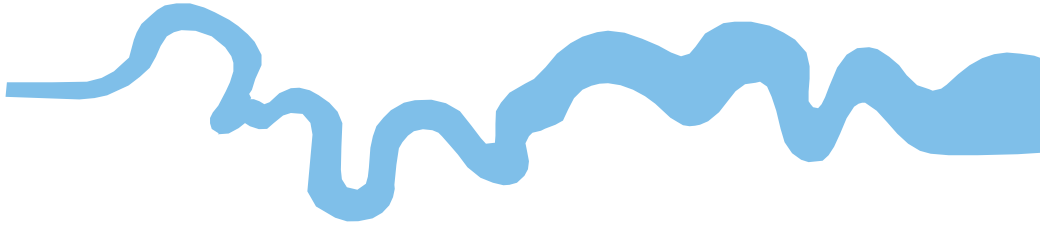


T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

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

Archaeological Evaluation

by Stacey Smith and Helen Daniel

Site Code:LRR 23/77

(SK 5791 3271)

Land east of Loughborough Road, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Taggart Homes**

by Stacey Smith and Helen Daniel

TVAS (North Midlands)

Site Code LRR23/77

May 2023

Summary

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

Grid reference: SK 5791 3271

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 24th to 25th April 2023

Project coordinator: Helen Daniel

Site supervisor: Helen Daniel

Site code: LRR 23/77

Area of site: 3.1ha

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out as intended with five trenches excavated to target anomalies identified on a geophysical survey and areas of potential developmental impact. Of the anomalies observed, the majority were accounted for by changes within the natural geology, others being related to modern interventions. Two gullies (1 and 2), four linear garden features (3-6) and a single pit (8) were recorded but all are considered modern in date. As a result, the site is deemed to have low archaeological potential.

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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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 18.05.23
	Steve Preston ✓ 17.05.23

Land east of Loughborough Road, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Stacey Smith and Helen Daniel

Report 23/77

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land to the east of “The Croft”, 211 Loughborough Road, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire (SK 5791 3271) (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 Taggart Homes, 21 Pemberton Street, Birmingham, B18 6NY.

Planning permission is being sought from Rushcliffe Borough Council for residential development on the site. In order to assess potential impacts of any scheme on archaeological remains and inform any future mitigation, the archaeological adviser to the Borough requested a programme of archaeological trial trenching be undertaken prior to determination of the application, to target anomalies identified in a previous geophysical survey of the site (WYAS 2022). This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021), and the Council’s policies on archaeology.

The evaluation was carried out according to a written scheme of investigation (GHC 2023a), approved by Ms Emily Gillott, Planning Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County Council acting as the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Helen Daniel, Stacey Smith, Katie Taplin and Asher Booth on 24th and 25th April 2023, and the site code is LRR 23/77. 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 Loughborough Road (A60) in the village of Ruddington, south-east of the centre and c.7km south of Nottingham (SK 5791 3271) (Fig. 1). The roughly rectangular plot covers c.3.1ha, the southern two-thirds comprising pasture and northern third occupied by “The Croft” and its gardens. The A60 bounds the site to the west and an access road to the south, whilst to the north and east is residential development, either established or under construction (Fig. 2). The topography of the site slopes slightly from a height of 42m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-west down to 40m aOD in the south-east corner. The underlying bedrock geology is mapped as Arden Sandstone Formation (BGS 2002).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the proposal site has been addressed in a heritage statement (GHC 2023b), which is the basis of the summary below.

Ruddington is first recorded in Domesday in 1086 as *Roddintone*, derived from the Old English (Anglo-Saxon) personal name *Rudda*, the connective *ing* and *'tun'* (estate, village, etc) (Mills 2011). However the earliest evidence of occupation in the area is from Flawford churchyard, c. 1km east of the site, where evidence from both the Bronze and Iron Ages was discovered. The churchyard subsequently became the site of a Roman villa and later a Saxon church, which served as the parish church until its demolition in 1773. During the medieval period, the village was surrounded by four large open fields: Micklebarrow field, Mill field, Collicross field and Thornditch field. This form of agriculture continued well into the post-medieval period, although Thornditch field was partially enclosed for pasture in 1698. Historic map regression and aerial photographs confirm the site has been used for agricultural purposes since at least the 18th century and provided no evidence of significant post-medieval or modern development. The assessment concluded that the potential for archaeological remains was low, mainly due to the limited amount of archaeological material found within the study area (GHC 2023b).

