

# LAND TO THE WEST OF THE HIGH STREET, EVERTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



**On behalf of  
Mr M D Fear**

CS Archaeology  
December 2011

**On behalf of:** Mr M D Fear  
c/o Mr D Kitson  
Trinity College Farm  
Great North Road  
Barnby Moor  
Retford  
Nottinghamshire  
DN22 8QQ

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** SK 69108 91109 (centre)

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**Fieldwork, Report and illustrations:** Mr C Scurfield

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**Enquiries to:** **CS Archaeology**  
Manor Farm House  
Manor Occupation Road  
Royston  
Barnsley  
South Yorkshire  
S71 4SG  
M: 07963 586767  
E: [chrisscurfield@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisscurfield@yahoo.com)

Frontispiece: view of the excavations

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- Appendix 1: The Project Design
- Appendix 2: Photographic Register (Digital)

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the development of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) off the High Street, Everton, Nottinghamshire. An archaeological condition was attached to the planning application (Cond. 10, 19/10/00028) by Bassetlaw District Council for a watching brief.
- 1.2 The watching brief consisted of monitoring the excavation of a series of foundation trenches for three detached dwellings.
- 1.3 Buried remains of the former buildings, which were extant in 1868 cottage abutting the High Street were revealed and an array of later post medieval rubbish pits were recorded.
- 1.4 Other than residual traces of buildings, which correlate to 19<sup>th</sup> century historic maps, no other significant archaeology was revealed in the wider PDA, apart from an array of later post medieval rubbish pits.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The village of Everton lies south of Doncaster on the A631, 4.48 kms east of Bawtry and 12.7 kms west of Gainsborough, Nottinghamshire.
- 2.2 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) lies to the south of the village Everton's historic core. The PDA consists of 0.1 hectares of gradually sloping land, which falls away to the southwest (**Figure 2: Plates 1 & 2**).

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Everton is situated on a ridge of land overlooking the flat landscape of the 'Cars'. The 'Cars' is situated at the southern end of the 'Levels of Hatfield Chase'. The Nottinghamshire portion of the Cars extends over 8 miles, from near Bawtry to the Trent and is about two miles broad. The Nottinghamshire Cars comprises of 10,000 acres, and is situated in the parishes of Everton, Scaftworth, Gringley, and Walkeringham (Gill 1909).
- 3.2 The PDA lies south of the village's historic core, which is believed to lie close to Holy Trinity Church which was built during the Norman Period. Holy Trinity was one of a series of churches built by the Normans along the route of the Roman road that crossed the northern part of Nottinghamshire, connecting York with Lincoln, via Doncaster and Littleborough (Gill 1909).
- 3.3 Little is known of the history of the PDA. Two buildings are depicted at the east end of the PDA, adjacent to the High Street (**Figure 5**). The majority of the PDA appears to have been open agricultural land, certainly since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The objectives of this programme of archaeological work are to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits.

## 5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 This watching brief has been carried out in accordance with a written scheme of Investigation issued by CS Archaeology in April 2011 (Appendix1).
- 5.2 General colour digital shots of the works were taken. These have been used to illustrate the report and are listed in Appendix 2.
- 5.3 Dr C Robinson was sent a copy of the WSI, informed of the dates of the watching brief and was also informed about the progress of the works and the final results.

## 6. RESULTS

- 6.1 The watching brief involved the mechanical excavation of a series of foundation trenches (**Figures 3 & 4**). Work started at the southeast corner and progressed to the northwest corner of plot 3 on the Plan of the PDA. The mini-digger used a 0.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, which provided excellent visibility during the removal of the trench fills (e.g. **Plate 3**).
- 6.2 The stratigraphy consisted of a dark grey sandy top soil, typically 0.3m in depth, across the PDA (Plot 3). Below the topsoil extended a mid brown sand with 3% rounded stone. Its maximum deposit was 0.55m, below which was natural yellow sand substrate. The acidic ground conditions prevented organic material, particularly bone, from being preserved.
- 6.3 Four anomalies were noted across the trenches of *Plot 3*. All of these anomalies were features cut from the topsoil. Anomaly 1, was 0.3m in diameter and extended to .0.9m below the surface, and was interpreted as a modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) post hole (**Plate 4**), due to its location and indivisibility of its fill with the topsoil.
- 6.4 Anomaly 2, which was a large 1.8m diameter pit which extended 0.9m below the surface and consisted of ceramic building material (brick fragments), sub-angular limestone and a single clay pipe stem, which suggests a 19<sup>th</sup> century date at the earliest.
- 6.5 Anomaly 3 had a 1.3m diameter and was probably circular in plan and extended 0.55m. Again the pit was cut from the topsoil but contained no artefacts. Anomaly 4 was also probably circular in plan with a 0.85m diameter and a depth of 0.85m (**Plate 5**).
- 6.6 *Plot 1* revealed remains of the former cottage which was fully extant until 2010 (pers. comm. Mr M Fear). The revealed remains of this cottage consisted of: internal and external walls (5 & 7); a floor (6) and a water cistern (8). In addition evidence for a cellar (9) was also recorded towards the north of the site, close to the present site entrance. The cottage appears to have developed organically with earlier walls (5 and 7) and a floor (6) positioned towards the southern PDA boundary. Further buildings incorporating the water cistern and cellar developed to the north of the cottage (**Figure 4**).

