



**Excavation of the Medieval Boundary Ditch  
of King John's Palace, Kings Clipstone,  
Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire.**

**Archaeological Report  
MAS010**

Kings Clipstone (SK604647).

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## Summary

King John's Palace is a medieval royal palace site in Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire. The standing ruin is a Scheduled Ancient Monument but the actual palace site extends much further than the standing ruin. The standing ruin is located in Castle Field, King's Clipstone, Newark and Sherwood District, Nottinghamshire.

In order to protect, manage and preserve the site for the future the landowner is particularly keen to understand the extent and boundaries of the palace complex.

A linear anomaly was identified during a geophysical resistance survey of Castle Field in 2010. The linear anomaly appeared to correlate with a boundary depicted on an early 17th century map of the site and was depicted with Manor Garth on one side and Waterfield on the other. It was theorised that the feature may represent the medieval boundary of the palace site (Gaunt 2011).

Though the feature was excavated by Wessex Archaeology in 2011 the results were inconclusive, with interpretations ranging from a big ditch containing medieval pottery to a field boundary shown on 19th century maps (Wessex 2011).

In an attempt to address this question more thoroughly the land owner commissioned the excavation of two archaeological trenches across the line of the linear feature to assess its character and to obtain dating evidence.

The excavation took place in 2012. The trenches were both approximately 17m long by 3m wide.

The anomaly proved to be a substantial ditch. Though there were relatively few finds, the ditch appeared to have begun silting in the 13th or 14th century, with pottery of a similar date being incorporated into the base of the possible bank deposits located to the north of the feature (inside the palace complex) and thus suggesting a 13th or 14th century date for its construction.

The ditch remained in use as a land parcel boundary after the palace was decommissioned and the upper fills included various post medieval and modern ceramics.

It is highly probable that the linear feature represents the southern boundary of the palace complex in this area from the 13th century onwards.

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## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Site background**

The evaluation took place within an 11 acre field which is part of Waterfield Farm, King's Clipstone, Nottinghamshire, hereafter called 'the site'. It is bounded to the west by the B6030 Mansfield Road, to the north by the rear of the properties adjacent to the B6030, to the east by a hedged and ditched field boundary delineating the site from the course of the Vicar Water. The southern boundary of the site is formed by a hedged field boundary. A small field known as the Pheasantry is located between the site and the Vicar Water on the northeast. The centre of the site lies at National Grid Reference SK604647. Modern pavement level near to the site lies at c 45.7m OD and 45.9m OD. The existing modern ground surfaces lie at a variety of levels between 75m O.D. at the northwest of the site sloping to 70m O.D. at the east of the site.

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was previously prepared, which covers the whole area of the site (Gaunt & Wright 2012). An archaeological field evaluation was subsequently undertaken during July 2012 which took the form of 2 evaluation trenches supervised by Andy Gaunt and James Wright.

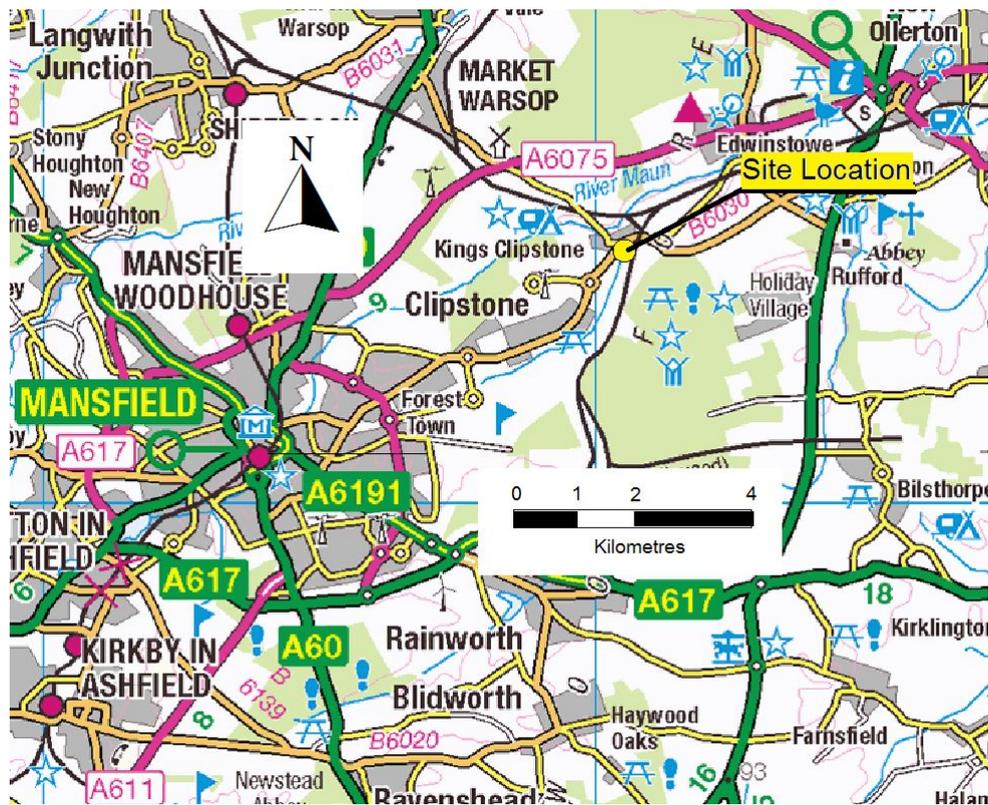


Figure 1: Site Location Map.

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## 1.2 Relevant research agendas

The relevant research agendas in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *WSI* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, Gaunt & Wright 2012).

- Cooper, N.J. 2006. *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, *Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services

### *Summary of relevance to proposed work*

It is intended that the proposed project aims and objectives described in section 1.4 will contribute, in a broad sense, to the Archaeological Research Framework for the region. In particular aspects of period specific research agendas may be addressed. Although, as detailed above, various periods are represented by archaeological traces in the area (and by some finds from the site) the focus of

proposed work is a definition of medieval period activity on site (850-1500). Relevant research questions/potential will therefore be selected on this basis. The following text is summarised and edited with specific relevance to the proposed works.

The above publication presents an Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands region, comprising the modern counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire. It is the product of the first two stages of The East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework Project, sponsored jointly by English Heritage and the local authorities of the region. It aims to provide an effective structure for decision-making regarding future archaeological research and it is part of a wider English Heritage initiative to develop interlocking regional frameworks across the country.

#### *The Medieval period (850-1500)*

The period of 850-1500 was one of great change, which saw the East Midlands transformed from a conglomerate of localised chiefdoms or small kingdoms in the middle Saxon period, to become part of a much larger and more powerful medieval kingdom of England, which at its height, during the period of the Angevin empire, was one of the largest and most powerful forces in Europe.

#### *The Manor*

The manor was the basic unit of medieval lordly landholding: the lord could be the king himself, a bishop or abbot in the case of manors granted to ecclesiastical establishments, or a lay lord who might hold just one manor, or scores of them across the country.

We need strategies for developing a better understanding of the early development of the manor and manorial estate. We must establish how we can best carry out landscape studies to establish the estates of known early manorial sites in order that significant features can be recognised in future. Understanding of the function and layout of many manorial complexes needs to be improved so that we can identify priorities for preservation/mitigation in the face of threat.

#### *The manorial landscape*

Trial excavation is needed at a sample number of manorial sites to ascertain the function of features whose function as manorial appurtenances has been

suggested by earthwork survey.

#### *Relevance of proposed work*

Although no earthwork survey has been conducted at Kings Clipstone, the nature of the site as a hunting lodge is open to question. If the site is a larger royal complex, as suspected, then the project should aim to identify its extent and, where possible, the function of various features on site.

#### *Religion*

##### *Human Remains*

Human remains represent the only direct evidence for many aspects of medieval life. Analysis of human remains should be a high priority when they are discovered.

#### *Relevance to proposed work*

Although human remains are not expected, mitigation is in place for their discovery.

- Knight, D, Vyner, B and Allen C. 2012. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands.

The following is summarised and adapted from the above text.

The project commenced in January 2008 and represents the final phase for the East Midlands of the Regional Research Framework initiative proposed in the 1996 English Heritage document Frameworks for Our past. It builds upon the East Midlands Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda discussed above. The aim of the current agenda is to progress from Agenda to Strategy.

#### *Medieval (1066-1485) – Updated Research Agenda*

*How did the medieval manor and early estates and their landscapes develop from the Anglo-Saxon period? Could classification of manorial and sites be improved?*

#### *Relevance to proposed work*

It is hoped that, within the scope of the proposed work, sufficient information will be gathered to propose a chronological phasing for the site. A scatter of Anglo-Saxon pottery has been recovered from the site – this could indicate an early

origin for the complex. The unusual nature of the Clipstone site could contribute information to the question of manorial site classification.

*What was the date and architecture of the manor buildings and what can we learn of traditional skills and designs?*

*Relevance to proposed work*

It is hoped that, within the scope of the proposed work, sufficient information will be gathered to propose a date of construction for specific structures and buildings encountered.

Relevant research agenda questions highlighted in the recent publication: (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012). *East Midlands Heritage- An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*:

6.7.6.1. How and where was post-conquest pottery manufactured and distributed, and what communication systems were employed?

6.7.4.5 What local resources were used for building and maintenance and what was the environmental context and economic impact of these buildings?

Relevant research objectives outlined in the document:

Research Objective 7G: Estates, architecture, and power: investigate the relationship between castles and great houses and their estates.

Research Objective 8I: Develop further the study of ceramic assemblages.

### **1.3 Origin and scope of the report**

This report was commissioned by the site landowners Martin and Michelle Bradley and produced by Andy Gaunt and James Wright, Sean Crossley and David Budge. The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

Field evaluation, and the evaluation report which comments on the results of that exercise, are defined in the most recent English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of a strategy for the preservation or management of those remains; and/or

- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

#### 1.4 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the WSI for the evaluation (Section 2.2):

A feature was identified by Gaunt (Gaunt 2011) as a geophysical anomaly of approximately 180m in length by 3-11m width running southeast to northwest through the centre of Castlefield from its boundary with the Vicar Water (see figure 2). This feature was sectioned during April 2011 as part of the 19th series of Channel 4's Time Team (Wessex 2011) and was found to be a substantial ditch approximately 2.4m in depth.

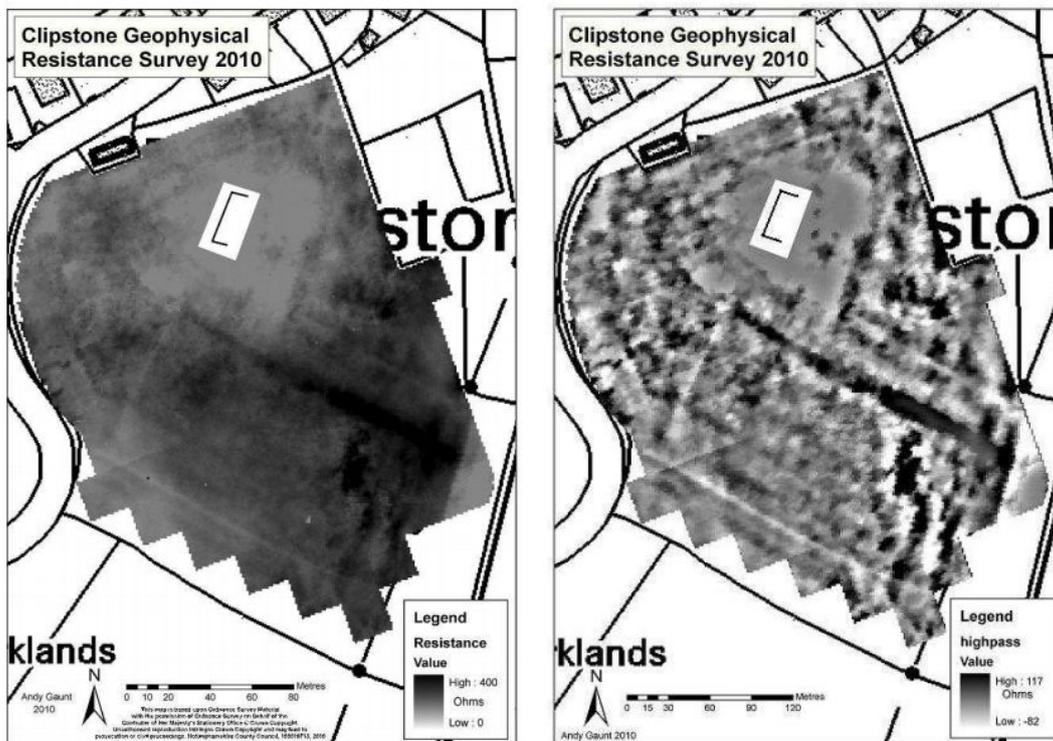


Figure 2: King John's Palace Geophysical Resistance Survey, Results (left) High Pass Filter (right) from Gaunt 2011.

Despite excavation during the 2011 evaluation the interpretation of this feature is still unclear. Gaunt states that: “The large high resistance linear anomaly is interpreted as probably a ditch filled with rubble or the remains of a wall. It lines up with the edge of the enclosure marked “Manor Garth” on the 1630 William Senior map, and probably represents the edge of the manorial complex” (Gaunt 2011). John Gater’s magnetic survey interpreted the anomaly as a modern field boundary on site, and as “an old field boundary seen on first edition OS mapping” in the subsequent report (Wessex 2011). This attribution of a modern date for the ditch was also asserted by Professor Mick Aston in his interview with the Western Daily Press (9 February 2012). The archaeological report from Wessex Archaeology uses the same definition as John Gater for the ditch (Wessex 2011, 7) and also as a substantial ditch containing medieval pottery (Wessex 2011, 13). Finally the programme as aired states that this was the medieval boundary ditch to the site.

An ongoing re-evaluation of the ceramic archive from all available previous archaeological interventions on site was in progress at the time of writing this report. This re-evaluation indicates that most of the pottery from the site has been mis-identified and consequently incorrectly dated, understandably for the work in the 1950s when medieval pottery studies were in their infancy and little was known of the local industries but more concerning for the more recent work, particularly that undertaken in 2011, where mis-identification of the ceramics lead to contexts being dated several centuries out in a number of cases (Budge pers comm), this has led to concerns that problems exist in the dating for the previous work.

Given the confusion that has arisen over the attribution of this feature the evaluation in 2012 sought to answer the following questions:

What is morphology of the feature?

What period(s) does the feature date from?

What was the function of the feature?

Does the feature represent a limit or boundary related to the medieval royal palace on the site?

## **2 Topographical, historical and archaeological background**

### **2.1 Topographical background**

The site is located within the historic parish of King's Clipstone, in the county of Nottinghamshire, and is within the administrative area of Newark & Sherwood District Council.

The centre of the site is located on the southeastern edge of the village of King's Clipstone, and is c 180m west of the Vicar Water and c 200m south of the River Maun. To the west is the B6030 Mansfield Road with a built up area of residential properties beyond, to the north is the rear of the properties adjacent to the B6030, to the east is a hedged and ditched field boundary delineating the site from a meadow relating to the Vicar Water, to the south is a pastoral field and a small field known as the Pheasantry is being developed as a caravan park between the site and the Vicar Water on the northeast.

The site, lies on the southeastern slopes of a low hill overlooking the confluence of the River Maun and Vicar Water, amidst gently rolling countryside. The high point of the site is in the northwest and lies at 75m O.D. and drops down to 70m O.D. in the southeastern part of the site.

The site is situated on the Sherwood Sandstones (BGS Map E113, 1966).

### **2.2 Historical Background**

King's Clipstone is a small village in northwest Nottinghamshire. The earliest historical reference to the settlement is in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it is mentioned as "Clipestune" (Morris 1977). Subsequent written sources use the forms Clipstone, Clippeton, Clipiston. The name Clipstone means "Klyppr's Farm," with the derivation of the first element being from the old Scandinavian personal name Klyppr, and the second element from Anglo-Saxon word for farm or hamlet "tun" (English Placenames Society 1940). Such evidence suggests a pre-Conquest origin, potentially during the period of the Scandinavian settlement of the Midlands. The first citation of King's Clipstone (Clipiston Regis) was in 1290 (Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1281-92) and refers to the visitations by several medieval monarchs to the village and palace complex.

The site, now known as Castlefield, lies on the southeastern slopes of a low hill overlooking the confluence of the River Maun and Vicar Water, amidst gently rolling countryside characterised by the geology of the Sherwood Sandstones. The parish is bounded to the south by the parish of Rufford, to the east by that of Edwinstowe and to the north by the wood of Birklands. To the west the parish is bounded by that of Warsop and to the southwest is the parish of Mansfield Woodhouse.

### **2.2.1 Pre-historic Period**

The earliest dateable material from Clipstone is from the Bronze Age - a spearhead (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 5965) and an arrowhead (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 5909). There is also a suspected ring ditch in the vicinity of the new village which is assumed to be a ploughed out round barrow (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 6819).

During the excavation of 2012, reported here; a flint flake was found unstratified in spoil from the excavation of Trench 01. The flake cannot be closely dated, beyond a Mesolithic to Bronze Age date. The flake is not a formal tool and is most likely to be debitage (waste). This suggests that people may have undertaken some form of activity in the vicinity during the prehistoric period. The type of activity is unknown but the presence of this piece of flint suggests it might have included flint knapping (Budge, Appendix VI).

The National Mapping Project data as provided by English Heritage shows a number of cropmarks recorded from aerial photography in the northern quarter of Clipstone parish, representing rectilinear field systems associated with smaller stock enclosures and perhaps domestic sites. Typologically, and from their orientation, it is assumed that these are part of the brick-work plan field system from the late Iron Age to Romano-British periods, which stretches across the Sherwood Sandstones (Pastscape Monument No. 1430560).

### **2.2.2 Roman Period**

Pottery of the period is known from Clipstone from Philip Rahtz's excavation in 1956 (Rahtz 1960), Richard Sheppard's watching brief and fieldwalking in 1991 (Sheppard 1991) and the evaluation in 2011 (Wessex Archaeology 2011) however the context of the finds has never been understood. There have also been metal detector finds within the parish of 2 Roman brooches and a small coin hoard (Nottinghamshire

Historic Environment Record, 5965) and arrowhead (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 5966 & 5977). The adjacent parish of Mansfield Woodhouse contains a suspected Roman Road (Leeming Lane), with an associated marching camp at Roman Bank. Further to the northwest a small villa site was exposed in 1780 by the antiquarian Major Hayman Rooke (Thoroton 1972). The brick-work field systems mentioned above may also relate to the Romano-British community.

