

# ARCHAEOLOGY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2017

*Edited by*

CHRIS KING

## **BRAMCOTE OLD CHURCH TOWER**

(SK 50828 37485)

In August 2017 the Bramcote Old Church Tower Trust received Heritage Lottery funding to restore elements of the medieval tower and enhance the site. This work includes improvements to the site access and the construction of a facilities 'pod' to provide for public events. A watching brief was required on the digging of a number of trenches across the site and the sinking of a soakaway.

The tower is all that stands above ground of the original parish church of St Michael. The earliest elements that remain are 13th century, but most of the tower is 14th century. By the mid-1900s St Michael's was reported to be in a dilapidated state and unsuitable for the needs of its parishioners. A new parish church dedicated to St Michael and All Angels was built to accommodate the rapidly growing population. This was consecrated in 1861 and now houses the original 13th-century font. The former church was reduced to a ruin in the same year, with only the tower being retained to house a number of alabaster memorials. A handful of images of the former church survive but they do little to elucidate the layout and phasing of the building. Graveyard survey work carried out several years ago identified a number of buried gravestones and a large area of sub-surface rubble presumed to be from the demolition of the main structure.

The project has involved groundworks which were subject to archaeological control and supervision because of the high probability of archaeological and human remains in the area. The archaeological work was carried out by Emily Gillott, Nottinghamshire County Council's Community Archaeologist, in November and December 2017.

The service trenches were dug by mini-digger to a width of around 40cm and to an average depth of 60cm. The initial course of the trench was aborted when it revealed a number of wall foundations at shallow depth on the south side of the church. At least three phases of wall were evident and may be remains of a south porch or aisle. Fragments of decorated glass and medieval pottery were recovered from the spoil of this trench, along with handmade brick and other CBM, faced sandstone and fragments of alabaster.

The course of the service trench was re-planned to avoid these features and with the intention of avoiding the possibility of encountering any other foundations from the church. The new route largely follows the gravel pathway that leads from the entrance and curves around the projected extent of the former church. The trench revealed numerous fragments of disarticulated human material in a poor state of preservation but no evidence of grave cuts or articulated inhumations. A few fragments of CBM and faced sandstone were observed, one of which appeared to be from the lid of a chest tomb.

Several distinct features related to the former church were recorded during the digging of this trench. A single use brick-built burial vault encountered to the south of the projected south wall of the church (see Figure 1). There are documentary references to vaults at the church and this demonstrates that they were not necessarily demolished with the church in the 1860s. Further investigation of this feature was not part of the scope of this work.

The other significant features recorded were the foundations for the south and east walls of the former church (see Figure 2), demonstrating that the footprint of the church had been larger

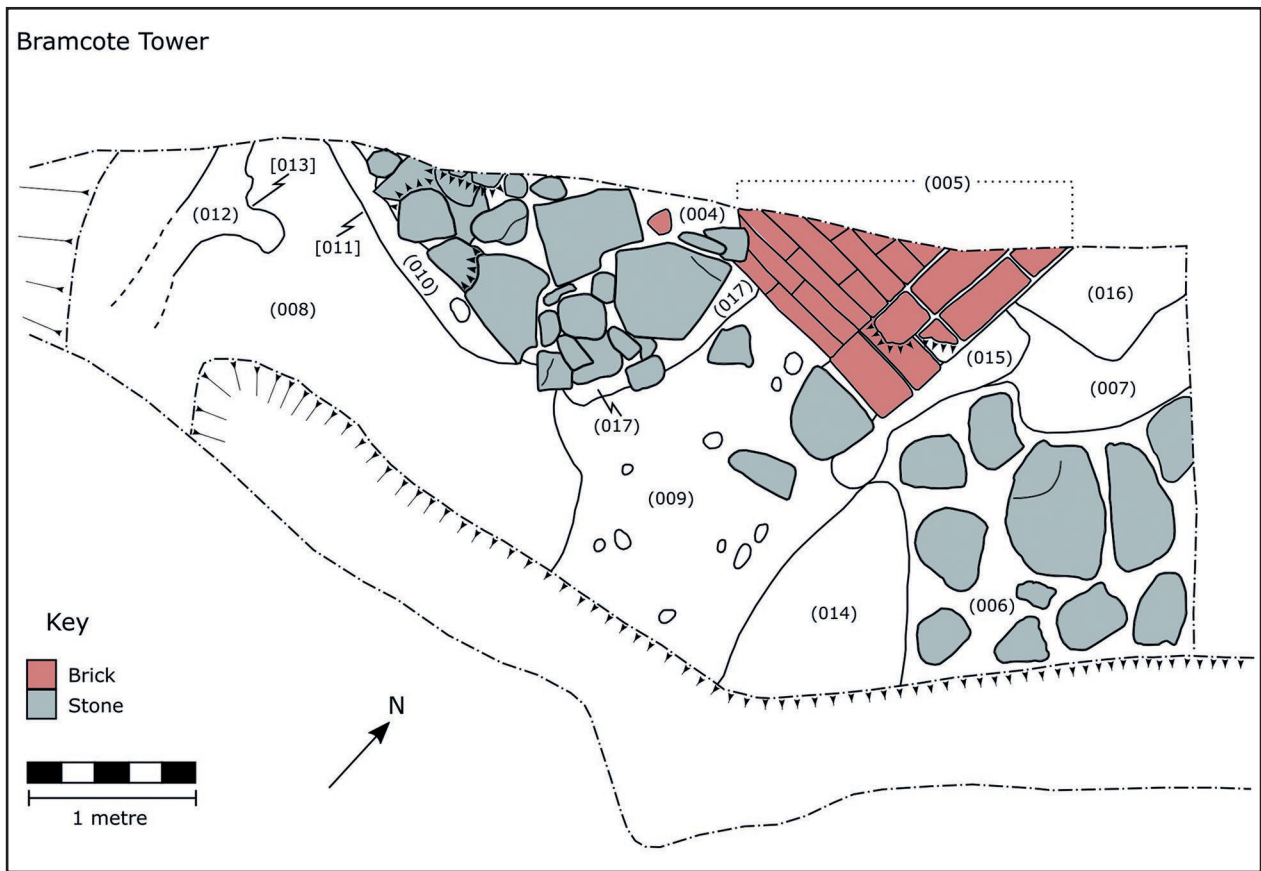


FIGURE 1: Bramcote Old Church: plan of the single-use brick built burial vault and adjacent contexts representing both construction features and probable demolition material (Nottinghamshire County Council).

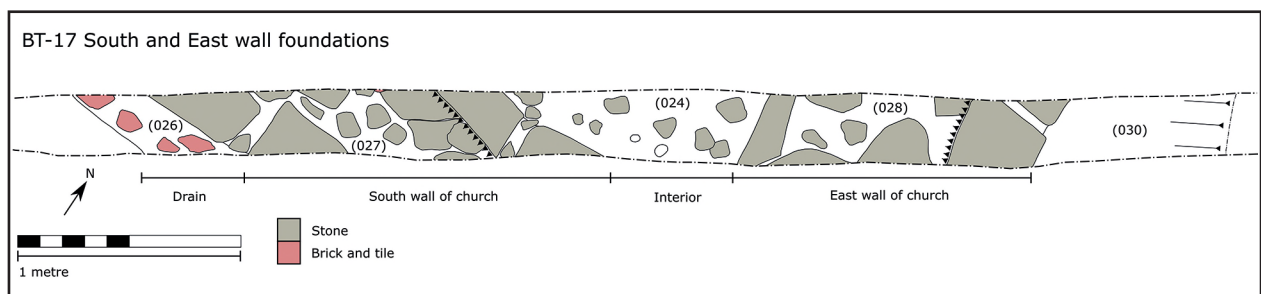


FIGURE 2: Bramcote Old Church: plan showing the south and east wall foundations revealed in the service trench (Nottinghamshire County Council).

than anticipated. A drain had been dug historically directly against the exterior of the south wall and was constructed of large curved tiles. The walls themselves were of large faced masonry blocks with rubble core set into sandy clay. They each appeared

to be around 1m in width, though this was difficult to say for certain within the narrow confines of the trench and the acute angle at which it intersected the walls. The area between the walls is made up of

loose unfaced mudstone and sandstone, along with silica pebbles and wall plaster.

A former retaining wall or revetment for the graveyard was revealed in the service trench by the current entrance to the site. This appeared to be a rough wall constructed of unfaced sandstone which sloped steeply to the north. It appears that when the current boundary wall was constructed it was built external to an existing revetment, rather than replacing it, with the area between the walls being backfilled and ultimately burying the former boundary. Redeposited medieval pottery was encountered across the site and will be subject to specialist analysis.

*Emily Gillott, Community Archaeologist  
Nottinghamshire County Council*

### **CLIFTON, GROVEWOOD COTTAGE (SK 541 348)**

As part of a program of development at Grovewood Cottage, Clifton, including the construction of a single storey extension and the creation of a basement beneath the existing building, Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned to undertake a trial trench evaluation.

Grovewood Cottage lies within the Clifton Village Archaeological Constraint Area, which recognises the high potential for undisturbed archaeological features in this location, particularly of medieval and post-medieval date. The site is situated approximately 5m from the eastern boundary of St Mary's parish church, a Grade I Listed building dating to the 12th century, and the cottage itself is Grade II Listed, originally being part of the stable



PLATE 1: Grovewood Cottage, Clifton: Trench 1a showing walls 0103 (bottom), 0105 (middle) and 0107 (top). Scales 2 × 1m (Trent & Peak Archaeology).

range for the 18th-century Clifton Hall. The work consisted of three evaluation trenches: one (split into two trenches by an inspection pit) situated inside the existing garage building and two positioned outside in the garden area. Neither of the outside trenches revealed any archaeological features. However, the trench inside the garage uncovered the remains of three walls of post-medieval date (Plate 1). These are likely to be Georgian in date and are probably related to external features of the original stable block range for Clifton Hall.

*Kate Smart*  
*Trent & Peak Archaeology*

### **COLSTON BASSETT, LANGAR LANE** (SK 7066 3443)

Cotswold Archaeology undertook a watching brief and strip, map and sample excavation between October 2015 and June 2016 at Langar Lane, Colston Bassett. They recorded a series of medieval furrows identified on a preceding geophysical survey.

*Simon Carlyle*  
*Cotswold Archaeology*

### **CLIPSTONE, BEESTON LODGE** (‘CLIPSTONE PEEL’) (SK 57067 63782)

The King’s Houses at Clipstone was a favoured site of the kings of England from the later 12th to the end of the 14th century. The site, now known as King John’s Palace, and its wider landscape is the subject of long term research by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC as part of the Sherwood Forest Archaeology Project.

The deer park at Clipstone was situated to the west of the site of the King’s Houses, and occupied an area of 1457 acres when depicted on the William Senior Map of 1630 (Mastoris 2017). On the far western edge of the park, to the south of the River Maun, about two miles west - south-west of the King’s Houses, a series of buildings are depicted on this map. David Crook in his 1976 article on

‘Clipstone Park and ‘Peel’ in these *Transactions* suggested these buildings to be the site of Clipstone Peel. Clipstone Peel was built by Edward II in 1316 as a fortified stockade which contained for a time a ‘small stock of arms and armour, including a siege engine’ (Crook 1976, 40).

Alongside detailing the date of its construction to the months preceding January 1317, Crook listed the following buildings and features which made up the site: a gatehouse, hall, royal chamber, chapel, bakehouse, kitchen, grange and sheds for cattle, oxen, and sheep, a palisade, gates, a ditch outside the gates, and two windlasses to raise bridges (Crook 1976, 40). The 1976 article also detailed a number of keepers employed to run the site which had a primarily agricultural function, alongside its role as a fortified bolt-hole for Edward II, and some of the part it played in early 14th-century politics. The Peel was dismantled by Edward III, however parts survived to become a hunting lodge, to be depicted on William Senior’s 1630 map of Clipstone as a series of buildings (Crook 1976, 43). By the time of George Sanderson’s 1853 map of *Twenty Miles Around Mansfield*, the site was known as ‘Beeston Lodge Hill’. A stone ruin, consisting of the rubble cores of perhaps two walls is all that is obvious now above ground in terms of surviving remains. These ruins form the focus of the site of Beeston Lodge (SK 57067 63782) which is a Scheduled Monument.

No archaeological work has previously been undertaken of the possible Peel site, and as part of Mercian’s work into the landscape of Clipstone, and the wider Sherwood Forest area, it was decided that the site would be investigated. In October 2017, as a first phase of work, Mercian Archaeological Services CIC undertook a topographic survey of the site to help understand its location, to attempt to identify any possible modification of the landscape, and to set the site in its wider landscape context. A geophysical magnetometer survey was also undertaken to begin searching for any surviving sub-surface remains and to help in understanding the nature of the site itself.