A geophysical survey identified evidence of former cultivation in the form of ridge and furrow. The survey also identified a few anomalies of uncertain origin, possibly associated with former field boundaries, geology or with agricultural activity, most of which were suspected to be modern in date (WYAS 2022).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. Specific research objectives were:

- to identify and assess the significance of any archaeological remains within the site; and
- to allow informed recommendations on the potential impacts of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to research priorities such as those set out in the Historic England *Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or local and thematic research priorities within the East Midlands Research Framework (Knight *et al.* 2016).

It was proposed to excavate five trenches, four at 50m and one 40m in length, all 1.6-2m wide. The trenches were positioned to target potential archaeological features identified in geophysical survey and to focus

on areas of development impact. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were present, they were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the deposits exposed were to be sampled by hand in order to satisfy the project aims, without compromising the integrity of any archaeological features or deposits which may warrant preservation *in-situ*, or which might better be excavated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

The evaluation successfully excavated five trenches as intended. Trenches ranged in length from 39.5m to 55.8m and in depth from 0.55m to 0.77m. The stratigraphy of topsoil and subsoil above the natural geology was essentially the same across all the trenches, while the natural geology varied slightly as described below. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2–5; Pls 1, 6, 7 and 8)

Trench 1 was aligned N-S and was 39.5m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of black-brown silty-sand topsoil over 0.2m of mid yellow-brown silty-sand subsoil overlying greyish-pink sandy-clay natural geology. Starting at 24m from the south end of the trench, four linear features were recorded (3, 4, 5 and 6). Three of these were excavated (4, 5 and 6); all were 1.2m wide and 0.2m deep and filled by the same dark greyish-brown silty sand (54, 57–9) containing modern glass and brick, none of which was retained. Features 5 and 6 were abutted by a brick wall (56) at the northern end, possibly the geophysical anomaly identified in the survey (U1), deemed modern due to the shape and size of the brickwork. The bricks were machine made, unfrogged and measured 220x110x80mm. The features are interpreted as garden structures such as vegetable beds or a small fruit orchard. No archaeological finds were recovered. No trace of geophysical anomaly FB2 was observed.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned NE-SW and was 55.8m long and 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil over 0.28m of subsoil (both as in Trench 1) overlying greyish-pink sandy-clay natural geology. The geophysical survey had identified a possible field boundary (FB1) in this and an adjacent trench (5), however this was not apparent and only land drains were observed. No archaeological finds were recovered and none of

the anticipated geophysical anomalies (FB1 and U2) were evident as archaeological features within the subsoil or natural geology.

Trench 3 (Figs 2–5; Pls 3 and 9)

Trench 3 was aligned NE-SW and was 51m long and 0.77m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.42m of topsoil over 0.35m of subsoil overlying greyish-pink sandy-clay natural geology with patches of orange sand and grey-blue clay. At 8.2m from the south-west end of the trench, Pit 8 was recorded. It was oval in plan up to 1.2m across and 0.28m deep with an irregular bow-shaped profile (Figs 4 and 5). It was filled with mid grey-brown silty-sand (55), which seemed at odds with the type of fill expected for a feature of archaeological origin. The feature contained no dating evidence. The trench was extended slightly to recover the full extent of pit 8 in plan and confirm that it was not a linear feature.

Trench 4 (Figs 1-5; Pls 4, 10 and 11)

Trench 4 was aligned NNW-SSE and was 50.6m long and 0.66m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.36m of topsoil over 0.3m of subsoil overlying greyish-pink sandy-clay natural geology with patches of orange sand and grey-blue clay. At 7.6m from the south-east end of the trench, Gully 1 was recorded, it was 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep and filled with grey-brown silty-sand (52). At 31.5m from the south-east end of the trench, Gully 2 was recorded, it was 0.9m wide and 0.12m deep and filled with mid grey-brown silty-sand (53). Neither of the gullies contained dating evidence but gully 2 was cut through a channel used for a land drain and is thus of fairly recent date.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 5 and 12)

Trench 5 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 50.1m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.36m of topsoil over 0.34m of subsoil overlying greyish-pink sandy-clay natural geology. As in Trench 2, a possible field boundary identified by geophysical survey was not apparent although there was clear evidence of agricultural ridge and furrow. No archaeological finds were recovered.