### **2.2.3 Early Medieval Period**

Little is understood of Clipstone during this period, despite the fact that the village place name came into being sometime after the Danish incursions into the East Midlands during the mid 9th century. Under the Danelaw, Clipstone was part of the Wapentake of Bassetlaw. Subsequent to the Anglo-Saxon re-conquest of Mercia in 910 it is feasible that Clipstone was part of the “Sciryuda” (meaning Shire Wood, now Sherwood) as referred to in 958 (York Minster Library, Magnum Resistrum Album, Ms). The earliest reference to Nottinghamshire occurs in 1016 (although it was certainly a much older land division), the village has always been contained within this county.

4 pieces of late Saxon ‘shelly ware’ pottery were recorded in 1991 (Sheppard 1991) during fieldwalking of Castlefield, although it is unlikely that these represent anything more than a background scatter associated with the manuring of the open fields. Re-analysis of the 1991 archive by Jane Young and David Budge has proved there is no Saxon material present and that all the shell tempered wares present are medieval, mainly Potterhanworth Ware that can be dated 13th - 15th century (Young and Budge in prep).

Prior to Domesday, the two manors of Clipstone were held by Osbern and Wulfsi and the value was set at 60 shillings (Morris 1977). Wulfsi in particular was a reasonably wealthy landowner and held manors at Greaseley, Strelley, Sutton and Hodsock (Morris 1977). The landowner in 1086 was Roger de Busli (Morris 1977), one of the great Norman landowners who held 163 estates in Nottinghamshire (Wright 2008). The manor was described in Domesday as being worth only 40 shillings, a drop in value that may be related to the Saxon revolts in the Midlands and the north in the years after the Conquest. However, it is apparent that Clipstone was still a reasonably prosperous manor with arable, pasture and woodland and a mill worth 3 shillings (Morris 1977). De Busli died c.1099, and by 1102 the manor had been acquired by the Crown.

## **2.2.4 Medieval Period**

### *2.2.4.1 Establishment of the palace and deer park*

The first mention of the royal connection to the settlement is in 1164 when £20 was spent out of the Honour of Tickhill (formerly owned by de Busli) on works at the King's Houses (Pipe Poll 11 Henry II; Colvin 1963). It is unclear whether this expenditure reflected the initial establishment of structures at the site, or whether it was on repairs to an existing property. However, it is unlikely that the King's Houses were anything other than timber buildings at this early period due to the low amount of money being spent on them. Prior to 1164, the focus of the monarchy within the region had always been the royal manor at Mansfield where 40s was spent in 1130 to prepare a chamber for Henry I (Pipe Poll 31 Henry II; Colvin 1963).

The establishment of the King's Houses was linked to Clipstone's location in the heart of the royal forest of Sherwood. In the medieval period a forest was a defined geographic area subject to the Forest Law brought to England by the Normans. The law protected beasts of the chase, primarily deer, for the king. It also protected the woodland that formed their habitat. Forest law was enforced over the land regardless of who owned it. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century the forest stretched from the River Trent in the south to the River Meden in the north, and from Wellow in the east to Sutton-in-Ashfield to the west. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century it may have covered all of Nottinghamshire north and west of the Trent. A reference to the forest in Nottinghamshire made in 1155/6 early in the reign of Henry II (1154-1189) points to there being a forest in the reign of Henry I (1100-1135), however a dispute over the keepership of the forest in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century suggests a forest in Nottinghamshire dating back to the reign of William I. Sherwood Forest was therefore well established by 1164 (Gaunt 2011a).

The links between Clipstone and the royal pastime of hunting were made explicit in 1178-80 when a deer park was enclosed with a pale fence at the cost of £89, which was later repaired in 1186-7 (Pipe Roll 25 Henry II, 80; 26 Henry II; 33 Henry II; Colvin 1963). The amenities of the King's Houses were developed alongside the park to include a fishpond and a stonebuilt chamber and a chapel during the years 1176-80 (Pipe Roll 23 Henry II; 24 Henry II; 25 Henry II; 26 Henry II; 27 Henry II; Colvin 1963), in advance of a visit by Henry II in 1181. The total cost of works during

this period exceeded £500 and were therefore a very significant investment on the part of the monarchy. Wright (Mower & Wright 2011) is of the opinion that the extant building dates from this phase of construction given that it bears several Romanesque architectural features which were phased out by the end of the 12th century. The structure is likely to have been a chamber at the first floor with an undercroft below and bore a striking resemblance to a contemporary building — St Mary's Guildhall in Lincoln (Stocker 1991). From this point on the King's Houses were continuously repaired, extended and added to.

The next significant expenditure was an order in 1184 to the keeper, Humphrey de Bussei, to enclose the courtyard at a cost of 60s. This was followed in 1186 by the construction of a new fishpond close to the King's Houses complete with dam, weirs and mill which became known as "the Great Pond of Clipstone" (Pipe Roll 33 Henry II, Colvin 1963).

#### 2.2.4.2 *History of the King's Houses and Clipstone Park*

It is apparent that Clipstone became a favoured residence of the monarchy for over 200 years. David Crook lists the following visits: Henry II in 1181 and 1185, Richard I in 1194, John in 1200, 1201, 1205, 1210 and 1215, Henry III in 1244, 1251 and 1255, Edward I in 1279, 1280, 1284, 1290 and 1300, Edward II in 1307, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318 and 1320, Edward III in 1327, 1328, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1334, 1335, 1345 and 1363, and Richard II in 1387 and 1393 (Crook 1976). Such visits could be brief, such as John's overnight stay on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1200, or more extensive such as the winter of 1315-16 when the retinue of Edward II (including the Earls of Hereford, Pembroke and Atholl, the Bishop of Bangor and envoys of the King of France) drained the local resources to such an extent (100 pike and 1600 roach were taken from the fishpond in December alone) that horses and carts were sent over the River Trent at Marnham ferry to forage for provisions for the Household in Lincolnshire (NA E 101/376/26).

Richard I visited Clipstone on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1194, and again on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Chronica Rogeri de Houdene (Rolls Series) iii). This second visit was to meet William (the Lion), King of Scotland and demonstrates the fact that the complex of buildings was palatial enough to accommodate and impress on an international scale.

The reign of King John included several sporadic visits to Clipstone, and it is clear that the site was well maintained - £42 was spent on the houses and fishpond in

1208-9. John also endowed the chapel of St Edwin in 1205 which lay on the northern edge of the parish and was once a boundary marker of the deer park (Nottinghamshire Archives WP/5/S).

A peculiar piece of social history occurred during John's tenure. In 1200 he accepted 15 marks from the men of Mansfield in return for the resumption of their rights to common pasture within the bounds of Clipstone Park, which they had enjoyed prior to the enclosure by Henry II (Pipe Roll 2 John). The loss of traditional woodland resources by the peasant communities to park enclosure and forest law is a common theme in medieval history. This theme was again repeated during the reigns of Edward II and Edward III when an extension to the park led to petitions lodged by the men of Clipstone, Warsop and Mansfield Woodhouse over their loss of their rights to husbote (timber for building), haybote (timber for hedging), collection of ferns and leaves (for compost and manure) as well as pastureland (Crook 2005).

Although there are only 3 recorded visits to the King's Houses by Henry III (Crook 1976) the palace complex was extensively developed during his reign. The King's Chamber was damaged by fire in 1223 and repaired at cost of 15 marks by the master carpenter Robert de Hotot (Pipe Roll 9 Henry III). Ten years after the chamber was completely rebuilt at the cost of £130 (Pipe Roll 19 Henry III), and in 1237-8 the undercroft to the chamber was divided up to make a wardrobe (Pipe Roll 22 Henry III). The presence of an undercroft points to the fact that this chamber also had a first floor room. In 1252 passageways were built to connect King's Chamber to his hall and chapel. The hall was also furnished with benches (Pipe Roll 37, 38 Henry III, Calendar Liberate Rolls 1251-60, Close Rolls 1251-3).

Provision for accommodation for Henry III's consort Eleanor of Provence was made in 1244-5 and took the form of a "large and handsome" timber hall, along with a kitchen and wardrobe costing £134 (Pipe Roll 29 Henry III, Close Rolls 1242-7). In 1252 there is reference to the Queen's Chapel and New Chapel (the latter erected in 1246-7) being plain glazed and wainscoted (Pipe Roll 37, 38 Henry III, Calendar Liberate Rolls 1251-60, Close Rolls 1251-3).

Repairs to the King's Houses continued throughout Henry's reign, although he did not visit again after 1255.

Edward I further altered the layout and nature of the palace. In advance of his visit in 1280 new chambers with chapels for king and queen were constructed costing £435 12s 6 1/2d (Pipe Roll 12 Edward I). Philip Rahtz attributes the standing ruin to this phase of building (Rahtz 1960), however the presence of Romanesque features associated with the extant structure which have been identified subsequent to Rahtz's fieldwork may push back the dating to Henry II's construction of 1176-80 (Wright 2004).

In 1282 Edward I ordered the construction of a stable at the enormous cost of £104 8s 5d. This stable was capable of accommodating 200 horses, and John Steane is of the opinion that it was intended to provide for the entire entourage of the Household, or possibly even act as a royal stud (Steane 1999).

The vast stable block would have come into its own in 1290 when Edward chose Clipstone as the venue for his Michaelmas Parliament of 1290. Such were the numbers of present at the gathering that the accommodation at the King's Houses was overstretched and the clerks of the Chancery lodged at Warsop (Calendar of Patent Rolls 1281-92). 251 pleas were heard at the Parliament, there were discussions over the doubtful succession to the Scottish throne, and Edward's tax on moveable goods was imposed - the first non-feudal tax (Edward I: Michaelmas 1290, Parliament Rolls of Medieval England).

Edward II was the most frequent royal visitor to the King's Houses, and although he does not seem to have in anyway significantly altered the layout of the complex he is noted for having extended the park. During the winter of 1316-17 Edward ordered 200 acres of land to the southwest of the park to be enclosed and a peel to be established (Pipe Roll 11 Edward II). The peel was undoubtedly a fortified structure and documents refer to buildings including a great gate, 2 windlasses for a drawbridge, a ditch, hall, royal chamber, chapel, bakehouse, kitchen, barn and sheds for cattle, oxen and sheep (Pipe Roll 11 Edward II). The peel community have been viewed by Crook in the light of the pressures on the need for more agricultural land during the early 14<sup>th</sup> century coupled with the political background of Edward I's problems with Scotland and internally with Thomas, 2nd Earl of Lancaster (Crook 2005). The peel was eventually decommissioned in January 1328 when Edward III ordered Robert de Clipstone to dismantle the buildings of the peel and re-erect them at the King's Houses, except the "greater gate of the pele, and the house built over it"

which remained (Calendar of Close Rolls 1323-30; National Archives E 372/172, rot. 47d, m.1; Calendar of Fine Rolls 1327-37).

The early years of Edward III's reign saw a number of visits to the palace and the subsequent petitions by the local communities led to the reversal of most of Edward II's changes to the park (Crook 1976). Edward III also maintained the administration of the deer park. In 1340 Robert de Mauley was granted custody of the manor and park (Stapleton 1890). In 1341 the men of Clipstone and Warsop were granted permission to utilise the woodland resources within the park (Crook 1976). In 1345 money was spent on hinges, hooks and plates for gates in the pale fence (National Archives E 101/135/20).

Our knowledge of the palace complex is greatly increased during the years 1348-9 and 1360-3 (National Archives Accounts Various E 101/460/18-19; Cal. Pat. Rolls 1348-50; National Archives Accounts Various E 101/460/18-19; Cal. Close Rolls 1327-30) when sources from the Patent Rolls illustrate the great number of buildings that existed at the King's Houses. Colvin (Colvin 1963) describes this:

Works carried out in 1348-9 included the rebuilding of the knight's chamber and the repair of the great hall, the king's kitchen, the queen's hall, the king's kitchen, the queen's kitchen, the great chamber, Rosamund's Chamber, Robert de Mauley's Chamber, the treasurer's chamber, the chamber of Lionel the king's son, the great chapel, the chapel next to the king's chamber, the king's long stable, and the great gateway. The knight's chamber was a timber-framed building standing on a 'groundwall' of stone, but the more important buildings were of stone. The roofing material was Mansfield slate. In 1360-3 over £140 were spent on general repairs to the hall, king's chamber, Earl of March's chamber, pantry, buttery, gateway and other buildings, including the chapel of St. Edwin at Birkland which was served by the chaplain of Clipstone. Further considerable repairs were carried out between 1367 and 1375 by William Elmeley, who in 1360 had been appointed clerk of the works at the manor of Clipstone and the lodge of Bestwood.

It is apparent that by the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century the King's Houses at Clipstone was a sprawling palace complex of many buildings serving a variety of functions. The dating sequence of these structures is not clear as this is clearly an extensive programme of repairs to existing fabric, and it is apparent from previously noted structures that

many of these buildings mentioned in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century were already ancient. However, what is very clear is that the complex was comparable to other great palaces linked to forest resources such as that at Clarendon in Wiltshire.

The Patent Rolls of this period also help to populate the King's Houses with recognisable historical characters. Robert de Maulay is almost certainly Robert de Morley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Rodyn, who fought at the battles of Boroughbridge, Halidon Hill, Sluys (where he was captain of the English flagship) and Crecy. De Morley finished his career as Constable of the Tower of London between 1355-9. The Treasurer at the time of the repairs to his chamber in 1348-9 was William Edington, Bishop of Winchester, who effected many reforms to the Exchequer and by carefully budgeting all revenues and expenses brought about an end to the crippling debts that Edward suffered in the earlier part of his reign. Lionel of Antwerp was the third son of Edward III and was only 10 years of age at the time of the work on his chamber. He was later named as the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Clarence, but died at the relatively early age of 29 in 1368. The Earl of March in 1360-3 was Roger Mortimer (nephew of the traitor) who also fought at Crecy and was later named one of the founders of the Knights of the Garter.

Richard II was the last monarch to spend time at the King's Houses, and his successor Henry IV granted the manor of Clipstone for life to George Dunbar, Earl of March (1338-1420) in compensation for the loss of his Scottish lands by joining the English (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1399-1401). It is doubtful whether he obtained possession, and the manor reverted to the crown.

A map of Sherwood Forest dating to c.1400 survives in the archive at Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire and shows Clipstone Park as a clearly defined emparked area circled by a pale fence. There are several place names marked relating to the medieval infrastructure such as "ye pele" (Clipston Peel), "Clipston ye dam" (the dam at the head of the Great Pond) and Clipston Parke; and the River Maun is shown flowing through the park (Barley 1968).

In 1434 Henry VI's Council authorised £200 worth of repairs to the palace (National Archives Warrants for Issues E 404/51/128; cf Cal. Pat. Rolls 1429-36), and accounts dating to 1435-46 (Foreign Accounts E 364/77, rot. B; E 364/81, rot. D) refer to over £650 spent on repairs to the King's Houses and on "making a certain new tower" by William Clerk deputy to Clerk of the Works, William Ardene.

In 1453 the manor was granted to the king's half-brothers - the Earls of Richmond and Pembroke (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1452-61). However, on the accession of Edward IV they were deprived (Cal. Pat. Rolls 1461-7) and the manor passed to George, Duke of Clarence until his execution in 1478 when once again Clipstone reverted to the crown (Colvin 1963).

#### 2.2.4.3 *Decline*

The decline of royal interest in the King's Houses throughout the 15<sup>th</sup> century fits an overall national pattern. Steane has pointed out that the residences of the monarchy in the later middle ages focussed on southeast England. Additionally the numbers of palaces and castles under direct royal control dwindled, and as the size of the Household increased from c.120 in the reign of Henry I to 800 under Henry VI fewer but more grandiose palaces were the preference (Steane 2001).

A survey of the "the decayes of the manner of Clippeston" dated to 1525 (National Archives E 178/4394) records that:

First the southeast end of the hie Chamber ther is in great decay & ruine in stonework tymber lede and plaster & the gavell ende of the same is flede outwarde so that a part of the rove and of flour of the said Chymber is fallen doune. Also ther was sume tyme begone a stone grees & yet is not fynished the which hath been the cause of the Ruyne of the said Chambre. Also the Chappell ther is in decay and hath no cuveryng upon it. Also the kechyn ther was new plasterid and the rof therof wantith poyntyng and amedyng of the slate, also on the said kechyn were ij chymnays begon and not fynishyd.

Crucially the survey only lists 3 structures: a chamber, a chapel and a kitchen. It is impossible to be certain whether or not this represented the only extant above ground buildings by 1525 (if so this is a remarkable decline and demolition over only 150 years), or whether these were the most decayed and dangerous buildings with the rest of the complex being essentially sound.

A land grant of March 1568 refers to the "site of the late castle", and it seems clear that substantial clearance of the ruins had occurred by this date (SC6 Philip & Mary/505(Notts)).

## **2.2.5 The Post-medieval Period**

### **2.2.5.1 Sale of the estate**

The manor and park of Clipstone finally passed out of royal ownership for the last time in on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1603 when James I granted it to Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy. This was promptly sold on to Gilbert Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury the following year (Crook 1976). 4 maps of the northern boundaries of Clipstone parish date to this period and are now held by the Nottinghamshire Archives (Nottinghamshire Archives DD/2106/5/9/15 (i); DD2106/5/9/15 (ii); DD/2106/5/9/16 (i); DD/2106/5/9/16 (ii)). The maps refer to several place names pertaining to the survival of medieval landscape features associated with Clipstone Park such as St Edwin's Chapel, the "leaping place" (ie a deer leap) and "the oulde dike" (which may be a deer leap, road or park boundary).

### **2.2.5.2 William Cavendish**

William Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle purchased the estate in 1630 (Crook 1976) and immediately commissioned William Senior "professor of arithmetique, geometrie, astronomie, navigation and dialing" to make a map of his new possession. This map survives as a full colour double folio in the collection of the Welbeck Estate (Senior 1630). The map demonstrates a manor in the crucial stages between the late medieval period and the enclosures, industry and agricultural reforms of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Clipstone Park is shown surrounded by its pale fence and contains some 1457 acres of mainly woodland. The sites of Clipstone Peel and St Edwin's Chapel are marked, as are the gates into the park. The village of Clipstone is drawn as a linear strip village to the north of the former palace complex, and the tofts of the community stretch down to the resource of the River Maun. The Great Pond survives as a large feature held back by a dam which serves a leet system providing water power to a series of mills which are presumably the descendants of the documented medieval mills. The open field system survives to a certain extent in the form of Waterfield, The Millfield and Crossfield, however enclosure has already encroached on the agricultural resources of the village. Much of the surrounding landscape is woodland such as "The Shrogges" and "fless-greave wood", interspersed with "Launds" which Gaunt has identified as the survival of an ornamental designed landscape from the medieval period (Gaunt 2011a).