The results of the work have helped to show how the site is located on high ground to the south of

the River Maun, directly overlooking the river to the north. To the south west a spring feeds a natural valley which is occupied by a cascade of ponds believed to be medieval in origin, and perhaps built to service the Peel site, or the succeeding hunting lodge. This valley flows due north to join the Maun which flows from west to east. The confluence of these two valleys creates steep escarpments to both the west and northern sides, giving the site a prominent, elevated and secure position. The results of the topographic survey, combined with LiDAR data (Environment Agency Survey Open Data) has helped to show how past erosion from surface run-off to the south, flowing westwards into the valley of the Spa Ponds, and on the eastern side, flowing northwards into the Maun, has created a natural knoll which stands proud of the surrounding ground. This knoll is occupied by the site, and provides an excellent, defensible vantage point. David Crook demonstrated how the medieval deer park of Clipstone was extended to include this site by Edward II (Crook 1976, 43), perhaps due in part to the excellent location the natural ground provided for a fortification.

The topographic survey has mapped the steep slopes to the north and west of the site, which drop to the valleys below. The survey detected and mapped a terrace that runs around the northern and western slopes perhaps allowing access around the site. On the northern side a potential entrance-way has been mapped where a diagonal approach lessens the steep terrain. It appears to be overlooked by a small plateau of land at the top of the slope on the western side of the 'entrance' which appears to have an unnatural right-angled shape, as if it were humanly modified. It is possible to postulate that this position was once occupied by a building, although this is pure speculation at this stage. Once the top of the slope is reached, the surviving ruin lies 20m to the south. The area between this 'entrance' and the ruin contains a number of high and low magnetic anomalies which could possibly represent the remains of a number of small buildings arranged in a line running on the same alignment as the ruin.

During the survey a number of finds were discovered by Mercian's David Budge, who has provided the following information: two sherds of

pottery (one from a modern plant pot) and a single pot boiler stone were recorded on the surface of the ploughed field to the south of the scheduled area; quantities of industrial waste from cast iron manufacture were additionally noted in the field and on the grassed area of the Peel site.

The pottery included a white firing micaceous sherd that is most likely of Roman date. The pot boiler stone is essentially undatable without scientific methods but is most likely to be Roman or earlier; it was neither close to the pottery or the supposed peel site. The industrial waste was widely spread across the field and also lay on the surface around the edges of the field. It included dark green glassy slag and grey non-glassy slag occasionally containing large lumps of solidified cast iron. Cast iron in the form of sprues and possible failed castings was also present. It is likely to have been imported to the site relatively recently, and indeed local memory suggests some levelling of topographical features using iron casting waste took place in the 1970s. It may be that the metals account for some of the anomalies in the magnetometry survey.

This initial phase of work has been designed as a starting point for long term research. The results have been a very interesting first step in beginning to understand the site. It is intended that further objective and subjective topographic survey is undertaken to gather more data, and recommended that the site to be subject to both resistance survey and ground penetrating radar to search for further possible features and to help interpret further the anomalies detected here.

*Andy Gaunt, Director  
Mercian Archaeological Services CIC*

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## CLIPSTONE, KING JOHN'S PALACE (SK 6027 6480)

A further season of excavation took place as Mercian Archaeological Services CIC's summer training field school in August and September of 2017. The trench had initially been opened in 2015 (Budge 2016, 16). The western end of the trench was enlarged with the intention of testing the possibility of a boundary wall or other structures in this part of the site, adjacent to and fronting onto the road.

Medieval deposits were not encountered; the excavation progressed through a series of re-deposited layers used to raise and level the ground surface when the nearby mission church was built in 1903 (Danbury 2005, 149) and the pre-1903 soil buried beneath it. Finds included the usual range of local and non-local pottery of 12th- to 15th-century date encountered on the site (e.g. Budge 2017, 147–163), along with a few more exotic medieval sherds not previously encountered and that have not yet been identified to source. Notable amongst the finds were further examples of a recently identified ware that appears to be a close copy of Developed Stamford Ware (DST), but with a highly micaceous fabric. The 2017 finds reinforced the suggestion (Budge 2017, 151–1) that in form, glazing and decorative techniques this ware is a direct copy of DST; though the number of examples is presently small, none of the vessels recovered thus far display any elements that are not part of the DST tradition. However, in terms of source, the micaceous fabric appears, under magnification, to be a cleaner (essentially quartz free) version of the typical Brackenfield white wares. The Brackenfield industry, located near Clay Cross in Derbyshire, was a major supplier of pottery to western Nottinghamshire in the medieval period but the origins of the industry and its dating are poorly understood (Cumberpatch 2004, 21–2). Further research, including scientific analysis, of the new ware type is intended, but at present there seems to be the exciting possibility that it could provide a key to understanding the origin of potting in the Brackenfield area.

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*Mercian Archaeological Services CIC*

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## CLIPSTONE, ST EDWIN'S CHAPEL – FIELDWALKING (SK 5936 6660)

St Edwin's chapel is attested from the 13th to 16th centuries in documentary sources (Reville 1975, 45–6; Danbury 2005, 145) but, partially due to the unusual dedication, it has been suggested that the chapel may be associated with St Edwin of Northumbria, killed at the battle of Hatfield in c.633 AD (Reville 1975, 41, 45). The chapel might have been erected over Edwin's (temporary) burial place after the battle (suggested by Everson and Stocker 2015, 25). A cairn and iron cross was set up by the sixth Duke of Portland in 1912 to mark the site identified as that of the chapel (Danbury 2005, 145–6).

In 2014 the adjacent land parcel was investigated by fieldwalking by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. Transects were spaced at 10m intervals to give a c.20% sample of the field surface, as an initial phase of archaeological prospection. This survey located an area of stone rubble not native to the local geology and considered most likely to derive from medieval buildings (Budge 2014, 13, 16) but field conditions were not conducive to the recovery of dating evidence such as pottery. Additionally, the spacing of the transects made interpretation of the shape of the spread difficult; it was unclear if the north-south trend in the stone spread (Budge 2014,

figure 1) related to the past layout of the site or was merely an artefact of the alignment of the transects.

To map the stone distribution more accurately and to see if dating evidence to support a pre-13th century origin for activity on the site could be located, the area of the stone scatter was fieldwalked again in October 2017. A 100% sample of 1,800m<sup>2</sup> of the surface was obtained by dividing the area into 10m squares and walking within each square at 2.5m spaced transects. To maximise recovery each square was walked twice; once north-south and once east-west. The position of each find was marked and the positions were recorded by total station; control points for the survey had been established

using survey grade GPS to a 3D accuracy of less than 5mm.

The ground surface was well weathered (possibly too well: silty colluvium seemed to be obscuring the natural stones at the base of slope), but the winter grass crop was well advanced, resulting in less than ideal visibility of the ground surface. Despite this, the survey resolved the shape of the rubble scatter (Figure 3). It is possible to view the scatter as comprising two separate clusters of stone. If this is genuine rather than being a product of varying field conditions affecting the visibility of the stones, then there may be a concentration extending c.40m east-west by c.4m north-south alongside the northern

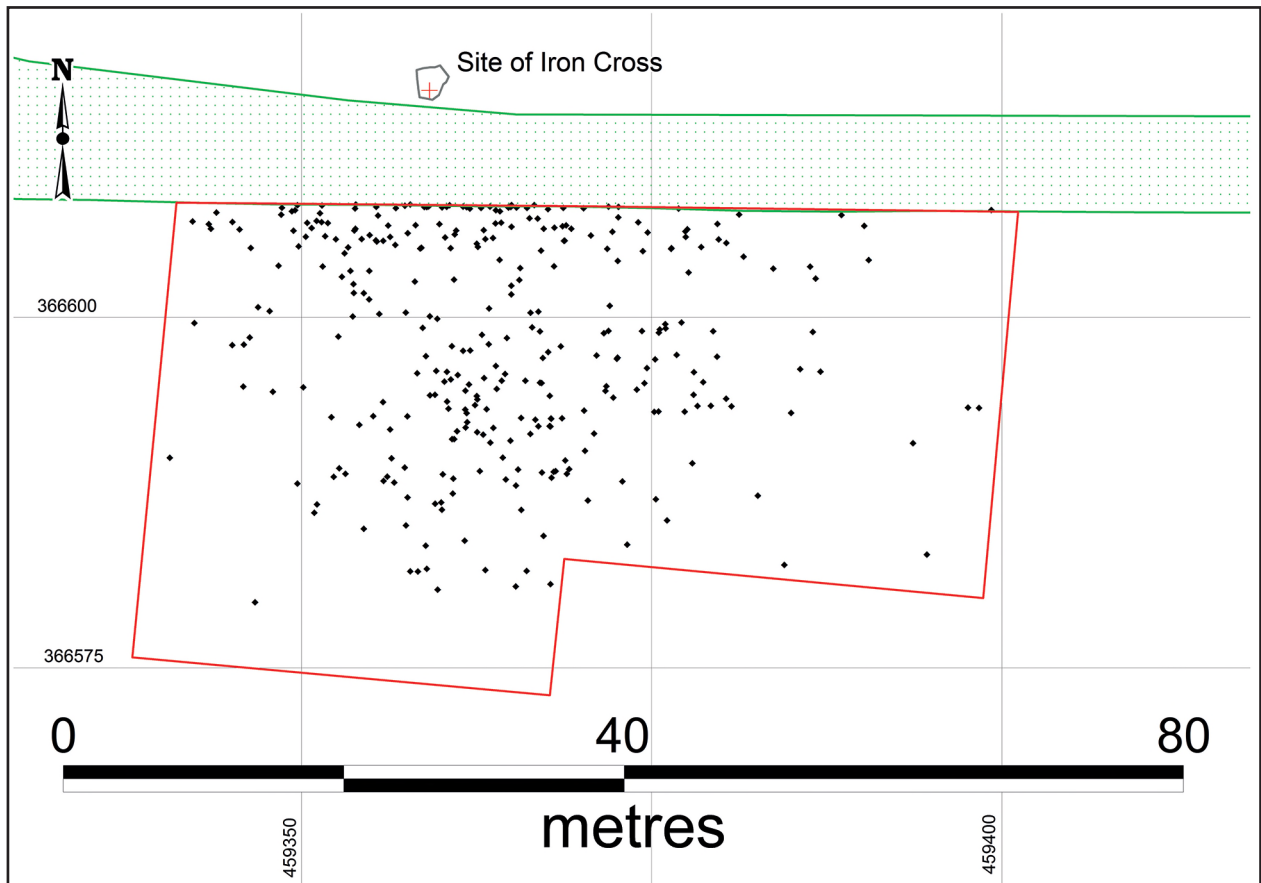


FIGURE 3: St Edwin's Chapel, Clipstone: Map showing location of fieldwalking (red boundary) and distribution of 'building stone' (Cadeby dolostone) (black diamonds). Stippled green area represents the track between the ploughed field (to the south) and the present forested area (to the north). The site of the Duke of Portland's cairn and iron cross are indicated by the grey polygon and cross symbol respectively (Mercian Archaeological Services CIC).

edge of the field and a second cluster of *c.*25m east-west by 11m north-south to its south. Although interpretation based on such limited evidence must be no more than tentative speculation, it is tempting to see the rubble spreads as representing two separate structures. The more northerly could be from a structure located mainly outside (to the north of) the ploughed area, adjacent to the cairn, while that to the south could represent another, possibly smaller, structure. However, without additional archaeological evidence it would be extremely unwise to pursue such speculation further.

A total of eighty-seven artefacts were recorded. They included post medieval to modern ceramic building material, pottery, Welsh slate, a plastic clothes peg, and modern sewer pipe. These

fragments displayed no obvious patterning and the majority probably arrived with manure in the 19th and 20th century, which the 2014 survey indicated was distributed randomly across the whole of the modern land parcel (Budge 2014, 13).

