

**LAND TO THE REAR OF ROSE COTTAGE, LOW STREET,
HARBY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

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Report prepared for
Ursula Bradwell Architects Ltd.
on behalf of Mr. L. Barnard

by

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Summary

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during all development groundworks associated with the construction of three new houses on land to the rear of Rose Cottage, off Low Street in the village of Harby in Nottinghamshire.

The medieval origins of Harby village have been shown as earthworks identified from aerial photography; earthwork boundaries of medieval crofts have since been redeveloped, but the earthworks of a medieval moated manor, now a Scheduled Ancient Monument, survive on the south side of the village. The development site lies near the historic village centre.

No features of archaeological significance were encountered during the watching brief: late post-medieval to modern ground levelling layers were seen in Plot 1, and the foundation trenches of 20th-century buildings in Plot 2.

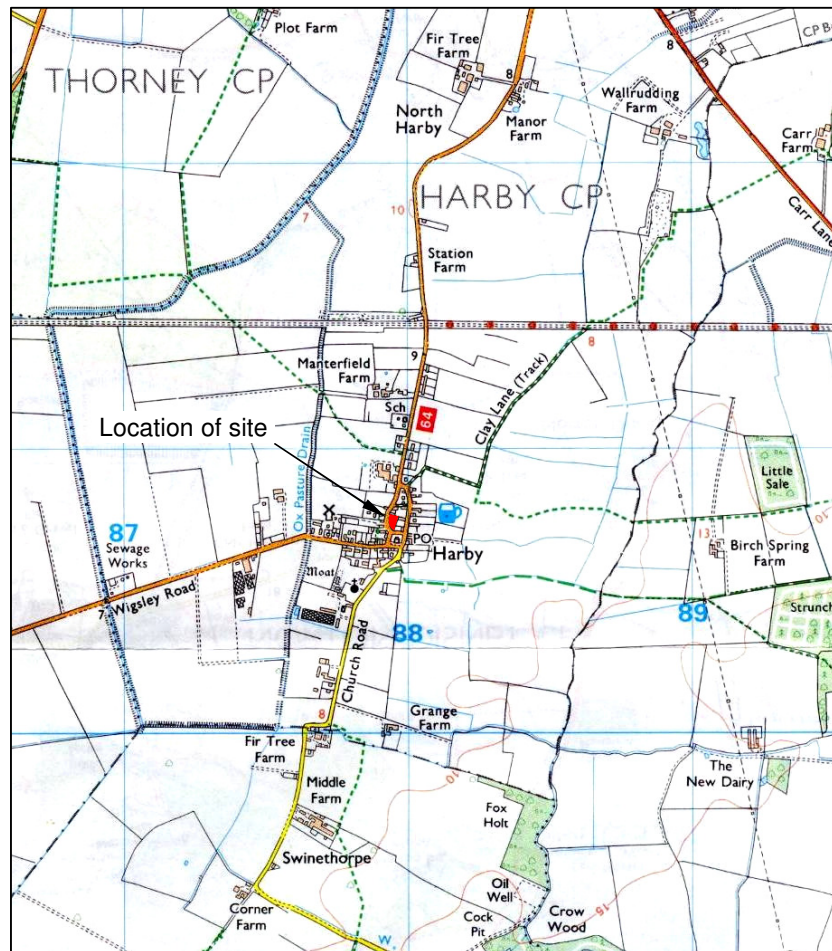


Figure 1: Location plan of the site (marked in red) at scale 1:25,000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Ursula Bradwell Architects Ltd. to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks associated with the construction of three new houses on land to the rear of Rose Cottage, off Low Street in the village of Harby in Nottinghamshire.

The site lies near the centre of the medieval manorial settlement of Harby; the earthworks of the moated manor survive to the south of the village.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Harby, in the Newark and Sherwood District of Nottinghamshire, is situated 9.5km to the west of Lincoln and 30km north-east of Newark. The county boundary with Lincolnshire lies 0.5km south and 0.75km to the east of the village; the River Trent is 7km to the west. The village core is defined by High Street (to the east) and Low Street (to the west) which may have been a lane at the back of medieval properties.

