

LAND AT RUDDINGTON LANE, WILFORD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR: SK 56625 36102
Planning Application: 17/01760/PFUL3
PCAS Job No.: 2010
Site code: RLWE 17

Prepared for

Oxalis Planning Ltd

by

Phil Evans BA (Hons) MCIfA

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PCAS Archaeology Ltd
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX

Tel. 01522 703800
www.pcas-archaeology.co.uk

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Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Geology and topography	1
3.0	Planning background	2
4.0	Archaeological and historical background	2
5.0	Methodology	3
6.0	Results	3
7.0	Discussion	4
8.0	Effectiveness of methodology	4
9.0	Project archive	4
10.0	Acknowledgements	4
11.0	References	4

Illustrations

Fig. 1: Site location plan

Fig. 2: Trench location plan

Fig. 3: Plan, Sections and Plates of Evaluation Trench 1

Appendices

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Non-Technical Summary

PCAS Archaeology Ltd (PCAS) was requested by Oxalis Planning Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation land at Ruddington Lane, Wilford, Nottinghamshire.

A single NNE – SSW aligned undated plough furrow, indicating previous agricultural activity within the site, was recorded cut into the natural clay towards the northern end of Trench 1.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered in Trenches 2, 3 and 4.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd (PCAS) was requested by Oxalis Planning Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation land at Ruddington Lane, Wilford, Nottinghamshire (NGR: SK 56625 36102, Fig. 1).

The site includes 111 Ruddington Lane (semi-detached house and garden) and a series of abandoned gardens and allotments to the rear of properties 107 – 119 Ruddington Lane. It covers an area of approximately 0.38ha which is currently comprised of dense bramble with scattered scrub and trees. Patches of tall herb and ruderal vegetation as well as garden waste, garages and sheds were also present. The site was bordered by a large playing field to the north, the Clifton to Nottingham tram line to the east with residential land use extending to the west and south.