On the contrary, the thirty-six sherds of medieval and late medieval pottery had a distribution that quite closely mirrored that of the stone rubble (Figure 4). It came from a number of different industries, with the majority (15 sherds, 42%) being identifiable as Brackenfield (Derbyshire) types. Other sherds from known industries included Nottingham Light Bodied Green Glazed ware (3, 8%) and a single sherd of Potterhanworth ware (Lincolnshire). The remaining sherds were from presently unknown local (8, 22%) and non-local

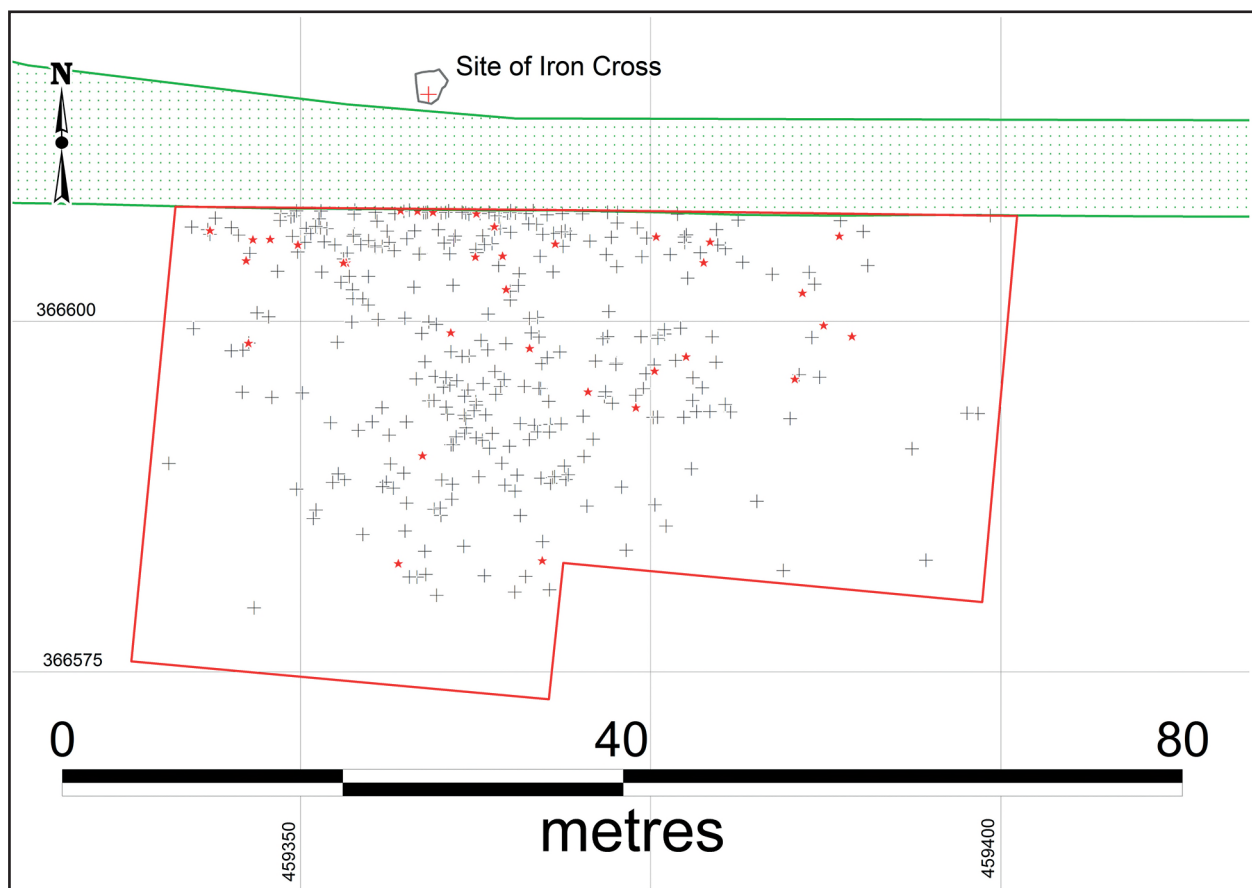


FIGURE 4: St Edwin's Chapel, Clipstone: Map showing distribution of medieval and late medieval pottery (red stars) and 'building stone' (black crosses) within the area of detailed fieldwalking (Mercian Archaeological Services CIC).



industries. The Nottingham and Potterhanworth wares are 13th century or later (Nailor and Young 2001) and, while the dating of the Brackenfield industry is poorly understood (Cumberpatch 2004, 21–2), technologically these sherds and the un-sourced wares will have a similar dating. Decoration was rare, but included applied comb impressed strips.

The only sherd that may have been earlier was an apparently hand-made vessel with faint traces of possible splashed glaze from an unknown but probably local industry. It may be 12th or 13th century. Late medieval pottery was represented by just three sherds and included a single sherd of late 15th- or 16th-century Midlands Purple ware, probably made in Ticknall (Derbyshire).

Earlier finds included a flint core that had subsequently been used as either a hammer stone or strike-a-light. The flake technology of the core indicates that it was probably originally worked in the Neolithic or Bronze age. Likely contemporary is a spall of quartzite used as a flake core; this belongs to a class of non-flint artefacts that appear to be characteristic of expedient non-flint lithic exploitation in the later Neolithic and Bronze Age in the area. Other finds included a hand-made iron nail, a pot boiler stone (terminology after MDA) and a fragment of gritstone with a smoothed face that was once part of a quern stone.

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#### **CLIPSTONE, ST EDWIN'S CHAPEL – PLOUGH SOIL TEST PITTING (SK 5936 6660)**

Following up on the previous fieldwalking investigations of the probable site of St Edwin's Chapel (see above), Mercian Archaeological Services CIC undertook a programme of plough soil test pitting over the clusters of stone identified by the fieldwalking. It was noted prior to commencement of work that the site had been plundered by metal detector users since the fieldwalking had taken place in October; the ground was peppered with many backfilled spade sized holes. It is unknown what knowledge about the site and the history of the area has been lost forever thanks to these actions.

The test pits were 0.5 by 0.5m and 0.2m deep, dug entirely into the plough soil. Their purpose was to refine the chronology of activity on the site, particularly by looking for pottery of earlier periods (i.e. Saxon / early medieval) that studies have demonstrated may not be recognised, or simply may not survive, on the surface of a ploughed field, but which can be recovered with some success from within a plough soil by excavation (Gerrard 1997, 66).

A total of twenty-three test pits were excavated in December 2017. They were positioned on a grid at 5m intervals. The soil from the pits was sieved through a maximum 8mm mesh and all artefacts along with all non-native stones were retained.

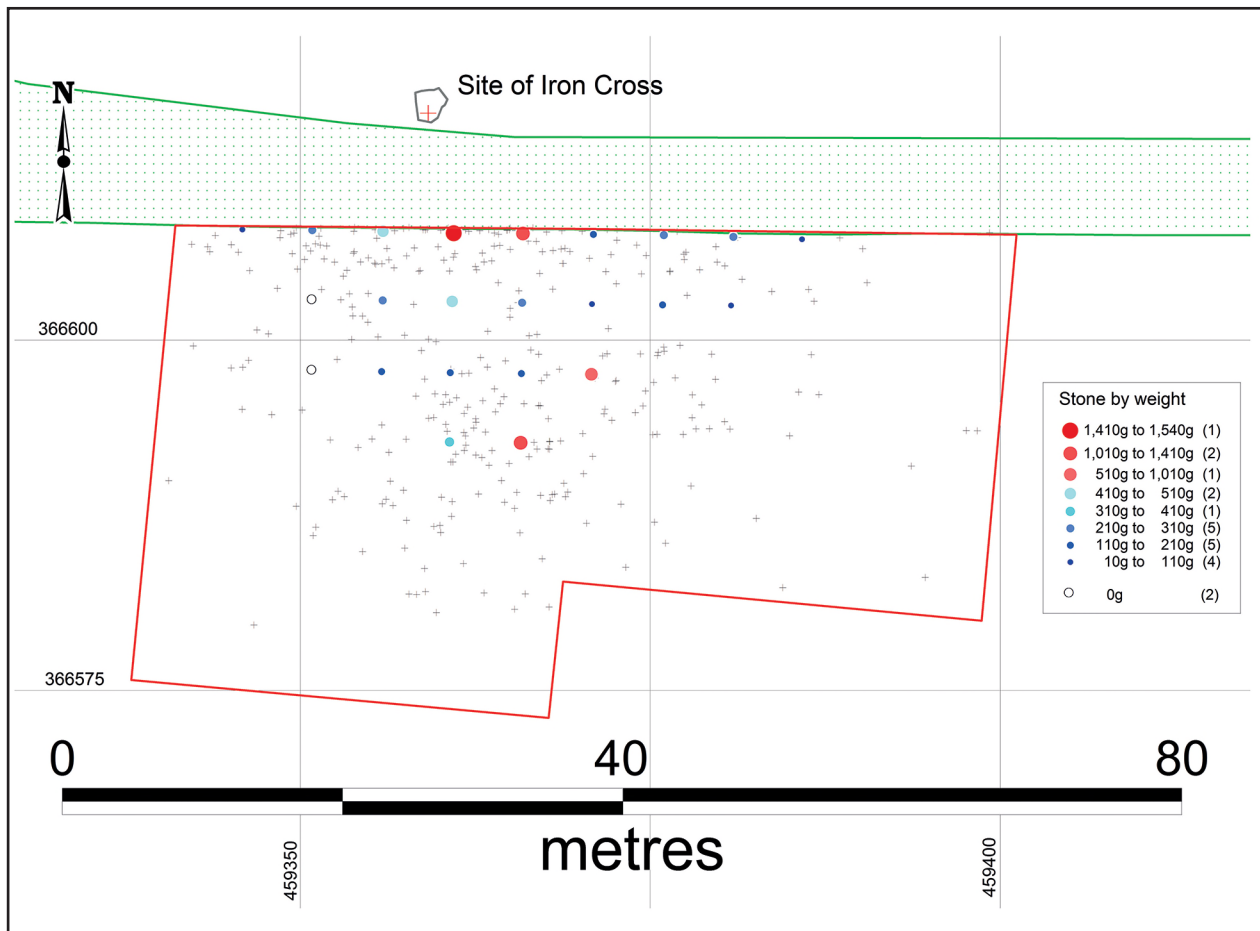


FIGURE 5: St Edwin's Chapel, Clipstone: Map showing quantity of 'building stone' per test pit in relation to detailed fieldwalking area and building stone distribution from fieldwalking (black crosses) (Mercian Archaeological Services CIC).

Quantities of stone rubble were quite low, ranging from 0 to 1.5kg per test pit. Their distribution (Figure 5) seems to reflect the existence of two discreet clusters as suggested by the fieldwalking; the small quantities (and condition of the stone and pottery), however, seem to suggest that cultivation has dragged and spread material quite significantly and that whatever activities or structures may possibly be represented by these scatters probably had a much smaller spatial extent than the present surface distribution revealed by fieldwalking appears to show.

The low densities also seem to argue against the presence of significant stone foundations or demolition rubble spreads within the area of

investigation. For example, in the vicinity of known medieval stone buildings at The King's Houses in Clipstone, similar plough soil test pits consistently yielded between 2.6kg and 10kg of stone per test pit, with some test pits containing over 1,000 individual stone fragments (Budge 2017, 64–9).

Like the stone, pottery was quite scarce, with between zero and three sherds in the majority of the pits. The only significant concentration occurred in association with the highest weights of stone, in the two northern test pits close to the iron cross. Of these test pits, one produced eleven and the other five sherds, all medieval. Most of the pottery was in the form of small and quite abraded sherds. It has not been analysed at time of writing (December

2017) but appears to indicate a wider chronological span to activity than previous investigations have demonstrated. The earliest sherd is a crumb of probable Lincoln Fine Shelled ware of late 10th- to late 12th-century date (Young and Vince 2005, 88). A sherd of Skegby Splashed Ware is, on present understanding, closely datable to the mid-to-late 12th century (Budge 2010, 185); it additionally extends the known distribution of this presently rare ware type. Other sherds with a splashed glaze are of a type that is relatively commonly found in the area and was manufactured at a currently unknown production site; probably of 12th to mid-13th century date. However, the majority of the sherds were 13th- and 14th-century types, with a much smaller component of late 15th- or 16th-century pottery (all Cistercian type drinking vessels).

The evidence recovered from this phase of work pushes the dating of medieval activity on the site of St Edwin's Chapel back to before the earliest documented reference to the site in 1205 (Gover *et al.* 1940, 75). However, while the Lincoln Fine Shelled Ware (LFS) could relate to late Saxon activity on the site this pottery type is often found in association with other 12th-century wares in the area (e.g. in the backfill of the mid-to-late 12th-century kiln at Skegby, Budge 2010, 185). Interestingly, the pottery displays a similar dating profile to that of the nearby royal complex of the King's Houses, with some 12th-century but mainly 13th- and 14th-century pottery and a significant drop off in the later 15th and 16th century (e.g. Budge 2017, 120).

This may be of import given that the landscape of Clipstone is considered to have been deliberately manipulated by the monarchy from at least the late 12th century onwards in order to create a 'romantic royal retreat' (Gaunt 2011, 46–8). Parkland chapels and hermits were often a part of such designed landscapes, and Gaunt has suggested that St Edwin's Chapel might have originated as just such a parkland chapel (Gaunt 2017, 58). At present, while the LFS could be earlier, none of the medieval finds from the chapel site have to pre-date the earliest activities of Henry II at Clipstone.

Given the lack of precision with which the Lincoln Fine Shelled ware can be dated, only

further work revealing, or not revealing, pottery that can be conclusively dated to before the mid-12th century can resolve the question of whether the chapel was founded as a medieval parkland chapel or is Saxon in origin, or if other possibilities should be considered.

David Budge  
Mercian Archaeological Services CIC

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## EAST LEAKE, LAND EAST OF KIRK LEY ROAD (SK 55116 25616)

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out evaluation trial trenching in advance of residential development. Furrows from ridge and furrow cultivation were encountered at intervals of between 5m and 6m on the same alignment as the modern field system. No significant archaeological remains were found.