- 6.7 The cottage walls (Plot 1) were of solid brick, bonded by a hard lime mortar. Wall 5 was 0.25m wide, and was less substantial than wall 7 and was presumed to be an internal dividing wall. The exact arrangement of walls could not be established, but was reminiscent of a double pile building. Floor 6 was revealed in what was probably the rear kitchen (**Plate 6**). The brick floor consisted of red 'pavers' (width 1.05m, depth 0.055m & length 0.22m) which had a smooth worn upper surface and a rough underside with characteristic ripple marks from the removal of the clay when wet. Wall 7 was 0.35m wide and was associated in the southeast corner of the plot 1 trenches with soot, suggesting the location of a chimney. Wall 7 was removed along the course of the western foundation trench. An unusual feature (8) was encountered north of the first walls and excavation revealed it to be a deep seated brick structure (length 3 x width 2.5m & depth 1.2m). Internally this feature was cement lined and would have clearly held a large volume of water (**Plate 8**). The purpose of this water cistern is unknown but may have served an industrial/craft purpose. The cistern had an associated wall which was offset 1.5m east of wall 7. The last feature of plot 1 was a very deep double brick wall which continued at least 0.5m below the 1m deep north foundation trench. The depth and characteristic back fill evident in the southern section (**Plate 9**) indicated the location of a back filled cellar (9).
- 6.8 The foundation trenches associated with the plot 1 garage didn't reveal any discrete anomalies in the stratigraphy other than modern disturbance (14) at its northern end.
- 6.9 Plot 2 revealed a series of stratigraphic anomalies similar in characteristic to the plot 3 anomalies revealed (May 2011). All the anomalies were of low significance. Anomaly 10, was a large pit containing brown clayey sand and at the southern perimeter glass and pottery artefacts, which were consistent with a 19<sup>th</sup> century date and included glass bottles, a file and numerous rusting tin cans (**Plate 10**). Anomaly 11 was a relatively small feature which extended slightly below the base of the foundation trench. This feature proved to be shallow and only contained a fragment of brick and therefore later post medieval in date, probably representing a post hole. Anomalies 12 and 13 were further rubbish pits (**Plate 12 and 13**) and were characterised by their dark brown fills.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 This watching brief has confirmed that the archaeological resource of the PDA is limited to traces of the 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings fronting onto the High Street. These buildings correlate to the two buildings depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1886 (**Figure 5**).
- 7.2 Other than these buildings no other significant archaeological deposits were encountered. Neither were any unstratified artefacts recovered which would attest to the proximity of any significant archaeology in the PDA or immediate area.
- 7.3 Historic land use of the PDA involves arable agriculture which has developed a relatively deep well drained soil which had been subject to historic land divisions e.g. the post holes (anomalies 1 & 11) towards the southern boundary of the PDA and at least seven small scale rubbish pits (anomalies 2-4, 10 & 12-14). The seven pits appear to represent a series of waste deposits, but the absence of surviving organic remains prevents their exact nature being identified, however based on morphology and characteristic fills, all are consistent with a late post medieval date (probably the 19<sup>th</sup> century). Only one pit (10) could be positively dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.4 No further archaeological mitigation is recommended.