The site of the King's Houses is named "mannorgarth" on the 1630 map and seems to be an agricultural field much like the other surrounding enclosures. Gaunt has speculated that the southwestern field boundary may represent a survival of the King's Houses boundary based on a strong geophysical anomaly, however only intrusive archaeological excavation will determine this (Gaunt 2011b). A gabled and possibly roofless building was surveyed by Senior in the centre of the mannorgarth, and it is interpreted that this is the ruin that stands today. The other buildings recorded in the survey of decays a century before had evidently been cleared by this period. The morphology of the site has therefore not altered dramatically since the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The only other buildings represented on the site are a house to the northwest of the ruin, and a rectangular enclosure to the north and a structure on the site of what are now Brammer Farm House and Maun Cottage both of which contain substantial stone walls over a metre in thickness and of similar make-up to the ruin of King John's Palace. High status stonework was found in the gardens of these properties in 2007 (Wright 2007, Wright 2013). Discussion of these buildings is made below in section 4.5 and a separate standing building survey report should be consulted for a detailed analysis (Wright 2013).

Clipstone Park was virtually destroyed during the period of the Civil War and Protectorate. The Duke of Newcastle supported the Royalist cause and went into exile as early as 1642, and during his absence the pale fence and trees were used to fuel the Parliamentary war-effort and the deer stocks depleted. On returning from exile in France Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle estimated the losses at £20,000 and described the scene as she witnessed it in 1665 (Firth 1924):

The fences torn down and used in the production of charcoal whilst the park denuded of its great oaks, leaving the deer and other animals no food or shade, so causing their demise.

#### 2.2.5.3 *Thoroton and the early antiquarians*

The antiquarian Robert Thoroton described a similar scene in 1677, coupled with some architectural detail on the King's Houses (Thoroton 1972):

There is scarcely any ruins left at all of the king's old house, except a piece of thick Stone Wall, and the Park is also cleared of the Gallant Oaks wherewith it was well furnished before the late Rebellion.

Thoroton's description backs up in words what Senior hints at in his depiction of the King's Houses – that there was only a single structure left on the site by the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Much of the fabric of the palace complex would have been robbed piecemeal for building projects within the village and wider estate such as Clipstone Hall founded prior to 1609 (Bealby 2001).

Clipstone passed into the ownership of William Bentinck, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Portland in 1734 on his marriage to Lady Margaret Cavendish-Harley (Bealby 2001).

Four late 18<sup>th</sup> century antiquarian images exist of the extant ruins of the King's Houses: Francis Grose in 1772 (Grose 1772), Hieronymous Grimm in 1773 (British Library Additional MS 15543 f.166), Major Hayman Rooke (1790) and John Throsby in 1790 (Thoroton 1972). All show the ruin in a startlingly similar form to the monument that exists to this day. All show the jagged profile of the upper walls (suspected to be indicative of former window reveals), the multiple openings in the long profile of the building at ground level, and Grose, Grimm and Throsby confirm the recessed niche on the southwestern elevation. Grose and Grimm both articulate the shallow buttresses either side of the central opening. Intriguingly, Grimm also illustrates a round headed voussoired arch above the opening at the southwest end of the long elevation, potentially a confirmation that the ruin is in fact a Romanesque structure.

The site appears on John Chapman's Map of Nottinghamshire (1774) and is identified as "King John's Palace" for the first time (Chapman 1774). It is not clear when or how the site became associated with King John as opposed to any of the other monarchs who invested more time and money there - John only visited the King's Houses 7 times, and stayed longer than two nights (neology.com).

#### 2.2.5.4 *Duke of Portland's flood meadows*

William Bentinck, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Portland instigated an irrigation scheme of flood meadows for 7 ½ miles along the course of the River Maun between Carr Bank Wood, Mansfield and the parish boundary between Edwinstowe and Ollerton. The

flood meadows were intended to increase the yield of hay to feed flocks of sheep during the winter. The scheme cost almost £40,000 and was notable by the philanthropic nature of the high wages that the Duke offered to pay the construction labourers in a time of high unemployment created by the mechanisation of industry and the recent wars against Napoleon. The flood meadows passed through the heart of Clipstone Park, and the construction of them seems to have taken its toll on the preservation of the King's Houses (Bealby 2001). Shortly after the completion of the scheme, Francis White described the ruins (White 1844):

The only part of the palace now remaining stands in a large field close to the village and seems to have been the hall. The foundations have been formerly extensive, with several large vaults, but in 1816 a great part of these were dug up, to be employed in draining, which the Duke of Portland then commenced upon his estate here; and it appears much spoliation was made on the venerable walls, though it is said his Grace had given strict orders to the contrary.

It is therefore anticipated that the archaeological preservation of the subsurface foundations may be varied due to the recorded robbing during the 19<sup>th</sup> century irrigation scheme which was additional to the more piecemeal stone removal during the late medieval and early post-medieval periods and the archaeological evaluations in 1956 (Rahtz 1960), 1991 (Sheppard 1991) and 2011 (Wessex Archaeology 2011) back up this notion.

#### **2.2.6 *The 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries***

The site continued in use as an arable field with a preserved ruin and was known as Castle Field during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It remained in the ownership of the Welbeck estate until November 1945 when it was purchased by Fred and Molly Bradley. It has remained in the Bradley family as an arable field (and lately pasture) to the present day (Bealby 2001).

Conservation work has taken place on the ruin in 1991 and 2009. A section of the structure was in imminent danger of collapse and was therefore underpinned by pre-cast masonry on a concrete lintel in 1991. The archaeological work prior to underpinning was carried out by Richard Sheppard of Trent and Peak Archaeology; and the construction work was completed by Cranes, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

Both sections of the project were overseen by Mike Bishop, County Archaeologist, Nottinghamshire County Council (Sheppard 1991).

In 2009 Paul Mendham Stonemasons were instructed by the architect Peter Rogan to complete a full scale consolidation scheme including pointing, grouting, pinning back, under-building and soft-capping the ruin. The decisions for the scheme of conservation were based on two condition surveys of the ruin by Wright (Wright 2004, Wright 2005) and Peter Rogan (Rogan2008). The work was paid for jointly by English Heritage and Nottinghamshire County Council, and overseen by Tim Allen, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage and Jason Mordan, Senior Conservation Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council.

### **2.3 Archaeological Background**

Broadly there have been three distinct levels of archaeological research into the site. Evaluation excavations were conducted by Philip Rahtz (1956), Richard Sheppard (1991) and Wessex Archaeology (2011). Rahtz's work was part of the project which became Howard Colvin's *History of the King's Works* (1963), Sheppard's a watching brief by Trent & Peak Archaeology in advance of underpinning of the ruin and Wessex's work was part of a programme by Channel 4's Time Team series. Geophysical survey took place under Masters (2004) and Gaunt (2010). Masters surveyed limited sections of the site using both magnetometry and resistance, Gaunt surveyed the entirety of Castlefield using resistivity. The built environment was analysed by Wright in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2013 in the form of a condition survey of the extant ruin, a survey of stonework in a number of properties in the parish and a standing building survey of three adjacent properties on Main Road (for the latter see Wright 2013). Rogan also published a second condition survey of the ruin in 2008.

#### **2.3.1 1956 archaeological evaluation**

The work of Philip Rahtz has informed much of what we know about the subsurface archaeology and is summarised below in an excerpt from:

- Rahtz, P., (1960) 'King John's Palace, Clipstone, Notts.' in *Transactions of the Thorton Society of Nottinghamshire* Vol. 64

The object of excavation was to find the extent and date of the medieval buildings known as King John's Palace; of these all that remain today are three walls standing to a height of about ten feet above ground level, enclosing an area of some seventy-five by thirty-five feet.

The ruin was shown to be part of a large complex of buildings of several periods which were used as a royal hunting lodge in Sherwood Forest. They spread over at least two acres, and there is also a large fish-pond. Apart from a scatter of Roman finds, the earliest building was of the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, of stone, with Romanesque decoration, surrounded by a ditch. The ruin which survives today was dated to the later part of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is probably one of the buildings constructed by Edward I in 1279-80, at a cost of £400. It consists of an undercroft with an upper floor level shown by joist holes in the surviving masonry. There are also traces of later buildings of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century date. The walls were extensively robbed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and cultivation has destroyed many of the floor levels outside the ruin. Finds were few, but included some pottery and a Romanesque animal-head."

"The method of excavation was to section the ruin in each direction and to extend these trenches to determine the limits of the site [see Figure 6]. In addition to these long trenches, cuttings were made inside and around the ruin to settle doubtful points, and additional cuts made to trace the course of the enclosure ditch; a total of over 700 feet of trench was cut."

...the site has been repeatedly ploughed; the subsoil being sand, this has caused some erosion down the slope, and present ground level is in places below that of the later medieval floor -level. Consequently there are few sealed levels and dating evidence is scarce. The trenches were remarkably deficient in occupation debris; only a few hundred sherds were found.

The limits of the main part of the site were found to lie within an area of about two acres, but the buildings that lie around the ruin are not necessarily the only group in the field. There may well be other buildings at some distance from the main complex and quite separate from it, which have not been discovered.

Rahtz somewhat downplays his discoveries. Although he showed that floor levels and walls had been eroded and robbed, he also demonstrated in his text and

illustrations that there are also some survivals – within the ruin he excavated 6 successive floor layers. He also seems disappointed that he only recovered around 500 sherds of pottery, which given the itinerant nature of royal visitations seems quite a good haul. There is additionally a question over his identification of the extant ruin as dating to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, given that there have been many associated discoveries of late 12<sup>th</sup> century material relating to the structure.

### **2.3.2 1991 archaeological watching brief**

Richard Sheppard's watching brief during construction within the Scheduled Monument in 1991 did not result in a report. There is nothing within the archive which radically disagrees with Rahtz's findings, however it must be stated that Sheppard's trenching was limited to a very small area.

Sheppard did produce some fieldwalking data in the form of distribution maps, though it is not possible to relate the find spots to the pottery archive as the data linking the dots on the map to the individual find codes was not published and no longer exists at Trent and Peak (Wilson pers comm).

### **2.3.4 2011 archaeological evaluation**

The findings of the 2011 archaeological evaluation are summarised from:

- Wessex Archaeology, (2011) King John's Palace, Clipstone, Nottinghamshire - Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of King John's Palace, Clipstone, Nottinghamshire (NGR 460344 364752).

One Romano-British feature was identified; this, and some residual pottery and other finds indicate sporadic Romano British activity on the Site. A possible Romano-British feature was also found during previous excavations, in 1956.

The Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey shows a low amplitude response forming a possible enclosure. This corresponds well with the position of an enclosure ditch located by the previous excavation trenches. This feature lies beneath and therefore pre-dates the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century

building seen in the northeastern part of Site; it may therefore relate to an earlier, 12th century complex.

The majority of the datable finds are late medieval or early post-medieval in date. In three of the trenches, extensive robber cuts indicated the removal of substantial stone walls. It is, however, unclear how or whether these walls relate to the extant ruins. The GPR survey suggests that these extant ruins are the northwestern limit of a large building complex extending to the northeast and southeast. Further possible buildings were suggested by correlations between the geophysical survey and the results of previous excavation. Though undated, they are likely to relate to the late medieval and early post-medieval phases of use. Due to the complexity of use of the site, however, and the amount of demolition and robbing, no clear phasing or floor plan can be determined.

There are serious concerns about the dating ascribed to contexts in the Wessex report, due to problems with the pottery identifications (Young and Budge, in prep).

The archaeological results and the historic maps suggest that the main depredation of the stonework and robbing of the masonry occurred in the 16th to 17th centuries.

### **2.3.5 2004 geophysical survey**

The first geophysical surveys on the site are summarised in:

- Masters, P., (2004) *Fluxgate Gradiometer and Resistivity Surveys: King John's Palace, Clipstone, Nottinghamshire* (Unpublished Report – Pre-Construct Geophysics, Lincoln)

Both surveys appear to have identified buried features that relate to the monument, such as in situ wall foundations, robber trenches and ditches. In particular the resistance survey may have defined a rectangular enclosure that formerly surrounded the hunting lodge.

### **2.3.6 2010 geophysical survey**

Gaunt's resistance survey widened the area selected by Masters to incorporate the entirety of Castlefield (see Figure 2) and proved many of Masters' findings as well as adding new anomalies to the data-set. Gaunt's work on both the infra-red and geophysical data is quoted directly from:

- Gaunt, A, 2011a *The King's Houses - A geophysical resistance survey of King John's Palace, Clipstone, Nottinghamshire*

Infrared satellite data:

Examination of Nottinghamshire County Council infra red data images for the site "highlighted a number of features of potential interest... features worth noting include the long 10 metre wide linear running from northwest to southeast marked in light yellow which is similar to that seen in the geophysical results... also a curved linear feature in the northwest of the site which follows the line of the roadway and is marked in red, and a feature southwest to northeast orientated linear feature running from the site entrance to the monument. These features were detected in the geophysical survey. From this comparison it is believed that the lighter colours in the infrared image represent vegetation under greater stress reflecting where there is less soil moisture content. The lighter features may therefore represent buried masonry or rubble. If this is the case then an area outside the survey area to the northeast shows what could be evidence of buried buildings extending to the northeast (into the neighbouring Pheasantry now under development). This is useful in determining the extent of the palace site beyond the scope of the geophysical survey..."

The following is a summary of the interpretation of the geophysical survey taken from the report, the geophysical anomalies discussed can be seen in figure 2:

"The large rectangular area... surrounding the monument appears to be a courtyard area, with a number of buildings around the perimeter. The high-pass filtered geophysical results in show this area to contain a number of high resistance areas possibly representing robbed-out walls of features. To the southeast side of this area is the linear high resistance anomaly running northeast to southwest. This is probably the robbed-out foundation trench associated with a wall or palisade surrounding the possible courtyard.

The large high resistance linear anomaly running from northwest to southeast is interpreted as probably a ditch filled with rubble or the remains of a wall. It lines up with the edge of the enclosure marked 'Manor Garth' on the 1630 William Senior map, and probably represents the edge of the manorial complex, with the field to the south of this point being the common arable 'Waterfield' in 1630. No stone curtain wall is mentioned in the documentary evidence, and at 11 metres in width would be a very substantial structure unlikely to have gone unrecorded on such a well documented site. There was however the palisade mentioned earlier which was repaired during the reign of King John. It is assumed here that this palisade ran along the inside of this ditch. A ditch would normally present a low resistance anomaly due to silt rich deposits holding more water than the surrounding sandstone. In these circumstances it must be assumed that the ditch is filled with rubble. This would help to explain the absence of much stone material for the site, despite the fact as stated in the historical background section the site had many buildings with many high status ones built in stone and many lesser ones built with timber on stone platforms. There is a possibility that the anomaly represents in situ foundations and a spread of demolition rubble. This will only be ascertained through targeted excavation.

... a large sub-rectangular area probably representing the rubble spread from a substantial building, this along with the features marked 9 and 10 which are also likely to represent the footprints of buildings suggests that this area bound to the southwest by the ditch and palisade and to the northwest side by another palisade represents the enclosed area where the lesser buildings; kitchens, smaller domestic buildings and accommodation may have been set. Area 1 probably therefore represents the area separated for the King and high status guests. The high resistance features to the south of the linear... seem to represent possible building locations when viewed through a high pass filter, but in the original data they are less regular. They could represent a geological phenomenon; being the location where intermittent pebble beds in the Sherwood Sandstone are at the surface. Once again this will only be determined by invasive archaeological techniques, and would be obvious targets for future..." A linear feature running from northeast to toward the standing ruin in the far north of the survey area "may represent the location of the road. The southern part does seem to be made up of two parallel low resistance linear features possibly representing drainage ditches either side of a metalled higher resistance surface. This surface extends to the north as a high resistance feature. One suggestion is

that there was a gateway to the site from the road side to the north, which would fit in with this interpretation". The low resistance anomaly which takes up the eastern edge of the site at the southern end is caused by truncation of the archaeological remains during Severn Trent Water sewerage pipe extensions. This work was carried out under watching brief conditions but no report is yet available. It "is not the result of an archaeological or geological feature." A linear low resistance anomaly "seems to follow a line identifiable from the infra-red data and from aerial photographs. It is probably caused by modern vehicular access to the monument" A linear low resistance anomaly in the southwestern part of the field "matches the location of a field boundary defining a close to the south of it called 'Robin Hoods Close' on the enclosure map of 1766 mentioned previously. On this map the 'Manor Garth' is called the 'Manor Yard' and the area between these two is called the 'Manor Close'. This Manor close may represent the demesne area of the former 'waterfield' which was adjacent to the manorial complex.

The high pass filtered results in Figure 2 seem to show a number of curved high resistance linear features which are also present in the infrared data... follow the curve of the main road. They look like potential robbed out wall foundations perhaps providing a defensive element, or to define the edge of the site to the northeast."

### **2.3.7 2004-5 condition survey**

Structural analyses of the upstanding ruin were undertaken as part of the consolidation conservation project by both Wright (2004 & 2005) and Rogan (2008), and a summary of the findings are taken from:

- Wright, J., (2004) 'A Survey of King John's Palace, King's Clipstone, Nottinghamshire' in *Transactions of the Thorton Society of Nottinghamshire* Vol. 108

The building consists of a rubble core wall at least two storeys high (Wall 2) with two fragmentary rubble core walls returning to the southeast (Wall 1 to the southeasterly, Wall 3 to the northeasterly).

Wall 1 has a segmental arched niche within the thickness of the wall. Given that

there is very little in the way of facing stone remaining, let alone characteristic moulded masonry, it is difficult to extrapolate what the ruin represents. The ghost of ashlar coursing survives as riser courses; this is visible as galletting (clear horizons of stone fragments within the mortar) within the rubble masonry. Wall 2 has three openings at ground level, one of which was filled with pre-cast masonry in 1991 due to structural concerns. Hooper's [i.e. Grose, 1772] print of 1784 reveals the building to have been in similar condition since at least the late-18<sup>th</sup> century.

The 1784 image shows the southeast opening in Wall 2 as a Romanesque doorway complete with voussoirs... it is clear from a carved stone animal head discovered in 1956 and a chevron ornamented voussoir recently uncovered by the landowner that substantial Romanesque stonework was present on the site.

