

20 NEWGATE STREET, BINGHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



On behalf of: **Mr & Mrs Lewis**

Planning Application: 12/01166/FUL

CS Archaeology
November 2013

On behalf of: Mr & Mrs Lewis
c/o Greenwood Architects Ltd
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Main Street,
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National Grid Reference (NGR): SK 7031 4004

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Fieldwork, Report and Illustrations by: Chris Scurfield

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Frontispiece: view of the site from the Orchard from the north

CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY.....	2
2	INTRODUCTION.....	3
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
4	METHODOLOGY.....	3
5	RESULTS	3
5.2	Watching Brief	3
6	CONCLUSION.....	4
7	PROPOSED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION	4
8	REFERENCES	5
8.1	Cartographic Sources.....	5
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	5

FIGURES

1	Location Map
2	Site Map
3	Historic Maps (1842 & 1900)
4	Site Plan
5	Plan and Section Drawings
6	Photographic Positions

APPENDICES

1	WSI
2	Archive Inventory

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is in response to a condition on Planning Consent (App No. 12/01166/FUL).
- 1.2 The watching brief revealed no medieval archaeology (deposits or artefacts) but did reveal a deep post medieval feature. This was a probable soak away, associated with the former house, and was located towards the south east corner of the main site strip area.
- 1.3 Small scale site reductions were carried out throughout the range of farm buildings, but other than an assortment of 19th century pottery, no significant deposits were revealed.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report has been commissioned by the landowners Mr & Mrs Lewis to record any archaeology evident during the site reduction works.
- 2.2 Bingham lies adjacent and east of the A46 site of the Roman Fosse Way, and north of the A52 (**Figure 1**). The site lies close to the centre of Bingham on the north side of Newgate Street, within the town's Conservation Area (**Figure 2**).
- 2.3 The PDA is depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1883 and correlates with today's layout. In 1883 there were a series of sheds along the western boundary of the PDA and the house closely correlates to the position of the former house which is still depicted on the Ordnance Survey.
- 2.4 Historic maps of the PDA depict the site as historically being two properties (**Figure 3**), but the ownership was rationalized by 1900, where we see the land to the amalgamated to become an orchard, and a 'new' building range built along the western boundary of the proposed development area (PDA).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits (**Figure 2**).

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 This has been carried out according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1) which was agreed by NCC. During the course of the watching brief digital photographs were taken of the general work. Post excavation views were taken with both digital and a 35mm SLR using black and white film, a photographic scale and archivally stable film (Appendix 2). All the photographs are listed in appendix 2, and are recorded graphically in **Figure 6**.
- 4.2 Upon completion of the project the archive will be deposited with Nottingham Museum. Artefacts recovered during the course of the watching brief will be retained by CS Archaeology for 6 months but it is not anticipated that they will form part of the archive.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Watching Brief

- 5.1.1 The watching brief has been able to confirm the absence of any significant archaeology in any areas of the site strip.
- 5.1.2 The site was characterised by mixed sandy re-deposited clay throughout the farm buildings with a consistent scatter of 19th century pottery, e.g. Room 1 (**Plate 1, 5**).

- 5.1.3 The main site strip area (22m x 16m) was characterised by 0.2m of top soil, a subsoil which was up to 0.1m deep to the north of the site strip. As the site strip proceeded the underlying natural red boulder clay was revealed (**Plate 2**), and this generally lay between 0.2-0.3m below the surface.
- 5.1.4 An irregular feature was noted towards the southeast corner of the main site strip area and was identified by post medieval pottery which the author has attributed to the 18th/19th centuries, earlier than the pottery from the farm building range. The rather irregular feature was 1.5 x 2.5m and broadly aligned north/south (**Plate 3**),. The feature had a well defined cut [107] which featured a very well defined southern edge with a 90 degree cut in the southeast corner, associated with what appeared initially to be a grave shaped feature. The 'grave' was found to actually extend northwards terminating in two feeder gullies. The feature had two upper contexts; [103] a more organic upper fill and a lower light brown silty clay. [102].
- 5.1.5 The feature [107] was recorded and then a section in the southeast corner was excavated. The sides of the feature were revealed and were almost vertical (**Figure 5**).
- 5.1.6 This section through the feature [107] (**Plate 4**) allowed its function to be realized because it breached the impermeable red boulder clay, and ended on top of the underlying light blue mudstone. Therefore based on the pottery and its morphology, the feature could be interpreted as a post medieval soak away. This soak away was probably constructed in association with the former house.
- 5.1.7 No other archaeological features across the PDA were noted, and no further work is recommended.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The watching brief has provided very useful with respect of negative evidence which has demonstrated that within the site reduction areas no significance archaeology was present and no evidence for an earlier medieval settlement was revealed or even traces of such a settlement detected in the form of residual pottery.
- 6.2 Of limited significance is the constructional details of a later post medieval soakaway that was probably built in association with the house to provide the house with a focal drainage point with a least two feeder drains for surface and foul water?, suggesting the possible location of the outside lavatory.

