

**LAND OFF PORTLAND STREET,  
MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**COMPREHENSIVE WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Central NGR: SK 5432 6341  
Planning app.: 2007/1125/NT  
Site code: PSMW1214  
PCAS job no.: 928

Prepared for

Rippon Homes

by

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## Colour Plates

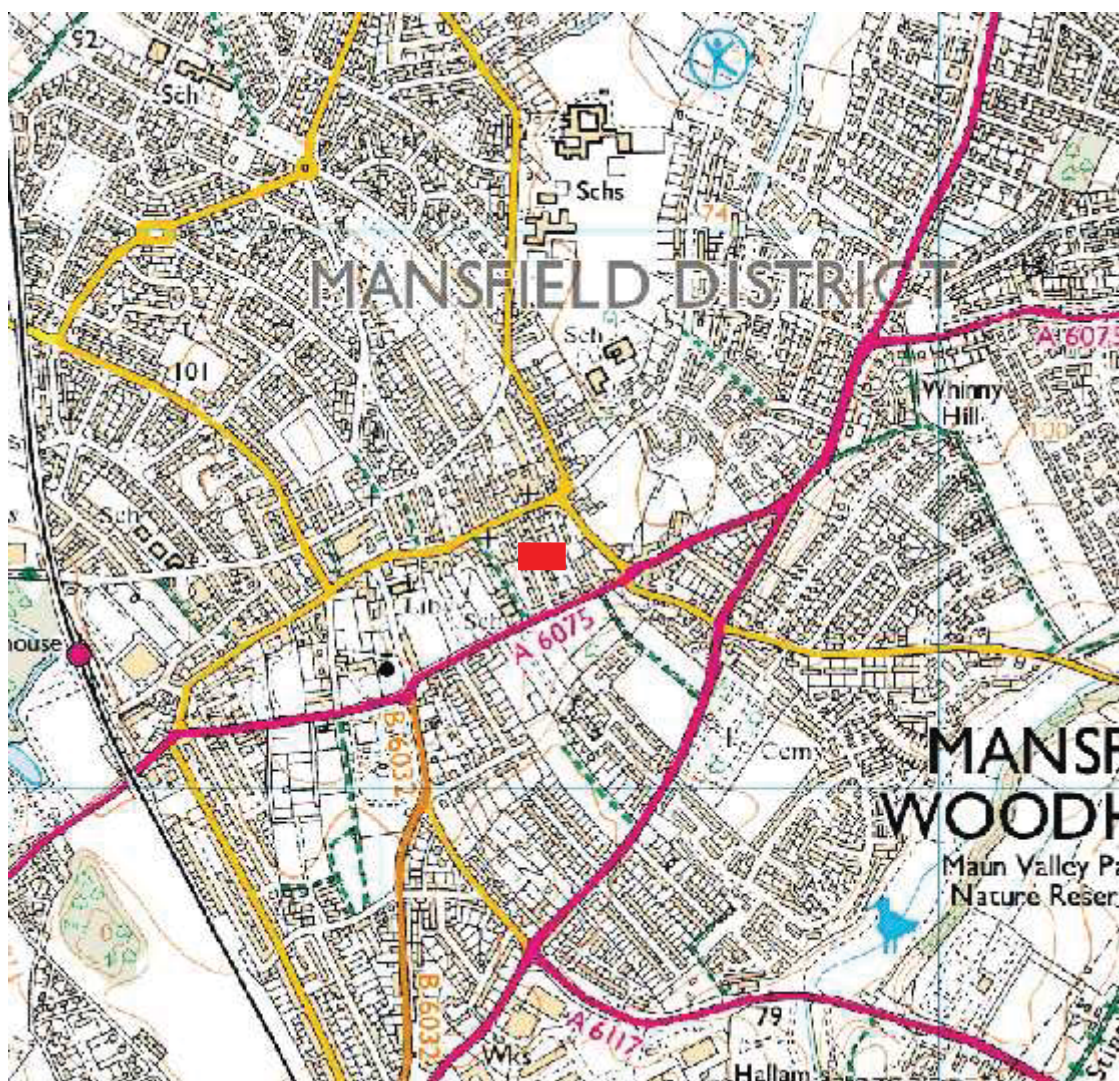
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## Summary

*A comprehensive programme of observation and recording was undertaken on land off Portland Street, Mansfield Woodhouse (centred on NGR; SK 5432 6341).*

*Informed by the results of a preceding evaluation (PCAS ref. 08/437), an area approximately 0.8ha in extent was monitored, focusing on a zone centred on the site of a single human grave.*

*Parts of the monitored zone had been disturbed by modern activities. Building remains of 19<sup>th</sup> century date were encountered, but no archaeologically significant features were identified during the programme of observation and recording.*



**Fig. 1:** Site Location Map. Scale 1:25 000. Site location indicated in red.

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## **1 Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Rippon Homes Ltd., to undertake a comprehensive programme of observation and recording on land off Portland Street, Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire. This took place intermittently between 10/09/12 and 21/01/14.

The archaeological programme was undertaken following consultation with the Historic Environment Officer for Nottinghamshire County Council and in accordance with an approved Specification for an Archaeological Scheme of Work (PCAS 2011), the recommendations of *Planning Policy Statement 5, Policy HE6; Code of Conduct* (Institute for Archaeologists, 1994 as revised), and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, as revised 2001).

## **2 Site Location and Description**

The village of Mansfield Woodhouse is in the Mansfield district of Nottinghamshire, less than 2km north-east of the town of Mansfield. Portland Street is situated close to the centre of the village, on the north side of the A6075, which links Mansfield with the A57 at Markham, midway between Worksop and Lincoln. It is centred on NGR SK 5432 6341.

The site comprises an irregular shaped unit of former waste land approximately 0.8ha in extent, bounded to the north-west, south-west and south-east by residential properties. A car park and Portland Street are situated to the north-east. Prior to development, the site was sparsely covered with trees and brambles, with some evidence of hard standing in the area. The only standing building was a semi-derelict outbuilding. The site lies at approximately 80m OD.

The underlying geology of the area is Lower Magnesian Limestone of the Permo-Triassic (BGS 1971).

## **3 Planning Background**

Planning permission for the redevelopment of the site was granted by Mansfield District Council (Ref. 2007/1125/NT) in March 2008, with the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief as one of the conditions. This document is the report of the watching brief.

## **4 Archaeological and Historical Background**

There is no reference to Mansfield Woodhouse in the Domesday Book, and the earliest reference to the settlement dates from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century; possibly the village was established shortly after the Norman Conquest. The place name has a topographical origin, relating to its position near Mansfield, deriving from the Old English *wudu* and *hūs* meaning 'Woodland hamlet near Mansfield' (Mills 1991). As early as 1230, it was known as *Wodehuse*, and by 1280 *Mamusfeud Wodehus*.

