

# LAND TO SOUTH OF 16 WELLINGTON SQUARE, 190 DERBY ROAD, NOTTINGHAM

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

*Prepared by*

**NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

*For*

**Vintage Developments Ltd.**

**Report No: REP23008**

**Project Code: NDR 16**

**July 2023**



# Document Control Sheet

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1.0	Issue	Jacqui Hutton Post Excavation Officer	Mike Wood Snr Project Manager	Mike Wood Snr Project Manager		

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# NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on an area of land on Derby Road in Nottingham during April 2022 in line with planning conditions relating to the construction of a new development.

No archaeological features or artefacts were evident that dated to time periods prior to the Post Medieval Period. The footings from a brick-built building pertaining to a basement or coal cellar were identified in the northwestern corner of the site dates to the Post Medieval/Early Modern period. There was no evidence of tunnels or cave systems.

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Purpose of this Report**

This report represents the findings from an archaeological watching brief conducted in advance of a building development at land to the south of 16 Wellington Square, 190 Derby Road, Nottingham NG7 1NF (Figure 1).

## **1.2 Commissioning Bodies**

The archaeological work was commissioned by Vintage Developments Limited and the archaeological contractor was Network Archaeology.

## **1.3 Development History**

The development comprised the construction of two three-storey residential flats with basement parking with new vehicular access from Ashbourne Street and Exit to Wellington Square (Planning Application No: 20/01950/PFUL3) (PP-09056506)).

## **1.4 Planning Policy and Guidance**

The National Planning Policy Framework (2021, para. 189-208) sets out the government's policy and guidance with respect to conservation of the historic environment (DCLG 2012; DCLG, DCMS and English Heritage 2010).

In line with the planning conditions attached to the planning approval for the development, a brief was sought from Scott Lomax, Nottingham City Archaeologist.

## **1.5 Description of the Physical Environment**

The site lay on Wellington Square, orientated north-south between Ilkeston Road to the north and Derby Road to the south. It was positioned to the east of the closed end of Ashbourne Street centred on TF 33010 87278. This location is approximately 700m to the northwest of the Castle Walls and 50m outside the limits of the city centre. The Development Area (DA) was situated immediately to the south of 16 Wellington Square and bounded to the north by the gable end of no.16, to the south by the property boundary with 190 Derby Road and to the west by the property boundary with houses and garages situated in Ashbourne Street (Figure 2).

The site originally comprised a concrete carpark with adjacent semi-mature trees and vegetation.

### **1.5.1 Geology and hydrology**

The underlying geology is Chester Formation - Sandstone, pebbly (gravelly) sedimentary bedrock formed between 250 and 247.1 million years ago during the Triassic period. The upper geology comprises freely draining slightly acid sandy soils.

## **1.6 Archaeological and Historical Context**

The archaeological background and principal sites and features within 1 km of the proposed development area identified through archaeological studies are described in the following sections in the context of a timeline of archaeological periods, comprising:

- Palaeolithic 250,000 – 10,000 BC
- Mesolithic 10,000 – 4,000 BC
- Neolithic 4,000 – 2,500 BC
- Bronze Age 2,500 – 700 BC
- Iron Age 800 BC – AD 43
- Roman AD 43 – 410
- Early Medieval AD 410 – 1066
- Medieval AD 1066 – 1540
- Post-Medieval/Modern AD 1540 – 1900 / present

### 1.6.1 Prehistoric (4000BC to AD43)

There is no known prehistoric archaeological remains or features within the DA, although, Mesolithic flints were previously found at Nottingham Castle to the southeast of the DA, and Neolithic and Bronze Age activity around the River Trent. A Neolithic sandstone axe (HER No. 317578) was found at Friar Lane to the southeast of the DA, and another stone axe (317885) was also located nearby. A bronze axe and a bronze spearhead (HER No. 317871) were also found during excavations for the Theatre Royal approximately 1km to the east of the DA

There was no evidence of Iron Age remains recorded in the DA. Iron Age features and findspots were recorded around the city centre near the Castle to the southeast and Lace Market to the east of the DA.

### 1.6.2 Roman (AD43-c.450)

There was no evidence of Roman archaeological remains within the DA. The Roman road the Fosse Way passes near the city boundary with no known crossing of the Trent or settlement at Nottingham itself, although there are several known settlements in the wider area such as at Holme Pierrepont, Ratcliffe on Soar and Gedling.

### 1.6.3 Early - late Medieval (c.AD450-1540)

No archaeological features or material culture was evident within the DA. The placename of Nottingham probably derives from the Old English village of Snot's people 'Snot ingas ham' (Ekwell, E 1960). A late Anglo-Saxon mint is thought to have been established considerably earlier but no documentary or artefactual evidence of this has yet been identified (Burton 1927).

