



Land at Nottingham Road Southwell Nottinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief



for: Henry Riley LLP

CA Project: MK0555 CA Report: MK0555_1 Site Code: NORD21

May 2022

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land at Nottingham Road
Location:	Southwell, Nottinghamshire
NGR:	469716 353108
Туре:	Evaluation and watching brief
Date:	8-12 November 2021 and 6-7 January 2022
Planning reference:	21/SCR/00006
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Newark and Sherwood Museum Service and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)

Site Code: NORD 21

Between November 2021 and January 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on land at Nottingham Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire. A total of seven trenches were excavated during the evaluation, followed by a watching brief during which nine geotechnical test pits were monitored.

Archaeological features were identified during the evaluation in trenches 2, 5, and 7, including ditches and pits of varying sizes. Evidence of a north-east/south-west aligned system of possible medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow was identified in trenches 5 and 7. None of the features encountered could be securely dated to any period due to the absence of finds.

A buried soil horizon covered by a made ground deposit was identified in the northern portion of the Site and was also observed in most of the geotechnical test pits. However, no archaeological features were observed during the watching brief phase of the fieldwork.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Between November 2021 and January 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological fieldwork of Land at Nottingham Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire (hereafter 'the Site'; centred at NGR: 469716 353108 (Fig. 1). This initially comprised an archaeological evaluation undertaken in November 2021, followed by a watching brief on geological test pits excavated in January 2022. The works were undertaken for Henry Riley LLP, acting on behalf of Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd (the Client).
- 1.2. The evaluation and watching brief results will inform a planning application for a proposed new foodstore (1685sqm) and associated new access, highway works, car parking and landscaping, which has been made to Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC; planning ref: 21/SCR/00006).
- 1.3. The scope of the works required to support the planning application was defined by Mathew Adams, Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council (HEOLCC), the archaeological advisor to NSDC. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2021a) and approved by the HEOLCC. The watching brief was carried out according to an addendum to the original WSI, which was also prepared by CA (2021b) and approved by the HEOLCC.
- 1.4. The archaeological works were also undertaken in line with the Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014a; updated October 2020), Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014b; updated October 2020), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation (HE 2015a) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (HE 2015b).

The site

1.5. The Site is approximately 0.7ha in extent and is situated at the southern edge of the town of Southwell, approximately 16km to the north-east of Nottingham (Fig. 1). The Site comprises half of an extant field, presently a meadow. It is bounded to the west by Nottingham Road, to the east by a dirt track, and to the north by Park Lane. The remainder of the agricultural field extends towards the south from the proposed

development area. The proposed development area is situated on a slope, with the northern edge of the Site situated at approximately 38m above Ordinance Datum (aOD) and rising to approximately 43m aOD towards the south.

1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the Site is mapped as Radcliffe Member – Mudstone and Siltstone, which formed approximately 242 to 247 million years ago in the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded within the Site (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The archaeological background of the Site has been previously presented in detail as part of an archaeological desk-based assessment (ADBA) produced by Cotswold Archaeology Ltd in July 2021 (CA 2021c); this section is drawn from the ADBA.
- 2.2. A walkover survey within the Site was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology in 2021 for the production of the ADBA (CA 2021c). Subsequently, a geophysical survey of the Site was undertaken by West Yorkshire Archaeological Services (WYAS 2021). The geophysical survey detected anomalies of probable agricultural nature along with a former field boundary. A faint U-shaped anomaly that might have been archaeological in nature was also detected. Geological responses were picked up throughout the Site. A magnetic disturbance within a section of the Site was assigned to a former modern enclosure, a modern driveway and boundary fencing. No additional archaeological fieldwork is recorded to have taken place within the Site.
- 2.3. There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. The Site is located 100m south of the Southwell Conservation Area. The Grade I Listed Bishop's Manor and remains of Bishop's Palace (List UID: 1211315), the Grade I Listed Minster Church of St. Mary the Virgin and chapter house (List UID:1374853), and four Grade II* Buildings are located 800m north-east of the Site.
- 2.4. Approximately 720m to the north-east of the Site is the Scheduled Monument of a Roman villa complex and Anglo-Saxon cemetery (List UID: 1003528), and the Scheduled Monument of the Bishop's Palace lies c. 680m to the north-east (NHLE Ref: 1003489).
- 2.5. Numerous excavations have been undertaken on the Site of the abovementioned Roman villa in the centre of Southwell, c. 720m north-east of the Site. Investigative works were carried out in 1959, 1971, 2004, 2008–2009 and 2011-12. Evidence of

early-medieval and medieval activity was also recorded (Elliot 2004, Baylay 1901, Daniels 1966, Alvey 1975).

- 2.6. An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Platt's Orchard, Church Street c. 880m north-east of the Site. Within the five trenches, Romano-British ditches, an early medieval cemetery, and post-medieval features were recorded. A subsequent excavation was undertaken, which revealed Romano-British inhumations, a network of drainage ditches and a stone-built lime kiln. Evidence of additional medieval and post-medieval activity was also recorded (Lane, Rowe & Savage 2016).
- 2.7. An excavation and watching brief were undertaken at the site of the Minster Chambers ahead of the construction of a new visitors' centre, c. 780m north of the Site. Evidence of early medieval, medieval and post-medieval activity was recorded.
- 2.8. A watching brief and excavation were undertaken at Farthingate, c. 760m north-east of the Site. Abundant Romano-British domestic debris was recovered. Post-medieval pottery and undated features were also recorded (CA 2021c).

Prehistoric

2.9. Evidence of prehistoric activity from the surroundings of the Site is very limited and comprises a single findspot of a Neolithic axe within Southwell town centre. This suggests some human presence in the locality during the prehistoric period, but no evidence of prehistoric occupation and activity have been recorded from the surroundings of the Site, and no Scheduled Monuments of later prehistoric fortifications or field systems are present in the wider landscape.

Romano-British

2.10. There is greater evidence for activity in and around Southwell during the Romano-British period. Finds had been recovered since at least the 18th century from the vicinity of Southwell Minster, c. 720m to the north-east of the Site. In 1959, amateur excavations in the Vicars' Court gardens unearthed substantial structural remains of a Roman villa, which was occupied between the 2nd and the 4th century AD. Excavations targeting the villa and its surroundings were also conducted in 1971, 2004, 2008–2009 and 2011-12, and identified various features and elements associated with the villa complex.

- 2.11. In the wider landscape, a vexillation fortress (a temporary camp) was identified c. 3.4km to the north-west of the Site, and an additional possible villa site near Thurgarton lies c. 4km to the south. Along with further evidence of Romano-British agricultural and settlement activity identified at Averham c. 6.3km to the east of the Site and at Gonalston c. 6 km to the south, these sites indicate the level of activity in the area during this period.
- 2.12. Whilst previous archaeological investigations have largely focused on the land within Southwell town, there is potential for associated features to survive in the wider vicinity. The villa would have been complemented by ancillary buildings and would have been surrounded and supported by its agricultural estate. It is possible that remains of other structures, such as stables or pottery kilns, are buried in areas that have not yet been subject to archaeological investigation to the south and east of the Scheduled Monument. The land stretching south from the villa, including the Site, may have been favourable for pasture and/or cultivation.

