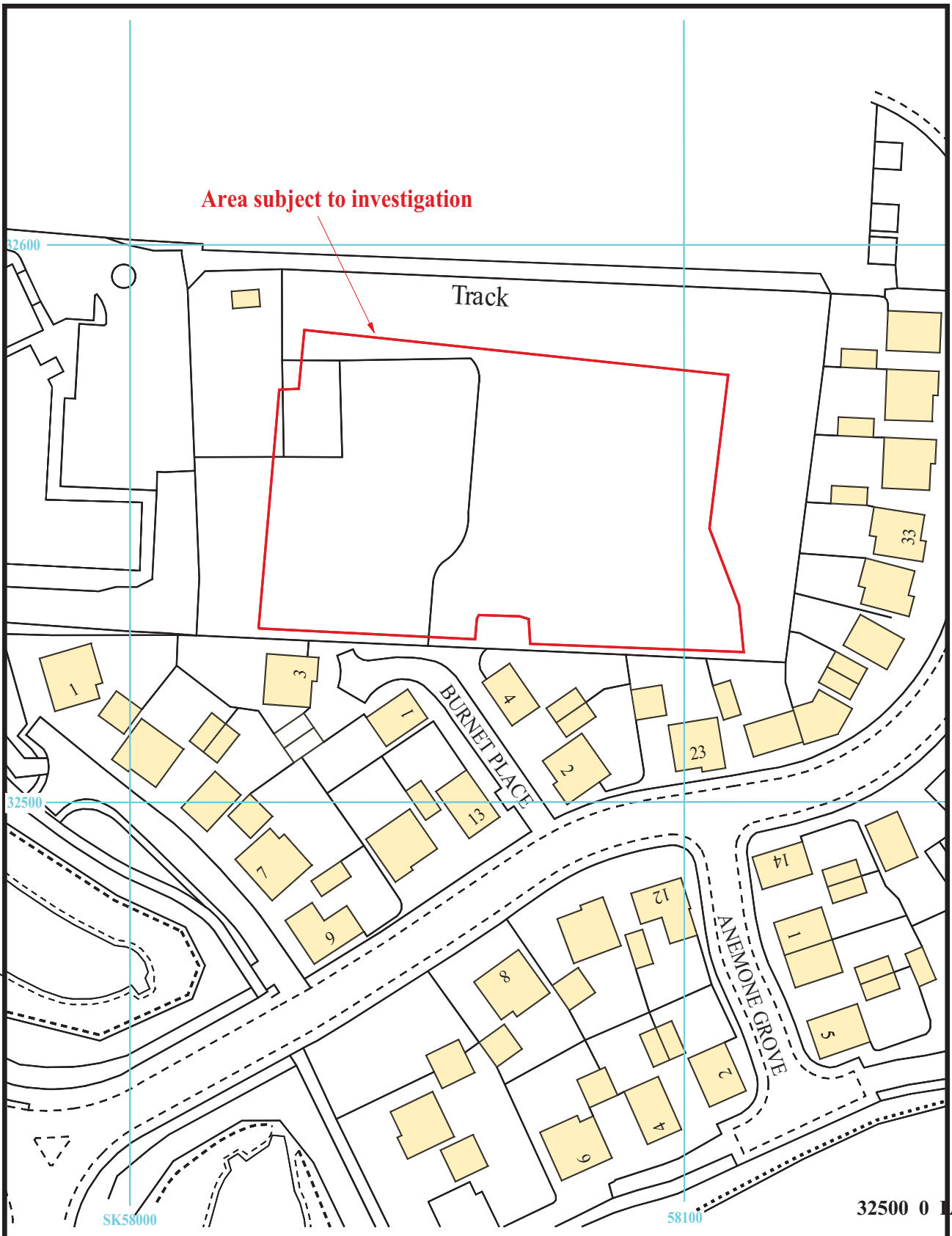


**Land east of Loughborough Road,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Ruddington and Nottinghamshire.

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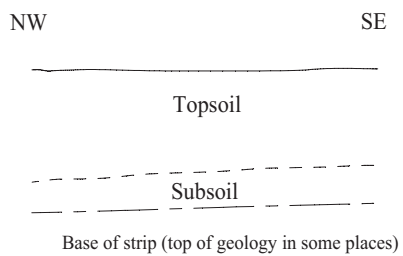




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Figure 2. Detailed location of site and area subject to archaeological monitoring.





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Figure 3. Representative section of stripped area.





Plate 1. View of area after stripping, looking north-west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. View of area after stripping, looking south-east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

LRR 23/56

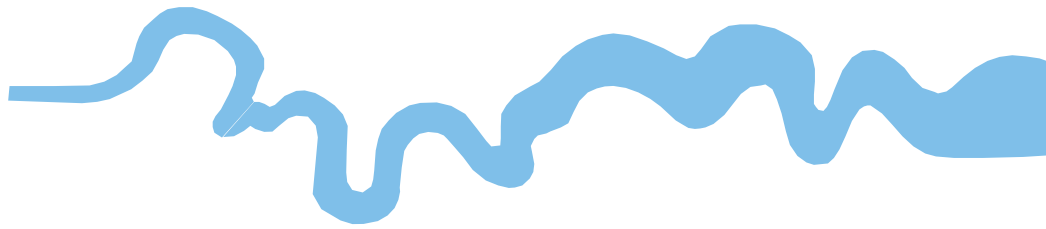
**Land East of Loughborough Road,
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Plates 1 to 2.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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