The central opening of Wall 2 was spanned as late as the 1950s. This appears to be a medieval opening given that, on the northwest elevation, it is framed by the remains of two return ends [i.e. buttresses].

Approximately 2.4 metres up the elevation of Wall 2 there are fragmentary remains of a ledge associated with 10 sub-rectangular niches 300 x 400mm and up to 430mm deep. These are clearly the remains of beam slots to carry an upper floor. This floor level is also represented by a ledge let into the profile of Wall 3. The narrowed profile of Wall 3 also matches up with 4 coursed ashlar stones, one of a handful of indicators of the original face. The profile of the wall-head may reflect a line of first floor windows, the ledges of which are approximately 3.5 metres above ground.

At the junction of Wall 2 and Wall 3 there is a chamfer in the rubble core from the first floor to the wall head. This may be interpreted either as a doorway leading to an external gallery or staircase, or more plausibly the trace of a window reveal."

Wright also undertook a stone survey in 2007 of a sample of properties within the parish. This is unpublished with the archive held by Nottinghamshire County Council. It revealed the survival of stone fragments of both medieval and post medieval date, with notable high status examples of carved and chamfered material visible in the garden of Maun Cottage in particular and potentially relating to the gateway of the palace complex. Many of the properties have stone

foundations, cellars and walls which may be the result of robbing from the palace.

### 3 The evaluation

#### 3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and monitoring during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding *WSI* (Gaunt & Wright 2012) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994). The *WSI* was agreed in advance with the Nottinghamshire County Council Principal Archaeologist Ursilla Spence. The Principal Archaeologist was invited to attend the excavation to enable on-site monitoring during the excavation, but did not attend.

The trenches were partially excavated using the back actor of a JCB 3CX fitted with a toothless bucket by the contractors, and monitored by the authors of this report. All other excavation was conducted using hand tools by the archaeological team.



Plate 1: Working shot Trench 2, during topsoil stripping.

The locations of evaluation trenches, features and supplementary levels were recorded by Andy Gaunt using Differential GPS equipment. This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered were made in accordance with the principles set out in the site recording manual (MoLAS, 1994). Levels were calculated by use of a dumpy level.

The evaluation consisted of 2 evaluation trenches. Trench 1 was 17.30m x 3.04m. Trench 2 was 17.20m x 3.00m. Trench 1 was located approximately 40m northwest of the edge of a known pipeline cut during summer 2010 and was located perpendicular to the identified geophysical anomaly (Gaunt 2011). Trench 2 was located equidistant between Trench 1 and the evaluation trench opened across the geophysical anomaly during April 2011 (Wessex 2011). It was deemed necessary to step in both trenches at 1.1m depth in order to maintain adequate health and safety practices.

The site finds and records will be found under the site code KJP12 in the Newark and Sherwood Museums Service archive.

### **3.2 Results of the evaluation**

#### **Introduction**

3.2.1 Two trenches (Trench 1 17.3m x 3.04m, and Trench 2 17.20m x 3.00m) were excavated to determine the nature, extent and date of the targeted anomaly detected by Gaunt (Gaunt 2011a), presumed to be the southern boundary ditch of King John's Palace.

3.2.2 These trenches were orientated perpendicular to the linear anomaly, with the centre of the trenches, targeted at intersecting the centre of the anomaly from Differential GPS coordinates located in the field, from the result of the above geophysical survey. The trenches were located to the southwest of the Wessex Archaeology trench which was located at approximately OSGR 460349, 364705 (there are no coordinates provided for the trench in the Wessex report). (See Figure 3).

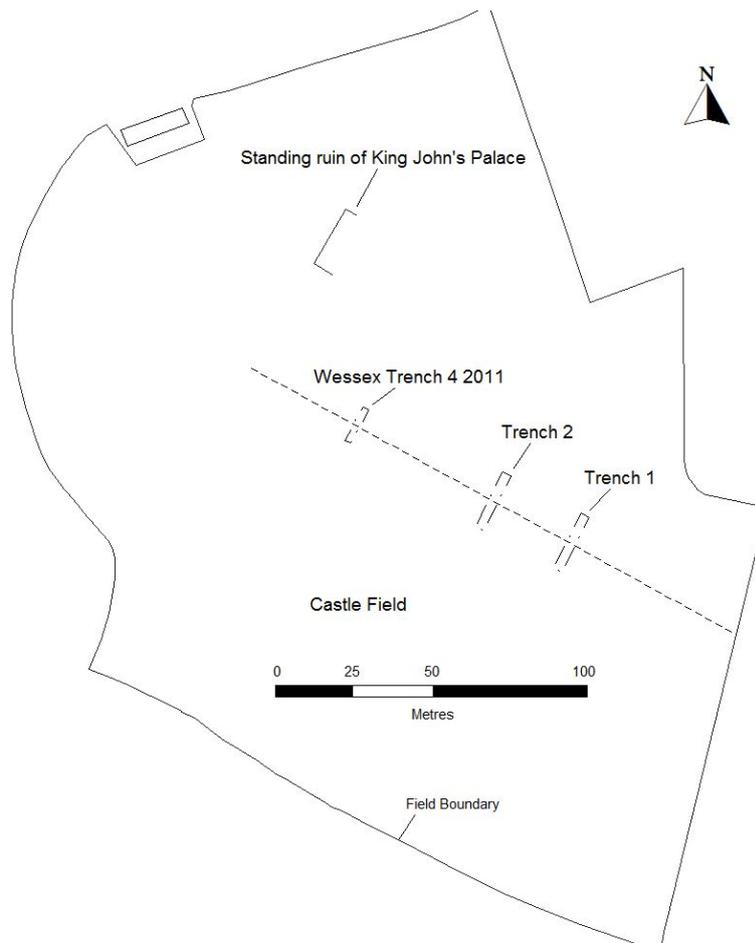


Figure 3: Trench Locations. Field boundary taken from topographic survey 2013.

3.2.3 Topsoil was removed by a JCB 3CX using a toothless bucket under observation by archaeologists

**Trench 1** (see Figures 11 and 12 in Appendix I, Context Matrix in Appendix II, and Context tables in Appendix III). The centre of trench 1 is located at OSGR 460389.14, 364683.05.



Plate 2: Trench 1 top soil stripped facing southwest. Ditch fill can be seen under ranging poles

3.2.4 Trench 1 was located towards the southwestern end of the geophysical anomaly identified above (Gaunt 2011a).

3.2.5 Topsoil **(101)** was removed up to a maximum depth of 0.42m across the length of the trench by machine under supervision, to reveal the fill **(102)** of the northwest - southeast aligned ditch **[103]**. The ditch **[103]** was excavated by hand from this point. **(101)** contained five sherds of pottery of mixed date and a tiny fragment of ceramic building material. The latest two sherds recovered come two 18<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham Stoneware vessels and a large 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Brown-glazed Earthenware bowl. Two other sherds come from a tiny Beverley 1 jug or jar of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to early / mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date and a Light-bodied Nottingham Glazed ware jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/ mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date.



Plate 3: Ditch [103] looking northwest. Scale bar divisions = 0.5m

3.2.6 The ditch **[103]** was filled with a deep homogeneous fill (**102**). It was not possible from the archaeological remains to ascertain how quickly the ditch was filled, either through slow silting or rapid infill due to the homogeneous nature of the fill. The light colour of the fill, rather than a dark humic deposit suggests that much of the organic content had leached from the soil. This suggests the fill was of reasonable antiquity. The fill was excavated in spits to help determine if there was subtle dating evident in the finds that was not evident from the soil deposition within the context. Twenty-eight sherds from twenty-seven vessels were recovered from the ditch. The material ranges in date from the early medieval to the early modern periods. Spit 1 contained twelve sherds from eleven vessels and a tiny fragment of ceramic building material. The latest sherds come from an 18<sup>th</sup> century Brown stoneware bottle and a mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century Midlands Yellow ware jar or bowl. The other sherds are with one exception from jugs or jars of medieval date. These include Nottingham and Beverley ware vessels of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date and two shell-tempered sherds possibly from Potterhanworth near Lincoln. A very abraded reduced quartz-tempered jar sherd with an oxidised core is of Roman or Late Saxon date. Spit 1 also contained a clay pipe stem fragment, stylistically 17<sup>th</sup> to the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in date. The stem fragment is a characteristic off-white buff colour more typical of more local clays and has a wider stem bore than that which occurs in later pipes. The stem fragment is unmarked (Peter Hammond pers comm). Spit 1 also contained an iron object, identified as a folding pen-knife or knife; comprised of

sheets riveted metal with organic handle (presumably modern?); heavily corroded (pers comm, Finds Liaison Officer, Derby City Museum 25.03.2014).

Spits 2 to 3 produced nine sherds of probable medieval date, a sherd from an 18<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham Stoneware drinking vessel and seven fragments of ceramic building material. Most of the medieval sherds are of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date and are from glazed jugs. These jugs include Nottingham and Beverley ware vessels as well as two from unknown regional centres. The ceramic building material includes three pieces of handmade brick of late pos-tmedieval to early modern date. Spit 2 contained a fragment of a clay-pipe bowl and a fragment of a pipe stem. The bowl fragment is marked with what appear to be the initials 'IW' (or possibly 'TW'), though the die has slipped when being pressed. If 'IW' then this may well be from the Nottingham pipe maker John Wright (working c.1710 - 1736), and as this is a long bowl form this will date most probably c.1710 - 1730 when this bowl form was produced by a number of local pipe makers. Whatever the correct initials the bowl form still suggests the above date range. The stem fragment is stylistically 17<sup>th</sup> to the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and thus easily comparable in date. It is characteristic off-white buff colour more typical of more local clays and has a wider stem bore than that which occurs in later pipes. The stem fragment is unmarked. The bowl fragment is certainly from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the pipe stem either the same or earlier, but not later (Peter Hammond pers comm). Spit 2 also contained a thick strip of iron which was un-diagnostic, and heavily corroded. The final spit produced four medieval ceramic sherds. One is from a Light-bodied Nottingham Glazed ware jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date, one is from a shell-tempered jar or bowl and two are from glazed jugs from unknown regional 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century production sites. Following the hand excavation of the first three 0.1m spits of (102) the toothless machine bucket was used to remove a further 0.3m of fill. The remainder of the ditch fill was then excavated by hand. This remaining fill contained an early medieval Beverley 1 jar or bowl sherd of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date and a Roman Greyware sherd and a tiny miscellaneous fragment of ceramic building material was found in cleaning.

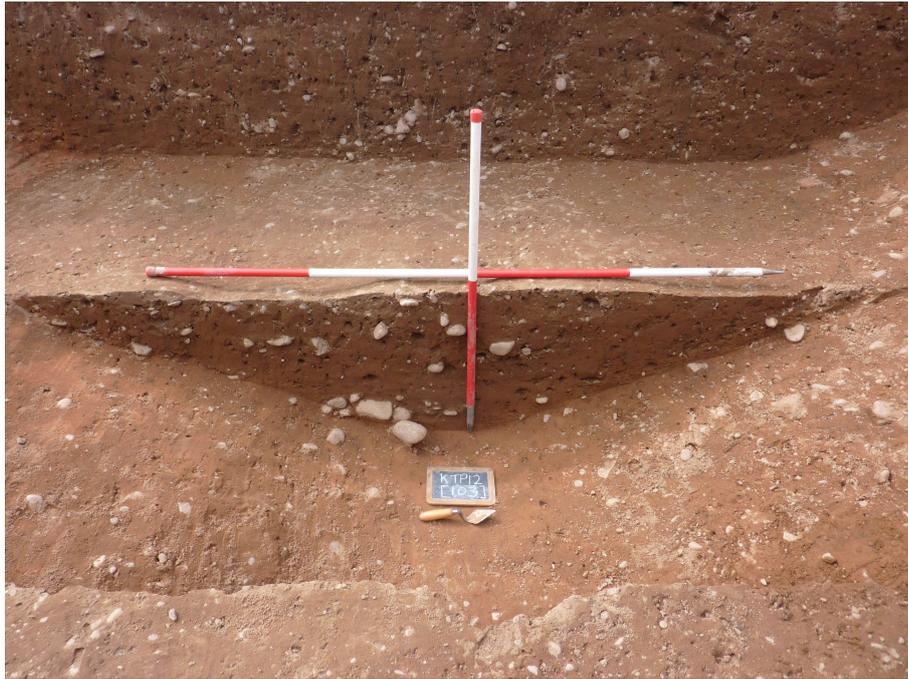


Plate 4: Base of ditch [103] looking northwest. Scale bar divisions = 0.5m

3.2.7 In profile the ditch **[103]** is 5 metres wide by 1.2 metres deep. It forms a wide, v-shaped ditch with a slightly concave base. The sides were cut at approximately 35° when measured from the base of the ditch (the angle becomes steeper, reaching 45° on the northeast side towards the top half of the ditch cut), which corresponds well with the ditch being of a defensive nature. The ditch is not flat bottomed and was not therefore designed to hold water, also it is on a slope, and on free-draining sandstone.

3.2.8 The primary fill of the ditch (**108**) consists of a mixture of large rounded to sub-rounded quartzite cobbles and pebbles <110mm, with a sandy matrix. This probably represents the primary fill consisting of the erosion of the newly exposed sides of the ditch or possible corresponding bank, following original construction. This primary fill is found on the opposite side to the presumed bank, which goes against the assumption that the gravels would build up on the side adjacent to the bank. Other factors such as prevailing wind direction may therefore have influenced this deposition.

3.2.9 There is no evidence of recutting of the ditch in the archaeological record. The finds in the lowest fills of the ditch date to the later 13<sup>th</sup> - early 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the site had fallen out of royal use by the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This may explain the absence of re-cutting.

3.2.10 There are the remains of a possible internal bank **(104)**. This consists of a layer of buried soil seen in section. This lies directly to the side of the ditch and is presumed to be contemporaneous with its construction. The remains of this possible bank have been truncated by ploughing. If this is a bank it is on the inside of the ditch (northeast) and is at least 3 metres wide. It is presumed to have been constructed from the upcast from the ditch. **(104)** contained a sherd of pottery from a Nottingham-type jug with a mis-fired light green glaze, found during cleaning, dating from the late 13<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> century.

3.2.11 To the east of the possible bank **(104)**, a number of layers and features were encountered in section. These subtle features were only seen in section after cleaning. They therefore do not appear in plan. These included a pair of possible northwest to southeast orientated features **[110]** and **[111]**. Feature **[110]** was concave, shallow, and flat-bottomed, with a slightly steeper northeastern side. It contained fill **(105)** and was seen in the northeast facing section. Feature **[110]** cut an older feature on its northeast side. This feature **[111]** contained fill **(106)** and was also concave and shallow, but in the centre the base was convex, creating two sub-channels within the base. (This may represent water movement in the gully, with water having entered from the sides and eroding deeper at these points. These possible gullies may well have provided drainage for the bank **(104)**). A further northwest to southeast orientated feature **[117]** was encountered at the northeastern end of the trench which contained fill **(107)** it could represent a ditch or a pit, which may explain why the geophysical anomaly was so wide at this point.

3.2.12 The features **[110]**, **[111]** and **[112]** were all cut into a soil layer **(109)**. On its southwestern side this layer was seen to extend underneath the possible bank **(104)**. It must therefore represent a soil layer which was building up prior to the creation of the ditch and possible bank..

3.2.13 To the southwest of the ditch **[103]** was a buried soil layer **(113)**.

3.2.14 The northeast facing section was not drawn as it was a replication of the southwest facing section.

3.2.15 As part of the process of excavating, a metal detectorist checked spoil heaps for trenches, resulting in a number of unstratified metal finds. These included for

trench 1; A folded strip of lead - Un-diagnostic lead fragments (pers comm, Finds Liaison Officer, Derby City Museum 25.03.2014). A possible copper alloy fragment of a buckle - Georgian copper alloy tin/lead 1720 – 1820 (pers comm, Finds Liaison Officer, Derby City Museum 25.03.2014). A modern BB gun pellet. A fragment of metal (lead) - Un-diagnostic lead fragments (pers comm, Finds Liaison Officer, Derby City Museum 25.03.2014). A copper alloy loop (thin) - Strap loop of copper alloy; possibly late Medieval at the earliest (pers comm, Finds Liaison Officer, Derby City Museum 25.03.2014).

**Trench 2** (see Figures 13, 14 and 15 in Appendix I, Context Matrix in Appendix II, and Context Tables in Appendix III)). The centre of Trench 2 is located at 460414.36, 364669.01.



Plate 5: Trench 2 topsoil stripped showing trench and sandpit facing northeast.  
Scale bar divisions = 0.5m

3.2.15 Trench 2 was located to intersect the linear geophysical anomaly between the Wessex excavation of the ditch from 2011 and Trench 1 and was oriented perpendicular to the linear anomaly identified in Gaunt 2011.

3.2.16 Topsoil **(201)** was removed up to a maximum depth of 0.42m across the length of the trench by machine under supervision, to reveal the upper fill **(202)** of the northwest - southeast aligned ditch **[203]**. The ditch **[203]** was excavated by hand from this point. Topsoil deposit **(201)** contained a tiny sherd from a mid/late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Creamware vessel and a large 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham Light-bodied Glazed ware jug sherd.



Plate 6: [203] Trench 2 facing northwest. Scale bar divisions = 0.5m

3.2.17 The ditch **[203]** contained a number of fills. The upper of these **(202)** consisted of dark humic material which contained 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. It is interpreted that this represents a secondary fill of the ditch. This suggests that until the 19<sup>th</sup> century the boundary ditch was visible as a hollow earthwork at this location, which was subsequently filled during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is no recut of the ditch below **(202)**. Three sherds were recovered from **(202)**. The uppermost spit (Spit 1) contained a small mid/late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Creamware sherd and a tiny sherd from a 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century Beverley 1 vessel. Spit 2 produced a single abraded flake from a Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware vessel of general medieval date. Spit 3 produced a fragment from a handmade brick of late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date and an abraded piece of ceramic building material also probably from a brick.



Plate 7: [203] Trench 2 ditch facing northwest Scale bar divisions 0.5m.

3.2.18 Below fill **(202)** lies fill **(211)**. This is a lighter coloured fill than the overlying **(202)** suggesting a greater antiquity and higher levels of leaching. **(211)** contained two sherds of Medieval Pottery from the late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century. One is from a Nottingham Light-bodied Glazed ware jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date and one is from a small Nottingham-type jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. **(211)** was a deep homogeneous fill, and due to this homogeneous nature was not possible from the archaeological remains as excavated to ascertain how quickly the ditch was filled, either through slow silting or rapid infill.