Early medieval

2.13. The archaeological investigations of the Roman villa identified a substantial aisled building, ditches and human burials across and within the floors of the eastern range of the villa, believed to be of early medieval date. The aisled building, detected through post-holes only, could be associated with the recorded inhumations and may represent an early church or a domestic residence in the vicinity of a church (Savage & Sleap 2012). It has generally been considered that a church was re-established by Osketyl, Archbishop of York, to whom the Manor of Southwell (or Sudwelle, meaning 'south spring') was granted by King Eadwig in AD 956 (NSDC 2005). This development of a collegiate church took place over the next century by a chapter of canons, resulting in a more formal ecclesiastical complex. Evidence suggests that the stone walls of the Roman villa were robbed in the later 1st millennium AD, perhaps to build a church with which the inhumation cemetery was associated (Savage & Sleap 2012).

Medieval

2.14. The Domesday Survey of 1086 described Southwell as a very large settlement of 212 households, with land for 24 ploughlands and extensive meadows, woodland, three mills and a fishery (Powell-Smith 2021). The medieval town was focussed on, and developed around, the church. Many of the existing ecclesiastical buildings in

Southwell were established at this time, and excavation at the Minster Chambers, c. 780m north of the Site indicates that these were likely built on top of early medieval activity (NCC 2001).

- 2.15. Between 1109 and 1114, work began on building Southwell Minster, which became the Mother Church of Nottinghamshire within the Diocese of York (NSDC 2005). Located c. 750m to the north of the Site, it was likely built on the footprint of the early medieval church and may have re-used some of its stone. In AD 1360, a Bishop's Palace was constructed adjacent to Southwell Minster. Substantial ruins of the walls that once enclosed an inner court survive within the Minster churchyard, as well as in the fabric of the post-medieval Bishop's Manor.
- 2.16. At the time of the construction of the Palace, there were four parks associated with Southwell Minster. Patent Rolls from 1330 refer to 'the park of the Archbishop of York at Southwell', comprising approximately 126 acres; it was variously known as Southwell Park, New Park or Little Park. Subsequent historic cartographic sources (not reproduced) suggest that the Site was located beyond the limits of Southwell Park.
- 2.17. Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks have been identified in Westhorpe c. 720m north-west of the Site. Linear banks were noted across the majority of the Site during a site visit (CA 2021c), but their height and condition could not be fully assessed due dense and tall vegetation. The earthworks are also defined on satellite and lidar imagery. The earthworks are aligned north-east/ south-west, parallel to Nottingham Road and the historic field boundary. They occur at intervals of approximately 8m and are only visible within the westernmost of the two historic fields. Any potential earthworks within the eastern field are likely to have been levelled by later orchards. Aerial photographs dating to 1947 show the ridges as more clearly defined than in the later photographs, indicating that the earthworks were partially affected, by agricultural activity, in the second half of the 20th century. The lidar imagery of the wider area also shows evidence of ploughed out field boundaries, many of which may have been part of the medieval field system (CA 2021c).
- 2.18. The earthworks within the Site may be associated with modern rose cultivation within the Site, as evidenced by aerial photography dating to the 1950s. However, aerial photographs dating to the 1940s (RAF/CPE/UK/2009) clearly show earthworks on the Site, which indicates they are likely related to earlier, potentially medieval activity,

and pre-date any 20th century horticultural use. The earthworks indicate that the Site would have been utilised for agriculture during the medieval period, and therefore potential remains associated with settlement activity of this date are relatively limited.

Post medieval and modern

- 2.19. Nottinghamshire saw much activity during the Civil War, with sieges throughout the county. Newark was sieged on numerous occasions, which likely had an impact on outlying settlements such as Southwell (EN 2016). Whilst there is no evidence that Southwell itself was besieged, it is suggested Parliamentarian troops were present in Southwell and used part of the Minster for stabling (Brown 1896). Troops are known to have caused significant damage to the Bishop's Palace, leaving it in ruins (Hardstaff 2011). Southwell Park was dismantled during the Civil War and subsequently divided into four, with 'some parts of it used, to the great accommodation of the inhabitants, as a common pasture' (Shilton 1993). By 1683, the Park had been fully enclosed into agricultural fields.
- 2.20. Features often associated with a deer park include the park pale (a high bank with wooden stakes and an internal ditch); and a parker's lodge; a residence, sometimes moated, occupied by an individual whose role it was to care for and oversee the deer herd (CA 2021c). It has been suggested that Park Farm on Crink Lane, c. 900m east of the Site, may have been the parker's lodge (NSDC 2005).
- 2.21. A 1794 map of Nottinghamshire (not reproduced in the CA's ADBA) depicts the Site within Thurgarton Hundred, in an area lying beyond the edges of Southwell town, to the south of the river. The 1840 Southwell Parish Tithe Map illustrates the Site as within the agricultural hinterland of the town, across two fields. The plot to the east was listed as Spring Close, described as a meadow, owned by Rev J. Footill, and occupied by John Leek. The field to the west was also used as meadow during this period and is listed as 'Workhouse Close', owned by Robert T Forster and occupied by Edward Hill. The external boundaries of the Site as depicted on the Tithe map are retained to the present day (CA 2021c).
- 2.22. Overall, examination of historic mapping suggests that the Site has remained in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval and modern periods. The 1900 edition of the Ordnance Survey shows no difference in the field layout within the Site since the tithe map, but the eastern field within the Site is depicted as an orchard. The orchard is still visible on aerial photographs from the 1940s. This continues to be the

case until the 1967-8 edition, when the change in land use is apparent through the disappearance of the orchard and the appearance of a new residence 'The Wilderness' immediately to the south of the Site. The access road created within the former orchard now forms the eastern boundary of the Site. Aerial photographs dating to 1964 (OS/64216) indicate that the residence had already been built by this date (CA 2021c).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on possible archaeological resource within the Site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, and state of preservation. The general objective of the watching brief was to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed. This information will enable NSDC, as advised by the HEOLCC, to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the Site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals. This process is in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021). A further objective was to compile a stable, ordered, and accessible project archive.
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate potential archaeological features recorded by the geophysical survey (WYAS 2021) including a potential U-shaped enclosure, a series of probable agricultural linear features, and a former field boundary.
- 3.3. No significant archaeological features were identified and consequently the results have little potential to contribute to any regional research framework themes or objectives.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches: six trenches measuring 30m long by 2m wide, and one trench measuring 40m long by 2m wide. Trenches 2 and 6 were each excavated in two separate segments due to the presence of a wooden fence bisecting the Site (see Fig. 2). The trenches were

located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the Site.