Conclusion

The evaluation was carried out as intended with five trenches successfully excavated to target anomalies identified on a previous geophysical survey and areas of potential developmental impact. Of those anomalies observed, the majority were accounted for by changes within the natural geology, with others being related to

modern interventions. Two gullies (1 and 2), four linear garden features (3-6) and a single pit (8) were recorded. Pit 8 did not contain any dating evidence, and might be of natural origin, but all are considered modern in date, due to the presence of modern brickwork, glass (3-6) and the features being cut into modern field drainage systems (2). As a result, the site is deemed to have low archaeological potential.

References

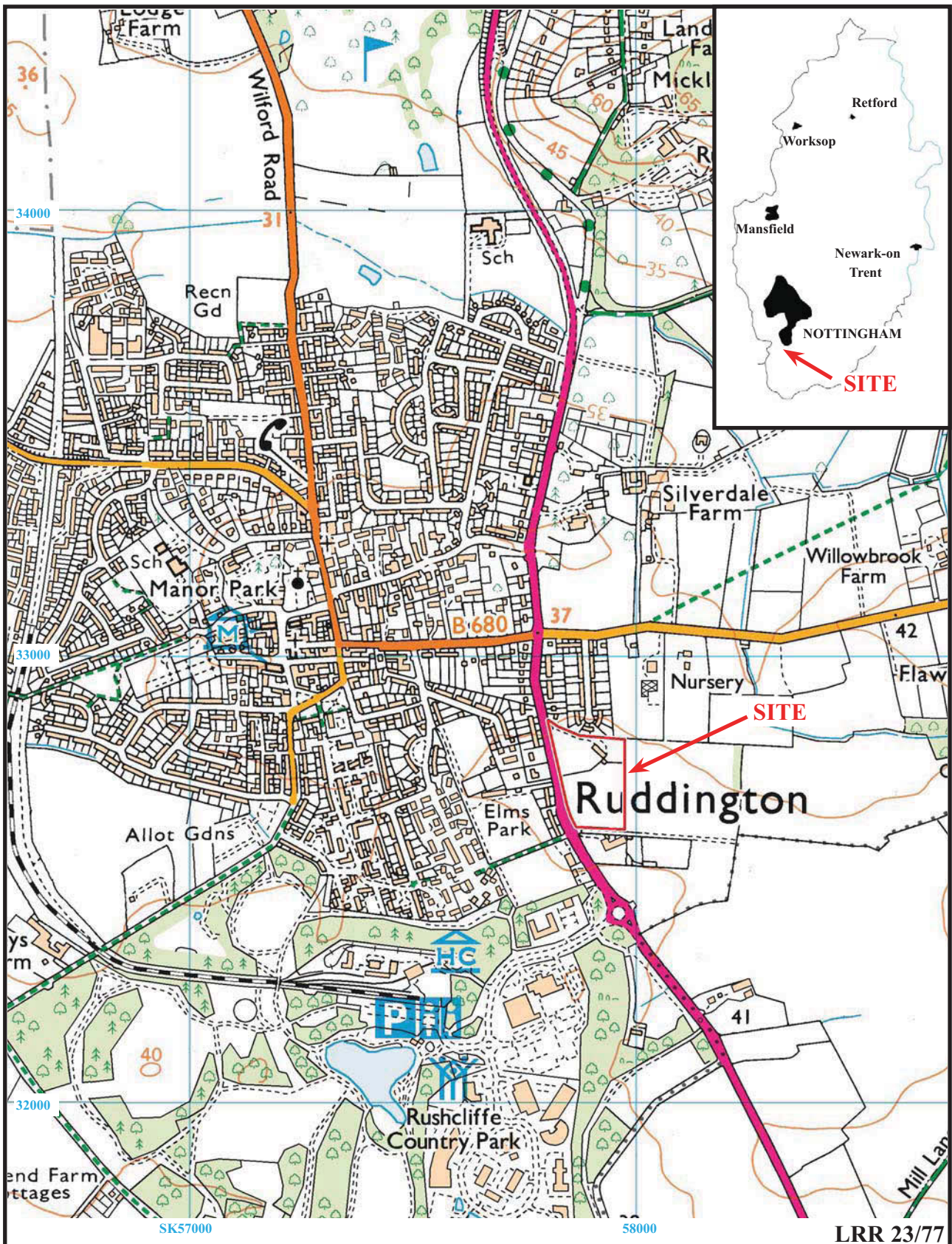
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	39.5	1.8	0.55	0–0.35m black-brown silty-sand topsoil; 0.35-0.55m mid yellow-brown silty-sand subsoil; 0.55m+ greyish-pink sandy-clay natural geology. Linear garden features 3, 4, 5 and 6 and Wall 56. [Pls 1, 6–8]
2	55.8	1.8	0.68	0–0.40m black-brown silty-sand topsoil; 0.40-0.68m mid yellow-brown silty-sand; 0.68m+ greyish-pink sandy-clay natural geology. [Pl. 2]
3	51	1.8	0.77	0–0.42m black-brown silty-sand topsoil; 0.42-0.77m mid yellow-brown, silty-sand; 0.77m+ greyish-pink sandy-clay with patches of orange sand and grey-blue clay natural geology. Pit 8. [Pls 3 and 9]
4	50.6	1.8	0.66	0–0.36m black-brown silty-sand topsoil; 0.36-0.66m mid yellow-brown, silty-sand; 0.66m+ grey-pink sandy-clay, patches of orange sand and grey-blue clay natural geology. Gullies 1 and 2. [Pls 4, 10 and 11]
5	50.1	1.8	0.70	0–0.36m black-brown silty-sand topsoil; 0.36-0.70m mid yellow-brown, silty-sand; 0.70m+ grey-pink sandy-clay (Natural Geology). greyish-pink sandy-clay natural geology. Ridge & furrow. [Pls 5 and 12]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Structure</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
4	1	52		Gully	?Modern	likely same date as 2
4	2	53		Gully	Modern	Stratigraphy
1	3	54		Garden Feature	19th century to modern	Modern debris/waste
1	4	57		Garden Feature	19th century to modern	Modern debris/waste
1	5	58		Garden Feature	19th century to modern	Modern debris/waste
1	6	59		Garden Feature	19th century to modern	Modern debris/waste
3	8	55		Pit	Unknown, probably modern	None
1			56	Brick Wall	19th century to modern	Brick size