In 1304 Mansfield Woodhouse suffered a serious fire that destroyed much of the settlement and the church. Edward I gave permission for timber to be taken from the royal forest of Sherwood to rebuild the settlement, and by 1327 the village seems to have outgrown the surrounding villages.

Some recent history of the site, which is at the centre of the village, can be gleaned from Ordnance Survey map regression: in 1884, there were buildings along the

south-western edge of the site, accessed along a road following the route of one of the retaining walls still visible. Buildings were also situated along the north-western area of the site and where derelict outbuildings now stand. The remainder of the site was under gardens and an orchard, which had disappeared by 1957. Terraced housing facing Portland Street had been built by 1899, but these had been demolished by 1986. The 2000 Ordnance Survey map does not show any buildings, except the remaining outbuildings.

The present layout of Mansfield Woodhouse is typical of a medieval street plan, with long plots stretched between the main street and a back lane. These are the High Street and Park Road respectively.

In 2008, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) carried out an archaeological evaluation on this site (Rowe, 2008), consisting of five trenches. Three of these contained boundary walls from Victorian buildings surviving as earthworks, one contained two small pits, and another contained a linear feature and a single human grave. It was suggested by the Assistant Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire County Council, that this grave may have been part of a non-conformist burial ground, since the area has had a strong non-conformist history. Such burial grounds normally consisted of graves set in neat rows, with little inter-cutting, but in this instance, extending the evaluation trench revealed no further burials.

## **5 Aims and Objectives**

Focusing on the area of the single human grave, the purpose of the current project was to further explore the possibility that this seemingly isolated grave was part of a wider cemetery group; to gather information to further establish the extent, depth, condition, character, quality and date of archaeological deposits.

## **6 Methodology**

The adopted methodology followed the scheme set out within a Specification (PCAS 2008). The areas monitored were stripped of topsoil and overburden using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket; these areas included house and garage footings, drain runs, manhole sections and a larger open area to the west of the currently standing outbuildings. All machine stripping and foundation excavations were carried out under constant supervision.

All features and deposits were investigated and recorded. Context sheets were completed for each layer/deposit/structural element, and multi-context drawings were produced in both plan and section. Larger areas incorporating drain trenches were planned at 1:200; plans of plots and garage plots were recorded at 1:100 and sections at 1:20. Manhole sections were initially drawn at 1:10. A site diary was kept, and digital photographs were taken to complement these accounts.

## **7 Results**

Much of the area was characterised by distinct layers of topsoil and subsoil, while the underlying natural exhibited slight variations in different parts of the area under investigation. Characteristically, the topsoil (1000) was fine loamy silt, which was used as garden soil in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and was approximately 0.30m deep. Beneath this was an orange-brown sandy silt subsoil (1001) about 0.50m thick. The most prevalent natural substrate (1020) was a mid-brownish red sandstone. Although the geology was consistently sandstone based throughout,

variations in the colours and stone inclusions contained within the natural were different, warranting the treatment of different areas as having different contexts.

#### 7.1 Victorian Terraced Structure (Figs. 2-5, Plates 1-6)

A post-medieval structure was located to the south of manhole C1. This appears to have had three main rooms, of which only one was partially standing. The external wall [1002] was built from roughly squared limestone blocks up to 30cm across, bonded with off-white, hard lime mortar. An internal wall [1003] was built of slightly smaller limestone blocks measuring between 0.20 and 0.30m, with a pink sandy lime mortar. This ran parallel to [1002], 12.60m to the south west, and turned north-east, appearing to butt [1002]. A trial trench had been dug in the area (Rowe, 2008:5) which had located the internal wall [1003] and confirmed the structure to have been part of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century terraced housing.

A group of outbuildings was located to the east of the terraces, which contained three rooms with four external entrances, and was certainly a 19<sup>th</sup> century lace-maker's cottage - the long windows in the first floor were designed to allow light in, and were characteristic of a building which was part of the Nottinghamshire lace-making industry. A boundary wall [1004] was situated to the south of these outbuildings, but any relationship between the wall and buildings or the terraced housing structure had been obscured by rubble.

To the east of the outbuildings and boundary wall [1004], a shallow L-shaped foundation [1005] was noted (see Figure 5), 0.80m wide and 0.30m deep. This contained a small number of random, uncoursed sandstone blocks (1006), up to 0.55m x 0.25m x 0.10m, but heavily disturbed by modern activity. Beneath these blocks was a shallow (0.15m) layer of silty clay containing occasional stones and rubble, thought to be construction trample (1007). The natural in this area (1008) was a silty clay with mudstone inclusions; on top of which was a modern layer of general demolition material, approximately 0.20m thick (1009), incorporating a high density of brick fragments.

#### 7.2 Drain Run

Natural substrate and overburden layers were exposed, but no archaeological features or surface finds were identified in the area between drains S1 and S2.

#### 7.3 Trench C1 (Figs. 6-7)

Trench C1 (3m x 2.6m) was excavated prior to the insertion of manholes C1 and C2, to a depth of 1.40m. Several modern layers created an obstacle, but no archaeological features or finds were identified.

#### 7.4 Trench S2-S3 (6m x 6m wide easement)

Trench S2-S3 was situated to the south-west of manhole S2. The natural substrate and overburden layers were present, but no archaeological features or surface finds were identified in the monitored area between drains S2 and S3.

#### 7.5 Footings for Garage Plots 1-9 (Figs. 8-10, Plate 7)

No archaeological features or finds were identified in any of the above excavated garage plots. Section drawings of Plot 2 have been included as a representative example of the stratigraphy.

#### 7.6 Footings for Garage Plots 27-30 (Figs. 11-13, Plate 8)

The southern end of the area revealed a foundation trench (1029), which contained the remains of a wall (1028) made from sandstone blocks held together with lime mortar. After the building of the wall, there was backfilling of a slightly clayey sand material (1030) containing a high amount of stone and rubble. Also identified east of the sandstone wall was what appeared to be the rubble fill (1031) of a former cellar, which may have been used as a water storage tank in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. No access to the rubble was possible, therefore it was not excavated or recorded. No other archaeological features or finds were identified in Plots 27-30.

#### 7.7 Plots 25/26 and road strip West

In the north-east corner of the road strip area was a modern layer of sandy clay silt subsoil containing coke and rubble (1035). Nothing of archaeological interest was identified in this area.