The development site is situated near the centre of the village, on the east side of Low Street. It is roughly triangular, with the existing Rose Cottage at its south corner.

3.0 Geology and topography

Harby is situated on a drift geology of older river sand and gravel, overlying a solid geology of Lower Lias clay with shale and rare limestone (BGS, 1973).

The village lies on flat, low-lying land (below the 10m contour line) within the eastern side of the valley of the River Trent. To the west, the land continues flat and low-lying to the modern course of the river; to the east, it rises gently at the foot of the west-facing slope of the Lincoln Edge.

4.0 Planning background

Full planning permission for the construction of three dwellings was granted in July 2010 (planning application number 10/00131/FUL).

This permission was granted subject to the implementation of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording, carried out by a qualified archaeologist or archaeological body approved by the local planning authority (condition 10).

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

At the time of the Domesday Survey in AD 1086, Harby was a rural hamlet, with a population of five households farming a small estate of arable land, meadow land and managed woodland belonging to the Bishop of Lincoln (Williams and Martin, 1992, p.763).

The earthworks of a medieval moated site survive to the east of the church (Scheduled Ancient Monument 1017858); other medieval earthworks identified from aerial photographs include the remains of enclosure ditches within the village, probably delineating crofts (now built over), and a ridge-and-furrow field system covering an area of 8 hectares (EH PastScape ref. 1058316). The moated site is that of the manor house of Richard de Weston, where Queen Eleanor, the wife of Edward I, died in 1290; her body was transported first to

Lincoln and then to London, and a stone cross was later built to mark each overnight resting place (National Heritage List for England).

A chantry chapel was built in Harby following the death of Queen Eleanor; during the Reformation, the building became a chapel of ease for North Clifton. This building fell into disrepair and was demolished and replaced by a new church in the 1870s. The present village church, a Grade II Listed Building, is 19th-century, but incorporates a small amount of material from the previous building, including a doorway and a late medieval font (Pevsner, 1951, p.78; National Heritage List for England ref. 1157149)

6.0 Methodology

Groundworks commenced with the machine stripping of topsoil to a level surface, but not to its full depth (plate 1). The foundation trenches of the house plots were then excavated, using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a 0.70m bucket with small teeth.

Where possible, archaeological features encountered were sample excavated by hand, for finds retrieval and to clarify the shape and orientation of the features. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on General Account sheets. Features were drawn in section at scale 1:20 and plotted on a base plan at scale 1:100; where no features were encountered in a house plot, a sample section was drawn. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

As the only finds retrieved during the archaeological monitoring and recording programme were largely unstratified and clearly post-medieval to modern, external specialists were not consulted: the finds were identified in-house and not studied further (Appendix 3).

The archaeological monitoring programme commenced on 18th February 2011; excavation of the foundation trenches of Plots 1 and 2 was completed on 23rd February 2011. Monitoring was carried out by Julian Sleaf. As no features or deposits of archaeological significance had been seen during the monitoring of the house plots, the watching brief was discontinued before excavation of the garage foundations or the associated service trenches took place.

7.0 Results

7.1 House Plot 1 (figs. 3 and 4)

Plot 1 was positioned in the north-west corner of the development site, adjoining Low Street.

At the base of the foundation trenches was natural sand 101. This was overlain by sand layer 109, which was up to 0.5m deep near the centre of the plot, but did not extend to the east or west edges; this layer contained no finds or other inclusions, and it was uncertain whether it was a discrete deposit, possibly as ground levelling, or an area of natural 101 discoloured by leaching from above.

Overlying layer 109 at the south end of Plot 1 was clayey sand 110, which appeared to be a layer of redeposited natural and could not easily be distinguished from the underlying layer (fig. 4b); no dating evidence was retrieved from this deposit.