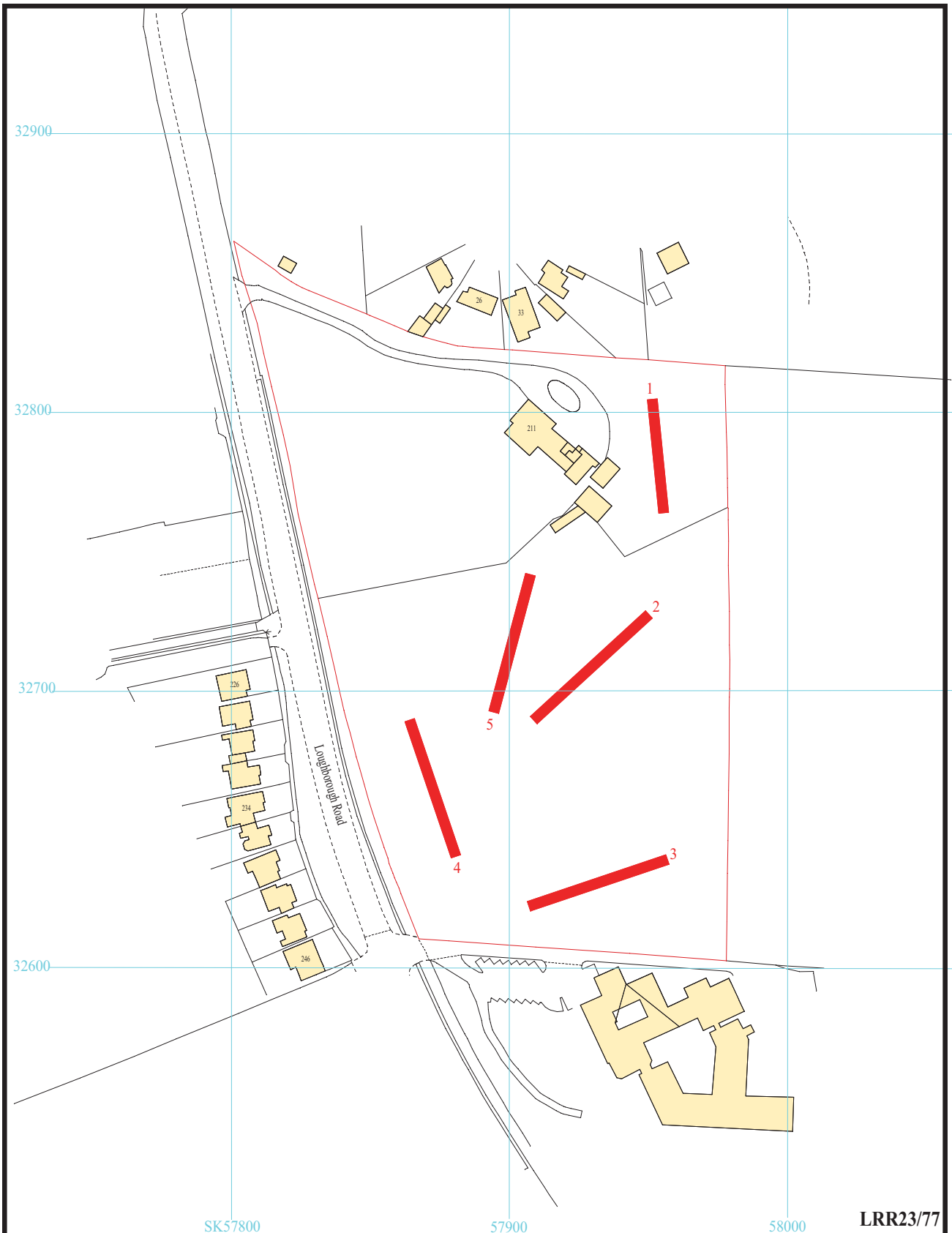


**Land east of Loughborough Road,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Ruddington