The Anglo-Saxon settlement is thought to have been focussed on the area under the modern Lace Market lying just east of the DA. The construction of the original wooden structure of Nottingham Castle, sited on a sandstone outcrop, began in AD1068 shortly after the conquest, with the Norman settlement developing within the environs of the castle. At the time of the Domesday survey Nottingham was known as *Snotingeham*, with an estimated population of 165 households, which would have made it a substantial settlement at the time. The castle was rebuilt in stone by King Henry II in the 12th century,

a section of the medieval city wall also lies to the east of the DA on Maid Marian Way (SM 1006380).

The extensive network of caves under Nottingham, cut into the soft sandstone are known to have been occupied since at least the 13th century, although may have been utilised much earlier

The town of Nottingham became a county corporate in 1449 with the castle and shire hall kept separate. It also became known as a major exporter of alabaster religious sculpture in the 15th century.

#### **1.6.4 Post-medieval to early modern (c.AD1540-1939)**

The Royal standard was raised by King Charles I at Derry Mount in 1642 at the onset of the Civil War; however, once Charles moved to Shrewsbury the parliamentarians took control over Nottingham Castle where it was held until the end of the war, despite attempts to capture it by Royalist troops from Newark. Derry Mount was excavated in 1777 and was found to contain an inhumation with a noticeable bullet wound along with a coin dated to 1669.

The 12th century stone-built Castle was largely demolished in 1651 and the current castle structure (SM 1006382) is a 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion built by the Duke of Newcastle.

The cave system through Nottingham was utilised throughout the post-medieval period until the St Mary's Enclosure Act of 1845 banned the renting of cellars and caves as homes to the poor, suggesting it had previously been widespread. There are at least 800 known caves in Nottingham, with approximately 200 having been discovered since 2016. The caves under Drury Hill to the southeast of the PDA are now a scheduled monument.

The textile industry came to the fore in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with the invention of the knitting frame by William Lee. A cotton mill was built in Hockley in 1768 and the adaption of Lee's frame led to the Lace Market thriving with narrow streets and high-density warehouses. Lace had become an international export by the 19th century; however, the 20th century imports of cheaper fabrics caused its collapse.

#### **1.6.5 Early modern to the present day (1939-present)**

Within the DA, there is part of a cave system known to have been used during World War 2 as an air-raid shelter. Many of the Nottingham caves, such as at Drury Hill (SM 1006376) were used in this way some by re-opening old systems, connecting caves and others by installing purpose-built shelters by cutting into the rock. The cave within the DA is currently unused but remains accessible; the adjoining property has a café built into the same section of cave.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

The area identified for the archaeological monitoring (Watching Brief) comprised the entire area of the DA between Ashbourne Street and Wellington Street and covers an area approximately 481 sqm.



## 2.1 Methodology

The Watching Brief was undertaken on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist from Past and Present Archaeology on behalf of Network Archaeology Ltd. The site was stripped in two parts; the northern half on the first day and the southern half on the second day. This was due to site constrictions for temporary storage of the removed overburden.

The two phases of overburden removal comprised the initial breakage and removal of concrete flooring, shortly followed by the removal of made ground comprising red bricks primarily used for the levelling of the site.

The stripping of the overburden was conducted using a machine excavator with a toothless grading bucket, excavated in controlled spits down to the top of the natural geological substrate, or first archaeological horizon, whichever came first, and to identify:

- the depth of deposits that are of no archaeological interest, for example concrete and its associated make-up, these were to be included as a single description
- the depth at which archaeological deposits are present below current ground level;
- the depth of the sequences; and
- the level at which the underlying deposits of no archaeological interest, for example geological strata such as chalk, are located.

Photographs with details recorded in a photo-register were taken. A 'Site location plan' indicating Site north was prepared. The location of site plans was identified using OSGB coordinates.

## 2.2 Aims and Objectives

The main purpose of the archaeological investigation was to fully mitigate the effects of the development upon identified and potential archaeological remains. The proposed development is close to areas of known medieval activity, and there is the potential for activity of earlier periods to be present also.

The **key** research objectives include:

- Recommendations by the Society for Medieval Archaeology to the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Society for Medieval Archaeology 1987)
- Historic England (formerly English Heritage) archaeological guidance, advice notes and research agendas (e.g. EH 2005), and thematic strategies such as those for prehistory (EH 2010), the Roman period (EH 2012), and the historic industrial environment (EH 2010).
- Nottingham City Council Local Plan Part 2 - Land and Planning Policies January 2020 Policy HE2: Caves

The specific aims are:

- To identify, appropriately manage and fully mitigate the archaeological resource affected by the proposed works; particularly any potential caves.