3.2.19 The primary fill of the ditch **(212)** consists of a mixture of large rounded to sub-rounded quartzite cobbles and pebbles <90mm, with a sandy matrix . This probably represents the primary fill consisting of the erosion of the newly exposed sides of the ditch or possible corresponding bank, following original construction. Primary fill 212 produced a single sherd from a Nottingham Light-bodied Glazed ware jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date. Similar to **(108)** in **Trench 1**, the primary fill seems to have been deposited mainly from the southwesterly bank , which goes

against the assumption that the gravels would build up on the side adjacent to the bank (see below, 3.2.20 regarding bank). Other factors such as prevailing wind direction may therefore have influenced this deposition.

3.2.20 In profile the ditch **[203]** is 5 metres wide by 1.2 metres deep. It forms a wide, v-shaped ditch with a slightly concave base. The concave base of the ditch is at 15° for the first 0.4m either side of the centre of the ditch. To the southwest of this the ditch side is cut at an angle of 30°. The inside of the ditch is cut at 25° but rises to nearly 40° at 1.5 metres from the centre on the northeastern side. The ditch is not flat bottomed and was not therefore designed to hold water, also it is on a slope, and on free-draining sandstone.



Plate 8: Ditch cut [203] looking northwest. Scale bar divisions = 0.5m

3.2.20 There is no surviving evidence of a possible internal bank as seen in **(104)** in **Trench 1**. The later sandpit **[210]** on the northeast side of the ditch in this area will likely have removed any traces in this trench (see below).

3.2.21 The ditch **[203]** was truncated by a large sandpit **[210]**, dated stratigraphically to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This pit had near vertical sides on all but the northeast side, where the side sloped at 20°, running along the northern edge of the sandpit. This sloped side was interpreted as a barrow ramp for extracting sand from the sand pit. This possible barrow run has a length of 2.04m. The slope steepened to 30° as it approached the northwest facing section where some of the barrow ramp may have been subsequently dug away. The remainder of the sandpit had near vertical edges

round the southwest and northwest sides. The sandpit was 4.34m in length along the southwest to northeast axis by 2.60m in width (though the sandpit extended beyond the limit of excavation. into the northwest facing section, The maximum depth of the cut **[210]** as seen in the northwest facing section was 0.80m.



Plate 9: Excavated sandpit **[210]** in section trench 2 facing southeast. Scale bar divisions 0.5m.

3.2.22 Sandpit **[210]** contained fill **(209)** which consisted of many tip lines (see Figure 15 in Appendix I). A sherd similar to a sherd of Nottingham Light-bodied Glazed ware jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date recovered from **(211)**; was recovered from the fill **(209)**. This sherd is distorted and has a firing crack. The high iron-rich content of the fabric suggest that it may not have been a Nottingham product. Sandpit **[210]** has been truncated by possible later ditch features – specifically cuts **[208]**, **[216]** and **[218]**. Within the fill **(215)** of ditch **[216]** was a modern pit **[206]** consisting of a dark brown silty sand **(205)** which contained no finds.

3.2.23 Sand pit **[210]** is truncated by 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century ditches. These features were recorded in section, and were initially thought to be part of the ditch fill **(202)**. Following cleaning and further excavation they were seen to be later ditches. They are therefore not seen in plan. Possible ditch **[208]** is 1.08m wide and 0.30m depth, appears to be the latest in this series; running on a northwest to southeast orientation. **[208]** appears to be the same as **[225]** (1.34m wide and 0.19m depth). Cut **[208]** was recorded in the northwest facing section as asymmetrical, appearing to have a

shallow angle to the southwest (suggesting a re-cut to the top of fill **(209)**) but to the northeast cut **[208]** rises steeply although this side of the feature was less certain. **(224)**, the fill of **[225]** produced two early modern sherds of probable 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date and a medieval Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glazed ware jug sherd.

3.2.24 Cut **[216]**, 1.67m wide (though could have extended as far as 2.48m) and 0.37m depth, recorded in the southeast facing section and appears to be a possible ditch re-cut containing fill **(215)**. This cut is relatively symmetrical in profile. Fill **(215)** could be seen to be truncated by the narrower re-cut **[208]**. Cut **[216]** can be seen to continue through into the southeast facing section as cut **[227]**; cut **[227]**, being 1.04m width and 0.24m depth, is somewhat narrower than **[216]** and not quite as deep (though deeper at northeast edge).

3.2.25 Directly below **[216]** was another ditch feature **[218]**, this was the widest and deepest of the 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century ditches being 1.72m wide and 0.47m depth. Cut **[218]** was the earliest in the series of post medieval to modern field boundary ditch features. Again as with the two later re-cuts **[208]** and **[216]** this larger earlier ditch can presumably be seen in southeast facing section as cut **[231]** though the angles of these cuts are not the same. The sides of ditch cut **[218]** are approximately 20° degree slope whereas in the opposite section **[231]**, 0.39m width and 0.25m depth, has a side of cut which is approximately 70°. This could be explained by the fact that ditch feature **[218]** appears to lie within sandpit **[210]** and utilises the near vertical cut of **[210]** which would result in a similar steep “break of slope at top” so as to mirror that seen in southeast facing section. Also of interest is the fact that **[231]** stops immediately once the natural is reached in the southeast section. Though it should be noted that the cut of ditch **[227]** also stops directly upon the natural.

3.2.26 Directly below ditch cut **[218]** was context **(219)**; this was a large root measuring 0.24m in width by 70mm long. Further to the southwest, though still beneath cut **[218]**, was another root **(220)**; 60mm width by 80mm long. These roots suggest evidence for there being a hedge next to the post medieval ditch; possibly on a small bank.

3.2.27 Directly below sandpit cut **[210]** and the presumed shallow Victorian or Modern ditch cut **[225]** was 19<sup>th</sup> century fill **(202)**; the uppermost fill of possible Medieval ditch **[203]**. The full width of this deposit **(202)** was not seen as it had been truncated in the northwest facing section to the northeast by sandpit **[210]** and to a

lesser extent in the southeast facing section by ditch cut [225]. Fill (202) was the widest context encountered during the excavation in trench two being seen in section to a maximum of 6.74m with a maximum thickness of 0.41m. This appears to be the final phase of the ditch [203] silting up.



Plate 10: Trench 2 following excavation of [210] sandpit facing southwest. Scale bar divisions 0.5m.

3.2.28 Below fill (202) was a lower, main ditch fill (211), this was by far the thickest deposit excavated in trench two being recorded as 1.09m from the base of cut [203] and is seen to a height of 1.40m on the northeast side of cut [203] from the base of the ditch. This lower fill (211) was recorded as having a maximum width of 5.04m. This fill was extremely homogenous and though no doubt consisted of many lenses of washed in material but it was impossible to identify any individual events of phases of deposition within (211). The deposit has been presumably leached of much of its colour.

3.2.29 the primary fill of Medieval ditch **[203]** was fill **(212)**; this consisted of a mix of small rounded pebbles (maximum 100mm rounded) and medium to small sized, rounded and sub rounded gravels (50mm maximum). These presumably “rolled” down from the sides, probably almost immediately, of the ditch when it was originally excavated. These gravels extended 0.57m across base of **[203]** with a depth of no greater than the largest pebble 100mm.

3.2.30 Beneath the gravels **(212)** was the cut of the Medieval boundary ditch **[203]**, this was a wide, deep symmetrical cut with a seen maximum width of 7.06m (truncated by ditch **[225]** to northwest); it had a depth of 1.40m. Ditch sides were approximately 30°, there was a slight step seen in southeast side near the top of the ditch where the cut became increasingly shallow approximately 10° degrees.

3.2.31 In order to fully excavate ditch **[203]** it was necessary to step in the sides of the excavation, thus reducing the amount of the ditch to be excavated, and thus confirm the exact profile of the ditch. Whilst excavating the lower part of the ditch it was decided to expose some of the natural **[203]** had been cut into; this exposed the natural sand and gravels/pebbles.

3.2.32 Ditch cut **[203]** truncated deposit **(232)**, a subsoil (possibly an earlier surviving plough soil) to the southwest seen in the southeast facing section, though in the northwest facing section **[203]** truncated **(214)**, this deposit extended beyond southwest L.O.E., and was presumably an earlier surviving plough soil directly below the topsoil **(201)**. Deposits **(214)** and **(232)** are probably the same, although there is a noticeable difference in thickness.

3.2.33 In the northwest facing section the sandpit cut **[210]** truncates context **(213)** to the northeast, an older sub-soil. **(213)** is probably the same deposit as **(222)** and **(223)** seen in the opposite section at the northeastern end. **(222)** and **(223)** are most likely the same deposit as each other. They have been given separate context numbers as there is an area of gravels which separate them. **(222)** and **(223)** are overlain by deposit **(221)**. This may be a very shallow cut but for the purposes of this report has not been assumed to be a ditch; width 2.34m and depth 0.16m. **(222)** is truncated at its southwestern edge by cut **[231]** the earliest of the three 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century ditches. The latest of these **[225]** truncates the cut of the Medieval ditch

[203] on its northeastern edge. These features are not seen in plan as they were recorded during the cleaning of the sections.

3.2.34 As noted above the southeast facing section shows the Modern ditch and its re-cuts coming through at a higher level than the medieval ditch; the earliest cut [231] truncates, at a very steep incline, deposit (222) an earlier subsoil.

3.2.35 As part of the process of excavating, a metal detectorist checked spoil heaps for trenches, resulting in a number of unstratified metal finds. For trench 2 these included an iron hinge pivot or possible tenter hook, heavily corroded. David Budge writes: "Simple 'L' shaped object with tapered rectangular shank c.60mm long and pivot rising at around 90 degrees from the end of the shank with only a slight, but clearly noticeable, inward curve, slightly rounded square section, 45mm long. Tenter hooks were used to hold up wall hangings / tapestries, in textile production to stretch and hold woollen cloth and possibly also to hold roof tiles (Goodall 2000 p147). Hinge pivots with tapering shanks were intended to be hammered into wood and were used for hanging doors, windows, shutters etc. The size of the hinge pivots used would be determined by the size and weight of the door, window, shutter etc to be hung. Tenter hooks are found in medieval and post medieval contexts (eg Nonsuch Palace (Goodall 2005 pp374 - 375)). The proportions and slight inward curve of the Clipstone object are more in keeping with published tenter hooks (eg Goodall 2005 fig 182, 37, 38) than wall hooks but the size of the Clipstone object may be excessive for a tenter hook, the shank being towards the maximum length of the samples from Nonsuch and the hook being larger even than the 'exceptional hook' of 39mm (most were under 31mm) (Goodall 2005 p374). A more likely possibility is that the object was a hinge pivot. Though hinge pivots often have circular sectioned pivots a number of the illustrated examples from Lurk Lane in Beverley have more or less square pivots. The form, overall proportions and size of these pivots are a good match for the Clipstone piece (eg Armstrong et al, 1991, fig 108/433 for very similar form, also Ellis, 2000, fig 6.21/73 for similar form and size). The hinge pivots from Beverley were present in contexts throughout the medieval and into the early post medieval periods. Given the find location and the known history of the site, particularly the apparent lack of any kind of documented occupation in this part of the site after the palace went out of use, it seems most likely this object is a piece of structural ironwork from the medieval palace rather than deriving from later activity in the area".

## **4 Discussion**

### **4.1 Background**

The linear ditch and possible associated bank at King's Clipstone must be seen in relation to the former royal palace. The pottery recovered from lower fills of the ditch has been dated to the period of the hey-day of the royal occupation on site, namely the 13th and 14th centuries which saw many additions to and maintenance of a substantial complex of buildings. Based on the results of the resistance survey (Gaunt 2011a) which showed a clear delineation between an area of dense archaeological anomalies to the northeast of the ditch and relatively fewer identifiable features to the southwest Gaunt interpreted the ditch as a principle enclosure boundary on the southwest side of the site.

Gaunt's interpretation is at odds with the conclusions of the geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation conducted in 2011. The results of the magnetic survey interpreted the anomaly as "the line of an old field boundary seen on first edition OS mapping" (Wessex Archaeology 2011, 7). The archaeological evaluation backs up this attribution for the origin of the ditch however goes on to describe it as a substantial ditch containing medieval pottery (Wessex Archaeology 2011, 13). There was no attempt to explain the purpose of the ditch or to relate it to either the landscape, the historical background of the site or the wider findings of Gaunt's survey. Essentially the interpretation of this feature by Wessex Archaeology was both unclear and confused.

## 4.2 Historic Mapping



Figure 4: Excerpt from William Seniors Map of Clipstone Lordship from 1630. The image shows the 'Mannor garth' and Waterfield. Southwest is roughly to the top.

The earliest depiction of a feature on the same alignment as the bank and ditch to the southwest of the palace complex can be found on the 1630 estate map commissioned from William Senior by the Earl of Newcastle (Figure 4). The map shows a straight field boundary dividing Waterfield from the Mannor garth (Manor Garth). A single roofless building is shown in the centre of the latter and is interpreted to be the extant ruined structure. The northeastern end of the field boundary intersects with a small irregular enclosure in which a roofed building is shown. It is unclear whether this structure is related to the medieval palace complex, however the resistance survey (Gaunt 2011a) does show several anomalies in this area which undoubtedly relate to the archaeological remains of this feature.

Gaunt has demonstrated that the 1630 map bears strong evidence of colour-coding according to land-use (Gaunt 2011b). The large pale orange expanse of land to the southwest of the Mannor garth is titled Waterfield and is one of King's Clipstone's arable open fields. The smaller parcel of land immediately adjacent to mannor garth

also titled Waterfield is coloured the same pale-yellow as the Mannorgarth. The fact that these enclosures share the same pale yellow colouring as the closes of the village crofts and three enclosures further to the southwest of the larger Waterfield points to the area being demesne land under direct control of the manor (i.e. the King's Houses). Despite the decline of the palace even in 1630 the smaller Waterfield and Mannorgarth were still considered to be demesne lands, although it is admitted that both may have been given over to agricultural use.

Excavation has shown that at the time of the 1630 map the lower part of the ditch was infilled, having silted up in the medieval period. The upper parts of the ditch were still open however, and the ditch survived as a land division between Mannorgarth and Waterfield.. It can be logically extrapolated that the original boundary between the two enclosures once marked a division in land-use with the residential palace complex to the northeast and demesne agricultural land to the southwest. The smaller Waterfield was therefore almost certainly an arable enclosure which originally provided produce for consumption at the King's Houses.

Documentary evidence shows that the Manor Garth or "Hall Garth" was in place in 1406: Henry IV "in the seventh year of his reign, granted an annuity of £4 10s, issuing out of the fee farm of Clipston, in the forest of Sherwood, together with the profits and advantages of the verdure and herbage of the garden, called the Halgarth" (Rodgers 1908) to an Adam Bell. The similarity of the name with the simple exchange of "Manor" for "Hall" suggests strongly that the two are the same area of land. This takes the existence of the Mannorgarth back into the medieval period, to within 13 years of the last visit by a monarch to the site.



Figure 5: George Ingham's map of 1766. Showing Manor Yard and the outline of the current upstanding ruin.

George Ingham's map of 1766 (Figure 5) shows a similar relationship between what is now titled The Manor Yard (mannorgarth in 1630) and Near Close (the smaller Waterfield in 1630). The open-field beyond has been enclosed. The field boundary between Manor Yard and Near Close is shown as a hedge. The small enclosure to the northeast of the boundary has been removed although the shape of its southwestern boundary has been preserved in the hedgeline.



Figure 6: George Sanderson's 1835 map of 20 Miles Around Mansfield, courtesy of Nottinghamshire County Council Reference: 101/1/3/15-1088.

George Sanderson's map of 1835 (Figure 6) shows a similar arrangement of field boundaries as the 1766 map, however Near Close has been extended to the southwest at the expense of what was formerly Robin Hoods Close.





Figure 9: 1916 map Ordnance survey showing pheasantry.

The 1841 Tithe Map of Clipstone (Figure 7) shows that the northeastern end of the boundary was rationalised into a single linear feature which also had two small enclosures to the southwest and adjacent to Rathole. This is the last time that the boundary between the fields was depicted as the 1885-7 OS 1:10,560 map of Nottinghamshire (Figure 8) shows a 13.5 acre field with two small enclosures to the west adjacent to the Mansfield Road and a 0.6 acre fishpond to the east adjacent to the former Great Pond. Between 1900 and 1916 a 1.7 acre area of the northeast corner of Waterfield was enclosed to create a pheasantry (Figure 9); and a Mission Church was established in 1903 (Bealby 2001) on small portion of land adjacent to Main Road. These encroachments created the current boundaries of the 11.5 acre field which have only been slightly altered by the dismantling of the two small western enclosures between 1955 and 1959. By this point the field was no longer called mannorgarth or Manor Yard and had received the modern name of Castlefield (Michelle Bradley pers. comm.)

The citation by Wessex Archaeology that the feature was shown on the 1885-7 first edition Ordnance Survey map (Wessex Archaeology 2011, p7). The latest period that the boundary is depicted is the 1841 tithe map, however it can be demonstrated through the historic mapping that it stretches back to at least 1630.

### 4.3 Dating

The precise dating of the construction of the ditch is not possible given the limited amount of pottery contained within the fill. However ceramics of 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century

date were present in the area to be incorporated into the early fills, while Post Medieval ceramics were only encountered at higher levels in the fill. The 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries was the period of time which saw the majority of activity at the King's Houses by the Angevin and Plantagenet monarchy.

The size of the ditch is indicative that it formed a major boundary on this side of the complex. The earthworks are likely to have been capped by a timber palisade. This boundary faced onto the demesne land, the Waterfield and woodland beyond as opposed to the northern boundary which fronted onto the access road to the palace. As a result it was of a lower status and unlike the northern boundary was never rebuilt in stone (see below), thus an earth and timber boundary may have enclosed this side of the complex throughout the entire medieval period.

#### **4.4 Morphology of the bank and ditch**

Measuring approximately 5.8-6.2m in width and 1.13-1.31m in depth the morphology of the ditch also points in the direction of it being related to the former royal palace. Studies tend to concentrate on building complexes rather than on the boundaries of medieval palaces, however the ditch does bear similarity to such features at other contemporary sites. The moat at Mount House, Witney, Oxfordshire dates from the late 12th century and is approximately 7.5m in width on the north and east sides of the site (Allan & Hiller 2002). Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire was founded in the mid-late 12th century and lasted as a palace into the later 15th century; the moat measures approximately 6m on the west side of the site and 8m on the east (Wareham 2000). King's Langley, Hertfordshire was occupied during the second half of the 13th century until the late 15th century and has a boundary ditch immediately to the east of the royal wine cellar measuring approximately 5.5m in width (Neal 1973).