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

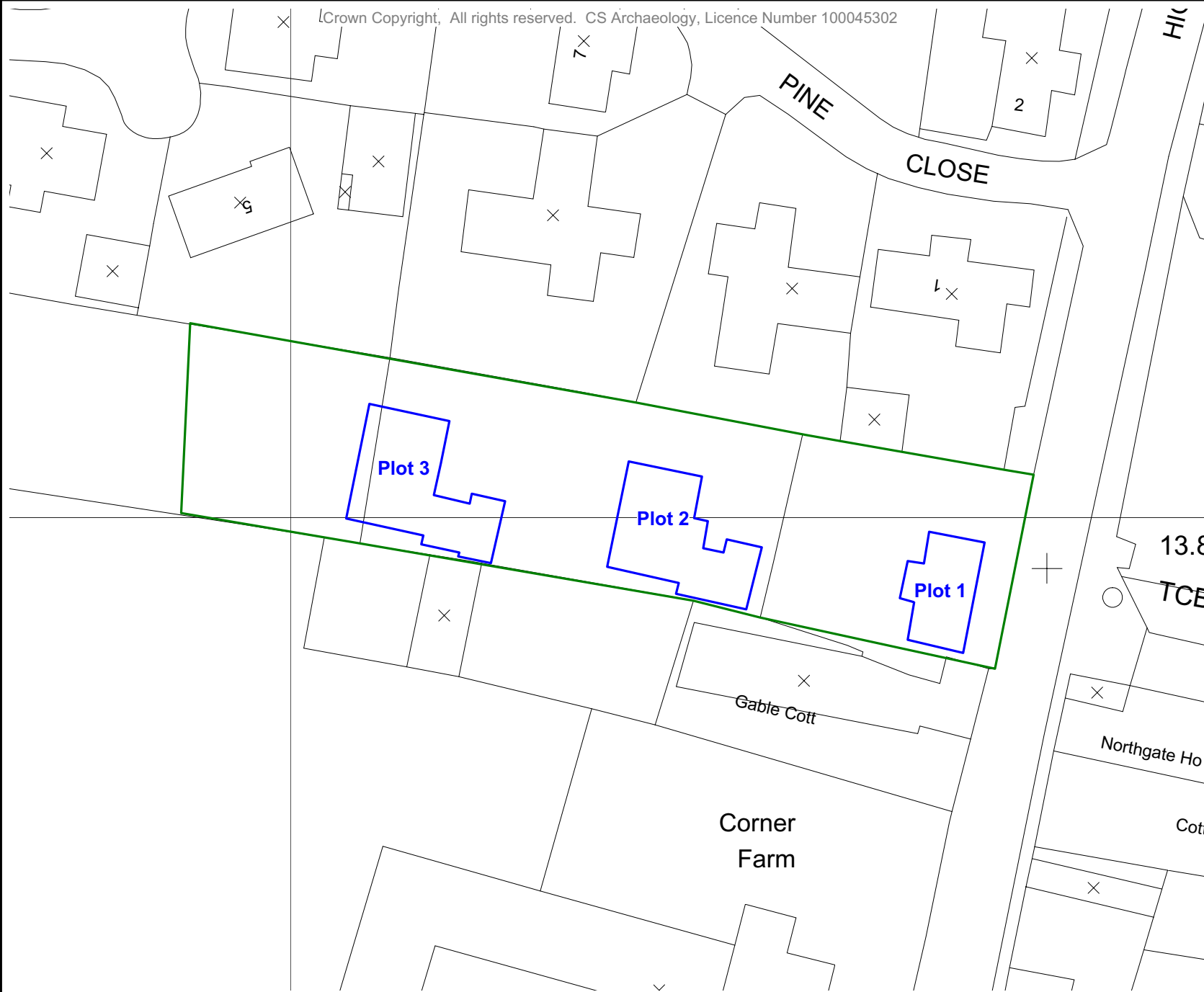
Thank you to Mr Michael Fear for commissioning this report and to Dr Chris Robinson of Nottinghamshire County Council for instigating the archaeological works.