- To consider, in all cases of archaeological discovery, whether preservation in situ is desirable and achievable as the foremost response;
- To determine, where preservation in situ is not desirable or achievable, an appropriate strategy for preservation by record;
- To develop, where possible, knowledge and understanding of the historic landscape and archaeological resource through recording of threatened remains;
- To determine and understand the nature, function and character of any remains in their cultural and environmental setting;
- To obtain a chronological sequence for the human activity and to place it within its regional context;
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental sequence and context of archaeological deposits and features;
- To engage in a programme of post-excavation, archiving, synthesis and study, leading to publication and dissemination of results, and
- To ensure the long-term survival of the information through deposition of a project archive.

### 2.3 Scope of Works and Aims of this Assessment

The aims of this report are to:

- Present the background, methodology, summary results and recommendations for further study relating to the archaeological works undertaken;
- Assess the potential of the data collected during the fieldwork to contribute to any archaeological research priorities highlighted in current national, regional and local research agendas, and to identify any other pertinent areas of research that the results could address;
- Lead to the creation of an updated project design consisting of fully costed proposals for further analysis, justifications for carrying out these proposals, proposals for publication and dissemination of the results, and a timetable for completion of the project; and
- Create a structured and accessible assessment archive, in accordance with current national and local guidelines.

This assessment includes an updated project design, comprising a refined research agenda, a publication plan as well as an itemised proposal for the comprehensive analysis and publication of the recovered data, broken down into specific tasks.

## 3 RESULTS

Throughout this section features and deposits are referred to by their unique context number. A convention has been adopted in this report whereby cut features are referred to in bold text, whilst deposits are referred to in normal type. Full descriptions and dimensions of the individual contexts can be found in the context database in appendix B.

The local geology comprised sandstone bedrock (1007) overlain by a loose sandy natural (1003). There appeared to be no evidence of subsoils or topsoil still present in this area, probably being removed by the construction of the prior developments. Representative sections can be seen in Figure 4 and Plates 2 and 3.

There were no archaeological features pertaining to a period prior to the post medieval/modern. Evidence of footings for a brick-built structure <1006> was recorded in the northwest corner of the site measuring 4.25m by 2.35m (Figure 3, Plate 4). The cut for this foundation [1005] was into the natural geology (1003 and 1007) and with vertical straight sides and a flat base. The foundations comprised red bricks with cement mortar in an irregular stretcher bond which represented the footings of a basement, cellar or coal storage. 20th century pottery was found within the fill of the cut (1004) and was not retained. The area inside of the structure appeared to have a layer of coal dust suggesting that it was probably a basement used for coal storage.

Ordnance Survey maps provide little evidence of possible features or buildings that could relate to this below ground structure. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition from 1877 shows open ground with an orchard on the western boundary, however the later editions from 1880 show a series of buildings in the vicinity but the area of the DA remained clear of any building activity through to present day. There was no evidence of this structure higher in the stratigraphic layers, however, any remains could have been disturbed/destroyed when the area was levelled to construct the car park.

The formation and style of the brickwork is similar to the red brick building that is immediately adjacent on the western edge of the DA and therefore this feature probably relates to that building. It can therefore be suggested that it could be dated to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century/Early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

There was no evidence of any tunnels or man-made caves relating to the previously recorded caves located beneath the centre of Nottingham used as shelters during WW2.

### **3.1 Summary of Archaeological Findings**

The Watching Brief identified no archaeological activity with the Site apart from the footings of an old coal storage cellar/basement. Therefore no further work would be needed regarding an analysis report.

### **3.2 Artefact assessment**

The only artefacts that were observed comprised pottery dating to 20<sup>th</sup> century and therefore not retained. No earlier material culture was evident. No environmental samples were taken as the deposits were deemed to be either natural geology or modern made ground.

### **3.3 Quantification of the Archive**

A summary of the excavation document archive is presented below in Table 1 below. This is presented in order that the size of the archive and the nature of its composition, especially as regards its size, can be better understood.

**Table 1 Quantification of documents archive**

Document Archive	Total
Context Registers	1
Context Sheets	9
Drawing Registers	1
Drawing Sheets	2
Drawings	3
Photographic Registers	1
Digital Photographs	29

## 4 DATA POTENTIAL

The site examined by this work yielded very limited amounts of archaeological data and therefore contributes very little towards any research objectives.