Stuart Pierson  
Wessex Archaeology (project code 115560)

### EAST LEAKE QUARRY, 'REMPSTONE ESTATE LAND' (SK 56783 24651)

Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Cemex UK to conduct archaeological monitoring and excavation in advance of sand and gravel extraction on the first phase (Phase 1) of a new extension ('Rempstone Estate Land') to East Leake quarry, located within Rempstone parish. Fieldwork was conducted under the supervision of Richard Parker; the project was managed by Howard Jones under the guidance of Adrian Havercroft (The Guildhouse Consultancy) for Cemex UK. A summary of the results of fieldwork conducted in 2017 is presented below. These observations are made in advance of full analysis with more detailed reporting to follow.

Phase 1 comprises a sub-rectangular area of c.4.8ha of gently undulating land, sloping from north to south (c.76m OD to c.69m OD), positioned to the north of the A6006 and on the south side of a shallow

valley occupied by the Sheepwash Brook. Phase 1a, reported here, consisted of the southern half of this area, measuring c.166m × 138m (Figure 6).

During 2013, trial trenching was undertaken across the entirety of the proposed extension area. A total of five trenches were located within the limits of Phase 1 which identified several ditches, none were securely dated. Trenching also confirmed the presence of a substantial upper subsoil layer increasing in thickness from c.300mm at the southern end to up to c.500mm downslope towards the northern boundary. Archaeological features could not be adequately defined without the removal of the upper subsoil layer. However, the possibility that some features may have been cut from a higher level within this upper subsoil prompted two phases of geophysical survey (caesium vapour magnetometry), conducted by Tigergeo (formerly ArchaeoPhysica) prior to, and after, removal of topsoil. The lower of the two surveys provided the better response. The combined results were

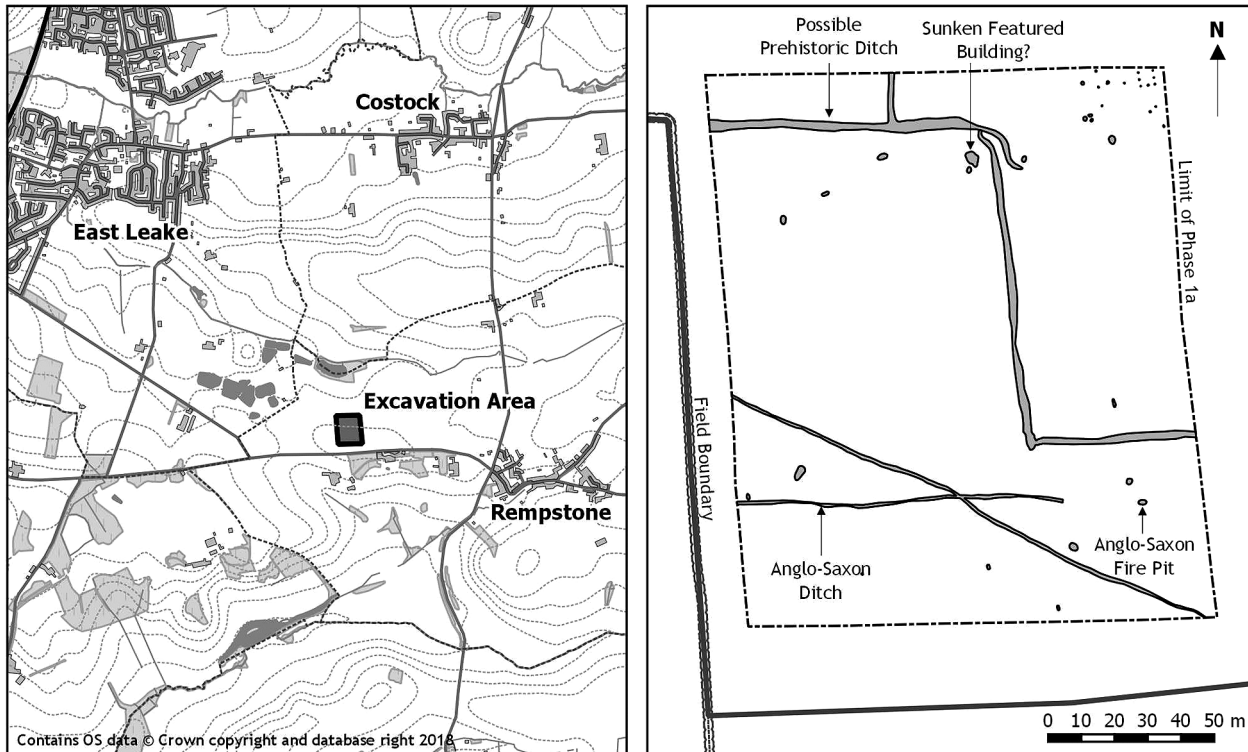


FIGURE 6: East Leake Quarry, Rempstone Estate Land (Phase 1): location and site plan (Trent & Peak Archaeology).

consistent with a low density background scatter of discrete features and a sparse arrangement of linear features on apparently complementary north-south, west-east alignments, contrasting with a number of linears crossing the area on a diagonal west-northwest by east-southeast alignment. A series of strongly magnetic anomalies noted in the north-eastern corner of Phase 1a were linked to a focus of late 19th- and 20th-century agricultural activity.

Removal of the topsoil and upper subsoil under archaeological supervision confirmed the results of the geophysical survey whilst adding further detail. The area was dominated by a dog-leg configuration of abutting lengths of north-south and west-east aligned ditches suggestive of field boundaries and/or enclosures extending some 100m north south and continuing to the west and east beyond the limits of the Phase 1 area. Projection of the ditches suggests probable continuity with boundary ditches recorded in a previous phase of extraction to the west. Such features have consistently yielded little reliable dating evidence, and the current phase of fieldwork was no exception, although the general regional trend would favour a late prehistoric origin. There is however some evidence to suggest either a later origin in the Anglo-Saxon period or at least an element of continuity in the broader pattern of landscape division. A detached length of east-west aligned ditch recorded towards the southern edge of the area produced sherds of probable Anglo-Saxon date. This ditch (an apparent continuation of a feature previously recorded to the west), when taken with the undated ditches noted above, could describe the southern limit to an enclosure measuring c.112m north-south, although there is no direct stratigraphic linkage to demonstrate contemporaneity and the features contrast in their surviving depth, width and fills. A small number of discrete features can also be attributed to an early medieval phase of apparent domestic activity. These included a possible sunken featured building or *Grubenhause* positioned in the north east angle of the main boundary ditches and a potential fire-pit located towards the south east corner of the Phase 1 area.

A more detailed report on the results of Phase 1a of the Rempstone Land extension to East Leake Quarry will follow. An initial assessment suggests

the continuation of key boundary features recorded to the west in earlier phases of extraction with the recurrence of a significant element of Anglo-Saxon activity which has characterised recent fieldwork in this locality.

*Howard Jones and Richard Parker*  
*Trent & Peak Archaeology*

#### **FARNSFIELD, SOUTHWELL ROAD** (SK 653 563)

Geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation trenching, followed by strip, map and sample excavation, was undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology on behalf of Bellway Homes in an area 1.4ha in size immediately east of Farnsfield at Southwell Road. Beneath post-medieval furrows, the excavations revealed a low-density of Romano-British features comprising a north to south aligned trackway and, to the south, the northern extent of a paddock-like enclosure located immediately to the east (Figure 7). These and other shallow pit features of uncertain function (loosely clustering to the northern side of the site) were dated by small quantities of ceramics of 3rd to 4th century AD date. The results of the excavation indicate that the periphery of a small Roman period agricultural settlement has been encountered. Occasional residual finds of worked flint of Neolithic date also indicate some human activity of uncertain character at the site during this period.

*Gareth Davies and Paul Flintoft*  
*Trent & Peak Archaeology*

#### **HANGAR HILL/ 'THYNGHOWE', BUDBY/ EDWINSTOWE/WARSOP** (SK 599 683).

In December 2017 Mercian Archaeological Services CIC undertook a geophysical resistance survey for the Friends of Thynghowe, with funding from the Forestry Commission, alongside match-funding from Mercian as part of the Sherwood Forest Archaeology Project. The survey was undertaken at Thynghowe. Thynghowe is situated at Hanger



FIGURE 7: Farnsfield, Southwell Road: site plan showing excavated features (Trent & Peak Archaeology).

Hill on the north-west corner of Birklands Wood, where the boundaries of Warsop, Edwinstowe and Budby meet. This location is marked by a series of boundary stones. The site is in an elevated position commanding potential views to the north over the Meden valley. Viewshed analysis suggests the site would have been a significant feature in the landscape from this direction in antiquity (Gaunt 2010). The origin of the name of Thynghowe is þing haugr (“þ” is the Saxon letter *thorn* pronounced “th”), meaning ‘hill of assembly or meeting place’ (Gover *et al.* 1940), and Thynghowe has been recognised as a meeting site by academics (Mallet *et al.* 2012), and may represent a Viking Assembly site.

The site of Thynghowe is the subject of long term, ongoing research by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC and the Friends of Thynghowe. In recent years investigations including excavations (Gaunt and Budge 2016; Gaunt and Crossley 2014), geophysical magnetometer surveys (Gaunt 2017), topographic survey (Gaunt 2010), and LiDAR survey (2012) have revealed a complex of archaeological features on, or adjacent to the summit of Thynghowe. These include a large circular bank and ditch enclosure 70m in diameter adjacent to the summit of Thynghowe on the north-eastern side, a mound at the summit of the hill, the bank and ditch of the Budby/ Warsop boundary, three stones (Edwinstowe and Warsop boundary stones, plus a third stone identified as the Birklands Forest Stone (Reddish pers comm)) on the summit of the hill or adjacent to it, a spread of pot-boiler stones, and a series of hollow ways skirting the east and north-east of the circular enclosure (Gaunt 2017).

The resistance survey was designed to investigate the area around Thynghowe on the north-eastern side within the Budby-cum-Perlethorpe parish. The survey included the summit of Thynghowe and the land to the north-east, so as to cover the area of the circular enclosure. This would enable a better understanding of the nature, and possible construction of the hill, and to further examine a number of anomalies detected in the previous magnetic survey within and around the circular enclosure.

Due to adverse weather and the difficult ground conditions associated with surveying in woodland,

only a small area of the intended site has been surveyed in this first phase. However initial results are extremely interesting. The mound of Thynghowe provides a very high resistance anomaly especially on its western and southern sides which appear to have been steepened. The circular bank and ditch were detected as high and low resistance anomalies respectively. The area immediately within the circular enclosure was shown to be a very low resistance area. A test pit situated in this area in 2016 suggested it was composed of glacially deposited material (Gaunt, Budge and Crossley forthcoming). The dramatic contrast between the apparently natural low resistance area to the north-east which lies slightly downhill of the summit, and the very high resistance nature of the summit itself, suggests that the summit may indeed represent a humanly modified mound.

To the north-east of this area of low resistance is a large cluster of higher resistance anomalies. This area of high resistance anomalies partly coincides with an area of high magnetic responses detected in the geophysical data from Gaunt 2017. These high magnetic anomalies have been shown through excavation (Gaunt, Budge and Crossley forthcoming; Gaunt and Budge 2016) to be a layer of pot boiler stones up to c.0.3m thick. These appeared to have been deposited in this location over an unknown period of time. The only artefacts found in this deposit were a possible quartzite core and two small fragments of gritstone quern, the latter probably originating in the Derbyshire Peak District (Gaunt and Budge 2016). SUERC have been contracted to undertake thermoluminescence dating on a sample of the pot boilers to attempt to date their last heating (results were still forthcoming at the time of writing).

The resistance survey results show this area of high resistance anomalies extending over an area far larger than previously detected through the previous magnetic survey. Further resistance survey is intended and will be required to better understand the extent, shape, and nature of these deposits. It is possible however, from their initial appearance and their association with the pot-boiler stone spread, to suggest that they form part of an extensive area of archaeological features, which adds further to the

complex of archaeological monuments and features already discovered at the site.

*Andy Gaunt, Director  
Mercian Archaeological Services CIC*

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## KIRTON QUARRY (SK6931 6897)

A watching brief was carried out for Forterra Building Products on topsoil stripping at Kirton Brickworks, Nottinghamshire, over four working days in late July and early August 2017. This was the twelfth in a series of similar archaeological watching briefs on successive extensions to the clay quarry, since September 2004.

Apart from modern plough-scores, no cut features were noted. However, a worked flint was found, point-down in the natural clay following stripping of the topsoil. The location of the find was recorded as NGR 469638 368973. Otherwise, finds were restricted to 20 pieces of post-medieval and early modern pottery (Jane Young, in Moore 2017), all unstratified.