Above layer 110 was deposit 107, which was up to 0.8m deep and appeared to be a mixture of topsoil and redeposited natural, containing brick rubble and other refuse. A quantity of corrugated iron was excavated near the centre of the west side of the house plot, in association with the severely corroded remains of a Second World War Air Raid Protection (ARP) warden's helmet (fig. 4a; plate 6): this association suggested that the corrugated iron

fragments may have represented the remains of an Anderson shelter (plate 5). The Anderson bomb shelter, widely used in the Second World War for domestic protection during air raids, consisted of six curved sheets of galvanized corrugated iron, bolted together at the top to form side walls and a roof, with a steel plate at either end: a completed shelter measured 6' 6" x 4' 6" x 6'. Some 3.6 million shelters were issued before and during the war; after the war, the metal of most shelters was collected by the local authorities, but anyone who wished to keep their shelter could purchase it for £1 (Stanley, n.d.). Other finds retrieved from this deposit were identified as 18th and 19th-century pottery, with a single earlier post-medieval sherd (Appendix 3).

Above the possible ground levelling deposit 107 was sand and mortar layer 108, which contained brick rubble and was interpreted as a demolition deposit from the previous occupation of the site (fig. 4b). Above all recorded deposits was topsoil 100, which had been partly removed during site levelling.

7.2 House Plot 2 (figs. 3 and 4)

Plot 2 was positioned in the north-east corner of the development site, to the north of the existing cottage.

As with Plot 1, natural sand 101 was at the base of the excavated foundation trenches. There were no overlying layers corresponding to 107-110: the natural was directly overlain by topsoil 100. With the exception of one modern bottle, pottery sherds and glass bottles retrieved from the topsoil were identified as dating from the late 18th century to the late 19th or early 20th.

Several linear features were seen running across the grid of foundation trenches. Features **103**, **105** and **106** were all roughly 1m wide, with steep, regular sides and, where exposed, flat bases (fig. 4c-e); **103** and **105** were on the same alignment, but were not continuous throughout the excavated areas. The fills of all these features could be distinguished from topsoil 100 only by the greater abundance of demolition rubble, and they were not individually recorded. Feature **103** could be seen in section to cut deposit 104, a small dump of sand and brick rubble apparently within the topsoil (plate 3), indicating that these features were sufficiently recent to post-date the topsoil, probably constructed within the 20th century.

8.0 Conclusion

Only modern deposits and features were seen during the archaeological monitoring, apparently representing ground levelling deposits and the foundations of recently constructed buildings.

None of the features seen can be associated with the possible siting of a WWII Anderson shelter. An Anderson shelter would not leave identifiable foundation trenches, as it was a partially sunken structure, set into a rectangular pit; the Home Office assembly instructions recommended a pit 7' 6" x 6' x 4' (Stanley, n.d.).

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project was effective in demonstrating the absence of significant archaeological remains on the development site, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd. would like to thank Ursula Bradwell Architects Ltd. for this commission.

11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being assessed and prepared for deposition. As there is currently no appointed museum of record for the Newark and Sherwood District, the documentary archive will remain in the custody of PCAS until deposition with a suitable receiving museum can be arranged. Any finds that the client does not wish to retain will be discarded.

12.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 1973, *Lincoln: England and Wales 1:50,000 Series sheet 114, Solid and Drift Provisional Edition*. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham.