## 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source	Year	Title	Publisher
AAF	2007	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation	
CifA	2014a	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation	
Burton, F. E.	1927	The Coins of King Aethelstan of the Nottingham Mint	Transactions of the Thoroton Society.
CifA	2014b (Rev.)	Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology	
CifA	2014c (Rev.)	Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials	
CifA	2014d (Rev.)	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation	
CifA	2014e	Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives	
Ekwel, E.	1960	The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names	Oxford University Press
Ferguson L.M. & Murray D.M.	1997	Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage, Paper 1,	Institute of Field Archaeologists' Manchester
Hamilton, A.	2004	Nottingham's Caves, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition	Nottingham Civic Society
Historic England	1991	Exploring Our Past	London
Historic England	1997	Historic England Archaeology Division Research Agenda (Unpublished draft)	London
Historic England	2009	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment and MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Excavation	London
Historic England	2011	Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation (second edition) (Centre for Archaeology Guidelines)	London
Knight, D., Lomax, S. and G. Young	2012	The origins of Nottingham: archaeological investigations in the medieval town from 1969 to 1980	Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire

Source	Year	Title	Publisher
Lomax, S.	2013	Nottingham: The Buried Past of a Historic City Revealed	Barnsley: Pen and Sword Books Ltd
MacCormick, A. G.	2001	Nottingham's underground maltings and other medieval caves: architecture and dating	Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	2021	National Planning Policy Framework	
Museums & Galleries Commission	1992	Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections	London
Nottingham City Council		Local Plan Part 2 - Land and Planning Policies January 2020 Policy HE2: Caves	
Society of Museum Archaeologists	1995	Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Society for Museum Archaeologists, London
Walker, K.	1990	Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.	United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London)
Waltham, T.	2008	Sandstone Caves of Nottingham, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	East Midlands Geological Society
Williams, A & G. H. Martin	2003	The Domesday Book a Complete Translation	Penguin
Young, C. S. B.	1982	Discovering Rescue Archaeology in Nottingham	Nottingham City Council

## Website sources

Reference	Title	Link
<b>British Geological Survey, undated</b>	Geology of Britain viewer	<a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</a> [Accessed 29/06/2023]
<b>Cranfield University/NSSI, undated</b>	Soilscapes Viewer	<a href="https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/">https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/</a> [Accessed 29/06/2023]
<b>Heritage Gateway</b>		<a href="http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx">http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx</a> [Accessed 29/06/2023]
<b>NLF (National Library of Scotland)</b>	Map Images	<a href="http://maps.nls.uk/">http://maps.nls.uk/</a> [Accessed 29/06/2023]

**APPENDIX A**

# **OASIS Submission Form**

# Summary for networka1-517341

OASIS ID (UID)	networka1-517341
Project Name	Watching Brief at Land to south of 16 Wellington Square, 190 Derby Road, Nottingham
Sitename	LAND TO SOUTH OF 16 WELLINGTON SQUARE, 190 DERBY ROAD, NOTTINGHAM
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	LAND TO SOUTH OF 16 WELLINGTON SQUARE, 190 DERBY ROAD, NOTTINGHAM
Planning Id	20/01950/PFUL3 (PP-09056506)
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Network Archaeology, Past to Present Archaeology
Project Dates	26-Apr-2022 - 28-Apr-2022
Location	LAND TO SOUTH OF 16 WELLINGTON SQUARE, 190 DERBY ROAD, NOTTINGHAM NGR : SK 56135 40122 LL : 52.95554430897964, -1.165863876230019 12 Fig : 456135,340122
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Nottinghamshire District : Nottingham Parish : Nottingham, unparished area
Project Methodology	The Watching Brief was undertaken on 26th and 28th April 2022 under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist from Past and Present Archaeology. The site was stripped in two parts; the northern half on the first day and the southern half on the second day. This was due to site constrictions for temporary storage of the removed overburden. The two phases of overburden removal comprised the initial breakage and removal of concrete flooring, shortly followed by the removal of made ground comprising red bricks primarily used for the levelling of the site. The stripping of the overburden was conducted using a machine excavator with a toothless grading bucket, excavated in controlled spits down to the top of the natural geological substrate, or first archaeological horizon, whichever came first.
Project Results	No archaeological features or artefacts were evident that dated to time periods prior to the Post Medieval Period. The footings from a brick-built building pertaining to a basement or coal cellar were identified in the northwestern corner of the site that are thought to date to the post medieval/early modern period. There was no evidence of tunnels or cave systems.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Nottingham City HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Jacqui, Hutton
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - NCMG 2021-11
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Nottingham City Museums and Galleries;