## The Flint Dagger or Foliate Knife Fragment (Jim Rylatt)

### Description

The single piece of struck flint was made from good quality mid to dark greyish-brown translucent flint, which incorporated occasional small pale inclusions. It is a fragment of a larger bifacially worked flint tool; the surviving element is 47mm long, 46mm wide, and has a maximum thickness of 7.3mm (Figure 8). Both faces have been thinned by shallow invasive flakes, removed across the entirety of the surface to create a relatively flat lenticular profile. Subsequently, serial, bifacial pressure flakes were removed from the margins to create gently arcing and symmetrical convex edges, which intersect at an angle of  $c.110^\circ$  to form a slightly flattened tip. The flake scars along the margins are fresh and unabraded, with a few small jagged projections that suggest that the piece has not been

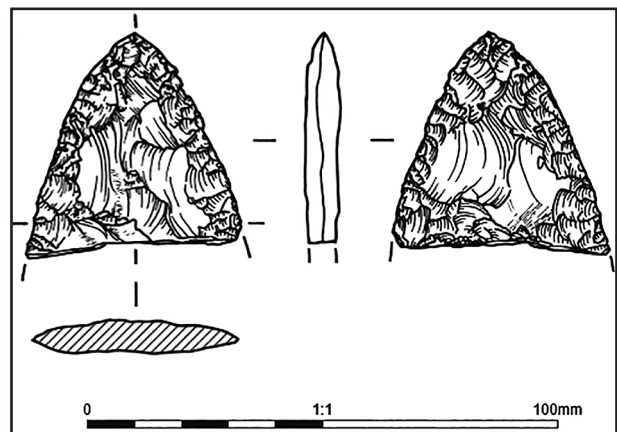


FIGURE 8: Kirton Quarry: flint dagger or foliate knife fragment (Network Archaeology).



utilised. The absence of any macroscopically visible use-wear raises the possibility that the artefact was broken, or was irreversibly damaged, during manufacture or re-sharpening.

### Discussion

The fragmentary nature of this artefact necessitates comparison with several bifacially worked tool types in order to determine its original form. Although incomplete, it is evident that this artefact was manufactured by a skilled flint knapper, so it is possible to discount certain artefact types: the symmetrical form and invasive retouch along both margins are not indicative of a laurel leaf, while the unbroken object would have been too large to be an arrowhead. In contrast, the morphological characteristics and dimensions are consistent with the tip of a flint dagger truncated approximately one-quarter to one-third of the way along its longitudinal axis. The shape is consistent with the tips of Class 2, Class 3, and Class 4 long-tanged British daggers (Frieman 2014, figure 2). It is also conceivable that this fragment was detached from one end of a foliate knife (Ballin 2011). These bifacially worked, elongated ovoids have affinities with flint daggers and potentially represent a development of that form (Frieman 2014). British flint daggers are predominantly associated with the Beaker cultural package, and available radiocarbon dates suggest they were in circulation between c.2250 and 2000 cal BC, while foliate knives can be broadly dated to the following three centuries.

Although significant numbers of flint daggers have been recovered from the neighbouring counties of Derbyshire (29) and Lincolnshire (23), there are only three previously recorded finds in Nottinghamshire (*ibid.*, Appendix). All three were found within, or in relatively close proximity, to the Trent Valley: one during the construction of Staythorpe power station in 1947 (Barley 1950); the second as an isolated find adjacent to a disused gravel pit at Holme Pierrepont (MacCormick 1964); and a third was found beside a footpath at Bunny, in 2005 (Nottinghamshire HER: L7341). The flint dagger or foliate knife fragment from Kirton

Quarry, therefore, represents the first example from the northern half of the county.

*Richard Moore and Jim Rylatt*  
*Network Archaeology*

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### **LENTON, GREGORY STREET, FORMER RED CROSS BUILDING** (SK 552 387/SK 552 387)

Desk-based assessment followed by trial trench evaluation (four trenches) was undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology on behalf of Mr. S. Mahmood at Gregory Street, Lenton. The site lies at the northern extent of the grounds of the Cluniac religious house of Lenton Priory, founded by 1106–7. The southern part of the site incorporates the proposed area of the gatehouse, as suggested by analysis of documentary evidence (Barnes 1987, Grieg 1992). A watching brief nearby in 2012 had previously uncovered a small length of *in situ* sandstone wall which may be part of the gatehouse, as well as 12th-century masonry probably derived from the original chapel of St. Anthony which was located immediately south of the present site (Dodd and Flintoft 2015).

The southernmost trial trench within the proposed area of the gatehouse revealed a further small length

of north-west to south-east stone walling. The wall was either of medieval date or was constructed reusing stone from the remains of the Priory precinct. Whether this stretch of wall relates to the gatehouse is difficult to ascertain without further exposure. Further north, the remaining trenches – presumed to be outside the Priory precinct – uncovered a buried medieval soil and associated areas of hard-standing to reclaim boggy ground. These deposits were similar in character – though exhibiting less abundant discard – to 13th- and 14th-century layers previously identified within the outer precinct at the proposed Priory fair/market site west of Abbey Street (Davies and Flintoft 2015a).

*Gareth Davies and Ed Taylor*  
*Trent & Peak Archaeology*

### **LENTON, EAST SIDE OF ABBEY STREET** (SK 541 348)

Desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology on behalf of Vivid Homes at Abbey Street, Lenton. The site is located within the proposed outer precinct of the Cluniac religious house of Lenton Priory, founded by 1106–7. The outer precinct contained the proposed site of the Priory fair/market, as suggested by analysis of documentary evidence (Barnes 1987, Grieg 1992). Previous archaeological evaluation immediately east in the adjacent churchyard of St. Anthony's church and north in Priory Park has identified a complex sequence of intercutting soil features, including numerous pits and ditches, with a sequence of activity extending from the 14th to the 19th centuries (Davies and Flintoft 2015a). North west of Abbey Street a similar stratigraphic sequence was also been observed in 2012, but extending back to the 12th century (Davies and Flintoft 2015).

The evaluation trench revealed a complex sequence of activity, with ceramic spot-dates for features commencing in the 13th century and running through to the 19th century. Medieval features comprised possible grave cuts (presently unexcavated), a north-west to south-east aligned boundary ditch, similarly aligned to features

previously identified further west (Davies and Flintoft 2015a), and pits (including a single pit containing possible charnel). These medieval features perhaps imply that this part of Abbey Street lay at the boundary between two functional zones of the medieval Priory: the outer precinct, reserved for market activity, to the north and the inner precinct to the south which was perhaps kept open and at times reserved for burial. By the early post medieval period, the presence of a bank feature and numerous pits and buried soil layers may indicate that the late phases of the market/fair site had encroached further southwards. The provisional observations of the evaluation would clearly benefit from being tested more comprehensively by further excavation.

*Gareth Davies and Paul Flintoft*  
*Trent & Peak Archaeology*

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### **LITTLEBOROUGH** **SEGELOCUM ROMAN TOWN** **ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**

The following is a brief overview and update of the recent HLF-funded test pitting project carried out in the orchard adjacent to Ferry House, Littleborough. Further work is being planned for the wider area so analysis of material by specialists and full write-up will be carried out once all fieldwork for the HLF project has been completed.

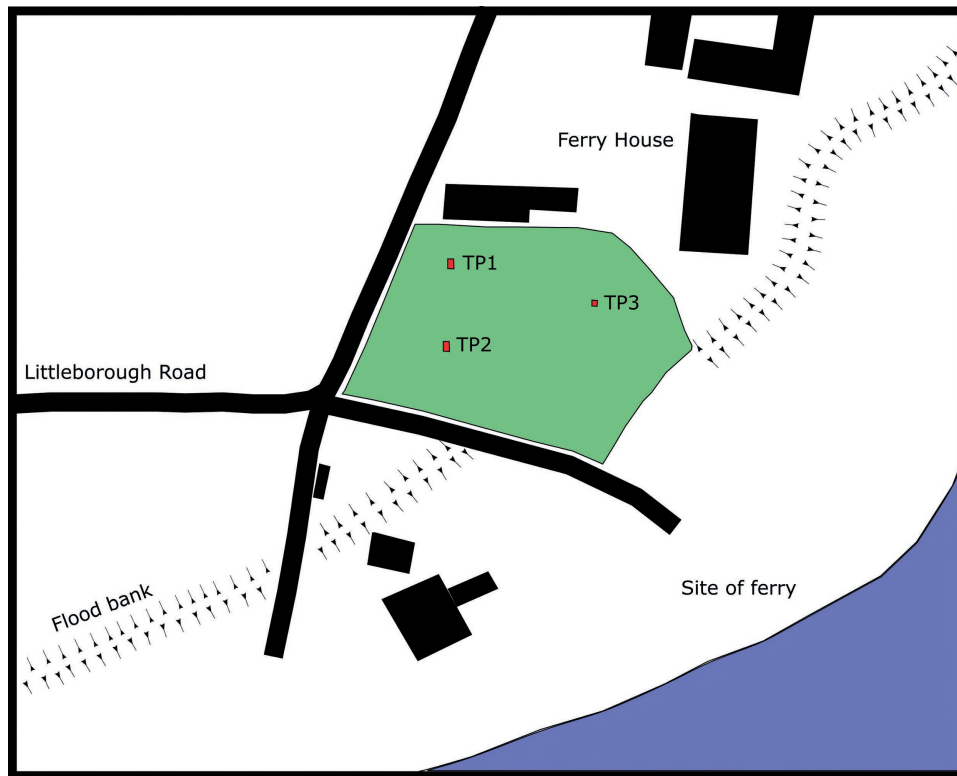


FIGURE 9: Segelocum Archaeology Project: map of Ferry House orchard (shown in green) and the approximate locations of 2017 test pits within it (not to scale). The river Trent is shown in blue (Nottinghamshire County Council).

Three test pits were opened in July 2017. Approximate locations are shown in Figure 9; the area highlighted in green is Ferry House orchard. Test pits 1 and 2 were 1m by 2m and test pit 3 was the standard 1m by 1m. Excavations were carried out over the course of four days by volunteers under the supervision of Emily Gillott, Community Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County Council and Simon Savage of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).

The aims of the work were to establish at what depth undisturbed archaeological contexts may be encountered and what volume of material could be expected to be recovered in further interventions. The work was designed to inform decisions on future work and ensure that adequate provision is made in any future funding bid so that the archaeology is treated appropriately.

Undisturbed archaeological layers were encountered in TP1 at a depth of 0.7m after passing through several very similar and homogenous layers of (presumably) garden soil. A former resident of Ferry House informed the team that there had been a number of deep-dug vegetable beds in the orchard within living memory and it is possible that one of these is represented by the layers recorded in TP1. Modern material became increasingly sparse with depth. At around 0.7m a rough floor surface was encountered across the entire excavated part of the test pit. This was constructed of burnt stone, pebbles and tile, and contained a large amount of animal bone (Plate 2). Dating will depend upon further analysis by pottery specialists but initial impressions are that this may represent a late Roman or early post Roman floor surface. The presence of a large proportion of high-status Roman pottery from the site in general is incongruous with the evidence for high-temperature industry and



PLATE 2: Segelocum Archaeology Project: floor surface revealed in Test Pit 1 (Nottinghamshire County Council).

animal bone observed in the floor surface in TP1. This may reflect a change in status or land use in this part of the settlement although it is not possible to say more than this within the context of the small area excavated.

Undisturbed contexts were encountered at approximately the same depth in TP2. The cut representing the edge of a former vegetable plot was clearly seen to cut through a possible undisturbed context of fairly compact and paler soil. This was not excavated so no dateable material was recovered, but it is certainly pre 20th century. In the southern half of the trench a probable post hole was recorded below the maximum depth of the vegetable bed. This appeared to have been truncated slightly by the later digging. The feature appeared in the corner of the test pit so establishing the full size and extent was not possible, but the distribution and orientation of the mudstone within it would indicate it is likely a post hole, with the stones forming part of the packing (Plate 3). A thin lens of extremely



PLATE 3: Segelocum Archaeology Project: post-hole revealed in Test Pit 2 (Nottinghamshire County Council).

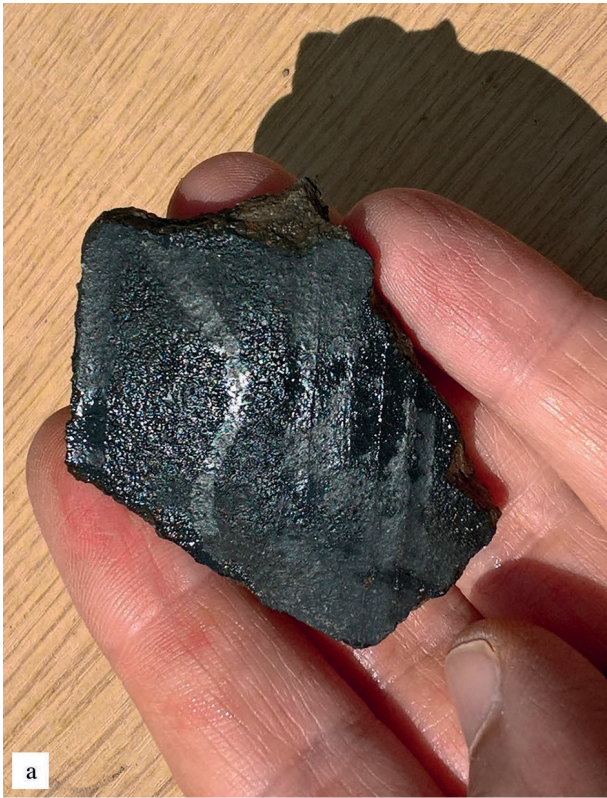


PLATE 4: Segelocum Archaeology Project: artefacts: a) decorated Black Burnished ware pottery; b) Stamford type ware pottery c.10th century; c) worked bone fragment (Nottinghamshire County Council).



fine sand was observed in a spread around this feature and seemed to be associated with it, though the interpretation of it is unknown.