#### 7.8 Road near Plot 9 (Figs. 14-15, Plate 9)

From the north-west side of the road, a wall foundation (1037) which followed the line of the foundation of the boundary wall at the rear of Plot 9 was believed to be part of the same wall. The foundation consisted of a number of small blocks and fragments of sandstone lying in a haphazard manner, in a poorly visible construction cut [1038]. No coursing or working on the stone was noted.

#### 7.9 Plot 11

The only thing noted in Plot 11 were the remains of a building which had been levelled and represented by a dark layer of silt and rubble (1040) 0.75m thick. No archaeological remains were present.

#### 7.10 Footings for Garage Plots 11 and 12 (Figs. 16-17, Plates 10-11)

In Garage Plot 12, what appeared to be a boundary wall (1048) nearly 2m high and constructed of sandstone blocks ran along a north-west to south-east alignment. There were small packing stones along with the occasional piece of modern brick contained within the wall, but no indication of a wall cut due to the disturbance of the ground. Apart from this, nothing of archaeological interest was exposed in this area.

#### 7.11 Plots 13-15

Plots 13-15 exposed a very dark brown rubble layer of topsoil or overburden (1049) containing a small amount of modern pottery, likely to have been from the demolition remains of previous buildings. No significant archaeological remains were present.

#### 7.12 Plots 20-22

Plots 20-22 exposed several layers of thin modern deposits, all heavily disturbed. Nothing of archaeological interest was located in this area.

#### 7.13 Plots 24 and Plots 31-32

The only feature from this area was a rubbish pit of 20<sup>th</sup> century date, exposed in the western corner of Plot 24. No earlier archaeological remains were present in either area.



## **8 Discussion and Conclusion**

The features exposed during the course of the watching brief were associated with partially demolished stone structures, which were recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (see Figure 4).

A standing building was situated to the north-east of the site, and clearly visible on the 1884 map; a lace maker's cottage dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The external walls of the building were fully standing, and the internal walls and concrete floor were generally structurally sound, although internal doors and the windows had been boarded up in modern times. Many of the beams in the roof were present, and the roof itself was also largely intact.

The location of the grave discovered during the preceding evaluation (Rowe, 2008) was within 1.0m of manhole C2, the grave was shallow with only a small amount of human bone remaining. Less than 5% of the complete skeleton survived, but even so, the burial was that of an adult male of at least 25 years of age (Hill, 2008), although dating the grave has not been possible due to a lack of artefactual evidence. No other burials were found anywhere within the excavated area, suggesting that this was a single discrete burial.

## **9 Effectiveness of Methodology**

The methodology employed was entirely appropriate to allow the investigation and recording of deposits exposed within the targeted monitoring of the development site.

## **10 Bibliography**

B.G.S., 1971, *British Geological Survey; England and Wales, Solid and Drift: Chesterfield*, Sheet 112. Scale 1: 63360

Hill, L.L., 2008, *Osteological Analysis of the Human Remains from Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire*, (Unpublished client report, PCAS Ref: 08/445)

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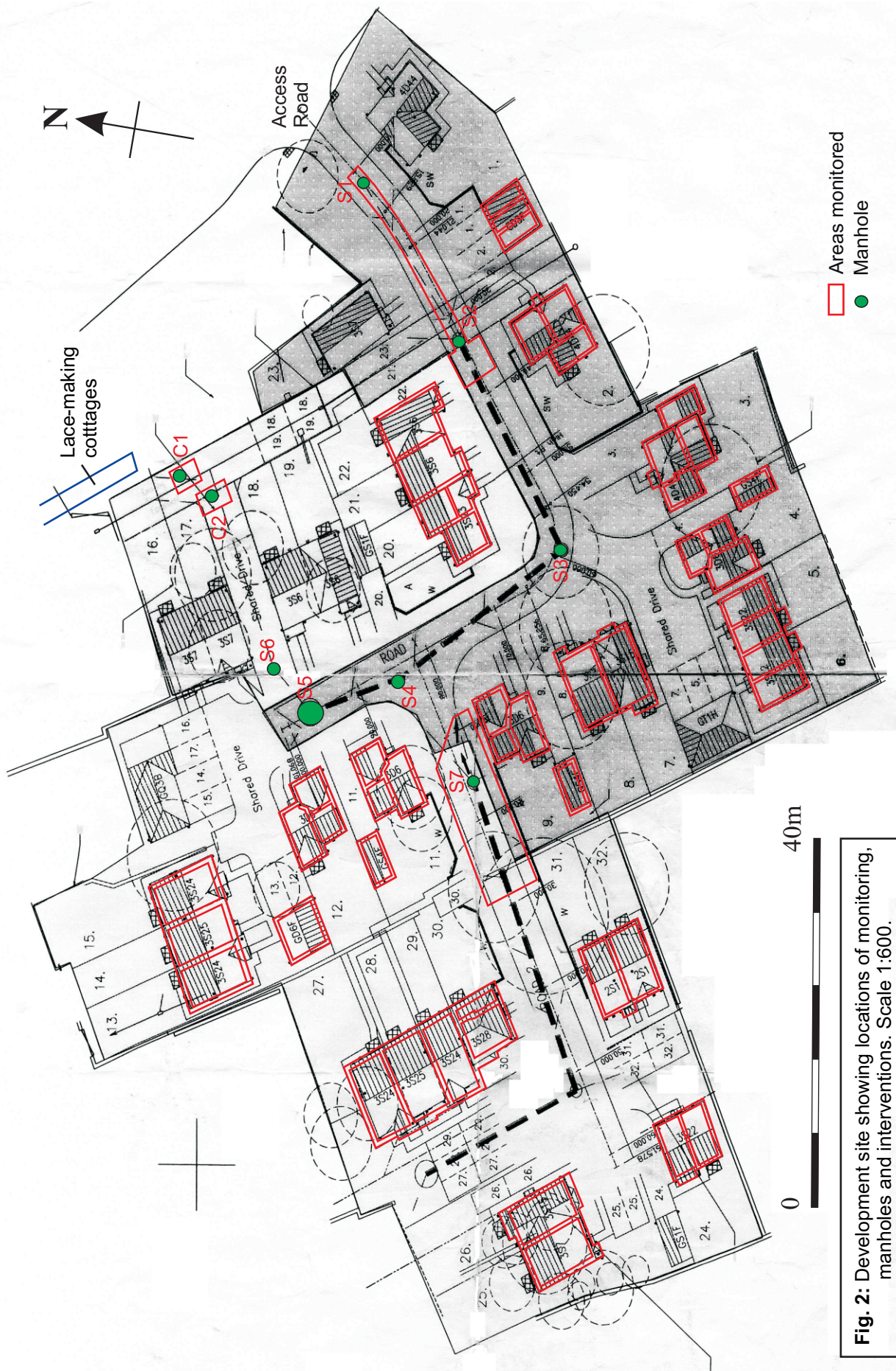
Ordnance Survey, *Nottinghamshire XXIII.SW* (1884). <http://maps.nls.uk>