# Summary Table of Contexts



Context No.	Context Type	Fill of	Filled by	Same as	Type Description	Feature Description	Dimensions	Drawings		Photos	
								Sheet	No.	Camera	Nos
1000	Layer				Cement flooring	Hard light grey cement reinforced with steel bars	20m x 21.50m wide and 0.15m thick	1	1, 2, 3	100	3632-3662
1001	Layer				Brick hardstanding	Mid red brick hard standing	20m x 21.50m wide and 0.10m thick	1	1, 2, 3	100	3632-3662
1002	Layer			1004	Made Ground	Firm dark grey brown clayey silty sand with brick, slate and pottery inclusions	20m x 21.50m wide and 0.50m thick	1	1, 2, 3	100	3632-3662
1003	Layer				Natural geology	Loose light yellow brown sand with occasional stone inclusions	20m x 21.50m wide and 1.10m deep	1	1, 2, 3	100	3632-3662
1004	Fill	1005		1002	Fill of building footings	Firm dark grey brown clayey silty sand with brick, slate and pottery inclusions	4.25m x 2.35m wide and 2.90m deep	1	1	100	3636-3640
1005	Cut		1004 1006		Cut of building footings	Vertical sides with sharp break of slope and flat base	4.25m x 2.35m wide and 3.00m deep	1	1	100	3636-3640
1006	Masonry				Building footings	Red brick with cement mortar, irregular stretcher bond	230mm x 108mm x 73mm brick size	1	1	100	3636-3640
1007	Layer				Bedrock	Hard light orange yellow sandstone	n/a	1	1, 2, 3	100	3632-3662
1008	Masonry				External wall	Red brick with cement mortar, irregular English Garden bond	230mm x 108mm x 73mm brick size	1	3	100	3649-3652



Plate 1. Overview of site during the machine stripping of the overburden. Facing north.



Plate 2. View of site section. Facing north-northwest.



Plate 3. View of site section. Facing northeast.



Plate 4. Remains of brick built structure. Facing north.