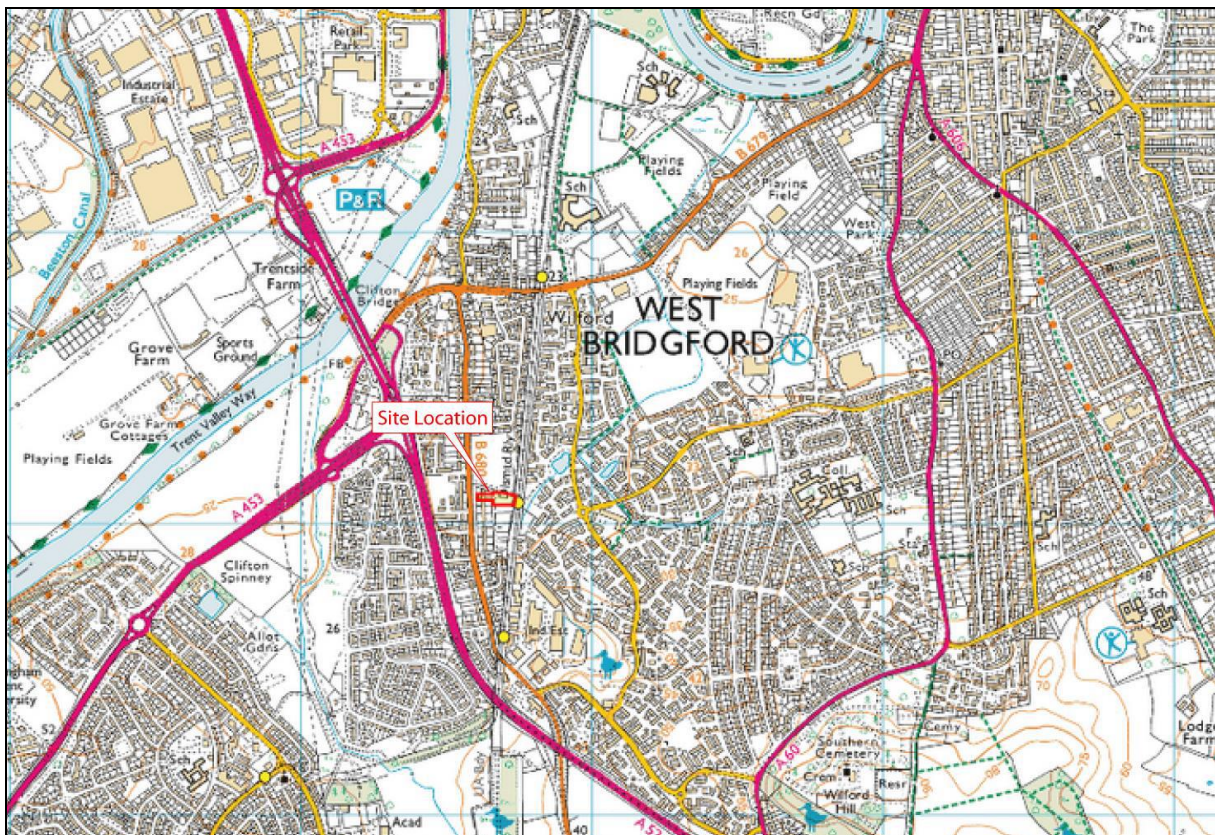


Figure 1: Site location plan with proposed development area shown in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

2.0 Geology and soils

The bedrock geology within the proposed development site consists of Triassic Rocks (undifferentiated) – Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone with superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) sand and gravel (BGS 2017). The overlying soil comprises slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (magic.defra.gov.uk).

3.0 Planning background

A planning application (17/1760/PFUL3) for the demolition of number 111 Ruddington Lane; the creation of an access from Ruddington Lane and the development of 21 dwellings, comprising apartments, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bed houses together with groundworks, landscaping and other associated works was submitted to, and approved by, Nottingham City Council.

One of the conditions of planning (Condition 11) required archaeological field evaluation to be undertaken to provide information regarding the character, extent and condition of any remains and to provide an evidence base for establishing what, if any, further archaeological work is required in advance of, or during development.

A methodology for archaeological evaluation (Evans 2017) was written and approved by the City Archaeologist. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by PCAS in January 2018. This document presents the results of the evaluation to inform and advise the planning process and any further investigative work or archaeological mitigation strategy that may be required in association with the proposals.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Iron Age/Romano-British features consisting of enclosure ditches were found during excavation at the site of the former Beckett School, on the opposite side of Ruddington Lane to the proposed development, in 2011. A site located approximately 400m northwest of the proposed development area was archaeologically excavated in 2002 and revealed evidence of Iron Age and Roman enclosures. The evidence indicates that Iron Age/Roman agricultural activity took place within close proximity to the proposed development area and it is possible that such activity and occupation may have extended within the proposed development area. Evidence for Iron Age and Roman occupation is considered to be of local and regional importance.

5.0 Methodology

The evaluation consisted of four trenches measuring 10m x 2m (Fig. 2); positions amended from those detailed in the WSI due to on-site obstructions. The trenches were initially machine excavated using a tracked excavator fitted with a smooth 1.6m wide ditching bucket; where necessary it was then manually cleaned. Sections (including representative sections) were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and features plotted on trench plans drawn at a scale of 1:100. The documentary record was supplemented by a digital photographic record, a selection of which is reproduced within this report. Horizons were recorded on standard PCAS record sheets, and an excavation site diary was also kept.

The fieldwork was undertaken on the 24th and 25th January 2018 by Leigh Brocklehurst and Andy Pascoe.

6.0 Results (Fig. 3, Plates. 1 – 2)

Positive Trenches

Trench 1 was orientated N – S and was located at the northern end of the development area. A single plough furrow [103] was revealed cut into the natural clay (102). The furrow was 1.6m wide, 0.2m deep, and lay on a NNE – SSW alignment towards the northern end of the trench. It contained a single fill of firm grey brown silt (104) from which no datable material was retrieved.

Negative Trenches

Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were found to be archaeologically sterile.

7.0 Discussion & Conclusions

A single NNE – SSW aligned undated plough furrow, indicating previous agricultural activity within the site, was recorded cut into the natural clay towards the northern end of Trench 1.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered in Trenches 2, 3 and 4.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

Intrusive evaluation was an appropriate method for gathering further information about the sites archaeological potential. The evidence gathered during this scheme of works indicates limited archaeological activity within the area of the proposed development.

9.0 Project archive

The site records, currently in the custody of PCAS, will be prepared according to published guidelines and deposited with a printed copy of this report.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank Oxalis Planning Ltd for this commission.