# FIGURES



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### Land off the High Street, Everton, Nottinghamshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief

- key
- PDA boundary
  - footprint of the proposed buildings



scale 1:500

Figure 2: Plan of the PDA



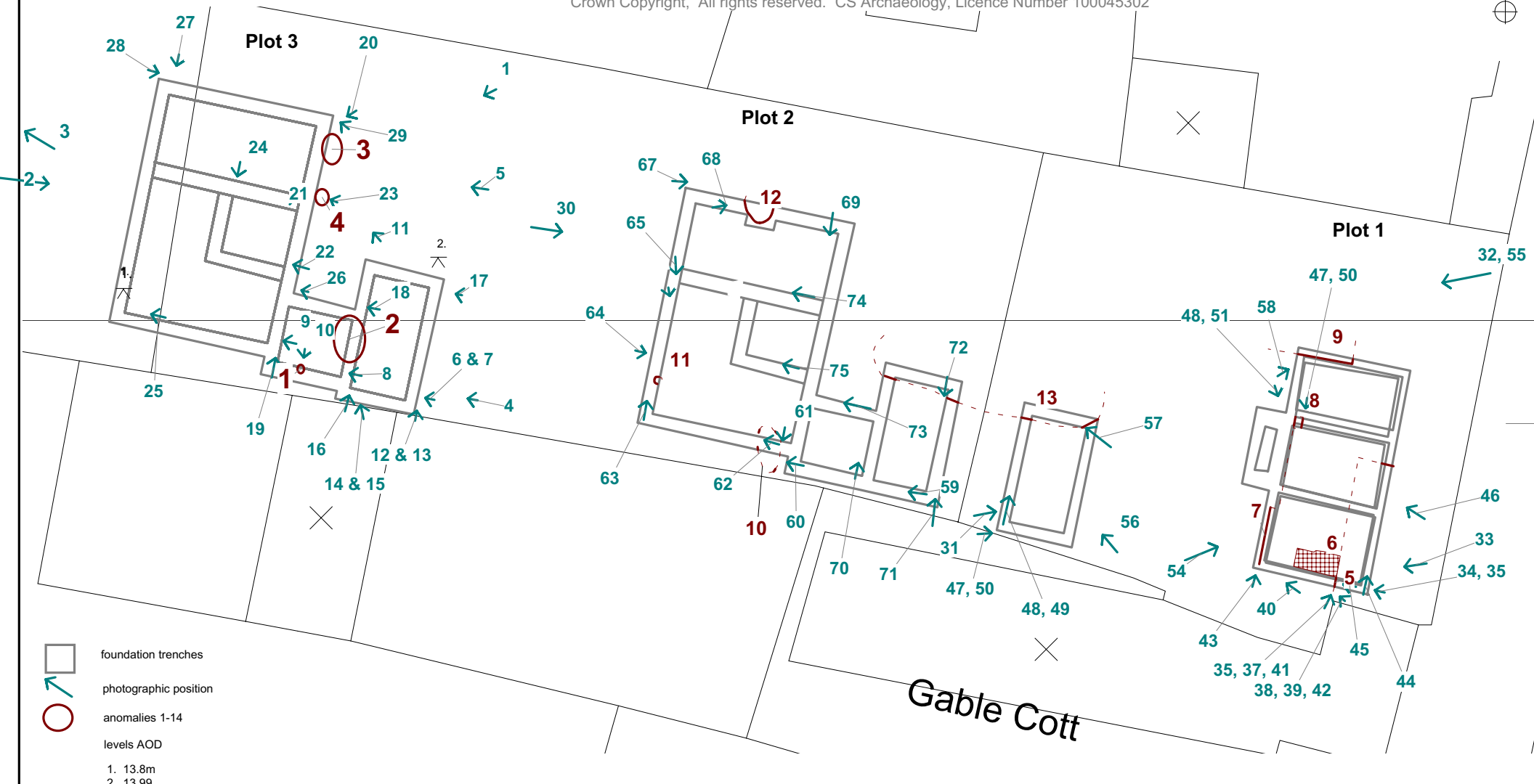
Land off the High Street, Everton,  
Nottinghamshire:  
An Archaeological  
Watching Brief