7 PROPOSED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

- 7.1 No further mitigation is recommended.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Cartographic Sources

1842 Plan of the Parish of Bingham within the County of Nottingham (Copy of Bingham Library)

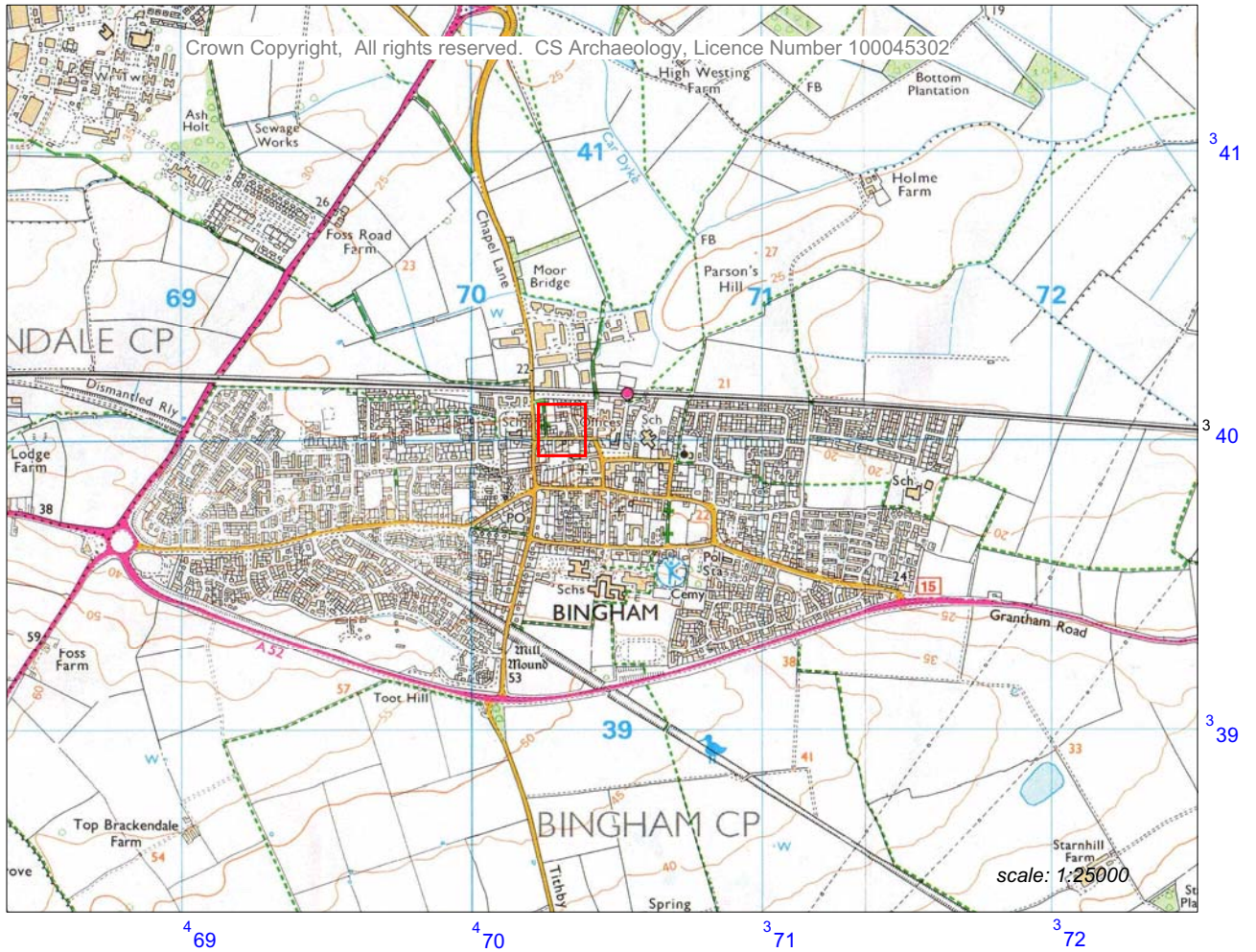
1900 2nd Ed 25" Ordnance Survey Map, sheet XLII/3