- 4.2. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.3. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of the excavation of eight 3.5m long by 0.6m wide geological test pits and one 7.5m long by 0.6m wide test pit (Fig. 2). Test-pits were numbered sequentially to run on from the trenches and thereby avoid any duplicated context numbers etc.
- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned, and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual.
- 4.5. No finds were encountered as part of either phase of fieldwork.
- 4.6. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential, and samples were taken in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites (CA 2012).
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Newark and Sherwood Museum Service for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2014c; updated October 2020) and the ADS *Guidelines for Depositors* (2021).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. **RESULTS**

5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation and watching brief results (fig. 2); detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and environmental samples (paleoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in appendices A and B respectively.

- 5.2. The natural substrate was encountered at an average depth of 0.85m in the northern half of the Site (trenches 1 4; test pits 8 12, and 16) and a depth of 0.6m in the southern half (trenches 5 7; test pits 13 16); it consisted of intermixed bands of light yellow-brown sandy silt and mid red-brown clay. In trenches 5 7 and test pits 14 and 15 this was overlain by a subsoil layer of mid brownish orange clay measuring between 0.15m and 0.4m thick.
- 5.3. The natural substrate was overlain by buried soil in trenches 1 4 and test pits 8 12 and 16 (Figs. 2, 3, 11 14, 16). This consisted of friable dark grey-brown silty clay with a minimal amount of charcoal; it measured 0.2m thick on average and was overlain in turn by a 0.2m thick layer of made ground in trenches 1 4 and test pits 8 12 and 16. The made ground deposit was in turn covered by subsoil and topsoil similar to trenches 5, 6, and 7. The stratigraphic sequence terminated with a mid to dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil layer that measured between 0.2m and 0.4m thick (see Figs. 2, 3, 11 14, 16).
- 5.4. Trenches 1, 3, 4, and 6 contained no features of archaeological interest, and will not be discussed in any further detail. No archaeological features were identified in any of the test pits. Trenches 2, 5, and 7 contained archaeological features and are discussed in more detail below.
- 5.5. A modern pond was identified in the southern end of trench 3 (fig. 2). Discussions with the landowner indicated that they had excavated this pond themselves and later backfilled when it was no-longer needed. Due to the presence of modern plastics and plant trim materials the pond was not excavated further.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 – 3)

- 5.6. Trench 2 contained one pit and one gully (204 and 207 respectively), which were sealed by a buried soil layer 202. Pit 204 was sub-circular in plan and measured approximately 0.85m long and 0.18m deep; it had moderately sloping slides and a concave base (Fig. 3). The pit contained two fills. Basal fill 205 consisted of a compact light grey-brown sandy silt with white chalk flecking. Overlying this was fill 206, a compact mid brown-grey sandy silt. Both fills are interpreted as representing phases of natural infilling, and neither contained finds.
- 5.7. Ditch 207 was oriented east to west; it measured approximately 0.95m wide and 0.05m deep with gently sloping sides. The ditch contained one fill (208) that consisted

of a friable light brown-grey sandy clay. This fill is interpreted as the result of natural infilling and contained no finds.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2, 4 – 9)

- 5.8. Trench 5 contained four linear features and three discrete features sealed by subsoil 501. The linear features consisted of two north-west to south-east aligned ditches (505 and 521), one north-east to south-west aligned ditch (503), and one furrow that was not investigated.
- 5.9. Ditch 503 was located in the west end of trench 5; it measured 0.58m wide and 0.11m deep, with moderately steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 4-5). The ditch contained a single fill (504) consisting of a moderately compact mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. This ditch was observed to cut ditch 505 in plan and in the trench section. No finds were recovered from ditch 503.
- 5.10. The first of the north-west to south-east aligned ditches (505), measured approximately 0.95m wide and 0.34m deep. The ditch had straight to slightly concave sides, a flat base, and contained three fills (Figs. 2, 4 and 6). Lower fill 507 consisted of a compact dark grey-brown silty clay with moderate charcoal inclusions. This was overlain by fill 506, a compact mid red-brown clay containing occasional small stones and charcoal. The upper fill (508) was a compact dark grey-brown silty clay containing frequent small sub-rounded stones and occasional charcoal. Upper fill 508 was sampled for paleoenvironmental analysis and yielded charcoal remains (see Section 7, and Appendix B). No finds were recovered from any of the fills.
- 5.11. On a similar orientation and parallel to ditch 505 was ditch 521. This ditch measured approximately 0.85m wide and 0.28m deep, with straight to slightly concave sides and a flat base (Figs. 2, 4 and 9). This ditch contained three fills. Lower fill 522 consisted of a friable dark grey-brown clay-silt with occasional chalk inclusions. This was overlaid by fill 523, a compact mid red-brown clay-silt. The uppermost fill (524) consisted of a friable dark grey-brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions. No finds were recovered from ditch 521. This ditch corresponded to an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey (Fig. 2).
- 5.12. Toward the centre of trench 5 was pit 509. The pit was oval in plan and measured 0.9m long and 0.18m deep (Fig. 2, 4 and 7); it had moderately steep sides and a flat base and contained two fills. Basal fill 510 consisted of a moderately compact mid

grey-brown sandy silt with orange-brown mottling. Overlying this was fill 511, a moderately compact dark grey-brown silty clay with moderate charcoal inclusions. Basal fill 510 was interpreted as the result of natural infilling, while the presence of large charcoal inclusions suggest that fill 511 represents intentional backfilling. Upper fill 511 was sampled for paleoenvironmental analysis and yielded charcoal remains indicative of a dump of hearth waste material (see Section 7, and Appendix B). No finds were recovered from pit 509.

- 5.13. Located immediately north of pit 509 was pit 512 (fig. 2). This feature was only recorded in plan; it measured 0.48m by 0.43m. Upper fill 513 consisted of a moderately compact dark grey-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from the surface of pit 512.
- 5.14. Pit 518 measured approximately 7m long and 0.62m deep as exposed and extended beyond the footprint of the trench (figs. 2, 4 and 8). The pit was cut into the subsoil and was partially investigated in agreement with the HEOLCC. It had a steep, slightly concave western side with flat base and contained two fills. Lower fill 519 consisted of a compact mid blue-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal inclusions. Overlying this was fill 520, a compact dark grey-brown silty clay with moderate charcoal inclusions. The presence of crushed stone (possible building material) in both fills suggest intentional deposition. Lower fill 519 was sampled for paleoenvironmental analysis and yielded oak charcoal remains indicative of a dump of hearth waste material (see Section 7, and Appendix B). No finds were recovered from pit 518.
- 5.15. At the eastern end of trench 5 was unexcavated north-east to south-west aligned furrow 516 (figs. 2, 4). The fill of the furrow (517) consisted of a moderately compact mid yellow-brown clay-silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. The alignment of this furrow matches those observed in trench 7. No finds were recovered from the surface of furrow 516.