-  PDA boundary
-  foundation trenches



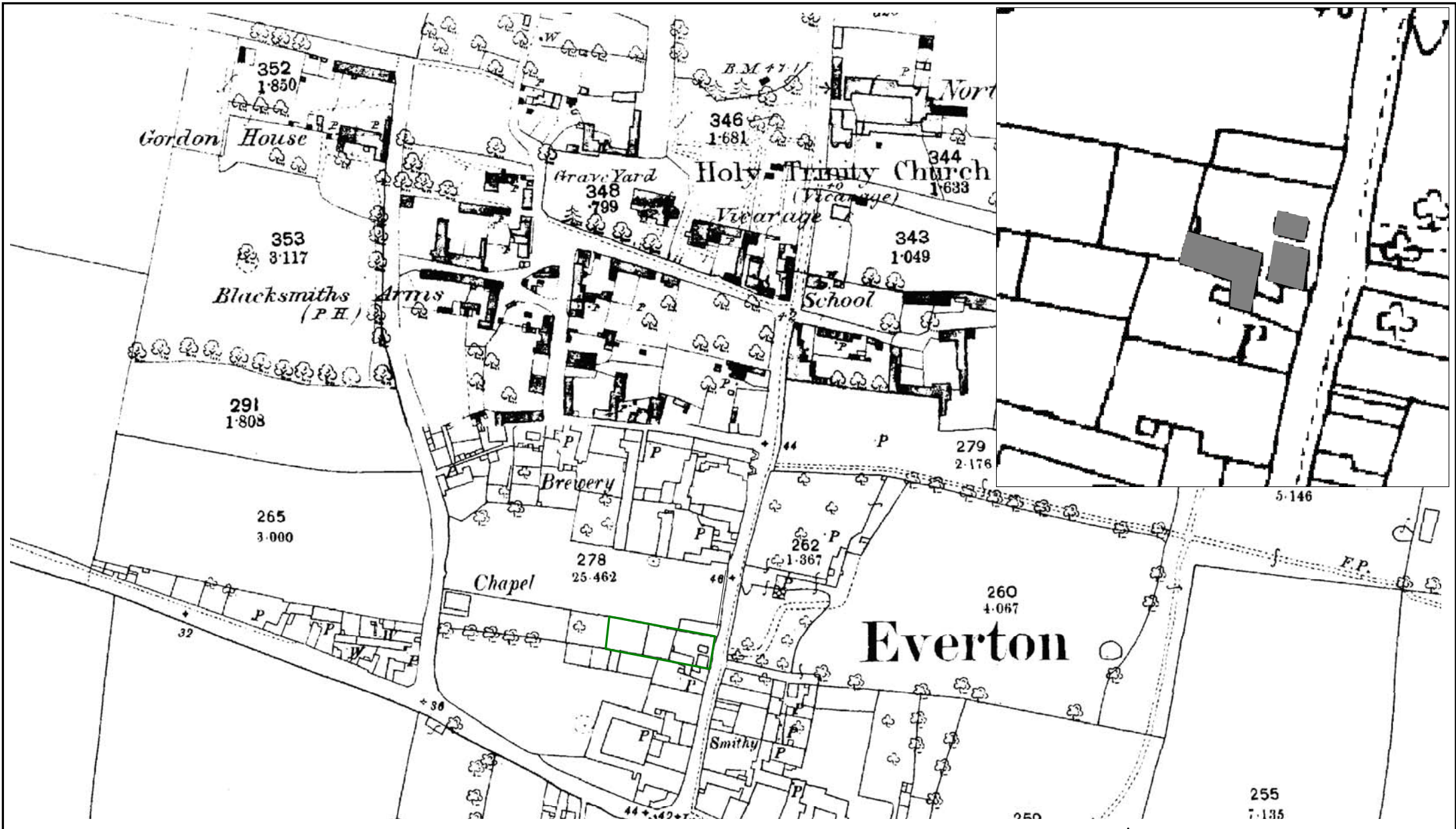
scale 1:500

Figure 3: Foundation  
Plans of Plots 1-3









Land off the High Street, Everton,  
Nottinghamshire: An Archaeological  
Watching Brief

 PDA

Figure 5: The Ordnance Survey Map of 1886  
with Enhanced Inset of the Historic Buildings within the PDA

not to scale

CS Archaeology  
December 2011

# PLATES





**Plate 1, 2:** Pre-excavation view of the PDA from the chapel, looking east



**Plate 2, 4:** Pre-excavation view of the PDA, looking west



**Plate 3, 9:** Post Excavation view, looking west northwest



**Plate 4, 10:** Detail of anomaly 1, looking south southwest



**Plate 5**, 21: Post-excitation view of trench G with anomalies 3 & 4, looking northeast



**Plate 6**, 41: view of the wall (5) and floor {6}, looking north northeast



**Plate 7**, 43: view of the cottage's rear wall (7), looking north northeast



**Plate 8**, 48: view of the brick lined water cistern (8), looking north northeast





**Plate 9, 58:** view of the probable cellar (9: trench base has been refilled), looking northeast



**Plate 10, 61:** view of the rubbish filled pit (10), looking southwest



**Plate 11, 64:** view of the anomaly 11, looking east



**Plate 12, 65:** view of the anomaly 12, looking southeast



**Plate 13, 68:** view of the anomaly 13, looking northeast



**Plate 14, 75:** general view, looking west

# APPENDICES

**A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT LAND  
OFF THE HIGH STREET, EVERTON,  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**CS Archaeology**