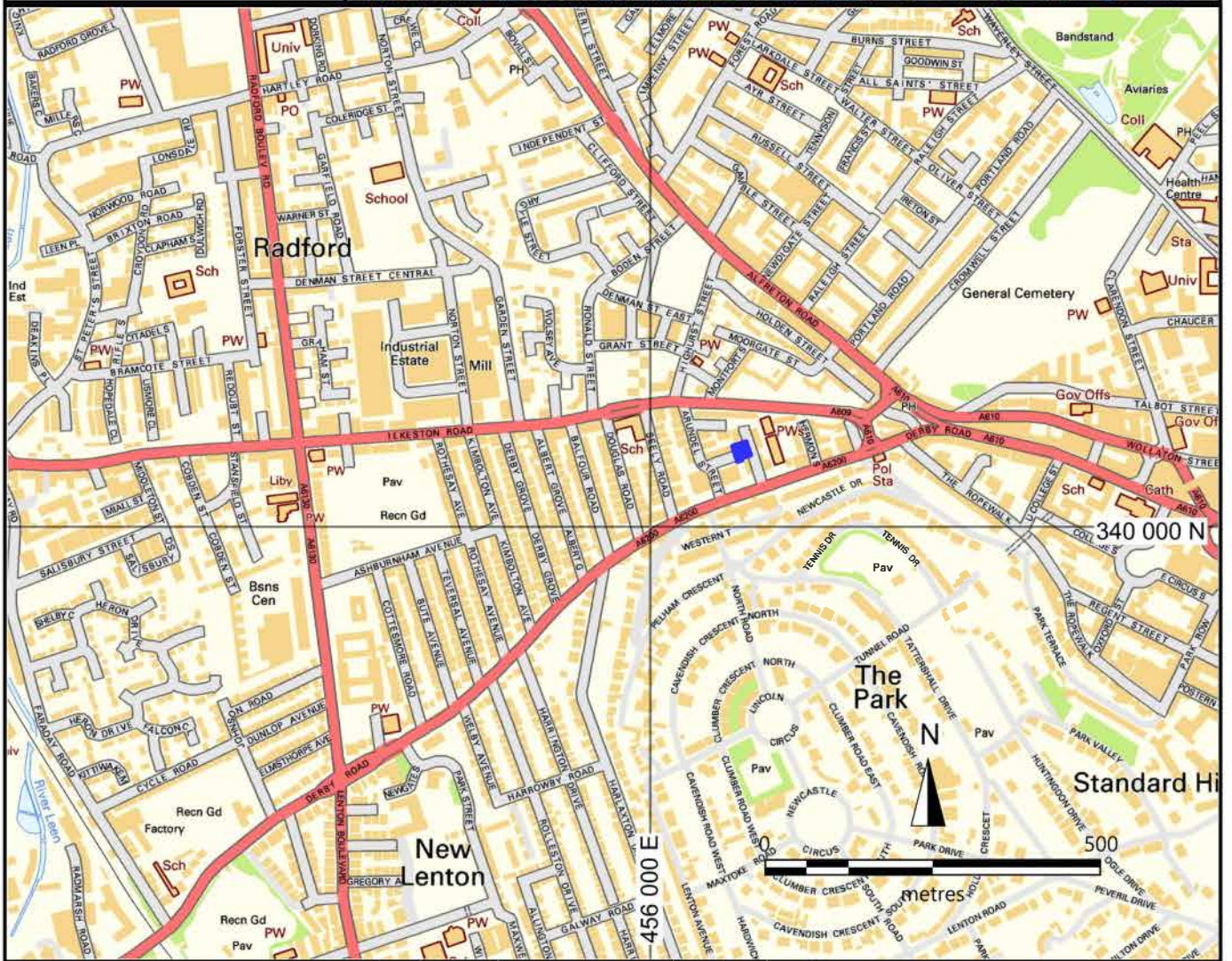
Plate 5. Ordnance Survey Map 1877



Plate 6. Ordnance Survey Map 1880

**APPENDIX D**

# **Figures**



● □ Proposed development

1.00	26/05/21	First issue	AT	GC	MW
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