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), 2008, *Portland Street, Mansfield Woodhouse; Watching Brief Archaeological Works Specification*

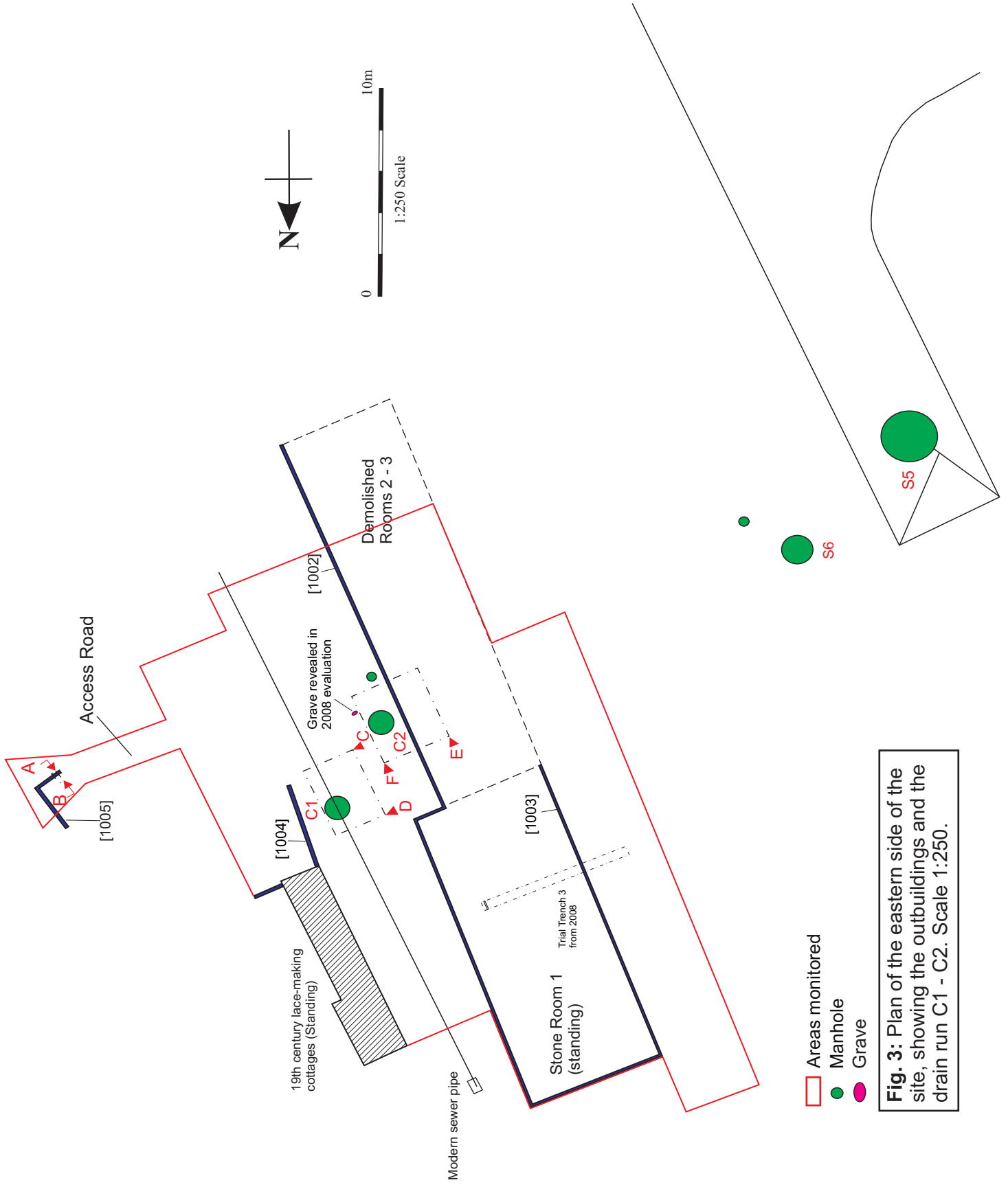
Rowe. E., 2008, *Land off Portland Street, Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report* (Unpublished client report, PCAS Ref: 08/437)

## **11 Site Archive**

The documentary and physical archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd, while being prepared for deposition. It will be deposited as soon as a suitable storage facility becomes available.



**Fig. 2:** Development site showing locations of monitoring, manholes and interventions. Scale 1:600.

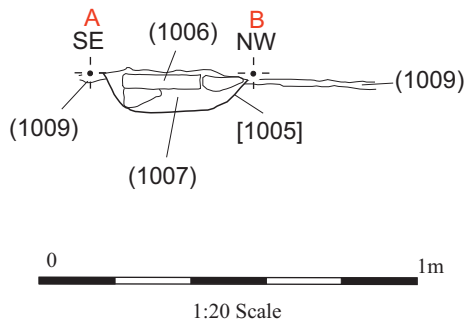


- Areas monitored
- Manhole
- Grave

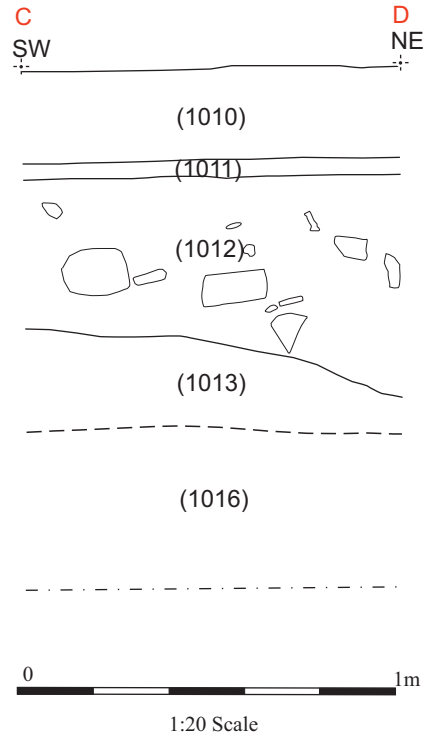
**Fig. 3:** Plan of the eastern side of the site, showing the outbuildings and the drain run C1 - C2. Scale 1:250.