**April 2011**

0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is in response to a condition placed on Planning consent (Application No. 19/10/00028) by Nottingham County Council. This consent permits development to proceed subject to an approved WSI, which has to be agreed in advance before any works can take place.
- 0.2 This condition has been imposed because the Proposed Development Area (PDA) lies in proximity to Everton's historic village core, and the excavations could impact on associated archaeological deposits.
- 0.3 This WSI proposes that an archaeological watching brief is implemented to ascertain the nature of the archaeological resource which may be encountered during the site works.
- 0.4 The results from these archaeological works will provide a more detailed assessment of the PDA's archaeological resource.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Details

- 1.1.1 *Site Name:* Land off the High Street,
- 1.1.2 *Location:* Everton, Retford, Nottinghamshire DN10 5AR
- 1.1.3 *Status:* Unknown
- 1.1.4 *Grid reference:* SK 6913 9110
- 1.1.5 *Area of site (hectares):* 0.1
- 1.1.6 *Purpose of the work:* to record the archaeological resource. This record will establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the PDA in the areas outlined in **Figures 1 & 2**.

### 1.2 Archaeological Background

- 1.2.1 Everton is situated on a ridge of land overlooking the flat landscape of the 'Cars'. The 'Cars' is situated at the southern end of the 'Levels of Hatfield Chase'. The Nottinghamshire portion of the Cars extends over 8 miles, from near Bawtry to the Trent and is about two miles broad. The Nottinghamshire Cars comprises of 10,000 acres, and is situated in the parishes of Everton, Scaftworth, Gringley, and Walkeringham (Gill 1909).
- 1.2.2 The river Idle and its artificial deviation, the Bycar Dyke, were ineffectual in draining this district, and in 1650 Sir Cornelius Vermuydun, a Dutch expert, was consulted, and a large expense incurred in forming sluices, banks, etc., which were also eventually found to be ineffective. Subsequent Acts of Parliament enabled further works to be carried out, and now the value of the soil in the district is so improved as to justify the increased expenditure that was incurred (Gill 1909). Southeast of Everton lies Mattersley Priory, which was founded in 1192, by Roger de Maresey, and endowed with lands and granges at Mattersey, Thorpe, Gamston, Elkesley, West Retford, Misson, and Boulton (Sc0tt-Moncrieff 1909).
- 1.2.3 The PDA lies south of the village's historic core, which is believed to lie close to Holy Trinity Church which was built during the Norman Period. Holy Trinity was one of a series of churches built by the Normans along the route of the Roman road that crossed the northern part of Nottinghamshire, connecting York with Lincoln, via Doncaster and Littleborough (Gill 1909).



### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been written in response to a condition placed on Planning Consent (Application No. 19/10/00028) by Nottingham County Council.
- 1.3.2 This WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements to both mitigate and enable an assessment of the impact of the development proposal on the archaeological resource of the PDA. This is in accordance with Local Plan Policies and the National Planning Policy 5, Planning for the Historic Environment.
- 1.3.3 This archaeological condition on consent is to prepare this WSI which covers the removal and study of any deposits of archaeological/historic importance observed during the watching brief. The watching brief will apply to all below ground works associated with site reduction.