Trench 7 (Figs. 2, 10)

- 5.16. Trench 7 contained four north-east to south-west aligned furrows (706, 709, 711, 713) and one irregular pit (703). All features were sealed by subsoil 701.
- 5.17. Irregular pit 703 was located in the eastern end of trench 7, extending beyond the trench footprint. It was elongated in plan with irregular edges and measured approximately 0.95m long and 0.27m deep (Figs. 2 and 10). It had moderately steep,

slightly concave sides and an irregular undulating base. The pit contained two fills. Lower fill 704 consisted of a moderately compact mid grey-brown and light yellowbrown mottled sand-silt. This was overlaid by a moderately compact dark grey-brown clay-silt with rare charcoal inclusions. Both fills are interpreted as being the result of natural infilling processes. The irregular shape and base of pit 703 may be the result of a tree throw, however the limited visible extent of the feature limits interpretation. No finds were recovered from pit 703.

5.18. Furrow 706 was 0.21m deep and measured approximately 2m wide; it had gently sloping sides and flat base (Fig. 10). The furrow contained two fills. Lower fill 707 consisted of a moderately compact yellow-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. Overlying this was fill 708, a friable mid grey-brown clay-silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. The remaining furrows, 709, 711, and 713, were recorded in plan and measured 2.1m, 2.15m and 1.66m wide respectively. All three contained a moderately compact mid yellow-brown clay-silt matching lower fill 707 from furrow 706. No finds were recovered from any furrows.

6. THE FINDS

6.1. No finds were recovered from any of the trenches and the test pits.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

By Emma Aitken

- 7.1. A series of five environmental samples (100 litres of soil) were processed from a range of feature types from two trenches (trenches 3 and 5). This was done to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across this area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the Site. It was also hoped that the environmental remains may aid in dating the features that were sampled. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Appendix B, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants.
- 7.3. The flots varied in size from small to moderate with low to high numbers of root material and uncharred seeds. The charred material had poor to moderate levels of preservation. Much of the charcoal was comminuted and encrusted in iron residue

which inhibited further wood species identification on the charcoal observed in the samples.

Trench 3

7.4. Sample 2 from buried soil 303 contained no charred plant remains and only a very minimal amount of charcoal. This assemblage is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.

Trench 5

- 7.5. Upper fill 511 (sample 1) of pit 509 contained no charred plant remains. A moderately small amount of charcoal fragments were noted in the assemblage, including fragments of oak (*Quercus sp.*). This assemblage is likely to be indicative of a small dump of hearth waste material.
- 7.6. Pit 518 (sample 4) contained a single charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragment and no other charred plant remains. A large quantity of charcoal was observed within the assemblage, including fragments of oak. This assemblage is also likely to be indicative of a dump of hearth waste material.
- 7.7. Sample 4 of ditch 505 contained no charred plant remains and only a small number of charcoal fragments. This assemblage is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.
- 7.8. Fill 524 (sample 5) from ditch 521 contained no charred plant remains and only a minimal quantity of charcoal. This assemblage is likely to be representative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.

Summary

7.9. There is some limited evidence that low intensity occupation activities were taking place within the vicinity of trench 5, in particular around pit 518, where large quantities of charcoal were present in bulk environmental soil samples recovered from the feature. Due to the sparsity of charred plant remains in these samples it is not possible to suggest a potential date of any of the features discussed, nor is there any indication that industrial related activities, such as metal working, were taking place in this area.

8. **DISCUSSION**

- 8.1. Of the seven trenches excavated as part of the evaluation phase, three contained features of archaeological interest with activity focused within the western portion of the Site around Trenches 2, 5, and 7. Only one ditch (521), two furrows (706 and one unexcavated in trench 5) and a modern pond in trench 3 corresponded with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. No features were observed in any of the test pits.
- 8.2. Trench 2 contained two shallow features (pit 204 and gully 207) with no clear function or association. Neither appeared similar to any of the features located in adjacent trenches. Both features were sealed by a buried soil deposit and remained undated.
- 8.3. Trench 5 contained the majority of archaeological features identified during the evaluation. This included three ditches (503, 505, and 521), three pits (509, 512, and 518), and one furrow (516). Ditches 505 and 521. Pits 509 and 512 all contained upper fills of a similar composition, the similarity of which may indicate that they were all open and subsequently backfilled around the same time. In addition to this, the similar orientations and morphology of ditches 505 and 521 suggest that these ditches may be part of a larger-scale feature, such as trackway. These linear features did not extend into Trench 7. Pit 518 was cut into the subsoil deposit and was probably of post-medieval/modern origin.
- 8.4. The stratigraphic relationship suggests that ditch 503 was excavated following disuse of ditch 505. Ditch 503 may form part of a later field boundary for the north-west of the Site, potentially relating to a period of site-use contemporary with the ridge and furrow system identified in trenches 5 and 7, as these features share a similar orientation (Fig. 2).
- 8.5. Evidence of possible medieval/post medieval ridge and furrow was identified in trenches 5 and 7, corresponding to linear geophysical anomalies (fig.2). The furrows were oriented north-east to south-west and spaced at approximately 3m intervals, running parallel to Nottingham Road, all measuring between 1.66m and 2.15m wide and with a similar orientation to the western boundary of the Site and ditch 503.
- 8.6. Pit 703, identified in trench 7, exhibited an irregular shape and was probably a natural feature.

- 8.7. Most features were cut into the natural substrate and sealed by subsoil, with pit 204 and ditch 207 sealed by an undated buried soil deposit mostly identified in the northern portion of the Site. The presence of a possible made ground layer overlaying the buried soil was also recorded in the northern part of the Site; this likely reflects relatively recent attempts to level the field and mitigate the natural slope of the land.
- 8.8. The buried soil may represent an earlier medieval or pre-medieval phase of Site development. This was characterised by an area of waterlogged ground in the central and northern portions of the Site, and a drier area in the southern portion, where the majority of the features were identified. The features investigated were primarily agricultural in nature, and the paucity of cultural material from the interventions and the topsoil suggests that the Site lay at a distance from any settlement foci, as domestic waste did not make its way onto the Site via agricultural manuring practices. The ADBA (CA 2021c) and historic maps indicate that the Site remained in agricultural use in the post-medieval and early modern periods, a use that appears to have continued from at least the medieval period through to the present.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Dale Langford and Joan Roig, assisted by Bethany Evans and Sian Bramble. This report was written by Dale Langford and Ralph Brown. The biological evidence report was produced by Emma Aitken. The report illustrations were prepared by Krissy Moore. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Molly Agnew-Henshaw. The project was managed for CA by Daniele Pirisino.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Evaluation