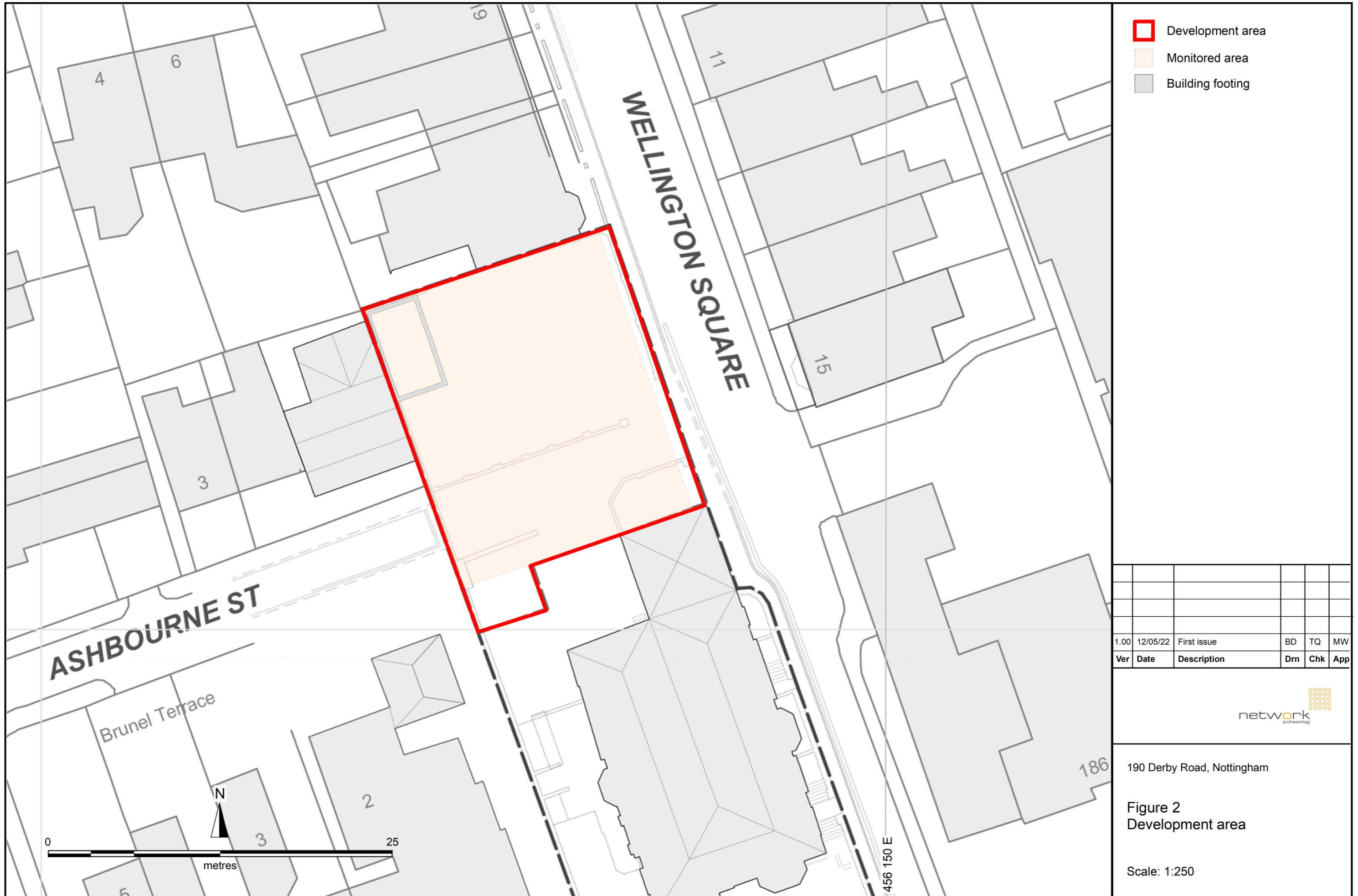
190 Derby Road, Nottingham

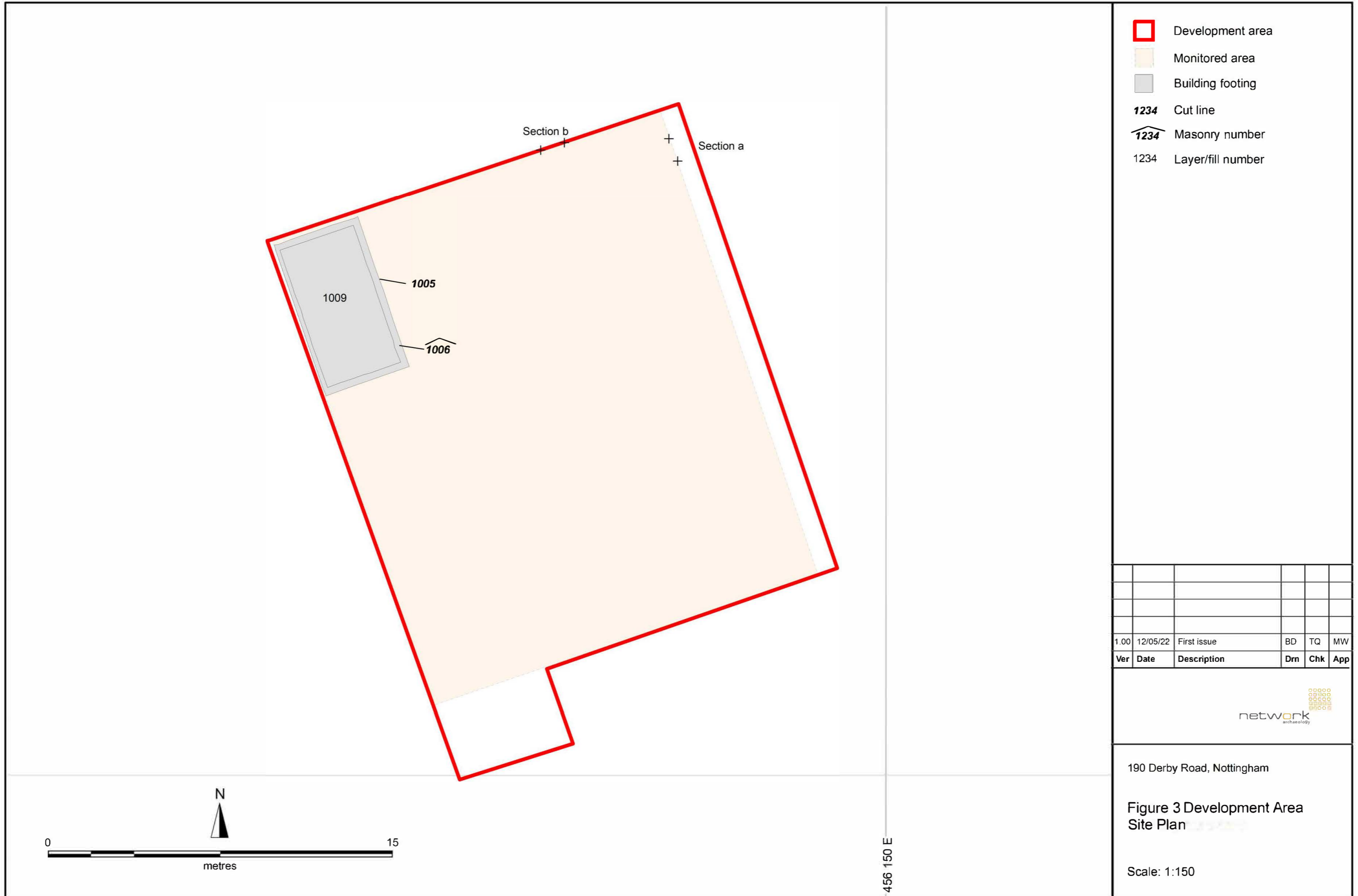
Figure 1  
Location of Development Area

Scale: 1:10 000

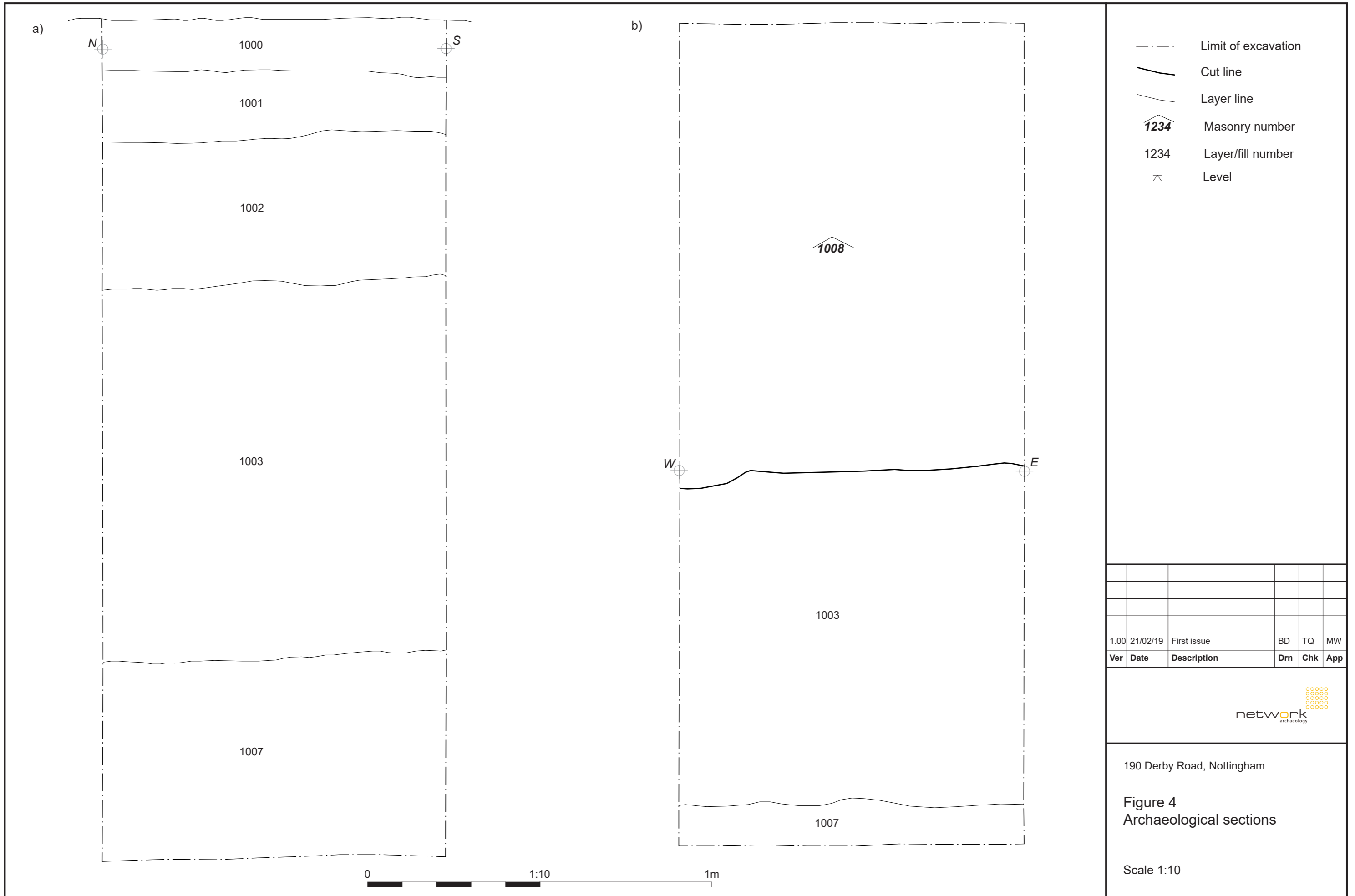
Contains Ordnance Survey data  
© Crown copyright 2019











1.00	21/02/19	First issue	BD	TQ	MW
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App



190 Derby Road, Nottingham

Figure 4  
Archaeological sections

Scale 1:10