Although there are no other applicable palace sites within Nottinghamshire the high status 14th century medieval semi-fortified manor houses at Strelley and Greasley both have comparable boundary ditches to King's Clipstone. The depth of the ditch at Greaseley Castle is approximately 1.5m and varies in width between 3-6m. The previously unknown rock-cut ditch at Strelley Hall was excavated in 2006 and found to be 7.5m in width (Wright 2009). It therefore follows that although there was no

standard dimension or profile for high status medieval boundary ditches, the cutting on the southwest side of King's Clipstone is eminently analogous to other contemporary high status aristocratic, episcopal and royal enclosures.

Analogous embankments to the buried soil (possible bank) to the north of the ditch are harder to extrapolate given the fact that the feature has been extensively truncated. However, if the features running to the north of the buried soil are taken to be internal drainage gullies carrying run-off water away from the bank and downhill towards the Great Pond then it may be possible to state that the bank was 2.85m in width. Whilst this does seem rather slim for a medieval boundary bank in association with a much wider ditch there are certainly similar surviving medieval earthworks within Nottinghamshire at Laxton Castle (Kincey, Challis & Speight 2005), Greasley Castle (Speight 2006) and Bothamsall Castle (Gaunt & Wright 2011).

Any timber palisade which could have capped this embankment has left no archaeological traces. If one were present it may have borne similarity to the post and plank construction of the deer park as illustrated on the c 1400 Belvoir Map of Sherwood Forest or could have been a more prosaic row of posts set into the ground as discovered in excavations at sites such as Hen Domen, Montgomeryshire (Barker & Higham 1988) or Stafford Castle, Staffordshire (Soden 2007). Reference was made in 1195-6 to a palisade constructed around the royal manor at Kinver (later Stourton Castle, Staffordshire and also associated with the royal forest of Kinver) which was 16 feet (4.87m) high (Pipe Roll 8 Richard I, Colvin 1963) - and it is possible that the palisade at the King's Houses was of similar dimension.

#### **4.5 Other potential boundaries of the site**

The ditch is the western/ southwestern boundary of the site and fits into a larger compound which was potentially enclosed by employing several different methods. The northwestern boundary of the palace runs along the line of what is now Main Road until it enters a substantial holloway (known locally as Rathole) and becomes Mansfield Road. Although the boundary here would originally have been a timber palisade (see above) there is compelling evidence that this was later replaced in stone, especially as this side of the palace was the location for the gateway into the King's Houses.

There are two references to repairs to the Great Gateway in 1348-9 and 1360-3 (NA E 101/460/18-19; Colvin 1963) and also to the construction of "a certain new tower" by William Clerk (the deputy to Clerk of the Works, William Ardene) between 1435-46 (Foreign Accounts E 364/77, rot. B; E 364/81, rot. D; Colvin 1963). The locations of the gateway and tower are not given however the former would definitely have been constructed in association with the boundary walls. Although late medieval free-standing bell-towers are known (for example the 15th century tower at Evesham Abbey, Worcestershire) they tend to be constructed on ecclesiastical sites and towers at palace sites are more commonly constructed in association with boundary walls. The sums of money involved, the high status of the palace by this point and the architectural convention of the period point towards these being stone-built constructions. By extension it follows that the rest of the enclosure on this side would have been rebuilt in masonry by the 14<sup>th</sup> century to demonstrate the high status of the site through an impressive visual display on the side of the palace accessed from the principle roadway.

The 1630 William Senior map (Figure 4) represents a building in a close to the northeast of the manorgarth. The property sits in the same location as the modern Maun Cottage, which contains substantial stone walls over 1.5m in thickness (Wright 2015). Additionally the properties to the east – Brammer Farmhouse and Arundel Cottage – also contain in situ medieval stone walls with a splayed opening which potentially relate to both the boundary wall and gatehouse complex (Wright 2013). High status stonework was found in the gardens of all three properties in 2007, including several fragments of Romanesque voussoirs (Wright 2007). Prior to 1889 Maun Cottage was the Fox & Hounds public house. The earliest mention of a public house in the village was The Gate which was recorded in the List of Friendly Societies for 1794 (Bealby 2001). James Cutts was the landlord and was still there in 1813 (Bealby 2001). Cutts died in about 1818 and the pub was granted to Robert Lindley by his widow (UNA P1 E12/6/8/3/3). Lindley later passed over the tenancy to Cornelius Amos in 1829, however by this time the building was called the Fox & Hounds (UNA 4/2/6/8/3/4). It is suspected that the name change occurred when Lindley took over from Cutts and reflected the very active hunting community within the area of the Dukeries. Cornelius and then his son, James, and finally his daughter in law, Sarah, continued the tenancy until 1889 when the public house closed its doors for the last time and became the village shop until the early 20th century (Bealby 2001). The original name of the public house - The Gate - is considered to be significant as along with the map evidence, extant medieval walls and the

discovery of high status masonry it is probably that this was the site of the gateway referred to in 1348-9 and 1360-3 (NA E 101/460/18-19; Cal. Pat. Rolls 1348-50; Colvin 1963)

This enclosure to the northeast of the manorgarth was eventually truncated to the northeast and by 1766 five discreet enclosures are depicted adjacent to Main Road along with a cluster of buildings. Given that the closes of the village crofts are laid out regularly on the north side of Main Road in both 1630 and 1766 it is apparent that the cluster of structures without regular closes on the south side of the road may have their origin as part of the palace complex. By 1835 this cluster of structures was formally encircled by a teardrop-shaped boundary which truncated the northern edge of the Manor Yard, and this boundary has remained in consistent use through to the present day.

The original line of the northern and northwestern boundary is best understood from the 1766 map. A single curving line heads northeast and then east from Rathole along Mansfield Road onto Main Street where it intersects with a small rectangular enclosure. This is the village pinfold which is also shown in the same place (albeit larger) on the 1630 map. The line of the village street then runs immediately to the south of Maun Cottage which is also on the same alignment as Brammer Farmhouse and Arundel Cottage. The south elevations of these properties as depicted in 1766 are therefore stood in front of what was originally the northern boundary to the King's Houses. It has already been established that both Maun Cottage, Brammer Farmhouse and Arundel Cottage are on the site, and incorporate fabric, of the Great Gateway. The properties are therefore an early example of a private village building constructed forward of the earlier boundary and into the road. The alignment of the north elevations of the buildings constricts the width of the access of Main Road even in the 21st century, a factor that was originally begun during the 17th and 18th century development of the post-palace village. The appearance of the medieval boundary wall along Main Road may have been similar in character to the relatively low 15th century wall running along to the east side of Longwall Street, Oxford (Plate 3) which originally enclosed the west side of the deer park of Magdalen College.



Plate 3:15th century wall running along to the east side of Longwall Street, Oxford, looking southwest.

Dam Close is shown as a strip of land immediately to the west of the Great Pond in 1766 and is accessed via a narrow lane between a triangular close and the enclosure immediately to the northeast of the Manor Yard. It is possible to see this lane on the 1630 map. The lane allows direct access between Main Road and the shore of the Great Pond and as such its boundary is taken as the limit of the palace enclosure on its northeast side.

The southeastern terminus of the ditch is likely to have been where it fed into the Great Pond. The Great Pond was a very substantial landscape feature which was created in 1186 (Pipe Roll 33 Henry II; Colvin 1963) by damming the Vicar Water east of the village to create a substantial lake. The functions of the Great Pond were many and would have included the creation of a pleasant vista to the east of the palace (which would have been clearly visible from the buildings on the hill). Such aquatic views were common during the period as can be seen by the creation of the Great Mere by King John at Kenilworth Castle (Hull 2006). The Great Pond also provided the opportunity for boating during royal visits to the palace; provision of fish for feasting (100 pike and 1600 roach were caught during Edward II's visit during the winter of 1315-16 alone); the dam created a water resource to power the mills to the northeast of the palace; and of course the lake also acted as a boundary for the

palatial complex. It is not known whether the western edge of the lake was lined with a wall or palisade, however the basic security of the site would seem to make this likely although any wall or palisade would have been at a suitable height so as not to interrupt the views from the King's Houses on the hill above. The Great Pond is shown as partially silted up in 1766 and as part of the flood meadows irrigation scheme in 1835.

On the east side of Castlefield is an earthwork known as Cellar Hole which Philip Rahtz mistakenly identified as the Great Pond (Rahtz 1960). Cellar Hole was more correctly identified on the 1898 OS 1:10,560 map of Nottinghamshire as a fishpond. The feature can be traced back as far as the 1766 map and is almost certainly medieval in date. Cellar Hole would originally have borne a very similar appearance to the Monk's Stew Pond at Newstead Priory (Nottinghamshire) which still contains water. The location of the fishpond immediately adjacent to a much larger lake is not uncommon and in this case the smaller pond is often used for breeding, the larger for stock rearing (English Heritage 2011).



Figure 10: Ordnance Survey 1889 1:2500 Map

#### 4.6 Area enclosed

The total area enclosed by the boundaries of the palace site is 7.5 acres which is an extraordinarily large expanse of ground when considered in relation to other medieval palaces. The smallest palace sites are those featuring a single enclosure or courtyard in urban settings such as Southwell (Nottinghamshire) at 0.2 acres, Worcester at 0.4 acres or rural hunting lodges such as Writtle (Essex) at 0.8 acres. Medium sized palaces with either larger enclosures or multiple courtyards include the

mid 15th century great house at Wingfield (Derbyshire) at 1.2 acres, Bishop's Waltham (Hampshire) at 2.3 acres, Witney (Oxfordshire) at 2.5 acres and the bishop's palace at Lincoln at 2.8 acres. However, Clipstone must be seen in relation to the very biggest of complexes such as the contemporary site at Clarendon (Wiltshire) at 5 acres; and the former bishop's palace at Eltham (Greater London) which was obtained by Edward II in 1305 and extended to cover an 8 acre site.

The layout and density of the structures within the palace enclosure is not within the remit of this document however three points must be made. Previous evaluation excavations (see Rahtz 1960, Sheppard 1991 and Wessex Archaeology 2011) have demonstrated that preservation of the medieval structures is variable and that there has been extensive robbing to retrieve masonry for post-medieval building projects. The archaeological deposits tend to cluster towards the high ground in the northwestern part of the site; which was first hinted at by Sheppard's fieldwalking survey and re-iterated by the evaluations of 2011 and 2012 which found little evidence of domestic activity in the southern part of the site. However, the Resistance survey (fig 2) demonstrates that, although there may not necessarily be evidence of structure across the whole of the palace enclosure, there is certainly evidence of archaeological anomalies across the site. The nature of these features is still uncertain and demands further excavation in order to more fully understand the division of land-use within the palace complex.

It should be noted that the western part of the boundary from the top of the ditch excavated in this project (see extent of geophysical anomaly in figure 2), to main road in the north is not fully understood, and historic mapping evidence shows a number of possibilities. These potential boundaries will be investigated by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC through Ground Penetrating Radar survey in April-May 2015 and shovel pitting survey as part of the Discover King John's Palace Peoples' Millions Big Lottery funded project in July 2015. It is hoped that designation of the site can be re-examined once the full boundary has been established.

#### **4.7 Sandpit**

The presence of a large sandpit which cuts the fill **(202)** of ditch **[203]** is possibly significant to the later history of the parish. The location of the sandpit in the middle of Castlefield seems somewhat arbitrary to 21<sup>st</sup> century eyes. However when it is considered that until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> the sandpit would have been immediately adjacent to the field boundary the siting makes greater sense. It is also apparent that the

sandpit was steep-faced on all but the northern side where a gentle gradient allowed access. It is noteworthy that this access points directly towards the village centre. The analysis of the pottery and map regression indicate that the sandpit could date from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is tempting to identify it as a feature relating to the manufacture of lime mortar for either the water meadows irrigation scheme of 1816-39 or the re-modelling of King's Clipstone village during the 1840s, both under the direction of the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Portland (Bealby 2001).

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William Senior's estate map of 1630

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Tithe map of 1841

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## **Appendix I: Plans and Sections**