TP3 revealed undisturbed contexts at the shallower depth of around 0.5m. A shallow cut feature that may be of animal origin was observed on the west side. A stone-filled pit was recorded on the south side. The relationship of these two features could not be established as they did not appear to intersect within the trench.

### The finds

A catalogue of the ceramic material has not yet been produced but observations were noted during the excavation and finds washing activities. Most of the pottery is of Roman and medieval date. There is very little modern material. Of the Roman pottery there is a high proportion of finewares compared to greywares. Of the finewares the colour coated wares were more frequent than Samian, but this might be expected in the upper layers of occupation in any case. Several fragments of decorated and plain black burnished type wares were recovered (Plate 4a). Only two fragments of mortaria were observed

and both were badly abraded. The range of Roman pottery types was broad and reflects the urban nature of the site. The medieval pottery appeared to comprise green glazed types and coarsewares, however given the variety and status of much of the earlier Roman pottery there is the possibility that some of the glazed material could be Roman. The excavations at Segelocum by Clarke in the 1950s produced very little medieval material, most of which was coarseware. A small number of pale sherds likely to be Stamford type wares of around 10th-century date were recovered (Plate 4b).

At least two fragments of probable Roman glass were recovered one of which appears to be from the rolled rim of a vessel. A fragment of worked bone was recovered from a mixed context. It is around 10cm long and square in section, having haphazard ring-and-dot decoration down one face (Plate 4c). This is more likely to be a practice piece than representative of a finished product, and is likely to be Roman or early medieval in date. If the interpretation that this area experienced a change to more industrial use in a later period is correct this piece could conceivably relate to this. Metal objects were conspicuous by their absence; apart from a very small number of iron fragments (nails for the most part) no metalwork was recovered.

Further work is proposed within the scope of this project and it is hoped this will include the following:

- Further geophysical survey to trace and follow the course of the Roman road and establish extent of the linear development if possible;
- Fieldwalking along the course of the road to complement the geophysical work;
- Targeted excavation or further test pitting, dependent upon permissions and the results of the geophysical survey.

*Emily Gillott, Community Archaeologist  
Nottinghamshire County Council*

#### **NEWARK-ON-TRENT – A46 FARNDON (SK 7829 5248)**

Cotswold Archaeology undertook a test pit evaluation in March-April 2017 on behalf of PA Freight to determine the potential for Late Upper Palaeolithic deposits or lithic scatters, as previous archaeological investigations to the south of the site at Farnon Fields had yielded extensive Late Palaeolithic evidence. This evaluation identified that substantial truncation to the alluvial stratigraphic sequence had affected the potential to encounter such deposits and only a small assemblage of residual plough damaged flint was retrieved. A post-medieval field boundary and three pits were also present.

*Chris Ellis  
Cotswold Archaeology*

#### **NEWARK-ON-TRENT – NEWARK SOUTH DEVELOPMENT (SK 80081 51636)**

During the latter part of 2016 and first half of 2017, Oxford Archaeology North was engaged by the master developer Urban & Civic Plc, in relation to archaeological mitigation works associated with the Phase 1 land parcel of their Newark South development. This began as a relatively small evaluation by means of strip, map, and record, originally within the confines of a road corridor, with anticipated remains primarily relating to the Civil War defences. However, prompted by the unanticipated identification of the remains of numerous round houses, pits, postholes and ditched features, after consultation with the developer, and under the guidance of Ursilla Spence, Archaeological Advisor to Nottinghamshire District Council, areas subject to excavation rapidly expanded to ultimately take in an area *c.*16ha in size. This area was physically divided into two sections by the line of the newly renovated Bowbridge Lane, the larger element of which, measuring some *c.*13ha, extended east along Hawton Lane from its junction with Bowbridge, while a smaller area was located immediately west of this junction (Figure 10).



FIGURE 10: Newark South: phase 1 excavation area plan (Oxford Archaeology North).

Excavations within the larger area revealed an extensive and probably multi-phase ditched field system, incorporating a probable ladder settlement running through the centre of the area. Nested within and dispersed throughout this system of land division were the remains of up to a dozen round houses, together with a plethora of individual pits, postholes, small circular enclosures, for which no certain function has yet been discerned, and a number of other features. A relatively large assemblage of prehistoric ceramics was recovered from among the various features, predominantly, although not exclusively, from pit deposits located to the west of the potential ladder settlement, and, on occasion was associated with metal working residues and other finds. Initial assessment of the ceramics suggests a date somewhere around the 5th to 3rd century BC, although more work is required to firm up any phasing of the site. Among the other features identified on site was a large semi-rectangular ditched feature, which showed signs of numerous phases of recutting, and contained a single large, sub-oval pit, set slightly to the south of

the centre. The pit was of a size and shape evocative of an inhumation burial, although no trace of skeletal remains survived within the acidic soils, and a deposit of probable Iron Age pottery was recovered from its fill. The feature has therefore tentatively been interpreted as a possible barrow.

Towards the north-eastern corner of this area, a large ditched enclosure had been established, which had obviously been superimposed upon the earlier system of land division. Excavation of the enclosure ditch revealed a complex sequence of recutting and produced an entirely Romano-British assemblage of ceramic material, including Samian Wares dated to the 1st century AD and more generic material dateable to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. The enclosure appears to have been the focus for occupation with a range of linear features dividing the interior and, in some cases, possibly indicative of structural remains. It also appears to have formed the focus of industrial activity, with evidence of metal working residues recovered from various internal features, but more strikingly, the remains of six very well-

preserved pottery kilns and associated rake out pits, cut into the upper most fills of the ditches. One of the kilns held a number of kiln bars within its base and there was good preservation of other structural features. While a collection of Romano-British ceramics was recovered from the fill of the rake out pits, it is tantalisingly possible, given the construction of the kilns post-dates the infilling of the enclosure ditch, that they could be early post-Roman in origin (Plate 5). Bradford University attended site to obtain samples from the kiln walls and a preliminary round of archaeomagnetic dating should soon be underway as part of the post-excavation assessment and hopefully help resolve such issues.

Beyond the Romano-British enclosure and kilns, very few features were identified relating to subsequent periods, with a single stone-lined well identified towards the centre of the site, positively

identified as late post-medieval in origin. Remains relating to the Civil War period were therefore surprisingly elusive considering the location's history. Of even greater surprise, however, was the identification of a much earlier phase of activity within the site. In relation to the larger excavation area this was hinted at by the recovery of a small assemblage of largely residual flint artefacts scattered among the various Iron Age features. A single large pit was also found to contain the near complete remains of a vessel, which upon initial examination, is thought to be a Bronze Age Biconical Urn, and joins a small collection of individual sherds recovered as residual finds and potentially deriving from one or more Beaker vessels.

Within the smaller area, to the west of Bowbridge Lane, an array of further linear features forming a large square enclosure with several rectangular



PLATE 5: Newark South: late Roman or early post-Roman pottery kiln (Oxford Archaeology North)



and D-shaped internal divisions, indicate a multi-phase complex again largely attributable to the Iron Age. A series of pits, postholes and further small circular enclosures, one seemingly formed of multiple concentric, but partial gullies with at least two post settings, were also identified within the larger enclosure. While further evidence of ostensibly domestic artefacts, including half of a beehive quern and a small ceramic assemblage, were recovered from such features, no evidence of houses was identified in this area and overall it seemed to serve an entirely different purpose to the array of features identified east of Bowbridge Lane. This may have been partly determined by or at least partially referenced further distinctive ditched features of an earlier origin. One such feature was represented by a shallow ring ditch located towards the south-eastern corner of the larger square enclosure. This ring ditch had a single causewayed entrance, orientated west, and a single, relatively deep and large, slightly off-centre pit. Again, no evidence of skeletal remains was identified, but the pit was interpreted as a potential burial.

Of greater significance still, was the identification of a large circular enclosure, approximately 35m in diameter further to the north of this ring ditch (Plate 6). This circular enclosure was contained by the larger square enclosure, suggesting it was at least partially respected by this later phase of activity. Having said this, the square enclosure ditch partially truncated that of the earlier monument towards its northern circumference, while one of the internal dividing ditches and a large rectangular internal enclosure, paid little heed to the location of the earlier monument. No finds were recovered from the fill of the circular enclosure ditch, but several good deposits of charcoal were sampled and will hopefully provide a reasonably secure date, at least for the final infilling of the feature.

Within the centre of the circular enclosure a number of individual pits and several clusters of intercutting pits were identified. Within the spatial patterning of these pits it was possible to define at least two concentric arcs, possibly indicating the former presence of post settings, with potential



PLATE 6: Newark South: large circular enclosure, possible Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age hengiform monument (Oxford Archaeology North).



PLATE 7: Newark South: cremations: a) in situ inverted cremation; b) un-urned cremation with fiance beads and ancillary vessel (Oxford Archaeology North).

entrances located to the west, echoing the plan of the smaller ring ditch to the south. A number of these pits showed evidence of *in situ* burning and it is currently a working hypothesis that at least some of the putative posts were burnt *in situ* before being removed. In such a scenario, after the posts had been removed, numerous holes were then re-used for the deposition of cremation deposits. These cremations included up to twelve urned

cremations and another four un-urned cremations (Plate 7). In addition, several urned cremations were also identified outside of and to the south-west of the circular enclosure, several of which had unfortunately been heavily damaged by the plough. Post excavation analysis of the cremations and vessels are yet to be undertaken, but preliminary assessment indicates a range of Collared Urns and Bucket Urns accompanied by a series of ancillary



PLATE 8: Newark South: jet stone plate divider  
(Oxford Archaeology North).

vessels. In addition, a small collection of grave goods was recovered from in or around several of the cremations, including a dot decorated jet stone plate divider (Plate 8), several flint artefacts, a small collection of fiance beads, and various worked bone artefacts, including a probable bone pommel and a pin (Plate 9). While the cremation deposits are obviously of early to middle Bronze Age date it is believed that they were deposited after the modification of an earlier monument, potentially indicating the presence of a hengiform monument of late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date.

These stunning finds were also joined by several others, including half of a stone socketed axe of Early Bronze Age date, recovered from a pit associated with the external cremation deposits. In addition, a heavily patinated, heavily curated and worn stone axe, of probable Langdale form, was

also recovered from a somewhat innocuous linear feature near to the smaller ring ditch (Plate 10). To add further intrigue to this item, it would appear on first assessment that the axe may have undergone a secondary phase of use, possibly re-used as a honing stone during the Iron Age. Further work during post excavation analysis will hopefully draw out more detail from this fascinating and highly significant site, with more fieldwork potentially yet to come.

*Dr Adam Tinsley (Senior Project Manager)  
Oxford Archaeology North*

### NOTTINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM CASTLE (SK570 395)

During 2016, in partnership with Nottingham City Council, a further season of the *We Dig the Castle* training excavation was carried out at Nottingham Castle under the direction of Richard Parker and Laura Binns of Trent & Peak Archaeology, in close liaison with Scott Lomax (City Archaeologist) and Tim Allen (Historic England). Located within the Outer Bailey of the former royal castle, the site lies to the east of the 'Ducal Palace', near to the bandstand within 20th-century landscaped gardens.

The Castle, founded in c.1068, was one of the most important royal castles because of its strategic central location. Following the Civil War, the Castle was largely destroyed. In 1661, the site was sold to William Cavendish, 1st Duke of Newcastle, who remodelled the site to build the existing Ducal Palace. In 1831, following the Duke's opposition to the Reform Act in the House of Lords, the palace was burnt down during rioting. The building remained in a ruinous state until 1878 when the Corporation of Nottingham restored the palace and opened it as the first municipal art gallery and museum outside of London.

The area of the excavation has been used for many functions. During the 15th century the Outer Bailey was used for grazing, while in the Civil War a parliamentarian gun platform was constructed close to the wall line. Other uses include potential servants' quarters during the 17th century, followed by private gardens in the late 18th century, most



PLATE 9: Newark South: worked bone artefacts: a) bone pommel; b) bone pin (Oxford Archaeology North).

occupied by tradesmen. By 1880 the site was divided up into allotments or town gardens.

During this season's excavation a dense spread of intercutting linear features aligned north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west, along with several trough-shaped pits were exposed toward the base of the trench (Plate 11). These were extensively excavated but the relationships between them could not be determined, in part due to the similarity of the fill. The discovery of clay pipes dating to the late 17th century in several of the features indicates that they are contemporary with the Ducal Palace. It is likely that these features are bedding trenches for the garden features described above and relate to the changes in layout in the garden area during the 18th century.