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Mr & Mrs Lewis for commissioning this report, and **Greenwood** Architects for facilitating site access and background information for the project. Further thanks to Dr C Robinson for his help and advice during the field work.

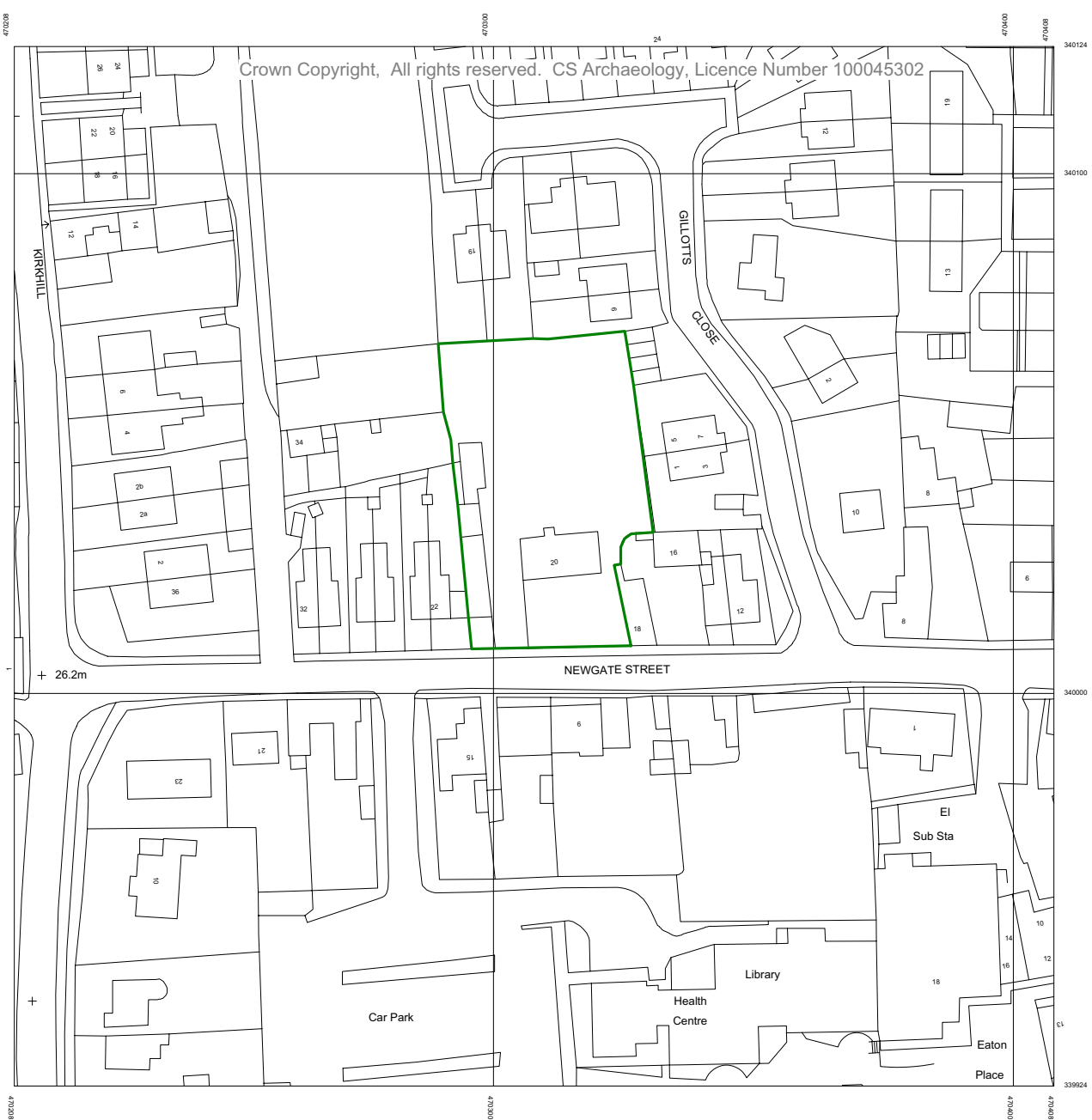
FIGURES


Nottighamshire



□ for inset see Figure 2




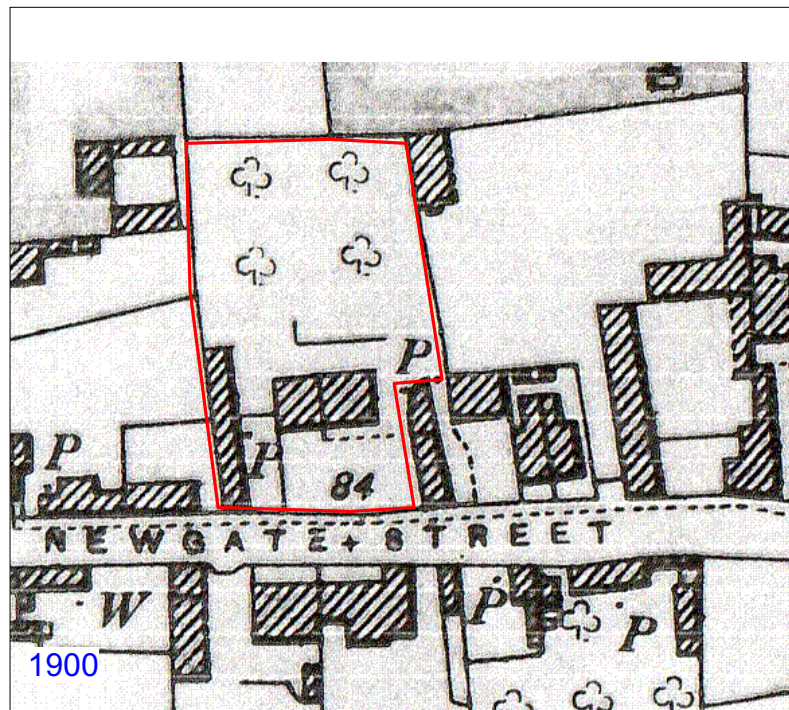


 PDA boundary

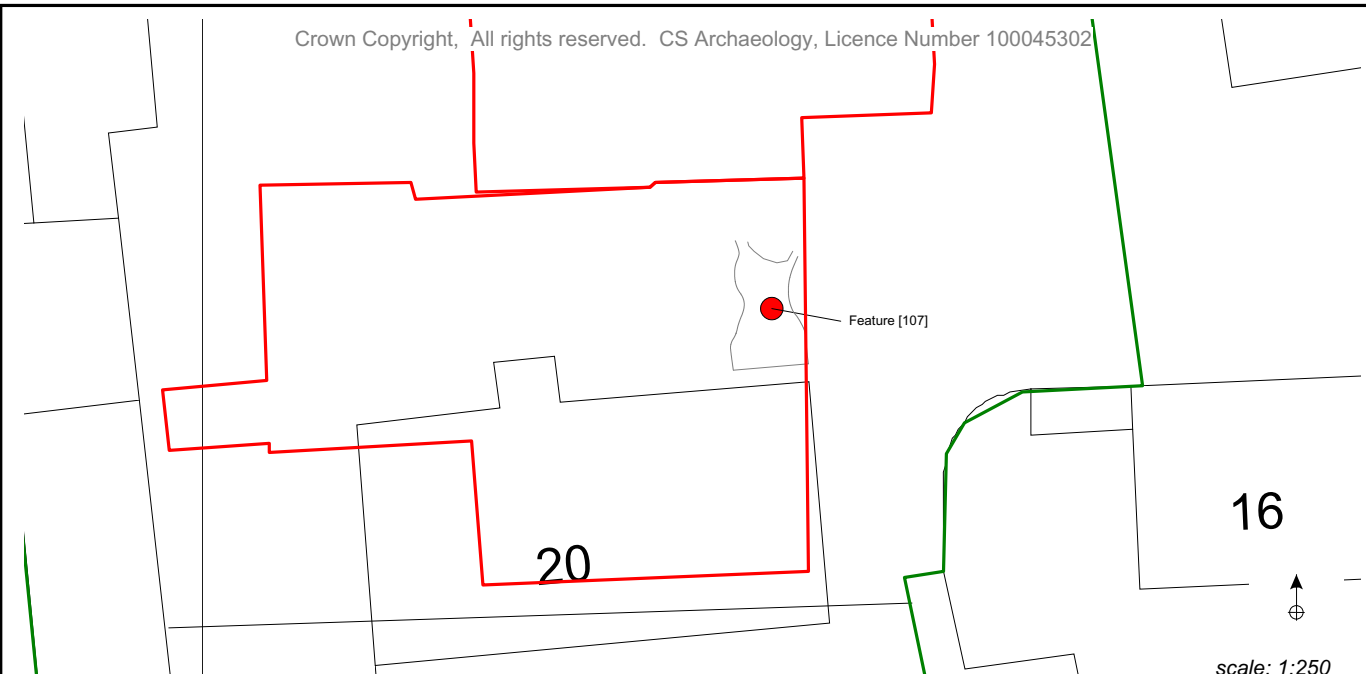




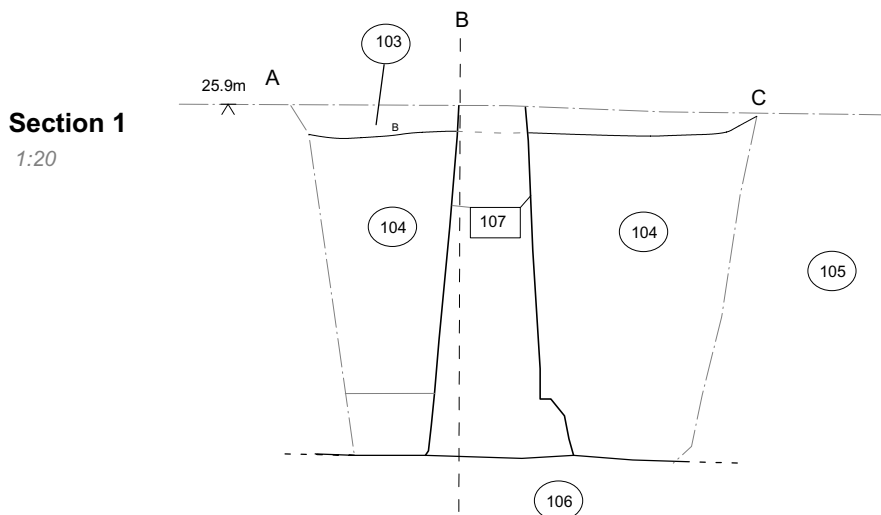
 PDA boundary



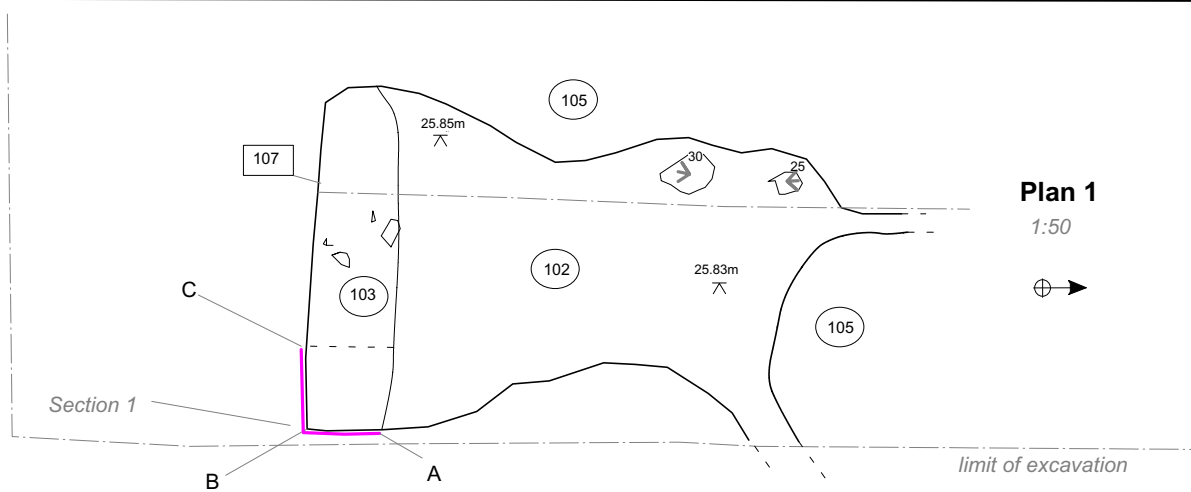




Southeast corner of the site strip

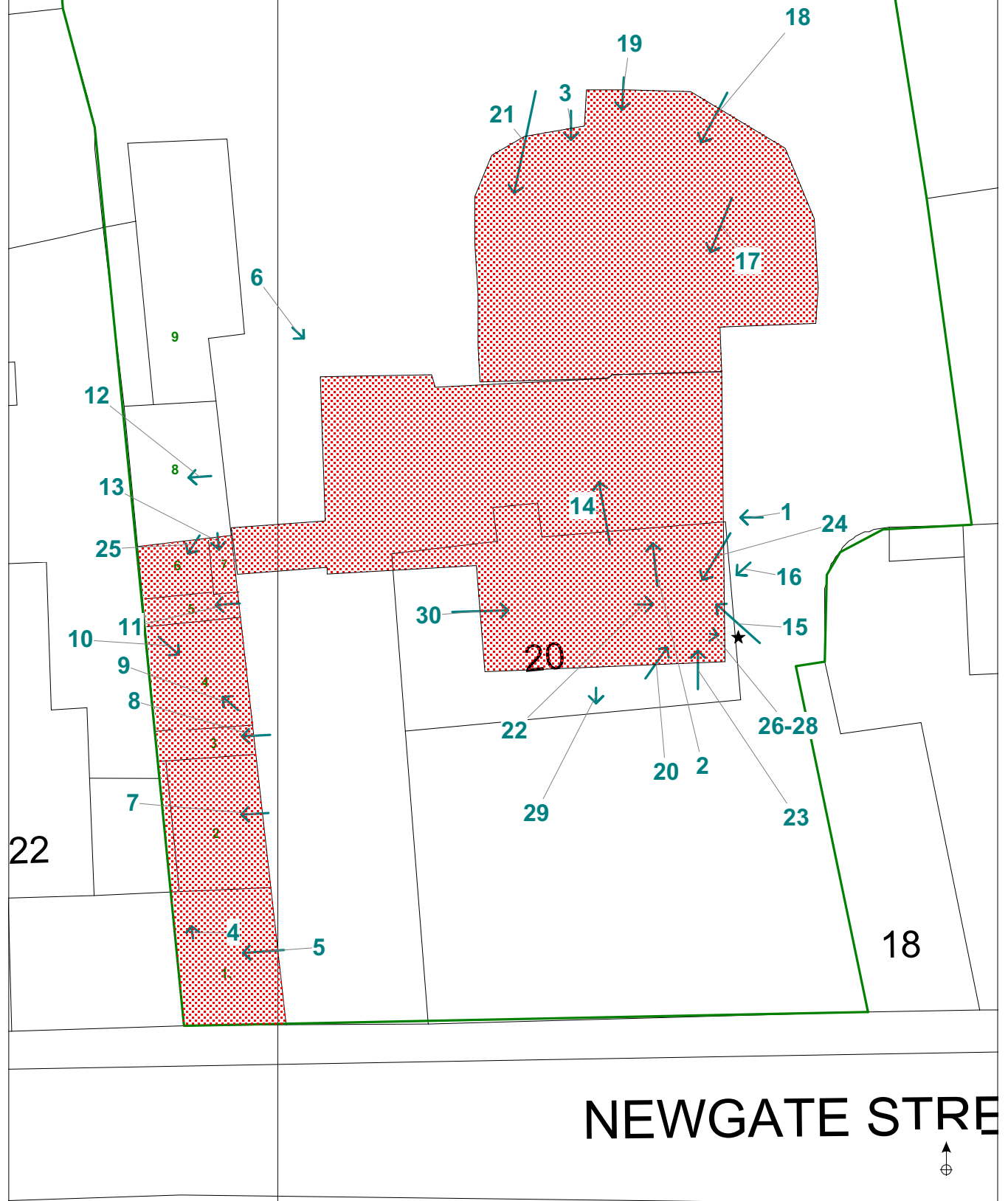


Section 1
1:20



Plan 1
1:50

- Photographic Positions
- Site Strip Areas
- 1-7 Room Numbers (Farm Bldgs.)



PLATES

With Photographic Position Numbers in italics (geographically noted in Figure4)



Plate 1, 5: room 1: post excavation view, looking west