11.0 References

Evans, P. 2017. *Land at Ruddington Lane, Wilford, Nottinghamshire: Specification for archaeological trench evaluation.*

Websites:

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<http://list.historicengland.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx>

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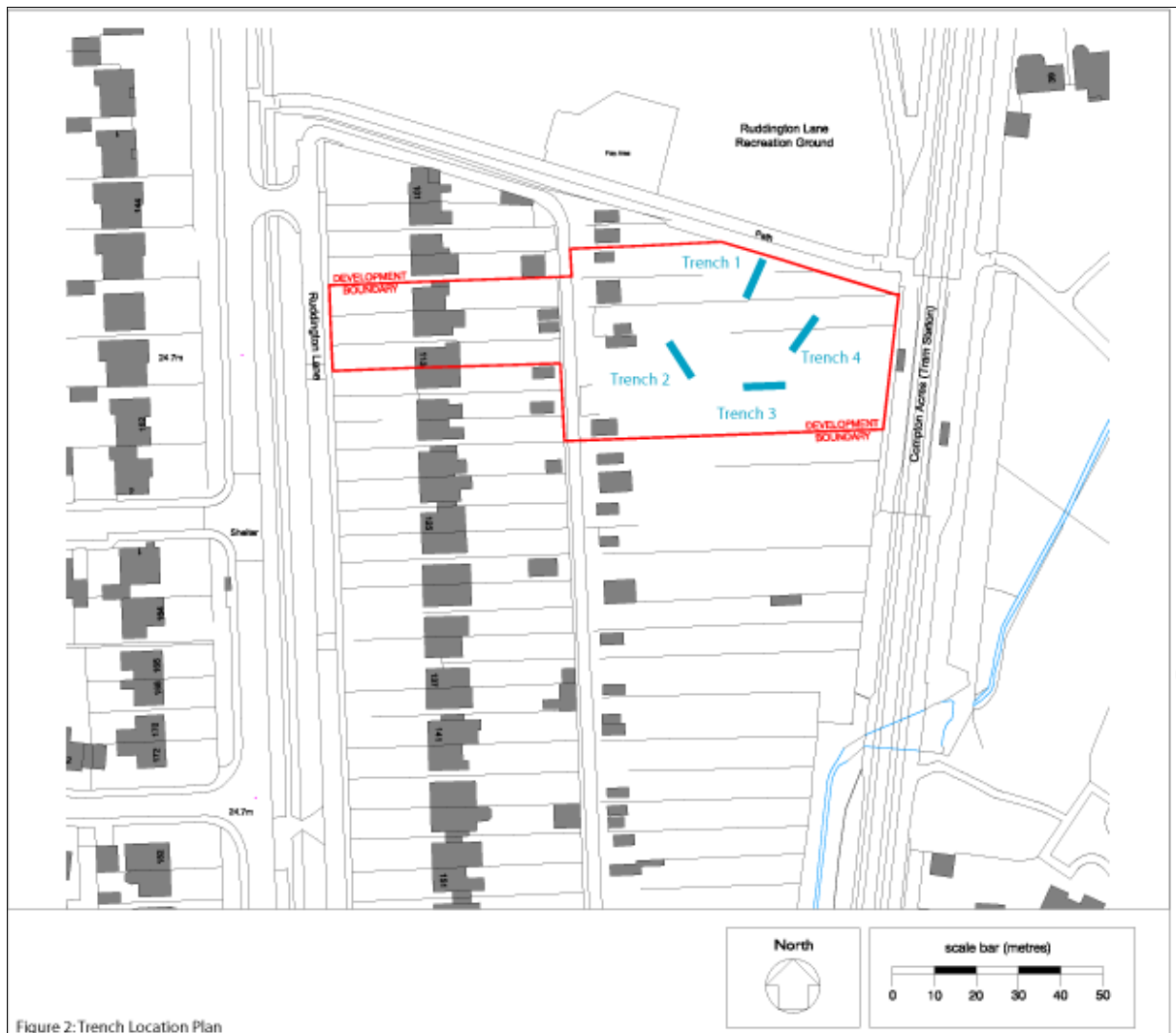