Trench	Context	Туре	Fill of	Interpretat	Description	Length	Width	Depth/
	No.			ion		(m)	(m)	thickness
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, silty clay	_	-	(m) 0.3
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	0.2
1	102	Layer		Made	Mid orange-brown, silty clay	_	-	0.26
	102	Layor		ground layer	inia orango provin, only oray			0.20
1	103	Layer		Buried soil	Dark grey-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.1
1	104	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown, sandy silt & mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	-
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.26
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	0.29
2	202	Layer		Made ground layer	Mid orange-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.18
2	203	Layer		Buried soil	Dark grey-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.1
2	204	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular, moderate slope, concave sides, concave base	0.81	0.85	0.18
2	205	Fill	204	Secondary fill	Light grey-brown, sandy silt, compact	0.81	0.75	0.05
2	206	Fill	204	Secondary fill	Mid brown-grey, sandy silt, compact	0.81	0.85	0.13
2	207	Cut		Ditch	Linear, gentle slope, slight concave sides, uneven base, NW-SE	>1.8m	1.08	0.05
2	208	Fill	207	Secondary fill	Light brown grey, sandy >1.8n clay, friable		1.08	0.05
2	209	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown, sandy silt & mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	-
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.3
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	0.2
3	302	Layer		Made ground layer	Mid orange-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.26
3	303	Layer		Buried soil	Dark grey-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.1
3	304	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown, sandy silt & mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	-
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.22
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	0.14
4	402	Layer		Made ground layer	Mid orange-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.07
4	403	Layer		Buried soil	Dil Dark grey-brown, silty clay		-	0.24
4	404	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown, sandy silt & mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	-
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.4
	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	0.2
5	502	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown, sandy silt & mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	-

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5	503	Cut		Ditch	Linear, slight concave sides, concave base, NE-SW	>1m	0.58	0.11
5	504	Fill	503	Secondary Fill	Mid orange-brown, silty clay, moderately compact, occasional charcoal	>1m	0.58	0.11
5	505	Cut		Ditch	Linear, straight sides, concave base, NW-SE	>1m	0.95	0.34
5	506	Fill	505	Secondary Fill	Mid red-brown, clay, compact, occasional charcoal	>1m	0.95	0.27
5	507	Fill	505	Secondary fill	Dark grey-brown, silty clay, compact, frequent charcoal	>1m	0.11	0.11
5	508	Fill	505	Secondary fill	Dark grey-brown, silty clay, compact, frequent small stones, rare charcoal	>1m	0.82	0.11
5	509	Cut		Pit	Ovoid, concave sides, uneven base, NW-SE	0.9	0.47	0.18
5	510	Fill	509	Secondary fill	Mid grey-brown with orange- brown mottling, sandy silt, moderately compact, occasional charcoal, rare small stones	0.9	0.47	0.18
5	511	Fill	509	Deliberate backfill	Dark grey-brown, silty clay, moderately compact, occasional charcoal, and small stones	0.5	0.5	0.14
5	512	Cut		Pit	Ovoid, NW-SE	>0.47	0.44	
5	513	Fill	513	Secondary fill	Dark grey-brown, silty clay, moderately compact	>0.47	0.44	
5	514=521	Cut		Ditch	Linear, moderate slope, slightly concave sides, concave base, NW-SE	>1.8	0.95	0.25
5	515=524	Fill	514=521	Deliberate backfill	Dark grey-brown, silty clay, compact, frequent charcoal, and small stones	>1.8	0.7	0.12
5	516	Cut		Furrow	Linear, NE-SW	>1.8	1.77	-
5	517	Fill	516	Secondary fill	Mid yellow-brown, clay-silt, compact, occasional charcoal	>1.8	1.77	-
5	518	Cut		Pit	Ovoid, steep concave sides, flat base	>1.8	7	0.62
5	519	Fill	518	Secondary fill	Mid blue-grey, silty clay, compact, frequent charcoal, and small stone	>1.8	7	0.26
5	520	Fill	518	Deliberate backfill	Dark grey-brown, silty clay, compact, frequent charcoal, and stone	>1.8	7	0.38
5	522	Fill	514=521	Secondary fill	Dark grey-brown, silty clay, compact, frequent charcoal, occasional small stones	>1.8	0.82	0.06
5	523	Fill	514=521	Secondary fill	Mid red-brown, silty clay, compact, occasional small stones	>1.8	0.82	0.07
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.4
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	0.4
6	602	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown, sandy silt & mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown, silty clay	-	-	0.5
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	0.15
7	702	Layer		Natural	Light yellow-brown, sandy silt & mid orange-brown, clay	-	-	-
7	703	Cut		Pit	Ovoid, moderate slope, concave sides, undulating base, NE-SW	>0.95	0.67	0.27

7	704	Fill	703	Secondary fill	fill light yellow-brown, sandy silt, moderately compact		0.67	0.11
7	705	Fill	703	Secondary fill	Secondary Dark grey-brown, clay-silt,		0.32	0.2
7	706	Cut		Furrow	Linear, gentle slope, concave sides, concave base, NE-SW	>1.8	2	0.21
7	707	Fill	706	Secondary fill	Secondary Mid yellow-brown, clay-silt,		2	0.08
7	708	Fill	706	Secondary fill	Mid grey-brown, clay-silt, friable, occasional charcoal	>1.8	1.66	0.13
7	709	Cut		Furrow	Linear, NE-SW	>1.8	2.1	-
7	710	Fill	709	Secondary fill	Mid yellow-brown, clay-silt, compact, occasional charcoal	>1.8	2.1	-
7	711	Cut		Furrow	Linear, NE-SW	>1.8	2.15	-
7	712	Fill	711	Secondary fill	Mid yellow-brown, clay-silt, compact, occasional charcoal	>1.8	2.15	-
7	713	Cut		Furrow	Linear, NE-SW	>1.8	1.66	-
7	714	Fill	713	Secondary fill	Mid yellow-brown, clay-silt, compact, occasional charcoal	>1.8	1.66	-

Watching Brief

Test Pit	Context	Туре	Interpretation	Fill of	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
8	800	layer	Topsoil		Friable mid grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.27
8	801	layer	Subsoil		Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.23
8	802	layer	Made ground Layer		Friable dark brown grey sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.22
8	803	layer	Buried Soil		Soft mid brown grey silty sand with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.19
8	804	layer	Natural Soft mid brown orange with light blue mottling clay sand becoming sandy clay with depth		>3.5	>0.6	>2.1	
9	900	layer	Topsoil		Friable mid grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.3
9	901	layer	Subsoil		Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.4
9	902	layer	Made ground Layer		Friable dark brown grey sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.2
9	903	layer	Buried Soil		Soft mid brown grey silty sand with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.3
9	904	layer	Natural		Soft mid brown orange with light blue mottling clay sand becoming sandy clay with depth	>3.5	>0.6	>1
10	1000	layer	Topsoil		Friable mid grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.3
10	1001	layer	Subsoil		Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.4
10	1002	layer	Made ground Friable dark brown grey sandy silt Layer with no inclusions		>3.5	>0.6	0.16	