Above the linear features, deposits relating to the Victorian allotments or town gardens were exposed, including the brick sill-wall of a likely greenhouse, which is shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880. A small square

structure which appeared to have been added to the building probably housed a stove. Overlying the greenhouse was a north-west to south-east aligned brick surface. Carbon arc rods found in the vicinity were of a type used in lighting, suggesting that the feature may have been hard standing for the searchlights known to have been present on the site since 1937 as part of the 42nd (Robin Hood) Anti-Aircraft Battalion. Covering the entire site were a series of 20th-century landscaping layers full of redeposited material including medieval to modern pottery.

*Laura Binns*  
Trent & Peak Archaeology

#### **NOTTINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM CASTLE, GATEHOUSE BRIDGE (SK 569 394)**

An archaeological investigation, comprising three trenches positioned at right angles to the gatehouse bridge, was undertaken by Trent & Peak



PLATE 10: Newark South: Neolithic stone axe, of probable Langdale form, possibly reused as a honing stone during the Iron Age (Oxford Archaeology North).

Archaeology on behalf of Nottingham City Council at Nottingham Castle on the instruction of Historic England in order to inform proposed consolidation works to be carried out as part of the Nottingham Castle Transformation project.

Closest to the gatehouse, the excavation revealed the broadly northeast to southwest aligned western wall of the medieval bridge, at a depth of c.1.1 m below ground level (Plate 12). Structural features observed within the wall at this point included a possible post hole for a parapet timber and an apparent buttress constructed of sandstone blocks. Further north, away from the gatehouse, the west wall of the bridge was also observed but on a contrasting alignment. One suggestion for this is that much of the structure observed to the south

related to the rebuild of the gatehouse bridge in the later 1500s.

On top of the main bridge approach the original ramp overlying the bridge vaulting was identified (0.85m BGL), topped with a surface of lime mortar and limestone which produced a 13th- or 14th-century green glazed pottery sherd. Exploration beneath this surface at the southern and east sides of the bridge suggested that the void between the bridge walls on the approach were originally infilled with loose levelling material.

The investigation also demonstrated that, prior to the later landscaping which buried the western side of the gatehouse bridge, a brick wall had been constructed to block the bridge arch. This later



PLATE 11: Nottingham Castle: oblique view of the 2017 *We Dig the Castle* excavations, showing the various linears in the foreground, with the square brick structure and the hard standing surface in the background (Trent & Peak Archaeology).

wall also incorporated re-used medieval masonry including a moulded window jamb. Map evidence suggests that Lenton road – a main artery into the gated Park Estate adjacent to the castle – was only installed in 1828. An image by Thomas Sandby dating to 1744 appears to show that the northern side of the bridge and the original castle ditch were still extant at this time. This would place the arch blocking event somewhere between the 1740s and the 1830s.

*Gareth Davies and Richard Parker*  
Trent & Peak Archaeology

#### **NOTTINGHAM, CONVENT STREET** (SK 576 401)

Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Nottingham Trent University to carry out a watching

brief during construction of a new extension to the Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies, Convent Street, Nottingham. The roughly rectangular site partly fronting on to Lower Parliament Street covered an area of *c.*0.31ha at a height of *c.*38m OD. Although lying just outside the limits of the medieval town wall the site was of interest as it lay adjacent to the cluster of pottery kilns recorded in this part of the town and immediately to the east of the medieval Hospital of St John the Baptist that stood to the side of the road leading north from the town. The presence of the hospital is first recorded in 1202 when it was entrusted with collecting alms for the repair of Trent Bridge, but is likely to be a 12th-century foundation. In 1234 it was granted a cemetery, while further grants included twenty acres in the field of Nottingham and all houses erected in the convent yard (Page 1910, 19). Following the Dissolution, the Hospital was described as virtually demolished (Chandler 1993, 357). However, the



PLATE 12: Nottingham Castle: detailed view of Gatehouse Bridge excavation: later blocking-wall in foreground. Possible parapet posthole cut in to the west bridge wall/upper vaulting material (centre) and ramp material (background) (Trent & Peak Archaeology).

chapel and barn survived to be re-used on several occasions including as a farm, poorhouse and house of correction before their eventual destruction in 1900. Convent Street itself was developed from at least 1744 onwards, with The Woodlark beerhouse known to be present on the site from at least 1841.

The groundwork identified the survival of a number of medieval features amongst a patchwork of post-medieval building foundations. This included several apparent boundary ditches of various alignments. The presence together of small quantities of (Lincolnshire) Shelly ware and Nottingham Splashed ware suggests the earliest of these dates to the 12th century, making it potentially

contemporary with the Hospital. Further apparent medieval features included pits, a rectangular rock-cut possible cesspit and a circular kiln or oven. The latter was *c.*2.86m long by up to *c.*1.5m wide and had both sides (four courses high) and a base constructed from flat irregular sized pieces of sandstone, with a single flue to the east. This may be a corn dryer. Preliminary archaeobotanical evidence suggests the presence on site of the last stages of crop processing as well as the drying of corn prior to storage, with oat, hulled barley, free threshing wheat and rye recorded across the site, although further analysis is required.

Of particular interest was the discovery of a sandstone cave system entered from the south end of the site via a rock-cut spiral staircase (Plate 13). This appeared to be in two parts with the southern part being narrower and more irregular in plan. This fed into a larger rectangular chamber to the north with a central rock cut support for the roof. Part of the cave was covered by brick and slate slab flooring which once lifted revealed the presence of a circular rock-cut well. Excavation of this well recovered over 1500 largely small and abraded sherds of medieval pottery including Nottingham Splashed ware, Nottingham Coarse Orange/Pink Sandy ware, Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze and Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze suggesting a 14th-century deposition date. This appeared to lend support to part of the cave system being medieval in date. The cave system appears to have been used as cellarage by the former beerhouse with large complete stoneware bottles (including one four gallon example marked J.Wheatley & Son, Danzig Brewery, Sheffield) being left *in-situ* on stone shelving when the cave was sealed up.

The findings of the fieldwork provide valuable new evidence for medieval extramural activity on this side of Nottingham including the existence of boundary ditches and previously unknown cave system. A significant assemblage of medieval pottery was also recovered along with roof tile including crested ridge tile, hip tile and numerous nibbed tiles, some bearing kiln scars for jugs apparently indicating their use as kiln furniture. Analysis is on-going with a full report planned for future inclusion within these *Transactions*.



PLATE 13: Nottingham, Covent Street: view of the spiral staircase at the south end of the cave system with *in-situ* stoneware bottles (Trent & Peak Archaeology).

*Joe Groarke and Lee Elliott*  
Trent & Peak Archaeology

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#### **NOTTINGHAM, THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN (SK 57670 39656)**

The church of St. Mary the Virgin is located within the historic core of Nottingham city centre

and the Lace Market Conservation Area. The site is bounded by Kayes Walk to the north, Stoney Street to the east, High Pavement to the south and St. Mary's Gate to the west. Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a watching brief on works to improve the below-ground drainage and maintenance access to the chapter house.

The current church of St. Mary the Virgin is a Grade I listed building (LB1270726) and was constructed between the late 14th to late 15th centuries in the perpendicular style using red, buff and pale brown Carboniferous Sandstone. It comprises a chancel, vestry, central tower, transepts, nave and aisles and a south porch. Groundwork on the tower during the 1840s revealed evidence



of the 12th-century church fabric reused in the foundations.

The site itself has previously been the subject of evaluation trenching and archaeological recording during 2013 during the renewal of the floor within the nave, crossing and transepts of the Church. These revealed earlier structural remains (12th- to 13th-century in date) incorporated within parts of the foundations of the nave and the transepts. Within the nave this included the presence of medieval cross slabs. Also present in these areas were a number of brick lined burial vaults and shafts containing lead coffins. Residual finds included medieval glazed floor tiles and window glass, post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe, coffin nails, shroud pins and coffin furniture comprising coffin grips and coffin studs.

This phase of groundwork comprised the excavation of a small north-south aligned trench which extended approximately 3m from the north wall of the Chapter House. The trench measured a maximum of 0.45m in width and 0.52m in depth. Beneath the modern path, grave-earth was encountered which was truncated by the grave of an adult individual, of which only the femora were visible within the trench. The shallow nature of the grave at 0.5m, taking into consideration some truncation during the construction of the Chapter House in 1890, suggests that it is likely to be 17th-century or earlier in date with much deeper burials being the norm in the 18th-19th centuries. The survival of the grave cut within the grave-earth indicates that it was one of the later burials in the immediate vicinity, undisturbed by any subsequent burials. It is probable that further shallow unmarked burials are present below the path and close to the Chapter House walls.

*Kate Smart*  
*Trent & Peak Archaeology*

**NOTTINGHAM, LONDON ROAD, FORMER  
SHELL GARAGE (SK 578 395)**

A programme of archaeologically monitored boreholes on behalf of Monk Estates identified this

site as an area of high geoarchaeological potential. The site is situated immediately below the sandstone outcrop cliff which defines the southern extent of the early medieval and later borough of Nottingham and immediately north of the east-west aligned (and now culverted) River Leen running towards its confluence with the Trent. The River Leen in this area is depicted on Speed's map of Nottingham (AD1610) as a complex braded channel.

In broad terms, the observed sequence – from a ground surface of 26m AOD – comprised made ground (0–3m BGL) which included likely post-medieval and modern buildings in the northern part of the site, underlain by alluvial silts (c.3m to 5m BGL), alluvially deposited sands and gravels (5m–7.5m BGL) and sandstone bedrock (7.5m BGL). Organic rich peaty horizons, observed within both the alluvially deposited silts and underlying sands and gravels (at a depth of up to 6.2m BGL), suggest a depositional sequence comprising of shifting channels with interleaving periods of depositional stability (peat) followed by more rapid silting. The observed sequence remains undated.

A key question for resolution at this site concerns whether areas of drier ground allowed for human activities, such as tanning, to be carried out here in the medieval period, as has been observed recently to the east at Narrow Marsh (Higgins 2017), or whether the site was always too wet, as has been observed to the west at Boots Island (Gilbert *et al.* 1997). This issue would only be resolved by further archaeological investigation.

*Gareth Davies*  
*Trent & Peak Archaeology*

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## NOTTINGHAM, COLWICK, HOLME SLUICE FISH PASS (SK 613 393)

A programme of archaeologically monitored boreholes was undertaken by Trent & Peak Archaeology on behalf of Royal Haskoning DHV as this site had high archaeological and geoarchaeological potential. Beneath topsoil, made ground comprising re-worked gravel and alluvium associated with earlier river management activities was encountered. At a depth of between 1.3–2.3 below ground level (c.21–20m AOD), *in situ* alluvium was encountered. Beneath this was sandstone bedrock at a height of 17–18m AOD). No horizons of geoarchaeological interest were noted within the alluvial deposits.

*Gareth Davies*  
*Trent & Peak Archaeology*

## RADCLIFFE ON TRENT ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

The Radcliffe Archaeology Project (RAP) was established in 2015 by local enthusiasts with the aim of investigating the morphology of Radcliffe on Trent and establishing when it first formed as a nucleated settlement. This builds on the excellent work, undertaken over many years, by Radcliffe on Trent Local History Society. To this end RAP continued in 2016 and 2017 with test pitting around the village. Archaeological research has been undertaken in the surrounding villages of Holme Pierrepont, Cotgrave, East Bridgford and of course *Margidunum*, but to date there has been little sustained archaeological interest in Radcliffe. There has been an investigation by Wessex Archaeology on fields to the east of the village prior to possible development. This identified a mainly farming landscape with possible settlement to the west of the site dating from the late Iron Age to the early Romano-British period.

Radcliffe on Trent is sited on the south bank of the River Trent some 6 miles east of Nottingham. Here the Trent valley has Mercia mudstone cliffs overlaid with fine red sandstone cliffs which gives the village its name. The village is named in the Domesday Book as

Radcliffe with its now co-located village of Lamcote then appearing separately. The manors in Radcliffe and Lamcote were conveyed to William Peveril, the king's son, and William de Aincourt (Deyncourt).

In the last two seasons 13 test pits have been dug, with the help of more experienced, but amateur local diggers who have previously been involved with Bingham Heritage Trails Association [BHTA] where approximately 70 test-pits were excavated led by Peter Allen. The pits were all 1m by 1m. They were dug to the natural layer or 1.2m, whichever came first. In the main, the pits have been dug around the presumed centre of the village, relying on access to clear ground. The material from these excavations is still being processed but several lithics have been found, identified as Neolithic, 9th-century and 13th-century pottery sherds, as well as large quantities of bones showing butchery marks. Little, if any, Roman pottery has been found to date.