and Nottinghamshire.

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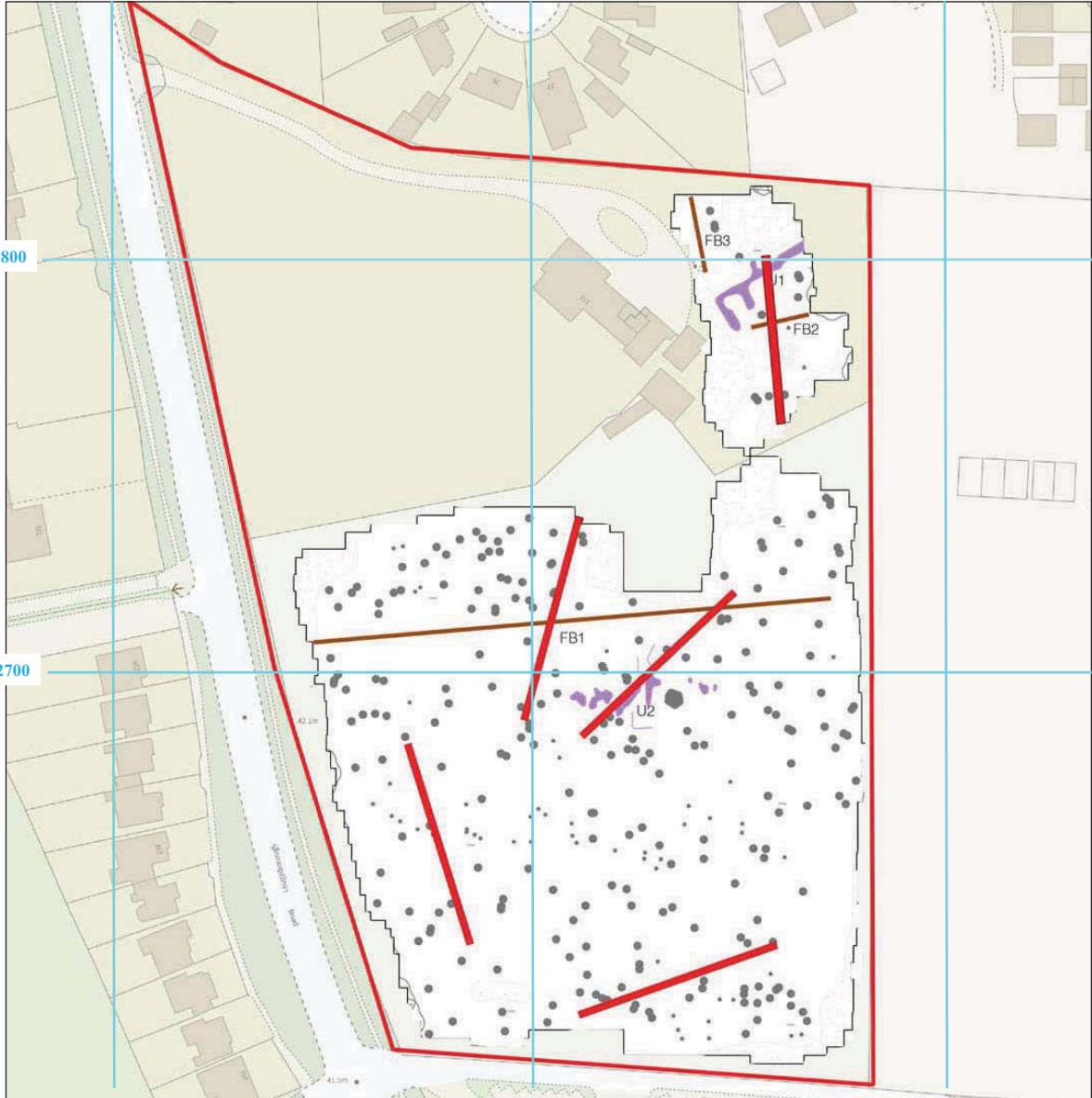