Plate 2, 20: view of the feature [107] in the se (bottom) corner of the site, looking northwest



Plate 3, 22: view of feature {107}, looking east



Plate 4, 27: post excavation view of section through the feature {107}, looking south

APPENDICES

Appendix 1, Written Scheme of Investigation

Appendix 2, Photographic and Context Register

**20 NEWGATE STREET, BINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM:
A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Application No. 12/01166/FUL

CS Archaeology

October 2013

0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is in response to a condition placed on Planning consent (**Application No. 12/01166/FUL**) by Rushcliffe Borough 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 an area of archaeological potential and the excavations could impact on these potential areas.
- 0.3 This WSI proposes that an archaeological watching brief is implemented to ascertain the nature and extent of the potential archaeological resource which could be encountered during site works.
- 0.4 The results from these archaeological works will allow for the recording and sampling of any archaeological deposits within the PDA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Details

- 1.1.1 *Site Name:* 20 Newgate Street
- 1.1.2 *Location:* Bingham, Nottinghamshire
- 1.1.3 *Status:* Unknown
- 1.1.4 *Grid reference:* SK 7031 4004
- 1.1.5 *Area of site (hectares):* 0.2
- 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 **Figure 1**.

1.2 Archaeological Background

- 1.2.1 Bingham in the Elizabethan period was a small market town which acted as the capital of the villages within the Nottinghamshire portion of the Vale of Belvoir, an area known for producing an abundance of corn. Apart from its weekly market it was the centre for the Hundred of Bingham, one of the administrative subdivisions of the county, and of the