Four test pits were dug in the grounds of the Manor House. The current building dates from the late 17th century but there is evidence of an earlier dwelling on the site. As the house has been surrounded by lawns for many years it has revealed large quantities of pottery, usually in context. A test pit by the side of the old kitchen exposed many sherds of broken pancheon ware. One pit was dug in the garden of the Manvers Arms, a local pub. This dig attracted a great deal of public interest including family groups. 13th-century green glaze pottery was found (Plate 14a) as well as lithics and more recent sherds. One pit was dug in the grounds of Radcliffe Hall, now owned by the Royal British Legion. The Hall was built in the late 18th century with 19th-century extensions. This was the most recent dig and has not been processed yet, but the excavations unearthed what is interpreted to be a post hole with stone packing. At a test pit in the grounds of The Grange, which is the local village hall a lead spindle whorl was unearthed which has been identified as early medieval (Plate 14b). 5 further test pits were dug in the grounds of private houses.

All the finds are currently being cleaned, identified and recorded. The reports for each pit will then be put onto the RAP website, and a further series of digs is planned for 2018 with the

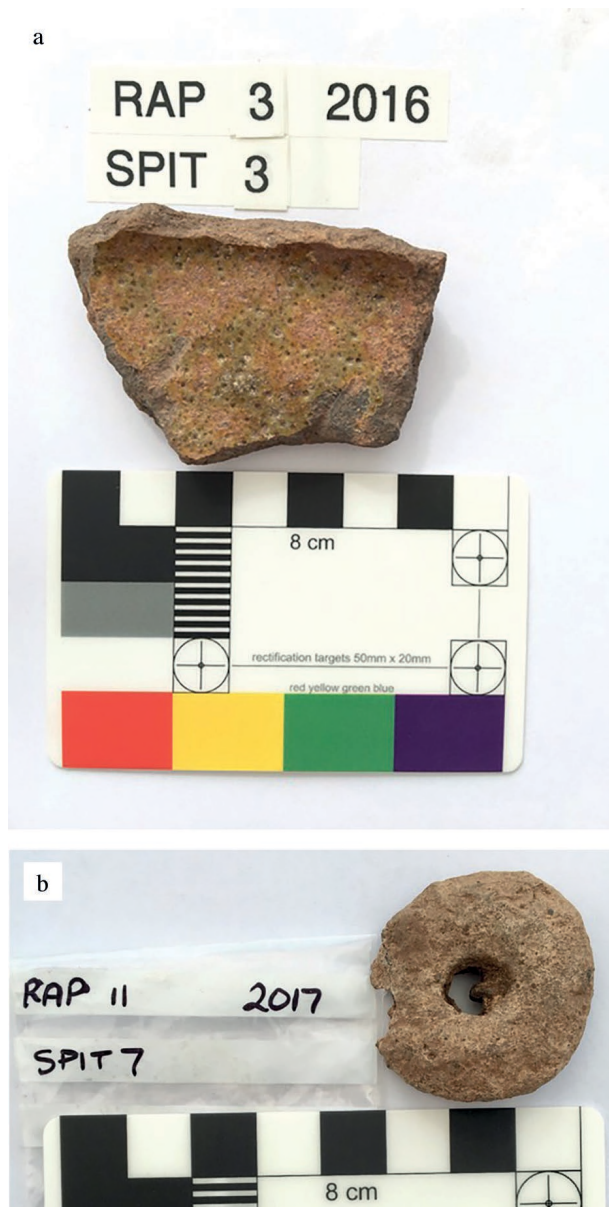


PLATE 14: Radcliffe on Trent: artefacts: a) 13th-14th century green glaze pottery; b) lead spindle whorl (Radcliffe on Trent Archaeology Project)

support of Emily Gillott, Community Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County Council. Further information is available on the RAP website: <http://www.radcliffearchaeology.org.uk>

*Paul Larsen  
Radcliffe Archaeology Project*

### SKEGBY, SUTTON IN ASHFIELD (SK 4920 6087)

As part of the continuing research into the medieval pottery industry of Skegby, Sutton in Ashfield, an opportunity arose to excavate a test pit in the front garden of the property where the remains of a mid-to-late 12th-century pottery kiln were discovered during building works (Budge 2010, 184–5). The excavation was made possible by the efforts of Mr Robert Howlett and through the generosity of the landowners, Mr and Mrs Brunt. Examination of historic maps of the village plan in relation to the location of the kiln produced a working theory that early occupation was around the church and had spread into the valley where the kiln was located by the 12th century and through which the modern Mansfield Road runs. The settlement focus then shifted eastwards, perhaps when Skegby passed from royal hands into private ownership and Skegby manor house was purportedly built. In this model it is assumed that the medieval dwelling would be on or near the road frontage with the kiln and workshops etc behind this.

The test pit was excavated in March 2017 to address these hypotheses and to examine whether pottery production began before or continued after the date range (mid-to-late 12th century) suggested by the previously excavated finds (Budge 2010, 85). Approximately 0.65m of levelling deposits and garden soils (both probably deriving from the earth dug out of the foundations of the dwelling) and a tarmac surface overlay a deposit of demolition rubble. The soils contained late 18th- to 20th-century finds along with examples of 12th-century Skegby Splashed Ware. Buildings standing c.30m away from the present dwelling were first mapped in 1835 by Sanderson and continued to be depicted on Ordnance Survey maps until the 1950s; they may have been outbuildings associated with Skegby Hall and are the most likely source of the rubble, the buildings probably being demolished to make way for the present houses.

Sealed by the rubble was a c.0.3m depth of soil and subsoil, both charcoal rich and containing a mixture of 12th-century pottery and late 18th- to 20th-century pottery and other finds. Slight features

at the interface of the soil and subsoil proved ephemeral on investigation and were interpreted as products of bioturbation. The subsoil graded into a firm silty clay with no artefacts or charcoal flecks. This layer was interpreted as ‘natural’, most likely a colluvial deposit. There is a possibility that it could have sealed medieval deposits but, given that it would have derived from the slopes to the south where the kiln was sited it seems strange that it did not contain any cultural material, while the subsoil above did, with the 12th-century pottery from the subsoil in fairly fresh condition (though in small pieces). While it is risky to extrapolate too much from a single test pit, there appears to be little evidence for occupation either in the medieval period or post medieval period on the road frontage; the finds further suggest only two phases of activity in the immediate vicinity, first in the 12th century and then, after a significant hiatus, again from the late 18th century to today.

It is possible that occupation associated with the kiln was elsewhere on the plot rather than on the present road frontage towards the lowest part of this slight valley. It could alternatively be that occupation was elsewhere in the village and that this part of the settlement was expanded into and only used for industrial purposes, for a short period in the 12th century.

The pottery assemblage included most of the Skegby Splashed Ware fabrics identified from the kiln itself (Budge in prep) and included

wasters (with glaze over breaks) and misfired sherds. Though the sherds were mostly small the identifiable forms and methods of manufacture were very similar to those already seen in the kiln, with plain strap handles from jugs and knife trimmed convex bases from jugs or jars being identical to the kiln finds. Amongst the material suitable for illustration the bowl (Figure 11b) has a rim form not previously seen. While broadly similar to the bowls in the kiln group, it differs in the noticeable flange to its outer edge. The small jar rim (Figure 11a), however, varies only in subtle detail from those in the kiln group but is important as jars were particularly scarce in the kiln group.

On the whole, the pottery and other evidence from the test pit reinforces the view arrived at from the other lines of research, that the Skegby pottery industry was only in operation for a short time in the mid-to-late 12th century (Budge in prep). Why this should be, if it can ever be known, requires more research, and will be considered in the final report.

*David Budge.*

*Mercian Archaeological Services CIC*

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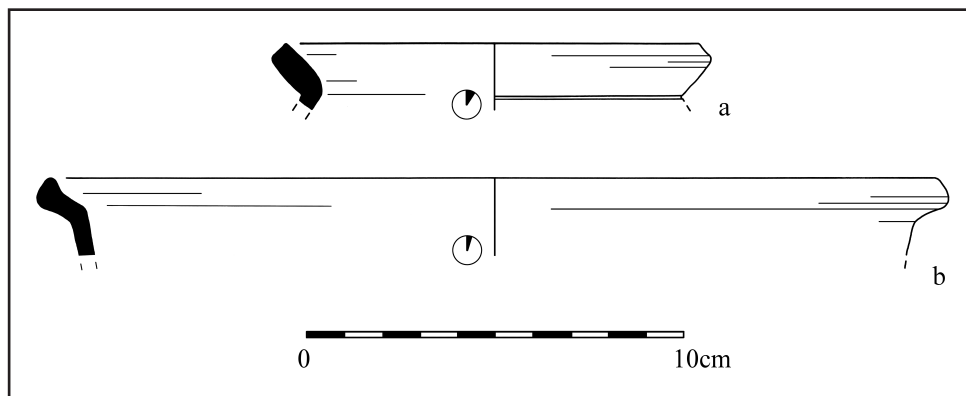


FIGURE 11: Skegby Splashed Ware bowl and jar from test pitting at Skegby (Mercian Archaeological Services CIC).

## STAPLEFORD, ST HELEN'S CHURCH (SK 488 373)

Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological test pit evaluation at St Helen's parish church, Stapleford, prior to the construction of an extension to the church. The church is a Grade II Listed building dating to the 13th century and occupies a significant place within the historic core of Stapleford, being the focus of the Church Street Conservation Area. The headstones from the churchyard have been repositioned around the churchyard boundary, meaning that the locations of any burials are no longer known.

The work consisted of a series of five test pits located over various points on the footprint of the proposed construction of a new Community Room building, with a connecting corridor leading to the north-western corner of the church's north aisle. Test Pits 01, 02, 04 and 05 contained no archaeological remains, although the sequence of made ground layers below the topsoil indicated a significant amount of landscaping had occurred during the 20th century (probably at the same time that the headstones were repositioned), raising the ground level by around 0.75m. The original ground level, now buried, was identified in Test Pits 04 and 05 at this depth.

Test Pit 03 was excavated to approximately 0.54m, at which depth two grave markers, probably *in situ*, were uncovered. These appeared to be a fallen headstone, possibly covered by turf or vegetation when the landscaping activities occurred, and a possible chest tomb or pedestal for a larger monument. No inscriptions were visible, and it was not clear whether these markers were *in situ*, or whether they had been displaced during landscaping. However, if they are *in situ* they could provide a useful indication of the depth of burials in this area of the churchyard.

*Kate Smart*  
*Trent & Peak Archaeology*

## WOODBOROUGH, FOX WOOD CAMP (SK 613 483)

Fox Wood lies north-west of Woodborough in Nottinghamshire, on the ridge of higher ground followed by Spindle Lane separating the parishes of Woodborough and Calverton. The earthworks of Fox Wood Camp (Scheduled Monument NT9; NHLE 1006398) occupy the highest, western, part of the wood at above 100m AOD, enclosing an area of approximately 2.0ha. Their form, with a later squarish enclosure inserted into a larger curvilinear enclosure, has encouraged assumptions of an Iron Age or Roman date (Figure 12).

The site requires selective thinning of the woodland, both to ensure the long-term survival of the archaeological monument and to improve the ecological value of the site. Archaeological survey was commissioned by Natural England in order to inform any future works, comprising initial topographical and geophysical surveys followed by a programme of trial trenching (undertaken in accordance with the Scheduled Monument consent issued by Historic England). Geophysical survey had proved uninformative with resistivity the only practical approach within the woodland. Trenching therefore targeted the sequence of defensive ditches and banks as well as areas of the interior, with five trenches excavated all told, four 10m by 2m and one 5m by 3m (see Figure 12). The ditches varied in scale and state of preservation. The outer ditch in Trench 5 had been maintained as a boundary into relatively recent times and only c.0.45m of undisturbed fill remained, the base of the ditch being some 2.5m below the external ground surface nonetheless. The intermediate ditch in Trench 2 was better preserved, being 4.6m in width, but less substantial at only 1.1m deep. The internal bank here survived to c.3m in width and 0.5m in height with evidence for a probable earlier land surface preserved beneath. No cultural material was recovered from the fills of either, but C14 dating may yet provide some clearer indication of date.

The ditch of the internal square enclosure in Trench 3 proved to be quite substantial, 3.5m in width and 1.8m deep, 2.7m below the top of the bank as surviving (Plate 15). The sequence of ditch



FIGURE 12: Fox Wood Camp, Woodborough: earthwork plan and location of trenches (Trent & Peak Archaeology).



PLATE 15: Fox Wood Camp, Woodborough: Trench 3 across the ditch of the internal square enclosure (Trent & Peak Archaeology).

fills contained a range of ceramic material from the late Iron Age into the Roman period with the upper fills containing pottery of mid-2nd to early 3rd-century AD date, but apparently nothing later. Along with the quantities of animal bone recovered this would certainly imply domestic occupation in this period. Trenching within the interior revealed a curvilinear ditch and gulley associated with 1st-2nd-century AD occupation in Trench 4; activity of a similar period was also apparent in Trench 1, less clearly defined but apparently associated with patchy stone surfaces. Work undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology for Nottinghamshire County Council targeting cropmark features in the fields to the east (Hamilton 2007) also identified late Iron

Age and Roman activity. The early establishment of the outer enclosure within the woodland remains to be confirmed by scientific dating, but domestic occupation of the internal enclosures in the Roman period is strongly suggested.

*Steve Malone*

*Trent & Peak Archaeology*

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