10	1003	layer	Buried Soil	Soft mid brown grey silty sand with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.24
10	1004	layer	Natural	Soft mid brown orange with light blue mottling clay sand becoming sandy clay with depth	>3.5	>0.6	>0.9
11	1100	layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.3
11	1101	layer	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.3
11	1102	layer	Made ground Layer	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.13
11	1103	layer	Buried Soil	Soft mid brown grey silty sand with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.23
11	1104	layer	Natural	Soft mid brown orange with light blue mottling clay sand becoming sandy clay with depth	>3.5	>0.6	>1.14
12	1200	layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.34
12	1201	layer	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.1
12	1202	layer	Made ground Layer	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.16
12	1203	layer	Buried Soil	Soft mid brown grey silty sand with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.25
12	1204	layer	Natural	Soft mid brown orange with light blue mottling clay sand becoming sandy clay with depth	>3.5	>0.6	>1.25
13	1300	layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.3
13	1301	layer	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.16
13	1302	layer	Buried Soil	Soft mid brown grey silty sand with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.14
13	1303	layer	Natural	Soft mid brown orange with light blue mottling clay sand becoming sandy clay with depth	>3.5	>0.6	>1.6
14	1400	layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.22
14	1401	layer	Modern earth movement	Mix of topsoil. And subsoil, soft deliberate deposition	>3.5	>0.6	0.06
14	1402	layer	Buried Soil	Friable mid grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.24
14	1403	layer	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.16
14	1404	layer	Natural	Soft mid brown orange with light blue mottling clay sand becoming sandy clay with depth	>3.5	>0.6	>1.57
15	1500	layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions	>3.5	>0.6	0.56
15	1501	layer	Natural	Soft mid brown orange with light blue mottling clay sand	>3.5	>0.6	>1.74
16	1600	layer	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy loam with no inclusions	>7.5	>0.6	0.25
16	1601	layer	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with no inclusions	>7.5	>0.6	0.11
16	1602	layer	Made gorund layer	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt with no inclusions	>7.5	>0.6	0.21
16	1603	layer	Buried Soil	Soft mid brown grey silty sand with no inclusions	>7.5	>0.6	0.19
16	1604	layer	Natural	Soft mid brown orange with light blue mottling clay sand becoming sandy clay with depth	>7.5	>0.6	>1.54

APPENDIX B: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Feature	Context	Sample		Unpro cessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Charred Remains Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
	Trench 3											
Buried Soil	303	2	20	20	30	98	-	-	-	-	-/*	-
			-			Trenc	h 5					-
Pit 509	511	1	20	10	15	50	-	-	-	-	***/**	-
Pit 518	519	4	20	10	50	15	-	-	*	Corylus avellana	****/****	-
Ditch 505	508	3	20	0	5	90	-	1	-	-	**/**	-
Ditch 521	524	5	20	20	25	98	-	-	-	-	*/**	-

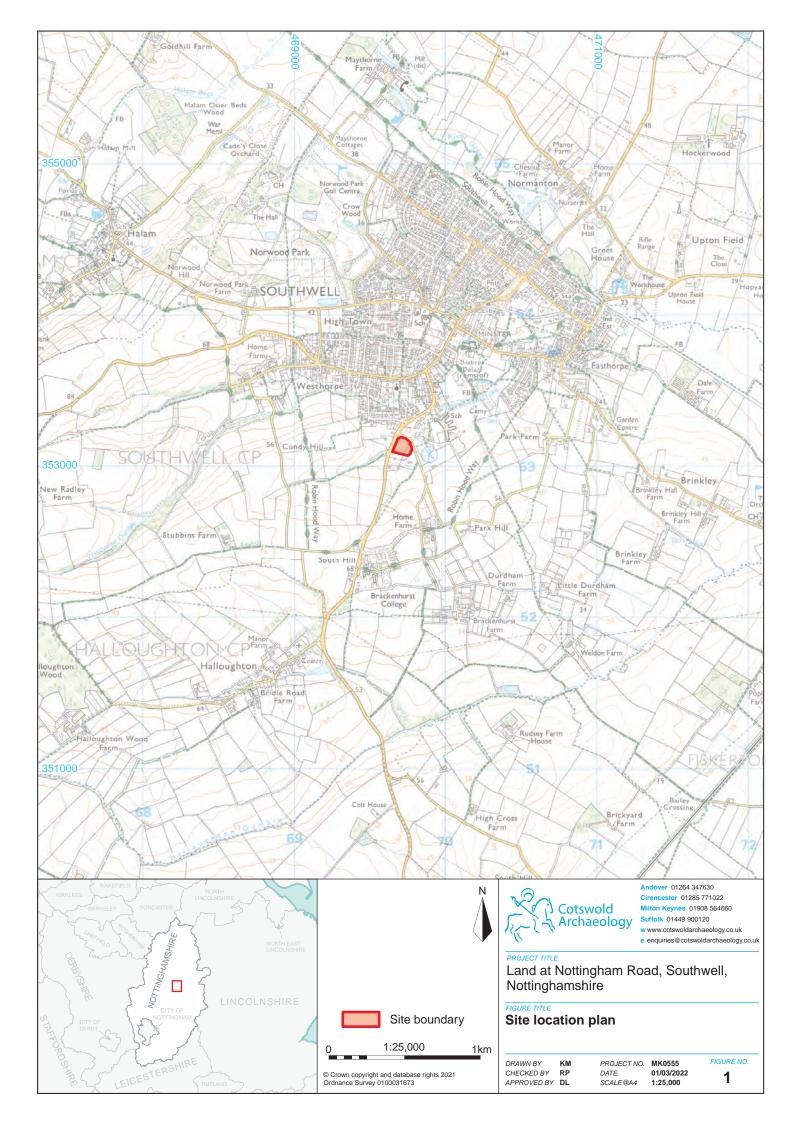
Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains.