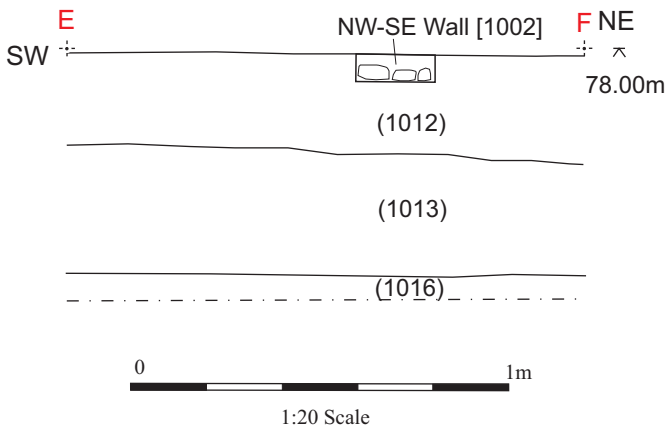
**Fig. 4:** Extract from the 1884 Ordnance Survey map of Nottinghamshire. Portland Street is bordering the north-east of the site, denoted by the red area



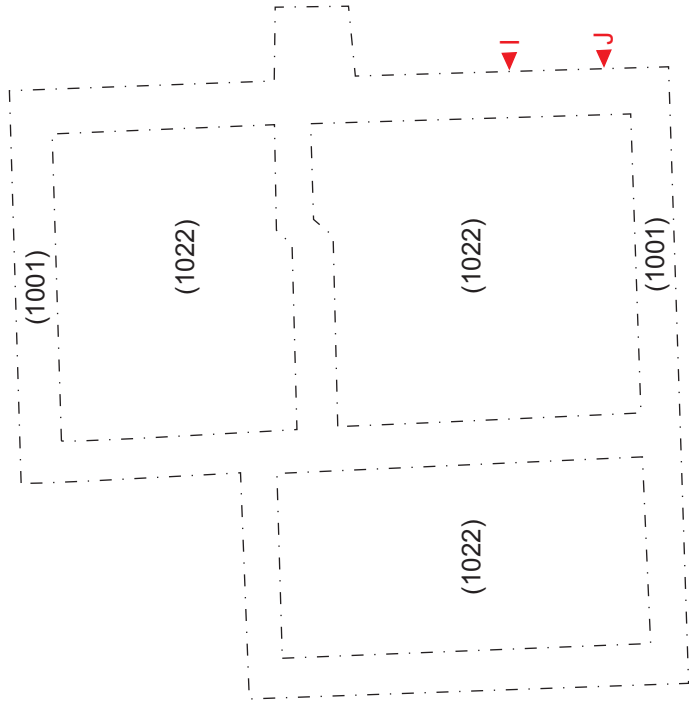
**Fig. 4:** North-east facing section through foundation ditch [1005]



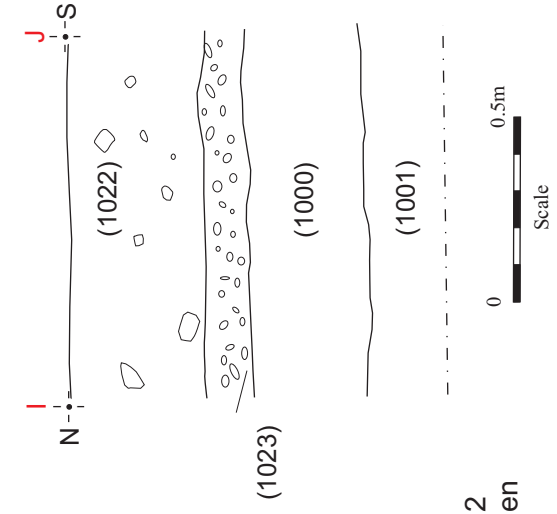
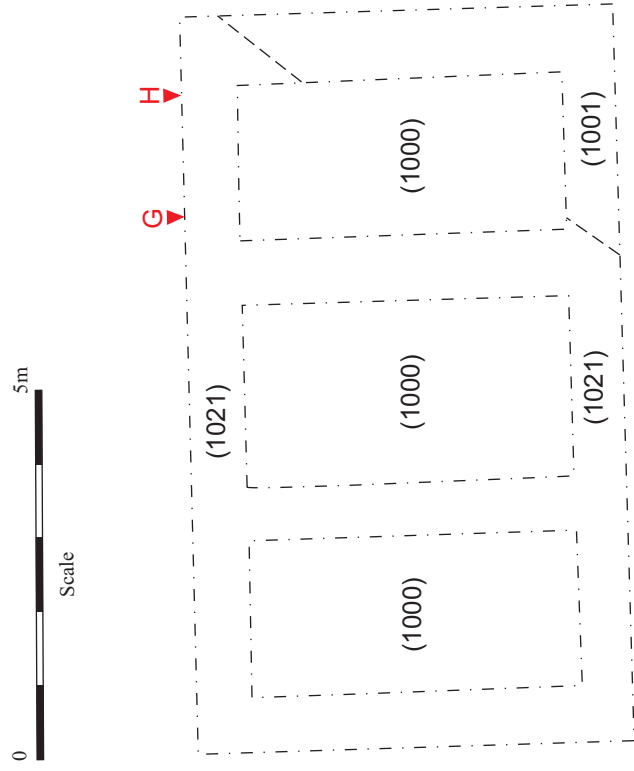
**Fig. 5:** North-east facing section of manhole C1



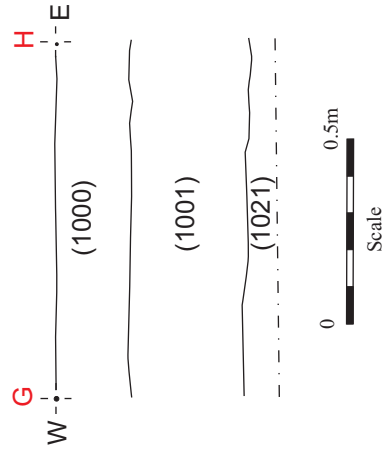
**Fig. 6:** South-east facing section of manhole C2