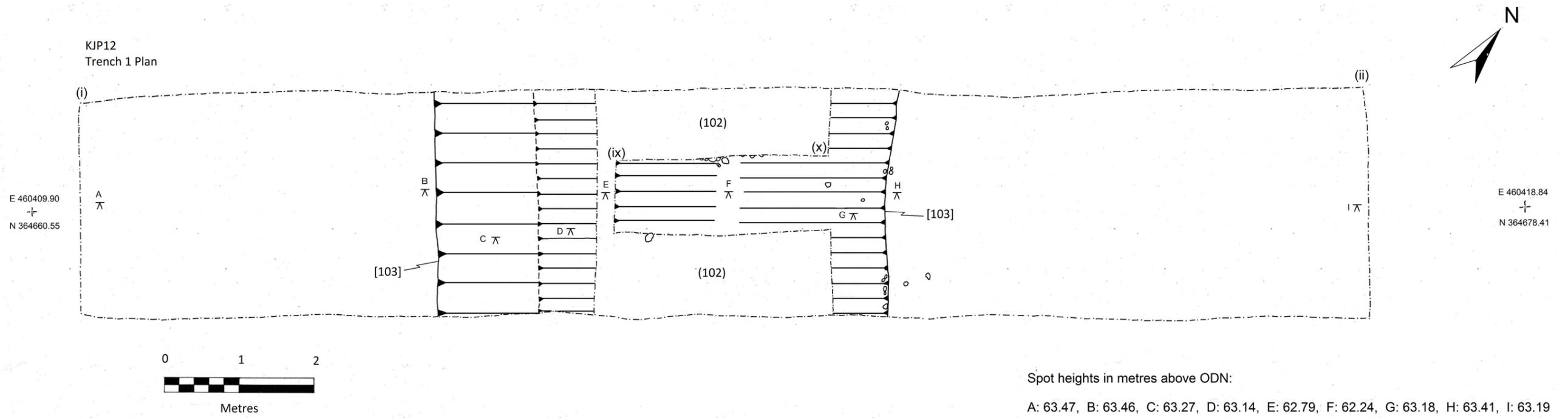


Figure 11: Trench 1 Plan

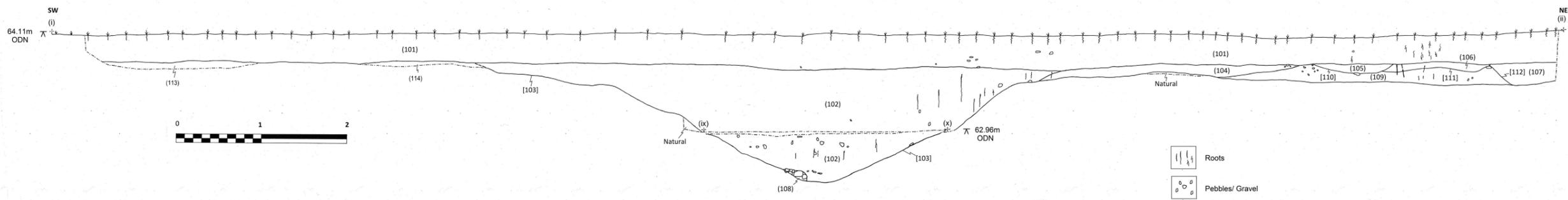


Figure 12: Trench 1 southeast facing section

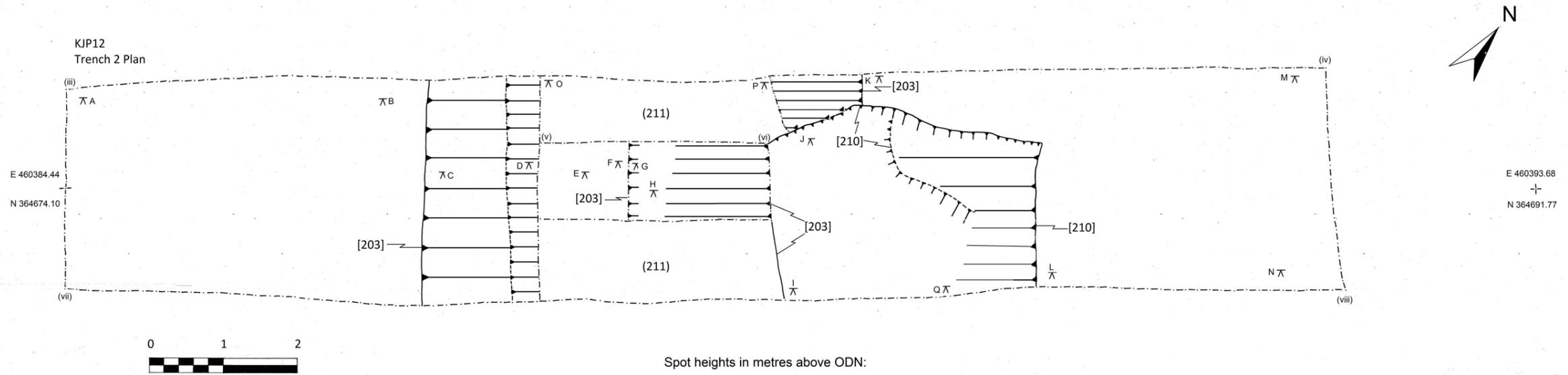


Figure 13: Trench 2 Plan

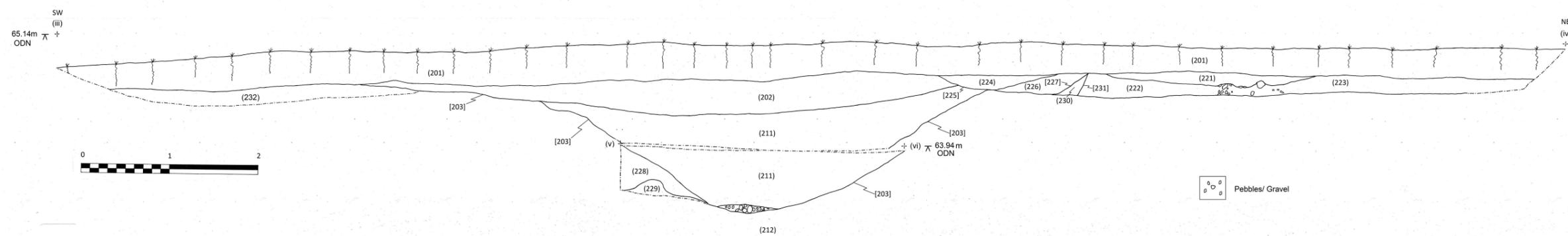


Figure 14: Trench 2 southeast facing section

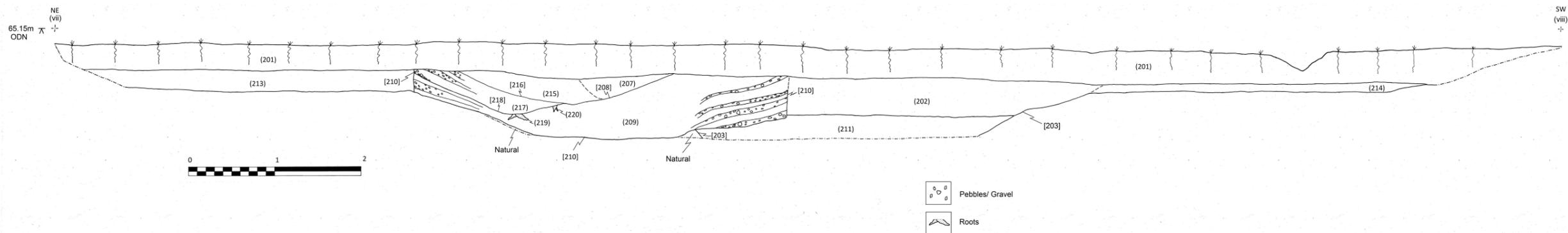
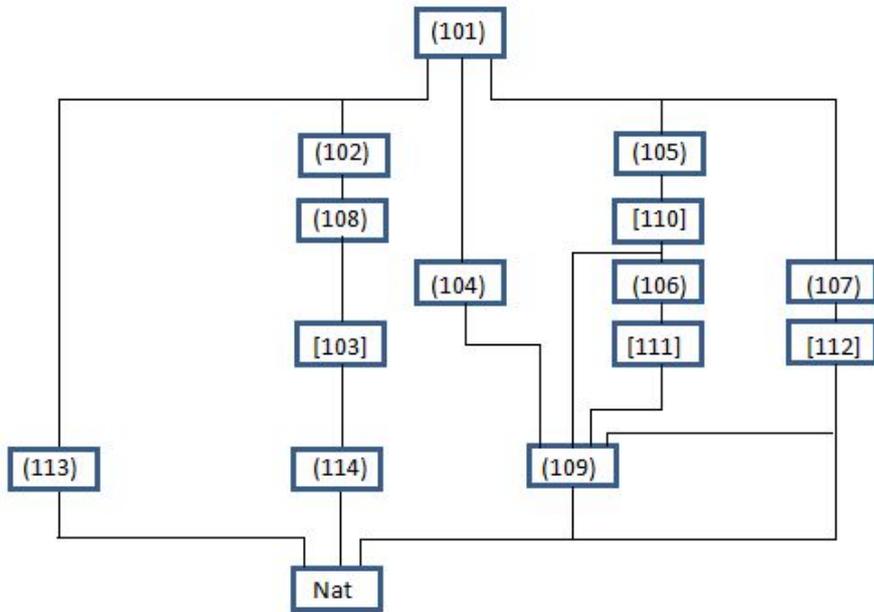


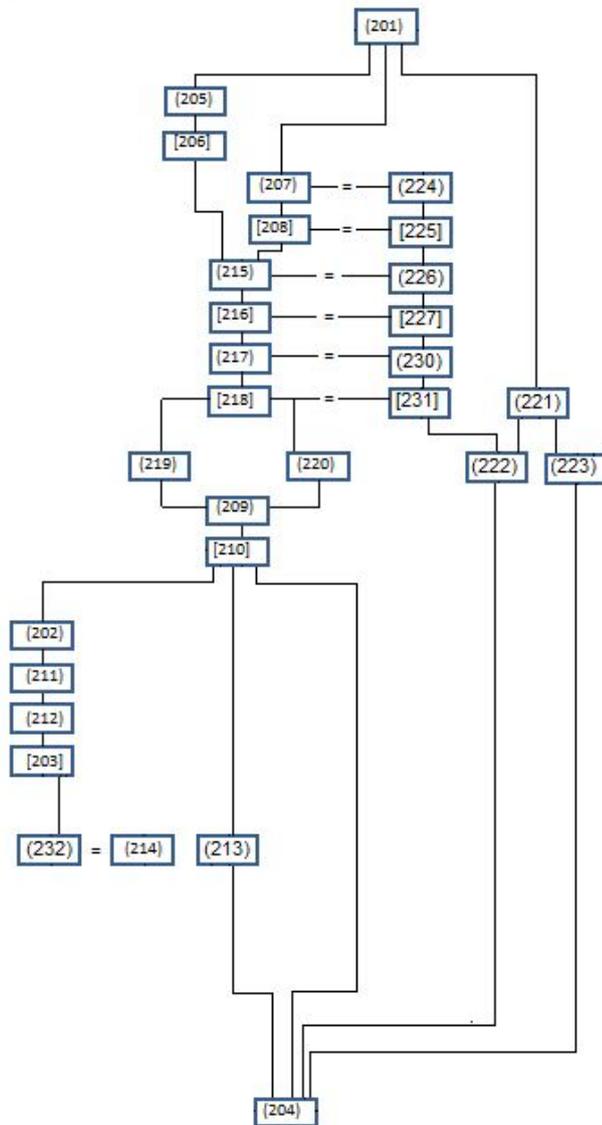
Figure 15: Trench 2 northwest facing section

## **Appendix II: Context Matrix**

Trench 1 Matrix



Trench 2 Matrix



## **Appendix III: Context Tables**

Context	Description
(101)	Topsoil. Dark brown silty sand. Up to 0.42m thick. Grass roots disturbance from abundant fine roots. Modern. Occasional quartzite pebbles average size <30mm up to 150mm.
(102)	Fill Ditch of [103]. Mid brown silty sand. Maximum 1.32m thick, encountered at a depth of 0.32m. Maximum thickness 1.32m. Long roots up to 20mm thick (potato tubers) see especially on NE side. Occasional gravels/ pebbles <0.15m.
[103]	Cut of Medieval Boundary Ditch. Maximum depth of cut 1.32m, encountered at a depth of 0.32m. In profile the ditch <b>[103]</b> is 5 metres wide by 1.2 metres deep. It forms a wide, v-shaped ditch with a slightly concave base. The sides were cut at approximately 35° when measured from the base of the ditch (the angle becomes steeper, reaching 45° on the northeast side towards the top half of the ditch cut), which corresponds well with the ditch being of a defensive nature. The ditch is not flat bottomed and was not therefore designed to hold water, also it is on a slope, and on free-draining sandstone.
(104)	Bank on inside of medieval ditch. Mid brown sand. Occasional rounded / subrounded quartzite pebbles and gravels <40mm unsorted. Some fine roots. There are the remains of an internal bank <b>(104)</b> which lies directly to the side of the ditch and is presumed to be contemporaneous with its construction. The remains of the bank have been truncated vertically by ploughing. The bank is on the inside of the ditch (northeast) and is 3 metres wide. It is presumed to have been constructed from the upcast from the ditch. The ditch is wider than the bank, which suggests that the bank must have originally been higher than the depth of the ditch, and at a steeper incline than the ditch sides. No evidence of a pallisade was found on top of the bank, but this would presumably have disappeared with the vertical truncation of the bank. It is however presumed here that there was originally a pallisade on top of the bank. The bank contained a sherd of pottery from a Nottingham-type jug with a mis-fired light green glaze, dating from the late 13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century. This pottery is taken as dating both the construction of the bank and the corresponding ditch to the 13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century. Encountered at 0.3m depth. Deposit is 0.15m thick.
(105)	Fill of gully [110] Mid brown sand occasional quartzite pebbles and gravels ,40mm. Deposit encountered at 0.3m depth. 0.11m thick. Occasional fine roots. Fill of ditch [110].
(106)	Fill of [111] Mid brown sand. Occasional gravel and quartzite pebbles <40mm. Contains large roots <20mm thickness. Encountered at depth of 0.3m. 0.10m thick.
(107)	Fill of Gully [112] Mid brown sand. Depth encountered 0.26m. Thickness of deposit 0.37m. Occasional quartzite pebbles and gravels <40mm.
(108)	Primary infill of Medieval Ditch [103]. Large cobbles <160mm in size. Light brown sand matrix. Depth encountered 1.55m. Thickness 0.11m. The primary fill of the ditch <b>[103], (108)</b> consists of a mixture of large rounded to sub-rounded quartzite cobbles and pebbles <110mm, with a sandy matrix. This probably represents the primary fill consisting of the erosion of the newly exposed sides of the ditch or possible corresponding bank, following original construction. This primary fill is found on the opposite side to the presumed bank, which goes against the assumption that the gravels would build up on the side adjacent to the bank. Other factors such as prevailing wind direction may therefore have influenced this deposition.
(109)	Sub soil to east of ditch. Mid orange brown sand. Thickness 0.22m. Depth encountered 0.31m Possible medieval soil as predates (104). Occasional quartzite pebbles <40mm. Occasional fine roots. Some large roots up to 20mm thickness.
[110]	Fairly symmetrical concave based gully. 0.95m wide. Encountered at depth of 0.31m. Thickness 0.11m.

[111]	Cut of Gully . Undulating base. 1.26m wide. 0.10m thick. Encountered at depth of 0.33m.
[112]	Cut of Gully. Steep sided 45 degree cut to natural with flat base. Extends beyond LOE. Width 0.78m. 0.24m thick. Encountered at depth of 0.34m.
(113)	Mid orange brown sand. Subsoil to southwest side of trench. Encountered at a depth of 0.3m. 0.09m thick. Occasional fine roots. Occasional quartzite pebbles <40mm. 1.8m wide, extending beyond LOE.
(114)	Mid orange brown sand. Subsoil to west side of trench cut by [103]. 1.45m wide. 0.06m thick. Encountered at depth of 0.32m. Occasional quartzite pebbles average 30-40mm. Occasional fine roots.
(201)	Dark brown silty sand. Occasional quartzite pebbles and gravels ,50mm. Abundant fine roots. Thickness 0.44m.
(202)	Dark brown silty sand. Upper Ditch Fill. Occasional Gravels and quartzite pebbles <40mm. Encountered at depth of 0.44m. 0.37m thick. Consisted of dark humic material which contained 18th and 19th century pottery. It is interpreted that this represents a secondary later fill of the ditch. This suggests that until the 19th century the boundary ditch was visible as a hollow earthwork at this location, which was subsequently filled during the 19th century. There is no recut of the ditch below (202). Three sherds were recovered from (202). The uppermost spit (Spit 1) contained a small mid/late 18th to mid 19th century Creamware sherd and a tiny sherd from a 13th to early/mid 14th century Beverley 1 vessel. Spit 2 produced a single abraded flake from a Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware vessel of general medieval date. Spit 3 produced a fragment from a handmade brick of late 18th to mid 20th century date and an abraded piece of ceramic building material also probably from a brick.
[203]	Cut of Boundary Ditch. In profile the ditch [203] is 5 metres wide by 1.2 metres deep. It forms a wide, v-shaped ditch with a slightly concave base. The concave base of the ditch is at 15° for the first 0.4m either side of the centre of the ditch. To the southwest of this the ditch side is cut at an angle of 30°. The inside of the ditch is cut at 25° but rises to nearly 40° degrees at 1.5 metres from the centre on the northeastern side. The ditch is not flat bottomed and was not therefore designed to hold water, also it is on a slope, and on free-draining sandstone. The ditch cut was 1.51m deep.
204	Natural orange brown sand.
(205)	Dark brown silty sand. Fill of sub-circular pit [206] within Sand pit [210] fill (209). Depth encountered 0.4m. Thickness 0.21m
[206]	Cut of pit sub-circular pit within Sand pit [210] fill (209). 0.96m wide with concave shape in profile. 0.21m deep cut. Encountered at 0.4m depth.
(207)	Mid brown silty sand. Fill of Gully [208]. Encountered at depth of 0.32m, Contains occasional rounded and sub-rounded quartzite pebbles and gravels <40mm. Deposit is 0.2m thick.
[208]	Cut of Gully
(209)	Fill of Sand Pit
[210]	Cut of Sand Pit. 0.80m deep cut encountered at 0.32m depth. dated stratigraphically to the 19th century. This pit had near vertical sides on all but the northeast side, where the side sloped at 20° degrees, running along the northern edge of the sandpit. This sloped side was interpreted as a barrow ramp for extracting sand from the sand pit. This possible barrow run has a length of 2.04m. The slope steepened to 30° as it approached the northwest facing section where some of the barrow ramp may have been subsequently dug away. The remainder of the sandpit had near vertical edges round the southwest and northwest sides. The sandpit was 4.34m in length along the southwest to northeast axis by 2.60m in width (though the sandpit extended beyond the L.O.E. into the northwest facing section, The maximum depth of the cut [210] as seen in the northwest facing section was 0.80m.
(211)	Mid brown sand. Secondary (main) fill of ditch. Encountered at depth of 0.43m

	Occasional Quartzite pebbles and gravels average 40mm. Maximum thickness 1.09m.
(212)	Primary Fill of Ditch. The primary fill of the ditch <b>(212)</b> consists of a mixture of large rounded to sub-rounded quartzite rounded and sub-rounded cobbles and pebbles <160mm, with a light brown sandy matrix . This probably represents the primary fill consisting of the erosion of the newly exposed sides of the ditch or possible corresponding bank, following original construction. Primary fill 212 produced a single sherd from a Nottingham Light-bodied Glazed ware jug of 13 <sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14 <sup>th</sup> century date. Similar to <b>(108)</b> in <b>Trench 1</b> , the primary fill seems to have been deposited mainly from the southwesterly bank , which goes against the assumption that the gravels would build up on the side adjacent to the bank (see below, 3.2.20 regarding bank). Other factors such as prevailing wind direction may therefore have influenced this deposition.
(213)	Mid orange brown sand. Subsoil to northeast side of trench. , occasional quartzite pebbles and gravels average <40mm. Width 3.8m extending beyond LOE. Maximum thickness 0.26. Depth encountered 0.28m.
(214)	Mid orange brown sand. Subsoil to southwest side of trench. , occasional quartzite pebbles and gravels average <40mm. Width 3.85m extending beyond LOE. Maximum thickness 0.12m.. Depth encountered 0.34m.
(215)	Fill of Gully [216]in Sandpit [210] fill (209). Mid brown silty sand. Occasional Quartzites <40mm. Common fine roots. Depth encountered 0.33m Thickness 0.29m.
[216]	Cut of Gully in Sandpit [210] fill (209). Victorian or modern. Very concave and symmetrical ditch cut? Depth encountered 0.34m. Depth of cut 0.37m.
(217)	Interspersed layers of silty sand and gravels. Tip lines? Mid brown. Darker than (215). Fill of Gully [218 ]in Sandpit [210] fill (209). Occasional gravels and quartzites <100mm. Occasional fine roots.
[218]	Cut of Gully in Sandpit [210] fill (209). Symmetrical concave ditch cut.Truncated to southwest.
(219)	Organic Root Decay underneath cut [218] in Sandpit [210] fill (209) Hedgeline?
(220)	Organic Root Decay underneath cut [218] in Sandpit [210] fill (209) Hedgeline?
(221)	Soil layer.Mid brown sand. Depth encountered 0.26m thickness 0.16m width 2.35m concave based layer. No cut seen, undulating base due to underlying cobbles/pebbles. Occasional quartzites <40mm. Occasional fine roots.
(222)	Mid orange brown sand. Sub soil to north east of trench. Depth encountered 0.32m. Thickness 0.27m. Occasional Quartzites rounded, sub-rounded <80mm. Probably same as (223).
(223)	Mid orange brown sand. Sub soil to north east of trench. Depth encountered 0.32m. Thickness 0.27m. Occasional Quartzites rounded, sub-rounded <80mm.Probably same as (222).
(224)	Dark brown silty sand. Fill of gully [225]. Occasional fine roots. Occasional quartzite pebbles and gravels <40mm. 1.65m width. Encountered at 0.32m depth. 0.17m thick.
[225]	Concave cut of gully, flattening out to northeast side. 1.65m width. Depth of cut 0.19m. Depth encountered 0.33m.
(226)	Mid brown silty sand. Fill of gully [227]. Occasional quartzite pebbles <40mm. Occasional fine roots. Encountered at 0.33m depth. 0.22m thick.
[227]	Steep sided flat bottomed cut of gully. Cut onto natural. Truncated on southwest side. 1.05m wide. Encountered at 0.33m depth. Cut is 0.22m deep.
228	Gravel Natural. Excavated to check that this gravel layer was not a former cut of the ditch. Compacted abundant mix of small rounded pebbles (maximum 100mm rounded) and medium to small sized, rounded and sub rounded gravels (50mm maximum, unsorted in a mid orangy- brown sand matrix.500mm thick maximum.
229	Sand Natural. Natural sand layer within natural under (228). Soft fine brownish yellow sand. Not fully excavated. Maximum thickness 180mm as excavated.

(230)	Mid brown silty sand. Fill of [231]. Occasional gravels <40mm. Width 0.4m. Depth encountered 0.32m. Thickness 0.12m.
[231]	65 degree steep sided cut onto natural with flat bottom. Truncated to southwest. 0.4m wide. Depth encountered 0.32m. Depth of cut 0.26m.
(232)	Mid orange brown sand. Sub soil possibly of medieval date. Cut by [203]. Depth encountered 0.28m thickness 0.19m. Width 3.47m extending beyond LOE.

**Appendix IV- Ceramic Report  
By Jane Young and David Budge**

# The ceramic material from archaeological investigations at king john's palace, clipstone, nottinghamshire (kjp 12)

Jane Young and David Budge

## Introduction

A group of forty-seven pottery sherds representing forty-six vessels and twelve fragments of ceramic building material recovered from the site were examined for this report. A summary of the pottery by ceramic period is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Pottery summarised by ceramic period by vessel count

Ceramic period	Total vessels
Roman	1
Early medieval	2
Medieval	29
Post-medieval	2
Early modern	8
Unknown	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>

In total, forty-seven sherds of pottery representing forty-six vessels of Roman to early modern date and twelve pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from the site. The material has been fully archived to the standards for acceptance to a museum and within the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery* (Darling 2004). The pottery was examined both visually and using a x20 binocular microscope and quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Every effort was made to identify cross-context joins, of which none were

found. The resulting pottery data was entered on an access database using post-Roman fabric codenames (see Table 1) developed for the Lincoln Ceramic Type Series (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005) and the City of Nottingham Type Series (Nailor and Young 2001). The Roman codes follow those developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit- CLAU (see Darling and Precious 2014).