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Figure 2. Location of site and position of trenches.





SK57800

57900

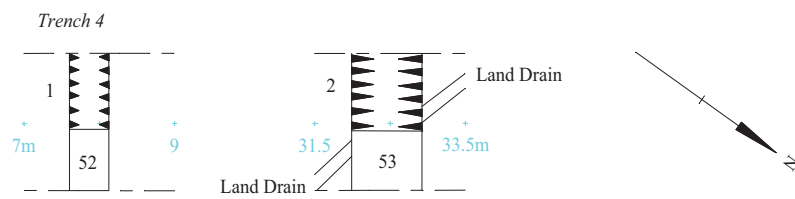
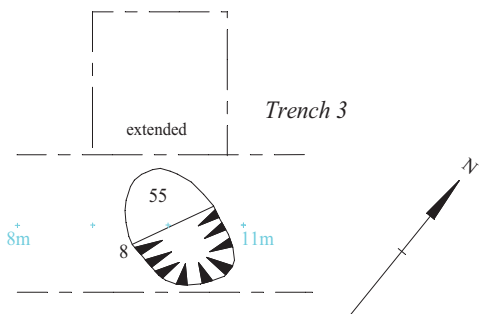
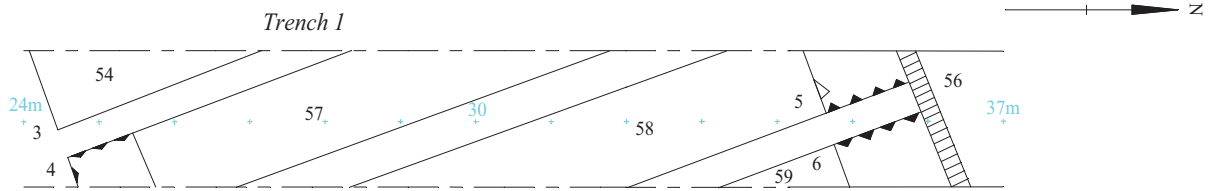
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Figure 3. Trench plan in relation to the geophysical survey
interpretation (WYAS 2022).