## **2 OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The objectives of this programme of archaeological work are to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Watching Brief**

- 3.1.1 It is proposed to carry out a watching brief during excavations of the three house foundations inclusive of all excavated services.
- 3.1.2 This project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and professional standards and guidance (IFA, 2001).
- 3.1.3 CS Archaeology will ensure that services are located prior to excavation by means of site plans.
- 3.1.4 Mechanical excavation, using a toothless ditching bucket will be used judiciously, under constant archaeological supervision down to the required depths.
- 3.1.5 The removed material will be scanned using a metal detector under archaeological supervision ensuring that all metal finds are located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection will be carried out following the Code of Practice in the Treasure Act of 1996.
- 3.1.6 Should any human remains be revealed these will be initially left *in situ*. The Coroner's Office will be informed only if the remains appear to have been buried for less than 100 years. If the remains prove to be archaeological and have to be removed, a licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and relevant regulations.
- 3.1.7 All deposits will be fully recorded on standard context sheets, photographs and conventionally-scaled plans and sections. All features will be planned at 1:20, with individual

features being planned at 1:10 where additional detail is required. All feature sections sampled will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. The elevation of the underlying natural where encountered will also be recorded. Even if no archaeology is recorded the stratigraphy will still be recorded. The limits of excavation will be shown in all plans and sections, including where these limits are coterminous with context boundaries.

- 3.1.8 The watching brief will favour preservation in situ, unless features will be directly affected by on-site works. If features are to be affected all anthropomorphic features will be investigated – discrete features will initially be half-sectioned; linear features will be excavated to 20% of their extent, not less than 1m in extent. Archaeological contexts at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated for the relationship between components to be established.
- 3.1.9 All finds that are 'treasure' will be reported to the coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act Code of Practice (1997).
- 3.1.10 Attention will be paid to artefact retrieval and conservation, ancient technology, dating of deposits and the assessment of potential for the scientific analysis of soil, sediments, biological remains, ceramics and stone.
- 3.1.11 All artefacts and ecofacts visible during the excavations will be collected and processed, unless variations to this are agreed by the archaeological monitor (NCC). In some cases sampling may be most appropriate.
- 3.1.12 Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in First Aid for finds (Watkins and Neal, 1998). In accordance with the procedures of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991), all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy should be X-radiographed before assessment. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues should be collated by hand, with separate samples collected for micro-slugs. In these instances, the guidance of Bayley *et al* (2001) will be followed.

## **3.2 Sampling Strategy**

- 3.2.1 If the archaeological deposits are of sufficient interest Environmental sampling may be recommended in consultation with NCC. Different sampling strategies will be employed according to established research targets and the perceived importance of the deposits under investigation. CS Archaeology conventionally recovers three main categories of sample:
- i) Routine Soil Samples; a representative 500g sample from every excavated soil context on site. This sample is used in the characterisation of the sediment, potentially through pollen analysis, particle size analysis, pH analysis, phosphate analysis and loss-on-ignition;
  - ii) Standard Bulk Samples; a representative 60-70 litre sample from every excavated soil context on site, in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (2002). This sample is used, through floatation sieving, to recover a sub-sample of charred macroplant material, faunal remains and artefacts;
  - iii) Purposive or Special Samples; a sample from a sediment which is determined, in field, to either have the potential for dating (wood charcoal for radiocarbon dating

or in situ hearths for magnetic susceptibility dating) or for the recovery of enhanced palaeo-environmental information (waterlogged sediments, peat columns, etc).

- 3.2.2 Samples will be taken for scientific dating, principally radiocarbon (C14) and archaeomagnetic dating, where dating of artefacts is insecure and where dating is a significant issue for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies.
- 3.2.3 Environmental samples will be collected from primary and secondary contexts, where applicable, from a range of representative features, including pit and ditch fills, postholes, floor deposits, ring gullies and other negative features. Positive features should also be sampled. Sampling will also be considered for those features where dating by other methods (e.g. pottery and artefacts) is uncertain. Animal bones will be hand collected, and from bulk samples collected from contexts containing a high density of bones.
- 3.2.4 Standard Bulk Samples of 60 litres or more will be recovered from every archaeologically significant deposit as part of a comprehensive environmental sampling strategy.
- 3.2.5 Within each significant archaeological horizon a minimum number of features required to meet the aims of the project will be hand excavated. Pits and postholes normally will be sampled by half-sectioning although some features may require complete excavation. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate. No deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. However, the full depth of archaeological deposits across the entire site will be assessed. Even in the case where no remains have been located the stratigraphy will be recorded.
- 3.2.6 Any excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be demonstrably worthy of preservation in situ.