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

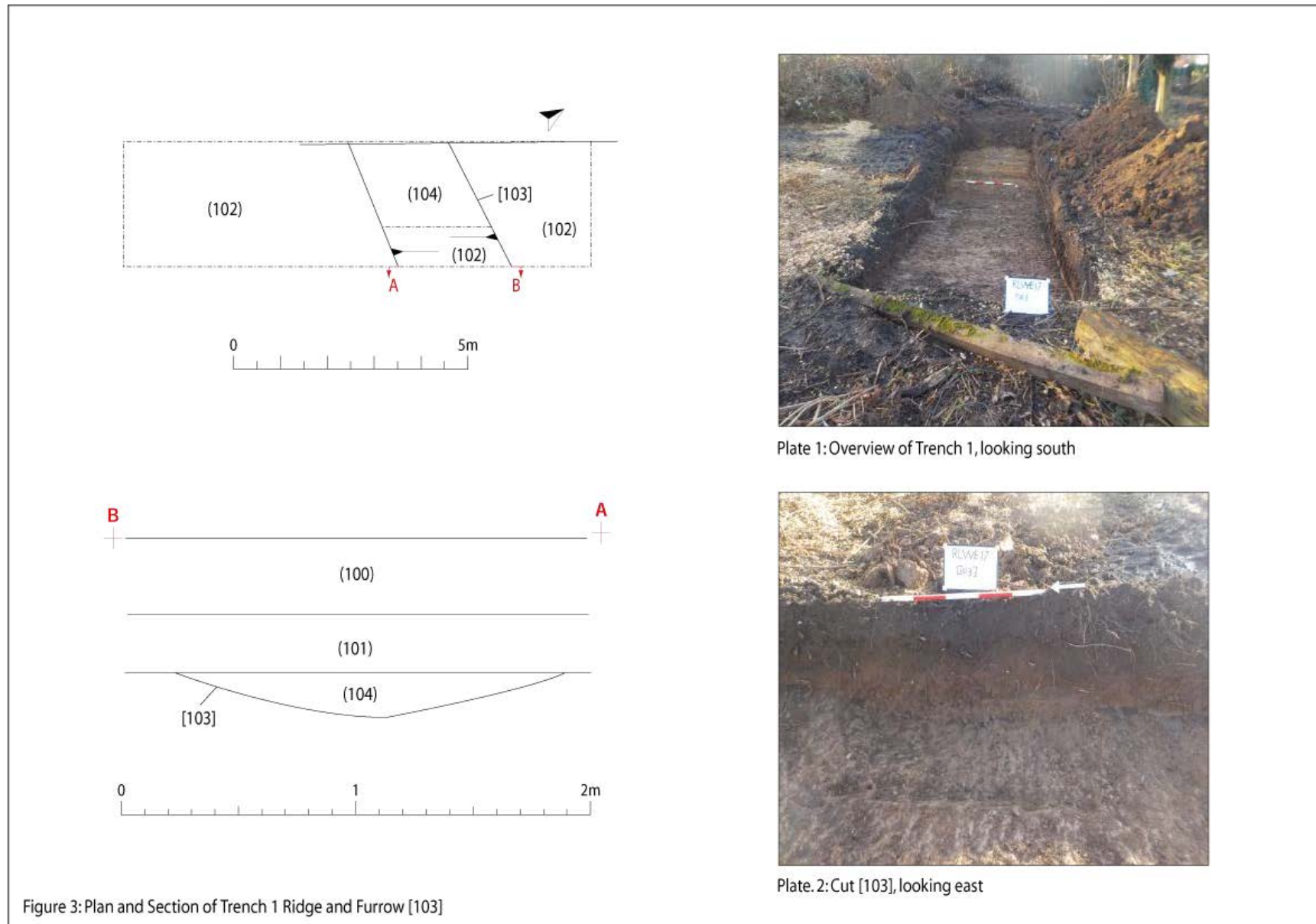


Figure 3: Plan and Section of Trench 1 Ridge and Furrow [103]

Plate 1: Overview of Trench 1, looking south

Plate 2: Cut [103], looking east

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context No	Type	Description
100	Layer	Dark grey friable topsoil 0.3m thick
101	Layer	Dark red grey friable silt with occasional rounded pebbles, 0.25m thick
102	Layer	Natural yellow brown compacted silty clay with frequent round pebbles
103	Cut	NNE – SSW Ridge and Furrow with gradual edges and concave base 1.6m Wide and 0.2m deep
104	Fill	Grey brown firm silt with occasional round pebbles, 0.2m thick
200	Layer	Topsoil as 100
201	Layer	Subsoil as 101
202	Layer	Natural as 102
300	Layer	Topsoil as 100
301	Layer	Subsoil as 101
302	Layer	Natural as 102
400	Layer	Topsoil as 100
401	Layer	Subsoil as 101
402	Layer	Natural as 102