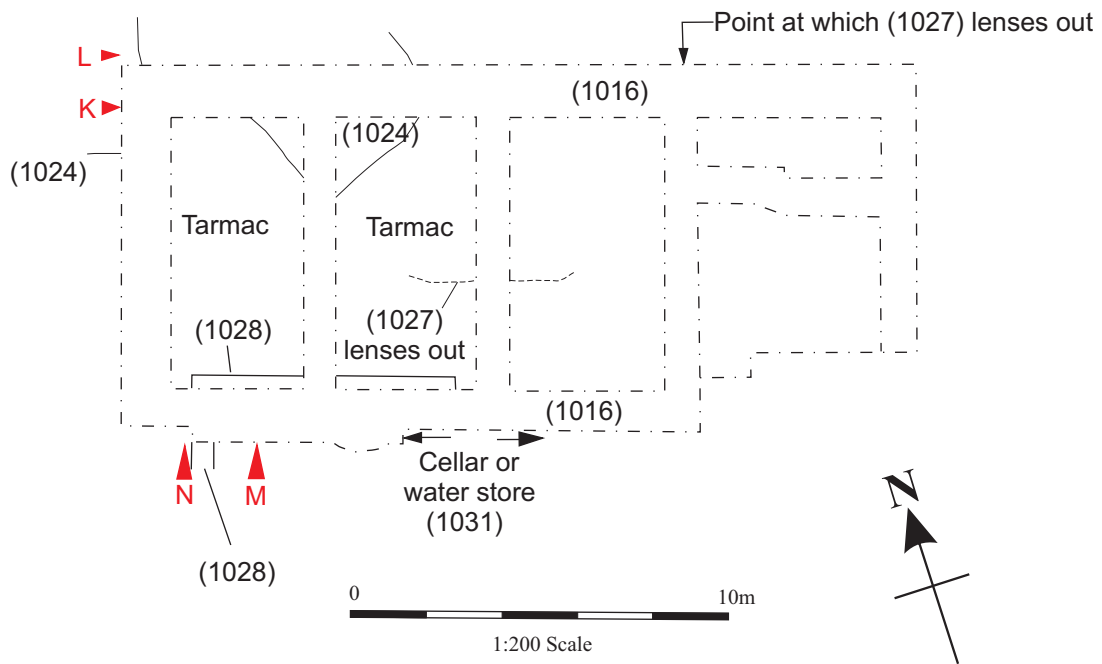
**Fig. 7 (above):** Plan of Plot 2 showing excavated garage footings



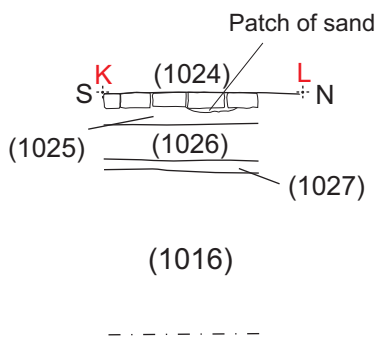
**Fig. 9: (right):** Representative section of Plot 2 showing hardcore layer underneath overburden



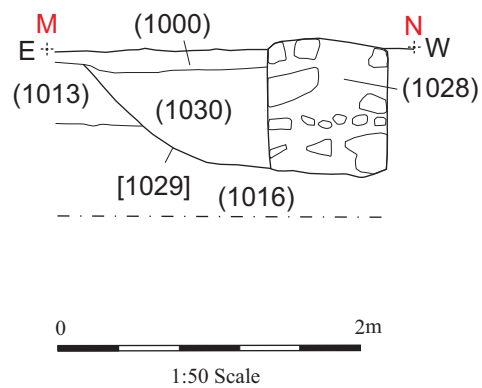
**Fig. 8:** Representative section of Plot 2. This is the standard form of the strata of the site



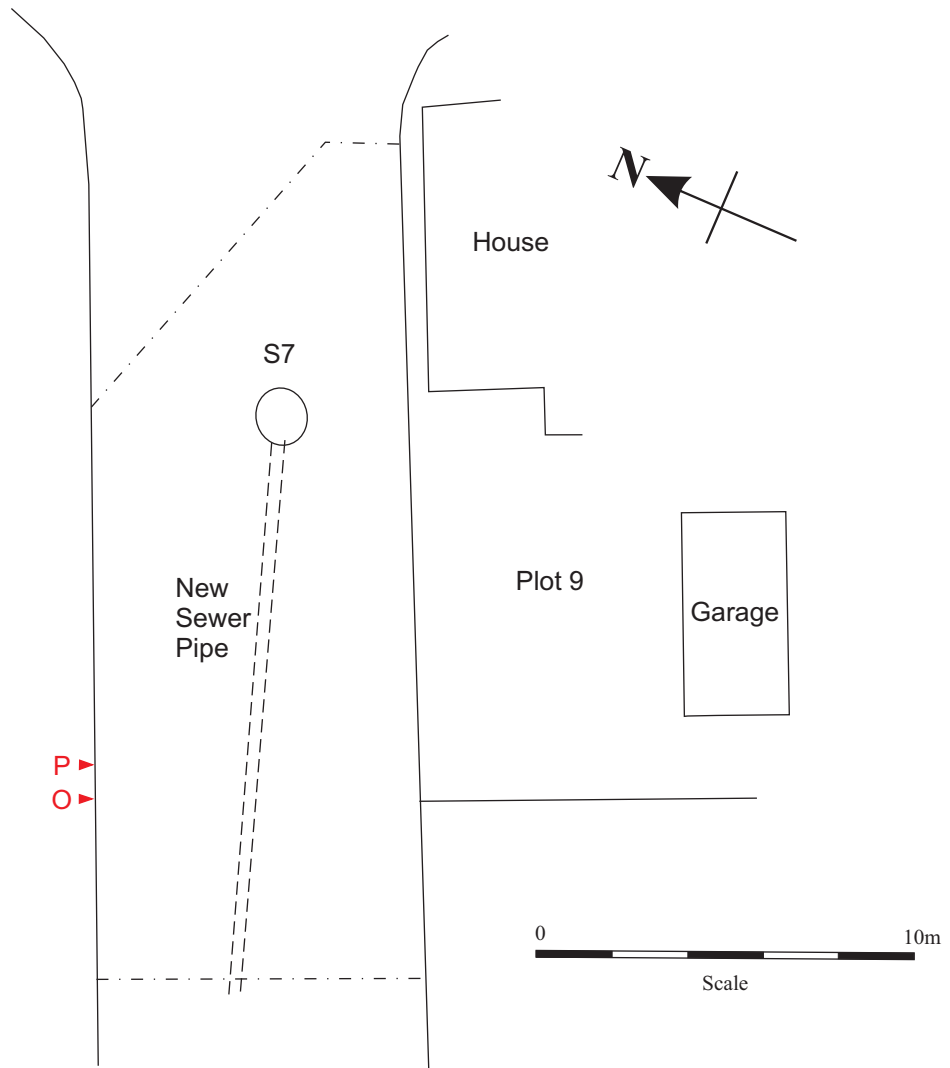
**Fig. 10:** Plan of Plots 27-30, showing the locations of the brick floor (1024), wall (1028), and the cellar/water store filled with rubble (1031)