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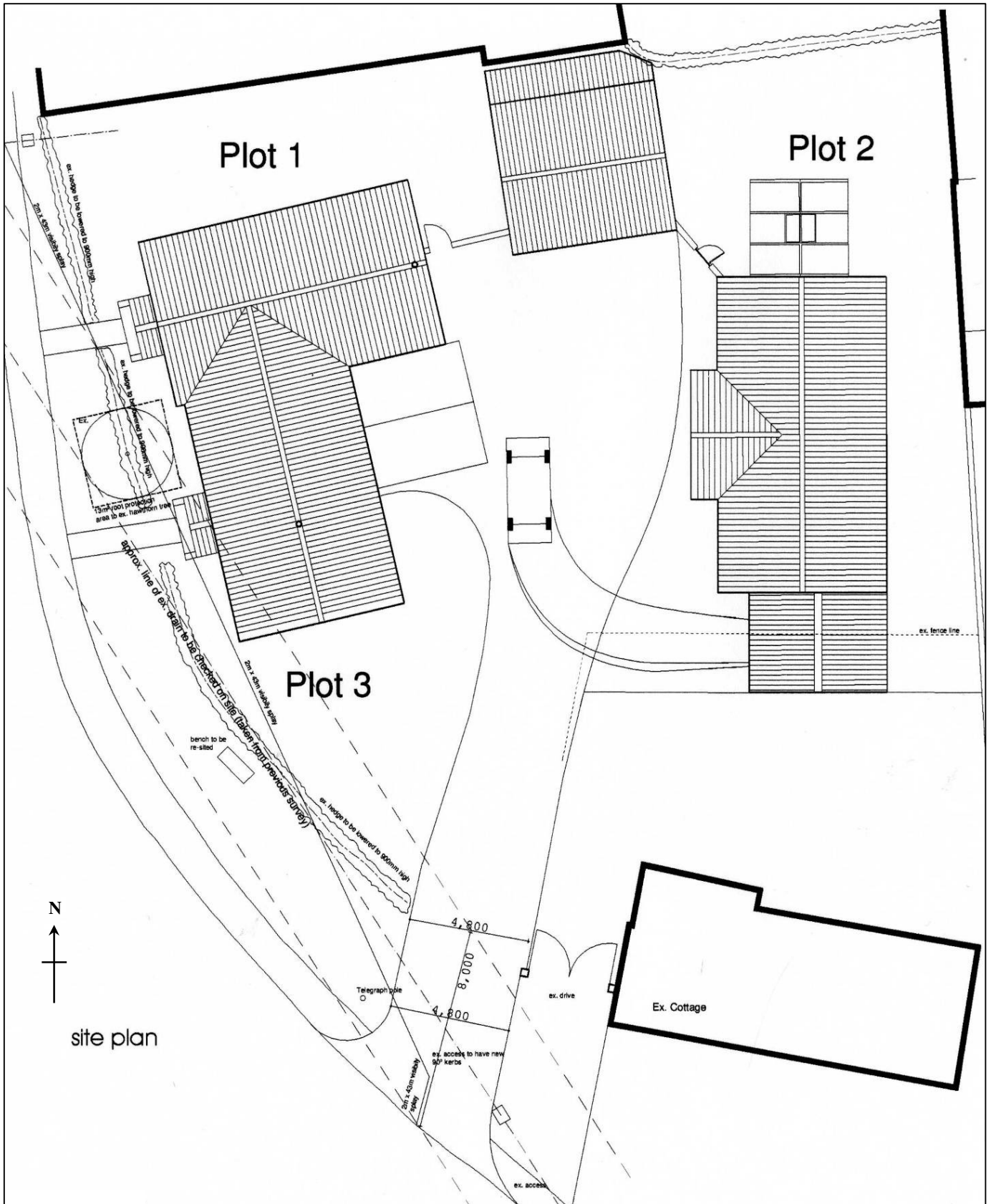


Figure 2: Plan of the new development at scale 1:200.