### **3.3 Photography**

- 3.3.1 A general and detailed photographic record of the excavations and site reduction will be made.
- 3.3.2 General and detailed photographs will be taken with a 35mm camera. All photographs will be in black and white using an appropriate silver based film (Ilford Delta Plus), this will form the primary photographic record.
- 3.3.3 This record will be supplemented by 35mm colour slides, especially where colour is an aspect that needs to be recorded, e.g. built structures and bedrock and characteristic stratigraphy. All photographs will contain an appropriate graduated photographic scale. Digital photographs will also be taken to illustrate the report and to supplement the archive, copies will be included in the digital archive which will be supplied both to NCC.

### **3.4 Site Monitoring**

- 3.4.1 NCC will be notified at least two weeks in advance of the site works and the start of the archaeological watching brief, so that arrangements for monitoring the work can be made.
- 3.4.2 Monitoring will be arranged so that all excavated areas can be inspected in an exposed condition.

### **3.5 Health and Safety**

- 3.5.1 CS Archaeology will operate with due regard to health and safety and a copy of the risk assessment will be sent for approval to the archaeological monitors (NCC).

### **3.6 Post –Recording Work and Report Preparation**

- 3.6.1 Once the field recording work has been completed, a full report of the results of the watching Brief will be completed. The post-excavation assessment of material will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991). The report will include: background information, methods, detailed results, grid references, conclusion and discussion.
- 3.6.2 The watching brief report will include a phased interpretation of the site, if possible.
- 3.6.3 The watching brief report will also consist of a detailed context index to the archive.
- 3.6.4 If required the results of the palaeo-environmental assessment will outline the potential of the samples and will be included in the watching brief report.
- 3.6.5 The report will provide an interpretation of the results, placing them in local and regional context.
- 3.6.6 A copy of this WSI will be included as an appendix to the final report.

### **3.7 Report Submission**

- 3.7.1 Copies of the completed report will be submitted in both hard and digital formats to:
- The Client Mr MD Fear;
  - Mr C Robinson, County Archaeologist NCC;
  - The appropriate archive/museum.

### **3.8 Submission and Deposition of the Archive**

3.8.1 The archive, including a copy of the report, will be compiled, indexed and then offered for deposition with the appropriate museum (to be advised) after notification in advance of fieldwork.

### **3.9 Publicity**

3.9.1 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, and an OASIS form will be completed for the project.

### **3.10 References**

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Any comments on this WSI please address to Chris Scurfield at:

**CS Archaeology**

Manor Farm House  
Manor Occupation Road  
Royston  
Barnsley  
S71 4SG  
E: [chrisscurfield@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisscurfield@yahoo.com)  
T: 01226 722571  
M: 07963 586767



Land off the High Street, Everton,  
Nottinghamshire: An Archaeological  
Watching Brief

 PDA boundary





not to scale 1:1250

Figure 1: Location Map  
of the PDA



Land off the High Street, Everton,  
Nottinghamshire: An Archaeological  
Watching Brief



-  PDA boundary
-  historic dwelling c1889



not to scale

Figure 2: Building Layout  
within the PDA

## Appendix 2: Photographic Index

PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER of digital photographs (indexed by photographic position No.)

Photo. Position	Plate	Description	From
1		Pre-excavation view of the PDA	NE
2	<b>1</b>	Pre-excavation view of the PDA from the chapel	W
3		View of the chapel	SE
4	<b>2</b>	Pre-excavation view of the PDA	E
5		Pre-excavation view of the PDA	E
6		Excavation view of trench C	ESE
7		Post excavation view of trench C	ESE
8		Post Excavation view of trench F	ESE
9	<b>3</b>	Post Excavation view of trench H	ESE
10	<b>4</b>	Detail of anomaly 1	NNE
11		General view	SE
12-13		Post-excavation view of trench A	SSW
14-15		Pre-excavation view of trench D	SSE
16		Post-excavation view of trench D	SSE
17		Excavation view of trench B	ESE
18		Post-excavation view of trench E	ESE
19		Post-excavation view of trench G	SSW
20			
21	<b>5</b>	Post-excavation view of trench G with anomalies 3 & 4	SW
22		Post-excavation view of trench I	ESE
23		Post-excavation view of trench K	ESE
24		Post-excavation view of trench J	NNE
25		Post-excavation view of trench H (western end)	ESE
26		Detail of the stratigraphy, trench G east facing section	ESE
27		Post-excavation view of trench M	NNE
28		Post-excavation view of trench L	WNW
29		Post-excavation view of trench L	ESE