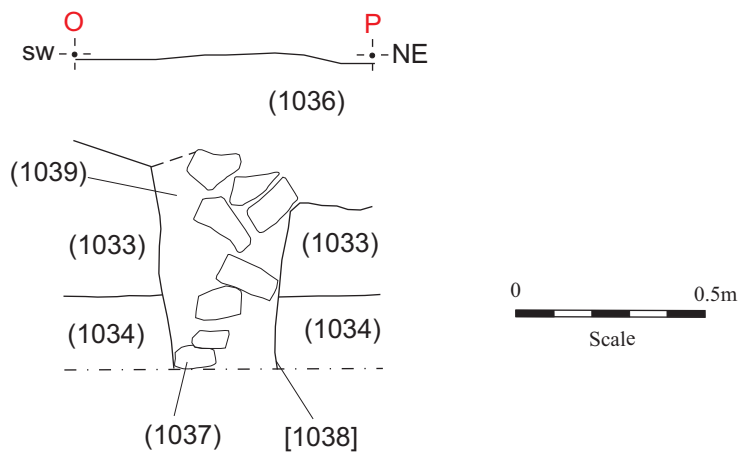
**Fig. 11:** East facing section through brick floor (1024) in Plot 27



**Fig. 12:** North facing section through wall (1028) in Plot 27



**Fig. 13:** Plan of road area near Plot 9



**Fig. 14:** South-east facing section through wall (1037), road near Plot 9



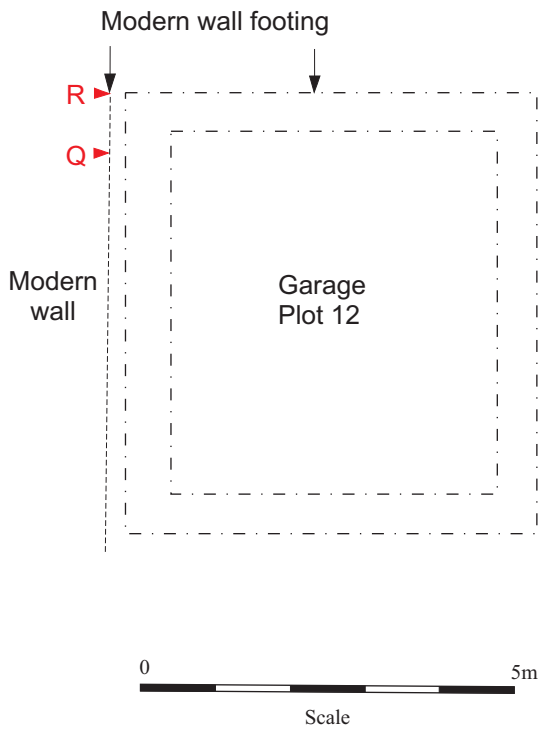
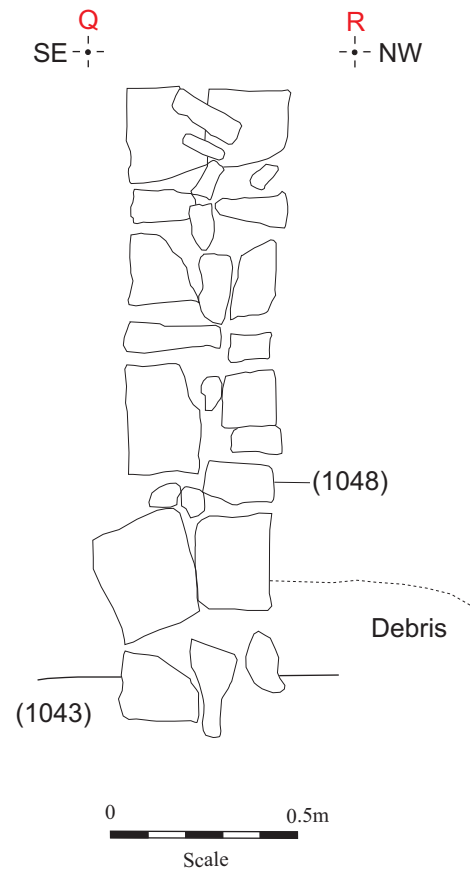


Fig. 15: Plan of Garage Plot 12



Fig. 16: North-east facing elevation of wall (1048)



## Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** Outbuildings as viewed from the south-west. These were lace-making cottages during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Boundary wall (1004) is on the far right of the photograph.

**Plate 2:** Windows of the outbuildings. Situated on the first floor, the long styled windows were characteristic of lace-making cottages in Nottinghamshire.



**Plate 3:** The central section of the 19<sup>th</sup> century lace-making cottages, as seen from the front.



**Plate 4:** The central section of the 19<sup>th</sup> century lace-making cottages, as seen from the inside. The windows have been boarded up by modern bricks, but their form is clearly defined.

**Plate 5:** The internal walls of the lace-making cottages remained standing, but the internal doorway has been boarded up.



**Plate 6:** The roof of the central section of the lace-making cottages. Most of the structure remained, understandably in a state of disrepair.



**Plate 7:** Representative section through Garage Plot 2. The sandstone natural substrate (1020) extends over most of the site, but the hardcore layer (1023) does not.

**Plate 8:** View looking south-east along the southern footing of Plots 27-30. The wall formed part of the cellar.



**Plate 9:** Plot 9 after excavation of the footings. The layer of demolition rubble (1022) was especially prevalent at this location.



**Plate 10:** Foundation of sandstone wall (1037) looking north. It is probably the Foundations of the current boundary wall to the rear of Plot 9.



**Plate 11:** Sandstone boundary wall (1048) looking west. The wall to the left is modern.

## Appendix 2: Context Summary

Levels are recorded as metres above Ordnance Datum (OD), calculated from spot heights recorded on a Topographical Survey produced by *shire surveys*.

### Generic:

Context No.	Type	Description
1000	Layer	Topsoil. Mid brownish grey sandy silt. Rare small and medium sized pebbles. 0.30m thick
1001	Layer	Subsoil. Mid orange-brown sandy silt. Loosely compacted, rare charcoal flecking, rare small pebbles, rare small weathered limestone fragments. 0.50m thick

### Structure near site entrance:

Context No.	Type	Description
1002	Structure	Approx. N – S oriented boundary wall which runs across the entire site. 2 - 3 courses of roughly squared blocks to 0.30m in size, rubble approx. 0.15m x 0.08m. Constructed in a trench into the subsoil. Off-white hard lime mortar
1003	Structure	Approx. N – S oriented L-shaped boundary wall. 2 courses of roughly squared blocks 0.20 - 0.30m in size revealed by topsoil, 2 courses in subsoil, rubble approx. 0.15m x 0.08m. Pink sandy lime mortar
1004	Structure	Approx. N – S oriented boundary wall. Brick lower portion, otherwise rubble approx. 0.15 x 0.08m.