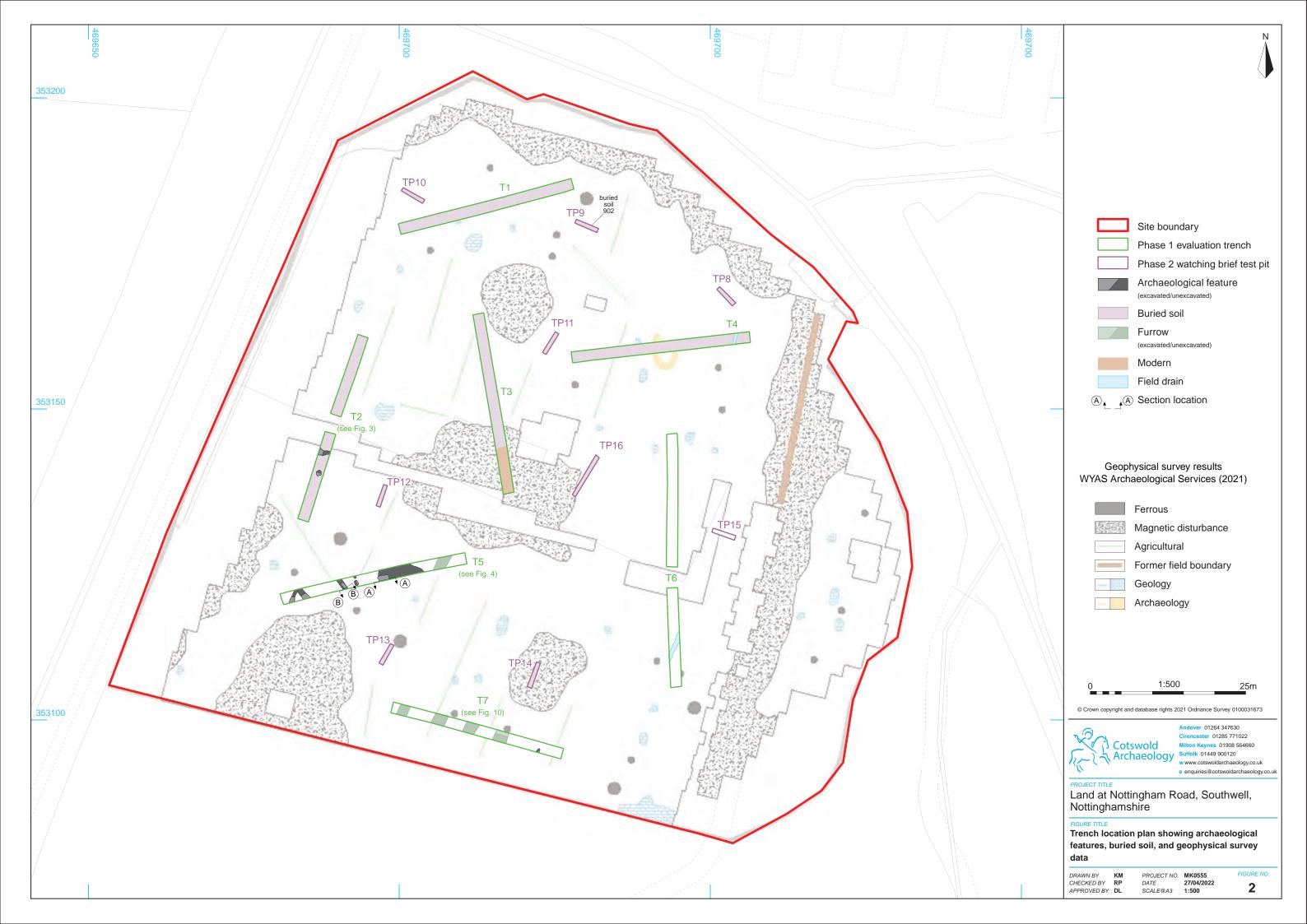
Key: * = 1-4 items; ** = 4-20 items; *** = 21-49 items; **** = 50-99 items; ***** = >100 items

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APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS							
Project name	Land at Nottingham Road, Southwell, N	Nottinghamshire					
Short description	Land at Nottingham Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire Between November 2021 and January 2022, Cotswold						
Chort description	Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation and watching brief on land at Nottingham Road, Southwell						
	Nottinghamshire. A total of seven trenc						
	the evaluation, followed by a watching						
		ig blief during which hime					
	geotechnical test pits were monitored. Archaeological features were identified during the evaluation in						
	trenches 2, 5, and 7, including ditches						
	Evidence of a north-east/south-west a						
	medieval or post-medieval ridge and	0, 1					
	trenches 5 and 7. None of the feature						
	securely dated to any period due to the						
	A buried soil horizon covered by a r						
	identified in the northern portion of the						
	in most of the geotechnical test pits. H						
	features were observed during the w						
	fieldwork.	0					
Project dates	8-12 November 2021; 6-7 January 202	2					
Project type	Evaluation; Watching Brief						
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (CA 2021)						
Future work	Unknown						
PROJECT LOCATION							
Site location	Land at Nottingham Road, Southwell, N	Nottinghamshire					
Study area (m²/ha)	1685m ²						
Site co-ordinates	469716 353108						
PROJECT CREATORS	·						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology						
Project brief originator	Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnsh	nire County Council					
	(HEOLCC)						
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology						
Project Manager	Daniele Pirisino						
Project Supervisor	Dale Langford, Joan Roig						
MONUMENT TYPE	Ditches; pits; furrows						
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None						
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery,					
	(museum/Accession no.)	animal bone etc)					
	Recipient of each type of archive	Indicate the contents					
		of each archive box					
Physical	N/A	None					
Paper	Newark and Sherwood Museum	Context sheets,					
	Service	Registers, Drawn					
		records					
Digital	Newark and Sherwood Museum	Digital photos, survey					
	Service, Archaeology Data Service						
	(ADS)						
BIBLIOGRAPHY		A 1 1 1 1					
(Cotswold Archaeology) 2021 Land at Not		e: Archaeological					
Evaluation and Watching Brief CA Report:	MK0555_1						





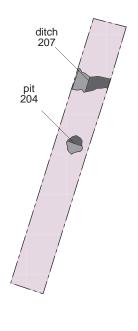


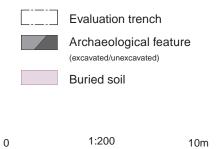
Pit 204, looking north-east (0.5m scale)



Ditch 207, looking north-west, showing buried soil (1m scale)

Trench 2, plan









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PROJECT TITLE Land at Nottingham Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE Trench 2: plan and photographs