### *Condition*

The pottery is in a variable condition although most sherds are in an abraded condition with sherd size falling into the small to medium size range (below 50 grams). Only one vessel is represented by more than one sherd and no cross-contextual joins were noted.

### *The range and variety of pottery*

A range of sixteen different, identifiable post-Roman ware types, one Roman sherd and four miscellaneous sherds were identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 2. The identifiable post-Roman pottery ranges in date from the early medieval to early modern periods and includes local and regionally imported vessels. A narrow range of vessel types was recovered with forms mainly limited to various types of jugs, jars and bowls.

Table 2 Pottery types with total quantities by sherd and vessel count

Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	1	1
BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	1100	1230	2	2
BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	1230	1350	6	6
BEVO2T	Beverley Orange-type ware Fabric 2	1230	1350	1	1
BS	Brown stoneware	1680	1850	2	1
CREA	Creamware	1770	1830	2	2
ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	1750	1900	1	1
MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	1150	1450	7	7
MISC	Unidentified types	400	1900	4	4
MY	Midlands Yellow ware	1550	1650	1	1
NCSW	Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware	1200	1500	1	1
NOTGL	Light Bodied Nottingham Green Glazed ware	1220	1320	10	10
NOTGV	Nottingham Glazed ware Variant	1200	1350	3	3
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1900	3	3
POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware	1250	1500	1	1
R - GREY	Roman Greyware pottery	60	400	1	1
WHITE	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	1	1

### *Roman*

A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the investigation. The tiny Greyware sherd (GREY) is from a closed vessel of general Roman date. The fabric suggests that the vessel is of Trent Valley type. It was recovered from deposit 102 sondage spit 2 in Test Pit 1.

### *Early Medieval (mid 12th to early/mid 13th century)*

Two very abraded basal sherds are of early medieval type. Both sherds are from mid 12<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century vessels in Beverley 1 ware, Fabric A (BEVO1). The smallest sherd comes from a tiny jug or jar whilst the larger sherd could come from an internally glazed jar or bowl. Visually these sherds are similar to vessels thought to

have been produced in Beverley in East Yorkshire between the 12<sup>th</sup> and early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (Watkins, 1991, 80 and Didsbury and Watkins 1992).

*Medieval (13th to mid 16th)*

Twenty-nine sherds, each representing a separate vessel, were recovered from the site. Seven different ware types are represented. Ten of the sherds are from jugs in Light-bodied Nottingham Green Glazed ware (NOTGL) and date to between the 13<sup>th</sup> and early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Three of these jugs including one distorted sherd with a firing crack have a fabric with a high iron-rich grain content. These sherds may not be products of kilns in Nottingham itself. Three further sherds come from jugs with variant fabrics (NOTGV). It is probable that these jugs are products of kilns producing Nottingham-type vessels between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. A single very abraded flake is from a Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware vessel of general 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date. The fabric suggests that it may not be a Nottingham product.

Six sherds are from jugs or jars in Beverley 2 (BEVO2). These vessels are of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date (Watkins, 1991, 80 and Didsbury and Watkins 1992) and include a jug found in Trench 1 with square roller-stamping around the shoulder. A small jug sherd with an un-matured glaze is in a variant fabric (BEVO2T) and could be a more local product.

A coarse shell-tempered sherd is probably from a Potterhanworth ware jar or bowl (POTT) of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date. This type was manufactured at Potterhanworth, near Lincoln, between the early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and is a relatively common find on medieval sites in Nottingham city and North Nottinghamshire. Two further leached and very abraded sherds could also be of this type but have been recorded as regional imports from unknown centres (MEDX).

Five sherds come from medieval jugs that could not be identified (MEDX). The fabric of the vessels suggest that they are not of local production. One jug in a coarse, almost gritty fabric could be from a Derbyshire production site whilst another is in a fabric similar to one found in the Stamford area.

#### *Post-medieval (mid 16th to mid 20th century)*

Only two sherds are of post-medieval type. The earliest of these is a Midlands Yellow ware (MY) jar or bowl of mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century type. The other sherd comes from a large 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Brown-glazed Earthenware bowl (BERTH).

#### *Early modern (18th to 20th century)*

Nine sherds are from eight vessels of early modern date. Two tiny Creamware sherds (CREA) are of mid/late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A small Whiteware (WHITE) sherd dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Six sherds come from five stoneware vessels. Three of these are in 18<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham Stoneware (NOTS).

They include a cup and a tiny piece from a cup or mug. Two sherds from an 18<sup>th</sup> century bottle are in a Brown Stoneware (BS). The vessel may be a Derbyshire product. The other sherd comes from an English Stoneware jar or bowl of late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

### *Unknown*

Four tiny very abraded sherds are too small to identify (MISC). One small sherd is from a Roman or Late Saxon jar. Two of the sherds are from vessels of mid/late 12<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date and come from Nottingham Splashed ware (NSP) or Nottingham Iron-rich Glazed ware (NOTGI) jugs or jars. The other sherd is completely unidentifiable.

### *The range and variety of ceramic building material*

Four fragments of handmade brick (BRK), a small flake of fired clay (FIRED CLAY) and seven small miscellaneous pieces of ceramic building material (MISC) were recovered from the site. All four brick fragments are from handmade bricks of possible 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Only one piece is measurable at 60mm thick. This brick is of late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century type. The other fragments come from bricks of 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> and late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century type. An undiagnostic flake of fired clay is in a fine micaceous fabric.

### *site sequence*

The pottery was recovered from two trenches with most of the material being recovered from Trench 1.

#### *Trench 1*

This trench produced thirty-four sherds of pottery representing thirty-three vessels and ten fragments of ceramic building material. Topsoil deposit 101 contained five sherds of pottery of mixed date and a tiny miscellaneous fragment of ceramic building material. The latest sherds recovered come from two 18<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham Stoneware vessels and a large 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Brown-glazed Earthenware bowl. The other two sherds come from a tiny Beverley 1 jug or jar of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date and a Light-bodied Nottingham Glazed ware jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date.

The fills of ditch 103 (deposit 102) were excavated in spits. Twenty-eight sherds from twenty-seven vessels were recovered from the ditch. The material ranges in date from the early medieval to the early modern periods. Uppermost Spit 1 contained twelve sherds from eleven vessels and a tiny fragment of ceramic building material. The latest sherds come from an 18<sup>th</sup> century Brown stoneware bottle and a mid 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century Midlands Yellow ware jar or bowl. The other sherds are with one exception from jugs or jars of medieval date. These include Nottingham and Beverley ware vessels of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date and two shell-tempered sherds

possibly from Potterhanworth near Lincoln. A very abraded reduced quartz-tempered jar sherd with an oxidised core is of Roman or Late Saxon date. Spits 2 to 3 produced nine sherds of probable medieval date, a sherd from an 18<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham Stoneware drinking vessel and seven fragments of ceramic building material. Most of the medieval sherds are of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date and are from glazed jugs. These jugs include Nottingham and Beverley ware vessels as well as two from unknown regional centres. The ceramic building material includes three pieces of handmade brick of late postmedieval to early modern date. The final spit produced four medieval sherds. One is from a Light-bodied Nottingham Glazed ware jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date, one is from a shell-tempered jar or bowl and two are from glazed jugs from unknown regional 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century production sites. An early medieval Beverley 1 jar or bowl sherd of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date and a Roman Greyware sherd were recovered from a sondage in this feature and a tiny miscellaneous fragment of ceramic building material was found in cleaning.

A single sherd from a Nottingham-type jug with a misfired light green glaze was recovered from bank 104. This jug is of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date.

### *Trench 2*

Thirteen sherds of pottery, each representing a single vessel and two pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from Trench 2. Topsoil deposit 201

contained a tiny sherd from a mid/late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Creamware vessel and a large 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham Light-bodied Glazed ware jug sherd. A 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch [225] produced two early modern sherds of probable 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date and a medieval Nottingham Light-bodied Glazed ware jug sherd. Three sherds were recovered from the upper fill of ditch [203] (fill 202). The uppermost spit (Spit 1) contained a small mid/late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Creamware sherd and a tiny sherd from a 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century Beverley 1 vessel. Spit 2 produced a single abraded flake from a Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware vessel of general medieval date. Spit 3 produced a fragment from a handmade brick of late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date and an abraded piece of ceramic building material also probably from a brick. Two medieval sherds were recovered from lower fill 211. One is from a Nottingham Light-bodied Glazed ware jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date and one is from a small Nottingham-type jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. Primary fill 212 produced a single sherd from a Nottingham Light-bodied Glazed ware jug of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date. A similar sherd was recovered from sandpit [210] (209). This sherd however is distorted and has a firing crack. The high iron-rich content of the fabric suggest that it may not have been a Nottingham product. A sherd from a 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century Beverley-type jug with an un-matured yellow glaze found in an unstratified deposit.

### *summary and recommendations*

This is a small assemblage, which provides us with an opportunity to look at some of the pottery types in use in the area, but is too small to provide other useful information. The recovery of a Roman sherd suggests Roman occupation in the area of the site. The identifiable post-Roman pottery sequence starts in the early medieval period, but one miscellaneous sherd could be of Roman or Late Saxon date. The medieval pottery is represented by small and mainly abraded sherds suggesting secondary deposition that has then been affected by plough damage. The lack of chronologically distinctive sherds makes it difficult to closely date the medieval occupation, but the pottery types present and the lack of late 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century types strongly suggests that the sequence ends by the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century at the latest. Only one sherd is of post-medieval date. This sherd belongs to the period between the mid 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The entire assemblage should be kept for future study and the less common types should be included in any scientific analysis of pottery in the area.

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**Appendix V – Coinage**  
**Anja Rohde, Senior Collections Officer for Derby Museums**

Please note that this report was compiled “sight unseen”. The coin was not available for examination so the following notes are based on the data and photographs in the coin's record on the UK Detector Finds Database. The coin is reference UKDFD 38072 (UK Detector Finds Database website).

Only one coin was found during excavation – a silver penny of Edward I, which was found in the topsoil during ground breaking and is, as such, unstratified and not clearly related to any particular archaeological feature.

The coin can be described thus: Hammered silver penny of Edward I, of class 9b2 (identified by the shape of the crown), dating to c.1299-1300. Bristol mint. The visible letters A and N appear unbarred but the coin is too worn to confirm this. No contraction marks visible on the obverse. The contraction mark on the reverse is comma-shaped.

Obverse: Crowned facing bust of the king, within an inner circle of pellets. The coin is too worn to determine whether there is a star on the king's breast.

+EDW R AN[GL DNS H]YB

(“EDWARDUS REX ANGLORUM DOMINUS HYBERNIA”, or Edward, king of England and lord of Ireland)

Reverse: Long cross pattee which divides the legend. Three pellets in each interstice of the cross, within an inner circle of pellets.

VILL'/BRI/S[TO/]LIE

Of numismatic interest is the reverse legend, which does not appear in this exact form in Withers' guide. The Bristol coins of class 9b are noted as having either a single 'L' plus contraction mark, or a double 'L' and no contraction mark. (Withers, pg. 15)

The mint at Bristol was not one of the main mints of Edward I's coinage. For much of his reign only the mints of London, Bury St Edmunds, Canterbury and Durham were creating coins. Bristol was one of a number of supplementary mints which were seemingly only active in the periods 1279-1282 and 1299-1300. The first of these periods coincides with the issue of Edward's new style of coins, which required a full recoinage, necessitating the operation of a larger number of mints than was usually needed. The period 1299-1300 probably included a further full or partial recoinage, thus requiring the supplementary mints to open again. The Clipstone coin comes from the time of this second recoinage.

The coin therefore cannot have been deposited before 1299. However, the terminal date for deposition is more difficult to determine. Coins of Edwardian type are known to have been in circulation for long periods. Hoard evidence indicates that coins of many classes were in use together long after the classes ceased to be minted – and even after subsequent recoinages. A hoard from Piddletrenthide, Dorset, found in 2008, for instance, includes examples of almost all classes of Edward I's pennies (including class 9b) and has an estimated deposition date of c.1400-1412. In analysing this hoard, Cook suggests that it probably represents coins in current circulation at the time of deposit, rather than coins saved over a period of time (Cook, hoard 73).

Some clues to the length of time a coin was in circulation before deposit can be gained from the wear on the coin. Additionally, the weight of the coin can be an indication. In 1343 Edward III reduced the standard weight of a penny from 22 grains (1.425g) to 20.3 grains (1.315g), and in 1351 it was reduced again to 18 grains (1.166g). Cook's discussion of another Dorset hoard from 2008, found at Halstock, notes that "...most of the older coin [is] reduced through wear or clipping to the new weight standard introduced by Edward III in 1351." He goes on to indicate that this is known from other hoards too (Cook, hoard 72).

The Clipstone coin is rather worn. At 16mm it is also somewhat smaller than one would expect for a coin of class 9, which usually produced coins with diameters of 19-17mm. Additionally the weight of the coin is now 1.15g, which is much closer to the standard penny weight of 1351 than to the standard weight at its time of issue c.1300. I would therefore postulate that this coin was in use for some decades after its minting and may even have been deposited after the new weight standard was introduced in 1351.

The longevity of these coins in circulation means that although class 9b pennies of the Bristol mint are not as common as coins of some other mints, they did travel and are found across the country. A quick search on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database, which mostly records single artefacts found by members of the public and therefore largely represents chance losses, shows examples of these coins found as far North as Durham and as far East as Canterbury (Portable Antiquities Scheme website). It is therefore not too unusual to have found a coin of the Bristol mint in Nottinghamshire.

It is difficult to estimate the 'worth' of a penny to the person who lost it in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. However, pennies were produced in vast numbers and finds, as well as documentary evidence, suggest that they were in common usage across medieval society, including in the business transactions of peasants (see, for instance, Dyer). The find of a penny at Clipstone therefore does not give a clear indication of the status of the person who dropped it and as such is only of limited use in reconstructing the status of the site and the activities which occurred there.

To sum up: The coin from Clipstone is of a common type, albeit from a relatively minor mint. It was minted c.1299-1300 and appears to have been in use for some time before deposition. The most likely deposition period is in the decades around the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, with the possibility that it may have been after 1351. The relative commonness of this coin, together with its unstratified find location, unfortunately mean that it is of limited help in interpreting the site.

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#### **Websites:**

UK Detector Finds Database <http://www.ukdfd.co.uk/ukdfddata/showrecords.php?product=38072&cat=II> (accessed 24/01/2013)

Portable Antiquities Scheme <http://finds.org.uk/database/search/map/type/1808/denomination/51/ruler/205/mint/32/objecttype/COIN/broadperiod/MEDIEVAL/category/15> (search for pennies of class 9b from the Bristol mint; accessed 24/01/2013)

**Appendix VI - Lithics Report  
David Budge.**

## **Report on Lithic Material from King's Clipstone, Nottinghamshire.**

**David Budge**

### Introduction:

A single piece of worked flint was found in the Trench 01 spoil heap. The piece is a blade-like flake and can only be assigned a broad and general Mesolithic to Bronze Age date. It indicates the presence of prehistoric human activity of unknown nature and duration in the vicinity of the site.

### Methodology:

The material was examined by eye and under 20x magnification using a Brunel Microscopes MX1 stereomicroscope. Measurements of small objects (eg inclusions in the raw material) was by means of a measuring graticule fitted to the microscope with 0.025mm divisions. The assemblage was quantified by recording the mass and dimensions of each object. The mass was obtained using a Maplin VV52G electronic balance calibrated prior to use with a 100g mass and checked following recording with the same 100g mass. These control readings showed no deviation, being precisely 100.0g. Mass was recorded to the nearest 0.1g.

Measurement of dimensions followed the methodology defined in Saville (1980), with the exception that both broken and unbroken flakes were recorded in this manner. However, the broken flakes were excluded from calculations of length / breadth ratio. Length and breadth were recorded to the nearest millimetre using graph paper while thickness was measured using a pair of XXX digital callipers

and recorded to the nearest 0.1mm. Descriptions and terminology follow Inizian, Roche and Tixier, 1992.

Results:

Context	Description:	Raw material:	Length (mm)	Breadth (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Mass (g)
T01 U/S	Tertiary flake, blade-like	Light grey slightly translucent, sparse small fossil inclusions	30	14	5.2	2.7

Table 1 - lithic material quantification

A single flint flake was presented for analysis. The flake had been found weathering out of the Trench 01 spoil heap of trench following completion of the excavation.

It is the mesial section of a blade-like flake in slightly translucent light grey flint. The raw material has moderate opaque discontinuous white ?fossil inclusions that are mostly spherical and circa 0.25mm diameter, though a single larger cylindrical inclusion (a bellemnite?) has a diameter of 1.5mm.

Discussion:

The primary dorsal arris guiding the production of the flake and running parallel to the edge is not central, being closer to the right edge. The dorsal flake surface to the right of this consists primarily of old slightly iron stained thermal fractures. The left dorsal surface shows scars of earlier removals from multiple platforms located at 0°, 180° (a very small minor flake) and 50° to the percussion axis of the flake.

The partial / discontinuous irregular short bifacial and alternating scaled and stepped retouch to both lateral margins displays no evidence of intent and appear unlikely to have been formed from any use to which the flake may have been put and are best interpreted as accidental damage post dating discard of the piece, most probably resulting from agriculture. The proximal and distal truncations are of similar character and also seem most likely to be a product of accidental post depositional damage rather than being a deliberate human modification. The absence of the proximal end precludes an assessment of the knapping technology utilised in the production of the flake.

Given the scarcity of raw material in the area and the usually small size of such raw material when encountered it is possible that the piece could represent the utilisation of a natural partial crest, modified with the deliberate removal of some minor flakes, to produce a largely naturally crested blade as the first step in deliberate blade production. However, it is somewhat more probable that the piece is entirely fortuitously blade-like and is merely the accidental product of a primarily flake producing industry.

As such it does not seem advisable to ascribe any more precise a date range than that of Mesolithic to Bronze Age, although the tentative suggestion that it might be slightly more likely to belong to the flake industries of the late Neolithic or later can be made.

The flake is not a formal tool and is most likely to be debitage (waste).

Conclusion:

A flint flake was found unstratified in spoil from the excavation of Trench 01 at King's Clipstone, Nottinghamshire. The flake cannot be closely dated. It suggests that people may have undertaken some form of activity in the vicinity of the find spot during the prehistoric period. The type of activity is unknown but the presence of this piece of flint suggests it might have included flint knapping.

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