### Drain Run:

Context No.	Type	Description
1005	Cut	Cut of wall running N-S located in drain run. 0.30m high, 0.80m wide
1006	Masonry	Random, uncovered sandstone blocks sized to 0.55 x 0.25 x 0.10m.
1007	Fill	Dark brown silty sand, moderately loosely compacted. Occasional stone and rubble in a construction trample deposit at the base of a wall cut. 0.15m high, 0.80m wide
1008	Layer	Natural. Mid reddish brown silty clay and sandstone with mudstone inclusions. At least 1.20m thick. = Limit of excavation
1009	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt clay, moderately loosely compacted with frequent brick fragments and charcoal flecks. General demolition layer, >0.20m thick. Same as (1017)

### Trench C1: Ground level 78.15m OD

Context No.	Type	Description
1010	Layer	Mixed layer of modern rubbish and overburden: brick, stone, plastic, gravel, roots and metal. <0.15m thick
1011	Layer	A former surface of thin tarmac. 0.05m thick
1012	Layer	Demolition layer of brick and limestone rubble in a grey silty matrix. <0.40m thick
1013	Layer	Subsoil. Bright orange silty sand, same as (1019)
1014	Cut	SE - NW aligned sewer trench
1015	Fill	Fill of [1014]. Dark orange-brown sandy loam with variable sized limestone fragments and much root material.
1016	Layer	Natural. Dark brownish red compacted sand visible at the base of C1. = Limit of excavation

**S Drain Run Trench S2-S3:**

Context No.	Type	Description
1017	Layer	Mixed orange-brown layer of sandy demolition rubble located within a 6 metre easement between S2 and S3. Uppermost deposit, <0.40m thick. Same as (1009)
1018	Layer	Very dark brown sandy loam, moderately compact with occasional modern brick, CBM and stones. Modern buried topsoil
1019	Layer	Subsoil. Mid orange-brown sand, moderately compacted with no visible inclusions. Same as (1013)
1020	Layer	Natural. Mid brownish red compacted sandstone/mudstone with no visible inclusions. = Limit of excavation

**Garage Plots:**

Context No.	Plot(s)	Type	Description
1021	2,3,4,7,8,9	Layer	Mid yellow-brown clay sand mudstone interface. Compacted, 0.20m – 0.40m thick
1022	2,4,9	Layer	Dark brownish grey clay silt layer of modern overburden. Loose, frequent brick, stone, crushed tarmac and plastic. 0.40m thick
1023	2	Layer	Mid yellow-brown modern stony hardcore below (1022). 0.12m thick
1024	27	Masonry	Modern brick floor, bricks 21 x 10 x 8cm
1025	27-30	Layer	Subsoil. Black loamy sand buried beneath floor. 0.10m thick
1026	27-30	Layer	Subsoil. Orange-brown sandy loam with occasional charcoal flecking and occasional small pebbles. 0.20m thick
1027	27	Layer	Yellow-brown sand with occasional brick inclusions. May be mortar. 0.08m thick
1028	27-30	Masonry	Sandstone blocks with lime mortar
1029	27-30	Cut	Foundation cut, 2.05m wide, 0.70m deep
1030	27-30	Fill	Fill of [1029]. Light greyish brown slightly clayey sand with frequent limestone rubble.
1031	27-30	Fill	Possibly demolition rubble from a cellar, perhaps reused as a Victorian storage tank
1032	25/26	Layer	Topsoil. Reddish brown clay silt with roots, occasional modern CBM, occasional small stones. Same as (1000)
1033	25/26	Layer	Subsoil. Mid reddish brown sandy clay silt, infrequent roots and small stones. Same as (1001)
1034	25/26	Layer	Natural. Mid brownish red sandy mudstone with no inclusions. Same as (1020)
1035	25/26	Layer	Dark brown clayey sandy silt containing modern contamination of coke and rubble. Only in NE corner of plot

**Road near Plot 9:**

Context No.	Type	Description
1036	Layer	Modern mid greyish brown silty sand redeposited natural with lenses of crushed stone or small pebbles. Overlies subsoil. 0.80m thick
1037	Structure	Random, small blocks and fragments of sandstone, no working or coursing visible. 0.36m wide, approx. 0.65m deep
1038	Cut	Foundation cut for stone wall (1036). 0.36m wide, approx. 0.65m deep, although base not visible
1039	Fill	Fill of [1038]. Mid greyish brown silty sand, probably redeposited subsoil. Becomes darker nearer the cut.

**Plot 11:**

Context No.	Type	Description
1040	Fill	A dark brown layer of silt and rubble. Remains of a levelled building. 0.75m thick
1041	Layer	Subsoil. Mid reddish/pinkish brown sandy silt. 0.25m thick
1042	Layer	Natural. Light reddish/pinkish brown sandy stone layer with some silt deposits. = limit of excavation

**Garage Plot 12:**

Context No.	Type	Description
1043	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey sandy silt with rare small stones. 0.35m thick
1044	Layer	Natural. Mid reddish brown clay with rare small stones. = limit of excavation

**Garage Plot 11:**

Context No.	Type	Description
1045	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey sandy silt with rare small stones. 0.13m thick
1046	Layer	Dark greyish brown silty clay with small stones, modern tile and CBM. 0.50m thick
1047	Layer	Natural. Mid reddish brown clay with rare small stones over loose compacted sand (1016). 0.42m thick
1048	Structure	Dressed, square, sandstone blocks 3-4cm x 2-3cm. Packing stones 1cm x 2 cm. Random coursing.

**Plots 13-15:**

Context No.	Type	Description
1049	Layer	Very dark brown rubble topsoil/overburden. Probably demolition from previous buildings. Contains tarmac, tile, brick and stones. Maximum 0.30m thick; deepest on the eastern area of the site (Plot 15).
1050	Layer	Natural sandstone in a light pinkish brown sand. >0.25m to limit of excavation
1051	Layer	Mid grey ashy loam with charcoal, ash, coal. Possibly a modern occupation layer, site of a previous building. Deepest in the eastern corner of the site,

**Plots 20-22:**

Context No.	Type	Description
1052	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. 0.12m thick
1053	Layer	Mid pinkish brown sand with small stones and hardcore. 0.08m thick.
1054	Layer	Mixed buried soil and hardcore with some small sandstone fragments and small rounded pebbles. 0.35m thick
1055	Layer	Pinkish hardcore, 0.12m thick
1056	Layer	Dark grey sandy silt. 0.05m thick
1057	Layer	Mid pinkish brown sand, some disturbance. 0.20m thick
1058	Layer	Mixed black and brown sandy silt with patches of pinkish sand. 0.25m thick
1059	Layer	Natural. Firm dark pink sandy clay with seams of natural stone. = limit of excavation
1060	Layer	Black sandy silt with a lighter brown lens and containing some mortar flecks. Modern deposit. Only present on the eastern side. 0.44m thick