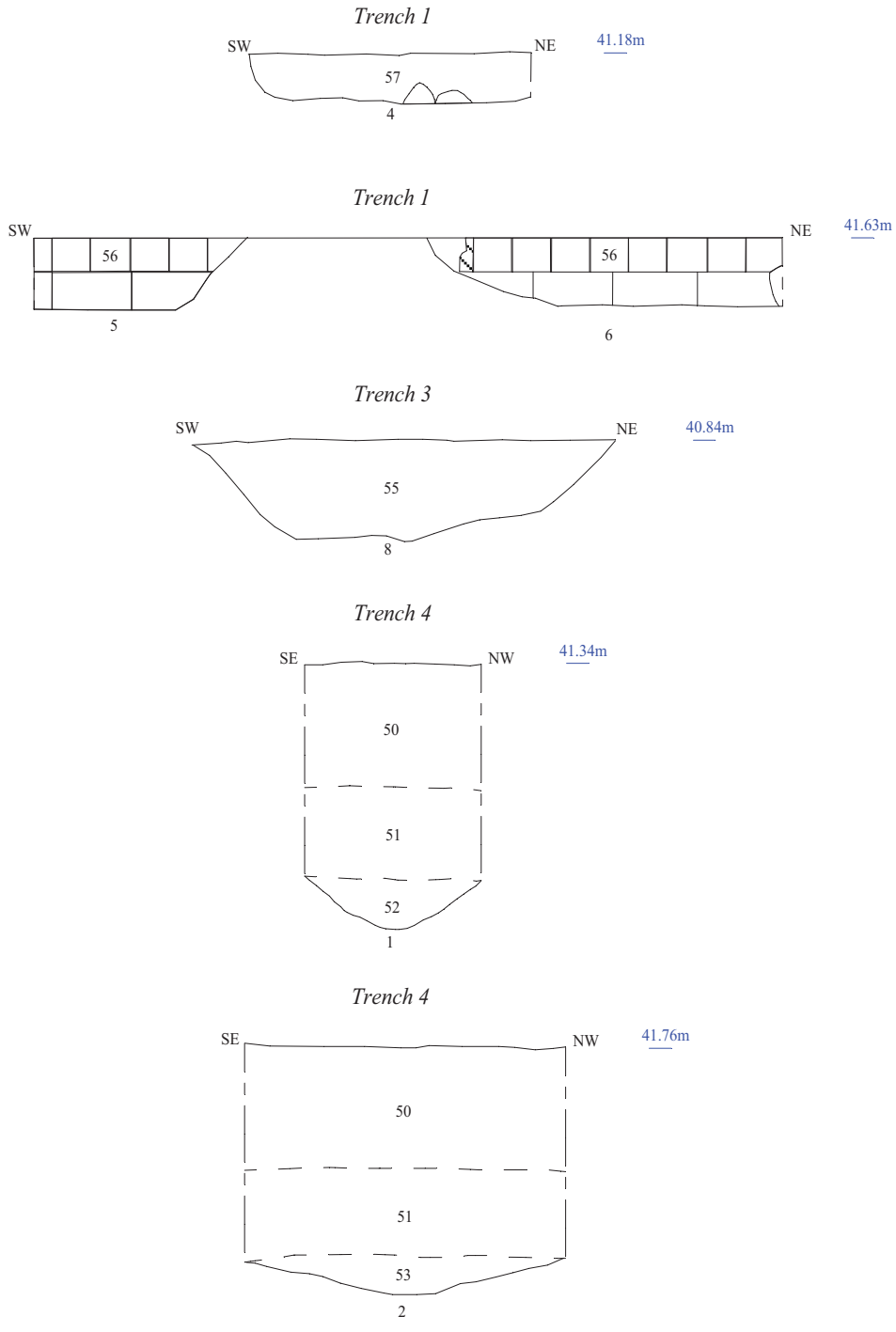


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Figure 4. Plans of trenches.





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Figure 5. Sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north; Scales: 2m and 1m



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south-west; Scales: 2m and 1m



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking east; Scales: 2m and 1m



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking north-west; Scales: 2m and 1m

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Plates 1 to 4.**





Plate 5. Trench 5. looking south-west; Scales: 2m and 1m



Plate 6. Garden Structures 3-6 in Trench 1, looking north-west.



Plate 7. Trench 1, Garden Structures 5 and 6 and abutting wall 56, looking north-west; Scales: 2 x 1m and 0.1m



Plate 8. Garden Structure 4 in Trench 1, looking north; Scales: 1m and 0.1m

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Plates 5 to 8.





Plate 9. Pit 8 in Trench 3, looking north-west; Scales: 1m and 0.3m



Plate 10. Gully 1 in Trench 4, looking west; Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m



Plate 11. Gully 2 in Trench 4, looking west; Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 12. Ridge and Furrow in Trench 5, looking south-west.

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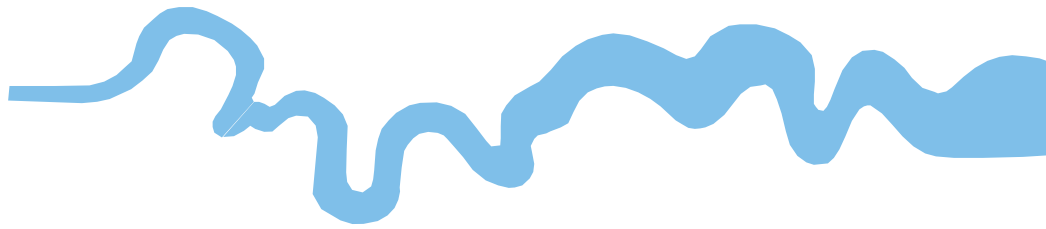
Land east of Loughborough Road, Ruddington,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 9 to 12.

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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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