DRAWN BY	КM
CHECKED BY	RP
APPROVED BY	DL

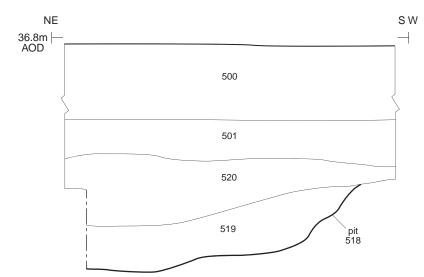
 PROJECT NO.
 MK0555

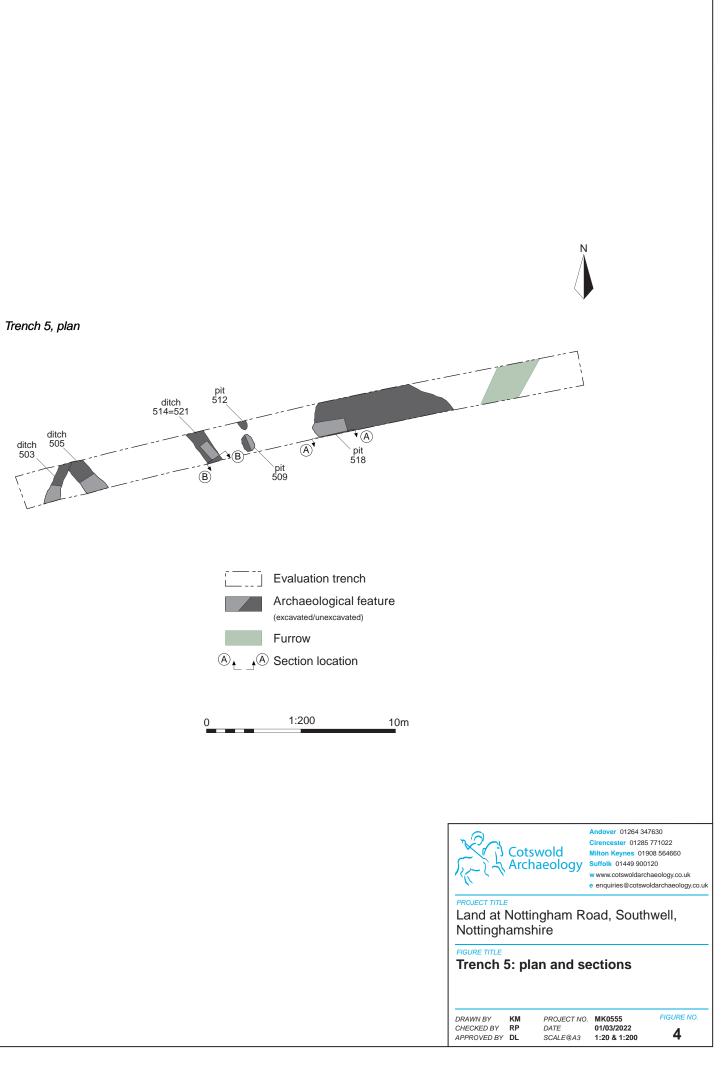
 DATE
 01/03/2022

 SCALE@A3
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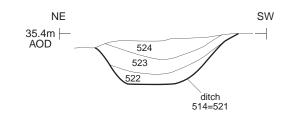
FIGURE NO. 3















Ditch 503, looking north-east (0.3m scale)



Ditch 505, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



Pit 509, looking south-west (0.5m scale)



Pit 518, looking south-east (2m scale)



6

8



Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Cotswold Archaeology Www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co

Land at Nottingham Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE Trench 5: photographs

DRAWN BY KM CHECKED BY RP APPROVED BY DL

 PROJECT NO.
 MK0555

 DATE
 23/11/2021

 SCALE@A3
 N/A

FIGURE NO. 5 - 8



Ditch 514=521, looking south-east (0.5m scale)

Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01265 771022 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 Suffolk 01449 900120 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
Land at Nottingham Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire
FIGURE TITLE Trench 5: photograph
DRAWN BY KM PROJECT NO. MK0555 FIGURE NO. CHECKED BY RP DATE 01/03/2022 9 APPROVED BY DL SCALE®A4 N/A 9

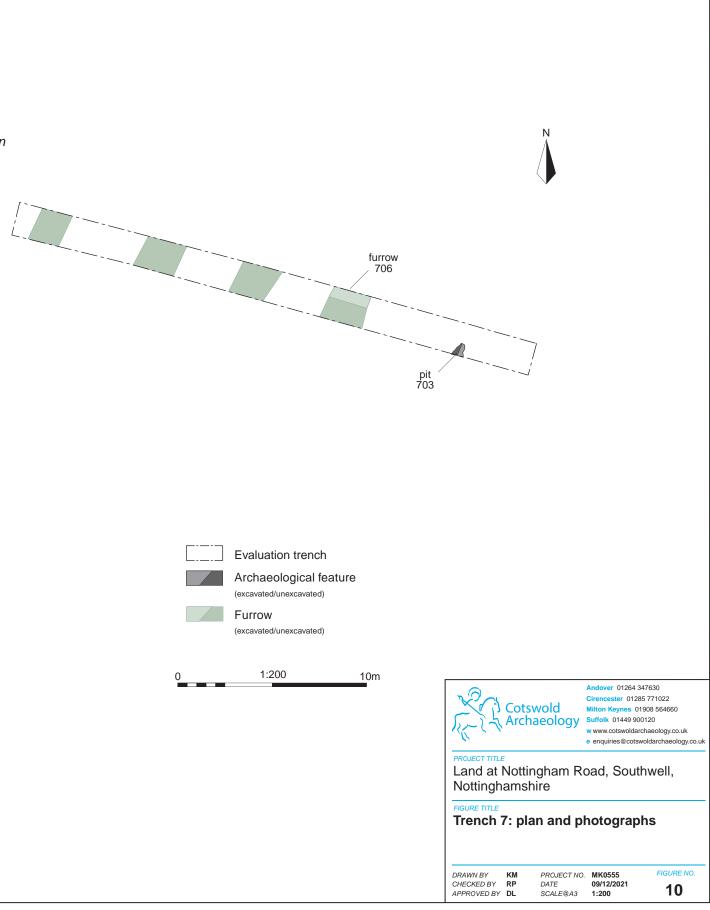


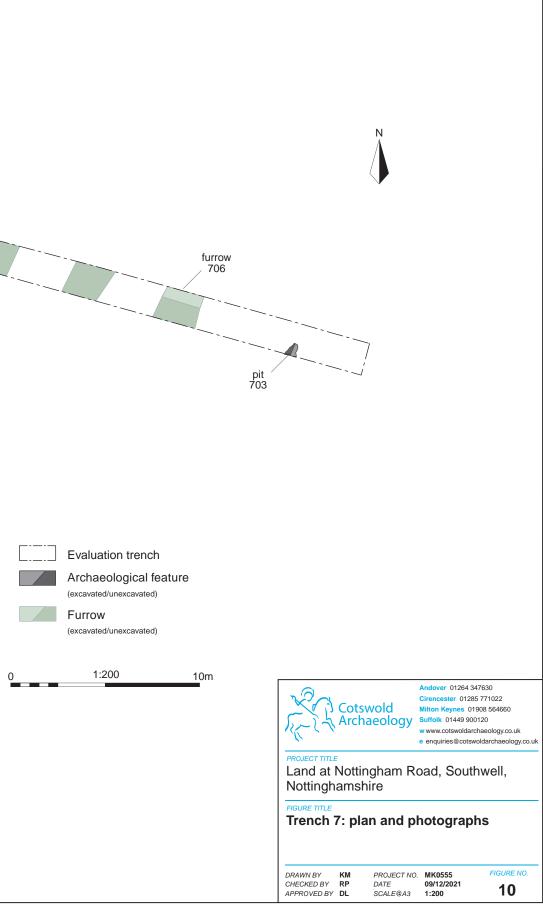
Pit 703, looking south-west (1m scale)



Furrow 706, looking north-east (2m scale)

Trench 7, plan







Site photograph showing location of test pit 11, looking southwest (scale 1m)



Test pit 8, looking south-west (scale 1m)



Test pit 9, showing buried soil 902, looking south-east (scale 1m)





FIGURE TITLE Test pits: photographs

DRAWN BY	KM
CHECKED BY	RP
APPROVED BY	DL

 PROJECT NO.
 MK0555

 DATE
 28/02/2022

 SCALE@A3
 NA

FIGURE NO. 11 - 13



Test pit 14, looking south-east (1m scale)



Test pit 15, looking south-east (1m scale)



Test pit 16, looking north-west (1m scale)



15



FIGURE TITLE Test pits: photographs

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 SCALE@A3
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FIGURE NO. 14 - 16



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