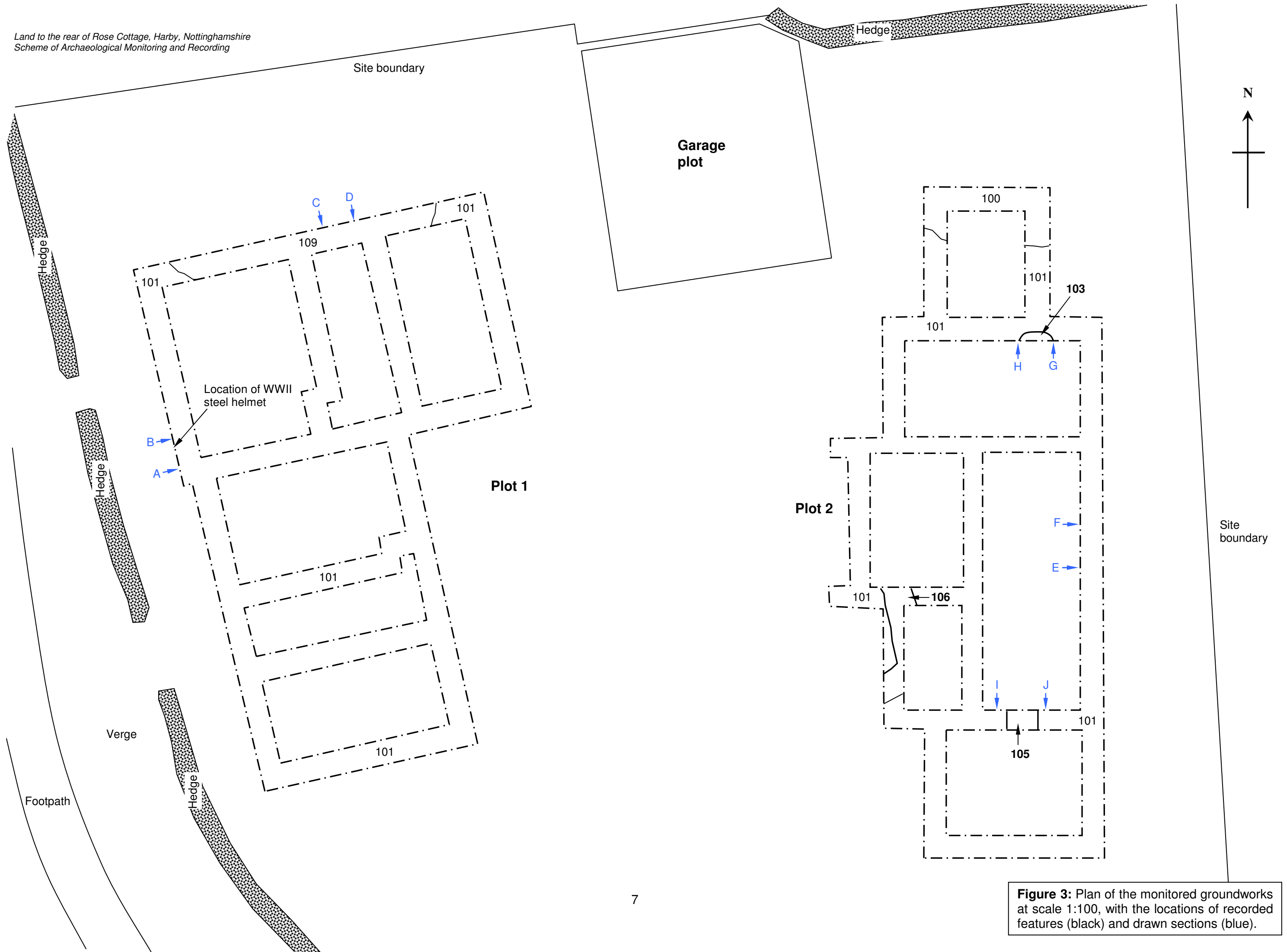


Figure 3: Plan of the monitored groundworks at scale 1:100, with the locations of recorded features (black) and drawn sections (blue).