Bingham Deanery. The size of its population is not known but was possibly around 400, equal to the largest villages in the area such as Cotgrave and Radcliffe. It almost certainly contained several tradesmen and craftsmen who served the local hinterland, but it was essentially a large agricultural village with a market probably dealing mainly in butter, cheese and garden produce rather than corn or livestock, which are likely to have been traded in more important markets such as Nottingham, Newark and Grantham. The Manor of Bingham coincided with the whole parish, and the Manorial Survey of 1586 sheds considerable light on its topographical layout, fields and farming systems. The Survey was compiled for the lord of the manor, Brian Stapleton, esquire (<http://www.binghamheritage.org.uk>).
- 1.2.2 It thus seems most likely that the Bingham Survey of 1586 was drawn up to value the manor preparatory to the Stapleton marriage settlement, although it could also have been at the insistence of one or more of the many debtors for whom it served as collateral for their loans. It would however obviously also have been useful to Sir Thomas Stanhope when he acquired the manor in 1590 (*ibid*).
- 1.2.3 As a result of Sir Thomas Stanhope's aggressive opportunism Bingham passed down through his family – later raised to the status of Earls of Chesterfield – for over 300 years until sold by them in the 1920s (*ibid*).
- 1.2.4 The PDA is depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1883 and correlates with today's layout. In 1883 there are a series of sheds along the western boundary and presumably the house on a very similar footprint to today.
- 1.2.5 No previous archaeological work is known to have taken place within the Proposed Development Area.

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. 12/01166/FUL, Cond. 3) by Nottingham County Council.