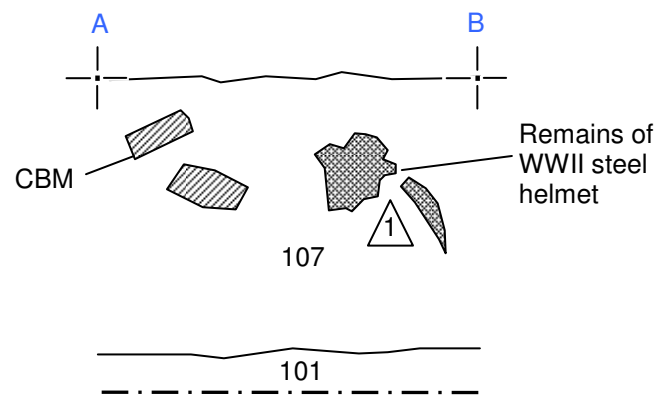


Figure 4a

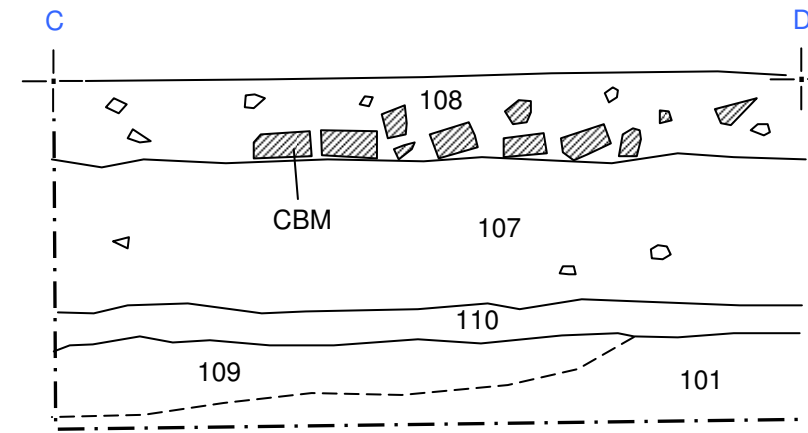


Figure 4b

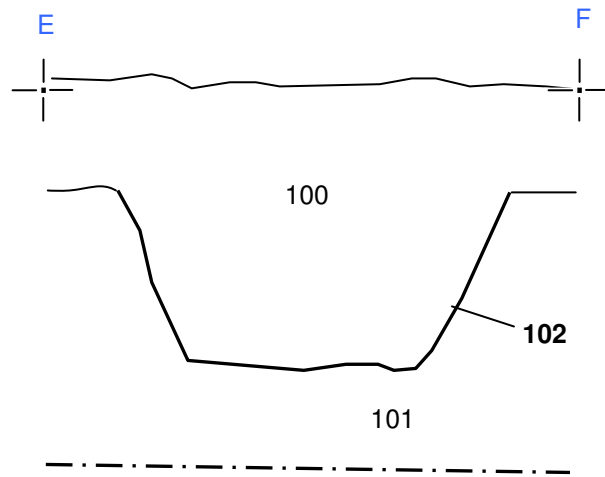


Figure 4c

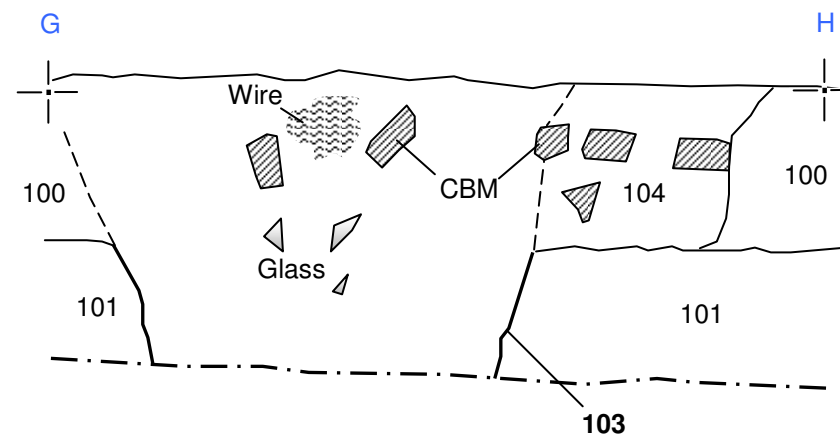


Figure 4d

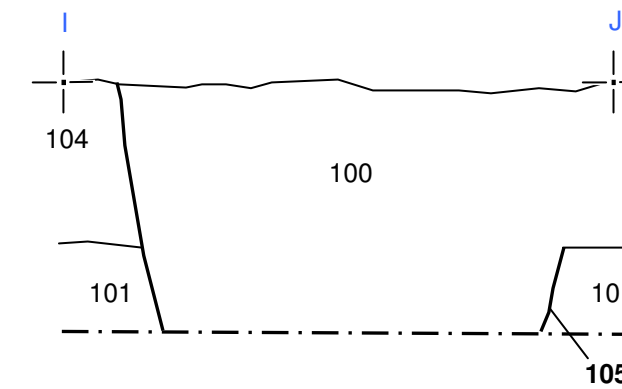


Figure 4e

Figure 4: Section drawings from Plot 1 (a-b) and Plot 2 (c-e) at scale 1:20. The sections are located on Figure 3.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General shot of the site during levelling of Plot 1, looking N.