'No Development or site clearance shall take place until a scheme for archaeological investigation has been submitted to an approved in writing by the Borough Council. Thereafter the scheme shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and will: ensure that any archaeological items are recorded and to comply with policies GP1 (Sustainable Development), GP2 (Design and Amenity Criteria) and EN7 (Sites of Archaeological Importance) of the Rushcliffe Borough Non Statutory Local Plan.

1.3.2 This WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements to mitigate the impact of the development proposal on the potential archaeological assets. This is in accordance with Local Planning Policies and chapter 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012).

1.3.3 This archaeological condition on consent is to prepare this WSI which covers the excavation of the PDA in the form of an archaeological watching brief. This will allow for the proper recording and study of any deposits of archaeological/historical importance. The watching brief will apply to all below ground works associated with site reduction/excavations.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of this watching brief will be 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 all groundworks associated with the proposed development. This is to include all site reduction areas within and without the existing buildings.

3.1.2 This project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance in 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 by the site archaeologist 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 one week 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, CS Archaeology's Health and Safety Policy is available upon request.

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 & Mrs Lewis;
- Dr C Robinson, County Archaeologist (Nottinghamshire County Council);
- 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

- Bayley J, et al. 2001, *Archaeometalurgy*, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, English Heritage
English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*
English Heritage, 2002, *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation [2002/01]*
English Heritage, 2009, *Scheduled Monument Data Sheets (www.magic.gov.uk)*
English Heritage, 2010, *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*
Institute of Archaeologists, 2001, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field watching brief Reading*
Treasure Act, 1996, *Code of Practice*
Watkinson D. & Neal V., 1998, *First Aid for Finds (3rd edition)*, RESCUE & the Archaeological Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.

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

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APPENDIX 2: THE ARCHIVE

PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER B&W 35mm (Ilford Delta Professional) film and digital photographs
@ 12Mp

Position No.	Film/ Frame Nos.	Plate	Description	Looking
1	-		general view of the ground works	W
2	-		general view of the ground works	S
3	-		general view of the ground works towards Newgate Street	S
4	1/1		room 1: detail of the internal site reduction	N
5	-	1	room 1: post excavation view	W
6	-		general view of the ground works	SE
7	2/36		room 2: post excavation view	W
8	2/35		room 3: post excavation view	W
9	2/34		room 4: post excavation view	NW
10	2/33		room 4: post excavation view	SE
11	2/32		room 5: post excavation view	W
12	2/31		room 8, the former pigsty: post excavation view	W
13	2/30		general view of the ground works	NNW
14	-		general view of the ground works	N
15	-		general view of the ground works	NW
16	-		start of the site reduction	SW
17	-		site reduction of the eastern side	SSW
18	-		site reduction of the eastern side	SSW
19	-		site reduction of the northern side	S
20	-	2	view of the feature [107] in the se (bottom) corner of the site	NW
21	-		site reduction of the western side	SWW
22	2/28-26	3	view of feature {107}	E
23	2/25		view of the feature {107}	N
24	2/24		view of the feature {107}	SW
25	-		room 6, the former pigsty: post excavation view	SW
26	2/23		post excavation view of section through the feature {107}	E
27	2/22	4	post excavation view of section through the feature {107}	S
28	2/21		post excavation view of section through the feature {107}	SE
29	2/20		detail of the former houses shallow wall footings	S
30	-		site reduction of the southern side	E

CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Description
100	<i>Deposit: dark brown loam</i> Lies above [101]
101	<i>Deposit: brown silty clay (subsoil).</i> Lies below [100] and above [102, 103]
102	<i>Deposit: light brown silty clay.</i> General (5%) stone content, 2% mudstone and large boulders with inclination of c.30 degs. Lies below [103,100 & 101] and above [107]
103	<i>Deposit: brown silty loam with 5% charcoal evenly distributed and 2% rounded stone (gravel)</i>
104	<i>Deposit: NB very similar to [102]</i>
105	<i>Natural: red boulder clay (glacial drift deposit)</i>
106	<i>Natural: blue grey mudstone – underlying geology</i>
107	<i>Cut: irregular shaped in plan(2.5 x 4m) with a 'squared off southern end and two small gullies at its northern end. In section the cut is steeply inclined cutting through the red clay natural</i>