Plate 2: Working shot during the excavation of foundation trenches in Plot 2, looking W.



Plate 3: Modern feature 103 cutting deposit 104 in the section of Plot 2, looking S.



Plate 4: Modern feature
105 in the section of Plot
2, looking N.



Plate 5: Possible remnants of a
Second World War Anderson
shelter, excavated in the
foundation trench for Plot 1.



Plate 6: Remains of a Second
World War ARP warden's
helmet, found in association with
the metal sheets pictured above.

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Plot	Type	Description
100	1/2	Layer	Modern topsoil: dark brownish-grey friable sandy clay with frequent CBM rubble and modern refuse, 0.30m deep
101	1/2	Layer	Light yellowish-grey natural sand
102	2	Cut	Feature, probably linear, with steep sides and flat base; 1.0m wide x 0.78m deep; fill could not be distinguished from topsoil 100 except by more frequent rubble inclusions, and was not separately recorded.
103	2	Cut	Feature, probably linear, with steep sides and flat base; 1.1m wide x 0.80m deep; fill could not be distinguished from topsoil 100 except by more frequent rubble inclusions, and was not separately recorded. Cuts deposit 104.
104	2	Layer	Mixed light yellowish- to brownish-grey friable sand with frequent fragments of CBM rubble, 0.4m wide x 0.42m deep, within topsoil 100 at W edge of plot: mixture of redeposited natural and demolition material.
105	2	Cut	Feature, probably linear, with steep sides; base not exposed. 1.1m wide x 0.62m ⁺ deep; fill could not be distinguished from topsoil 100 except by more frequent rubble inclusions, and was not separately recorded. On the same alignment as probable linear feature 103 .
106	2	Cut	Right-angled linear feature, 1.0m wide x 0.5m ⁺ deep; fill could not be distinguished from topsoil 100 except by more frequent rubble inclusions, and was not separately recorded
107	1	Layer	Mixture of redeposited natural sand and topsoil, below topsoil 100, containing brick rubble and modern metal refuse, including fragments of corrugated iron and the remains of a WWII ARP helmet
108	1	Layer	Mixture of light yellow sand and mortar with frequent CBM rubble fragments, 0.50m deep, at N end of Plot 1
109	1	Layer	Mid- to light greyish-brown sand below layer 108; 0.50m deep; no dating evidence
110	1	Layer	Light brown friable clayey sand with occasional small pebbles, 0.20m deep, overlying layer 109 at S end of Plot 1

Appendix 3: Catalogue of Finds

Plot 1: Context 107	Date
Small Find No 1: ARP (Air Raid Precautions) Helmet	1940's
Clay Tobacco Pipe – Stem fragment (2mm bore)	18 th
Ceramics: Midlands Yellow x1 sherd Pearlware x1 sherd Nineteenth century buff ware x2 sherds Transfer print ware x6 sherds English Porcelain x1 sherd English Stoneware x3 sherds	Mid 16 th – 17 th Late 18 th – Early 19 th 19 th Late 18 th – 19 th Late 18 th - Late 19 th 18 th – 19 th
Plot 2 Context 100	Date
Glass Bottles: Embossed with E. Smithies, Rose & Crown, Elland Modern 275ml bottle Milk of Magnesia bottle (blue glass) Medicine bottle (case shaped) Ink bottle (fluted with sheared neck)	1890's Modern 1940's Early 19 th Late 18 th – Early 19 th
Stoneware bottle: 8cm Ink bottle (complete)	18 th – 19 th
Clay Tobacco Pipe – Stem fragment (2mm bore)	18 th
Metal Object – Small 'butter' knife blade	Modern
Ceramics: Pearlware x1 sherd English Porcelain x4 sherds Creamware x1 sherd White ware x3 sherds Transfer print ware x3 sherds Stoneware x3 sherds	Late 18 th – Early 19 th Late 18 th – Early 20 th Late 18 th – Mid 19 th Modern Late 18 th – 19 th 19 th – 19 th

Appendix 4: OASIS summary