

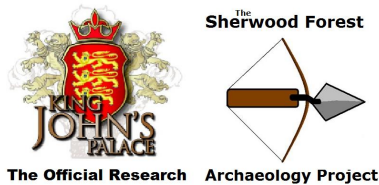


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**Geophysical Magnetometer Survey of King John's
Palace in Sherwood Forest.
Castle Field, Waterfield Farm, Kings Clipstone,
Nottinghamshire.
(SK 60333 64766).**

Geophysical Survey Report

Andy Gaunt
Mercian Archaeological Services CIC
23/04/2017
Ref: KJPGAU14001
Report MAS024



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Geophysical Magnetometer Survey at King John's Palace, Kings Clipstone, Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire

Geophysical Survey Report

1. Summary

A Geophysical Magnetometer Survey was undertaken by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in Castle Field, Waterfield Farm, King's Clipstone, Nottinghamshire during August 2014. The site contains the ruins of King John's Palace which is a scheduled monument number M4100. The Scheduled Monument was not surveyed, but only covers a small part of the survey area, which extended over 11 acres. The site is in the ownership of Mrs M A Bradley of Waterfield Farm, King's Clipstone.

The site was once an extensive medieval royal hunting palace in Sherwood Forest known as the King's Houses at Clipstone.

The Magnetometer survey detected the the southeastern boundary ditch first detected by Gaunt (2010), and subsequently excavated in 2011 (Wessex 2011), 2012 (Gaunt et al 2015), and by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2014 (Budge 2014a). The ditch was proven to date to the 13th-14th centuries by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2014. This ditch was probably dug as part of a 13th- 14th century expansion of the site of the Kings Houses (Budge 2014a). The survey suggested a possible route for the boundary north of this boundary ditch.

The survey also detected a large number of anomalies on all sides of the standing ruin, and extending to the north. These are possibly the ephemeral remains of buildings which could represent ranges and a courtyard feature. They are possibly also caused by the presence of rubble across this area. The survey has presented the possibility to begin postulating the extent of the main built up area of the palace.

The results of this survey have contributed to Mercian Archaeological Services CIC's work towards the understanding of the boundaries and built environment of the medieval palace site.

The survey detected a possible enclosure in the south of Castle Field which was shown through excavation by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2014 to be formed by a ditch that predated the palace.

Various anomalies around Castle Field are also discussed.

2.2 Topography:

2.2.1. Elevation

The site is located at the eastern end of an east-west aligned ridge formed by the valley of the River Maun (running from west to east) on the north side of the site, and the valley of Vicar Water running round the southern and eastern sides of the site (from its source a few miles to the southwest). The ridge terminates in a spur of land caused by the confluence of the River Maun and Vicar Water a few hundred metres to the northwest. The site occupies a location on this spur of land at the eastern end of the ridge.

The site is over 74 metres above sea level or Ordnance Datum Newlyn (ODN) at its highest point in the western part of the site. The land drops away to 61 metres (ODN) at its lowest on the southeastern side.

2.3 Geology

The British Geological Survey 1:50 000 scale mapping shows the site to be located on the Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation, which is a Pebbly (gravelly) Sandstone. This Sandstone consists of *“pinkish red or buff-grey, medium- to coarse-grained, pebbly, cross-bedded, friable; subordinate lenticular beds of reddish brown mudstone”* (British Geological Survey). This Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 246 to 251 million years ago in the Triassic Period. The local environment at the time of deposition was dominated by rivers; depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from

overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium, and some bogs depositing peat; includes estuarine and coastal plain deposits mapped as alluvium (www.BGS.ac.co.uk- accessed 10/04/2017).

Just beyond the site to the north, east and southeast side (in the river valleys) the BGS 1:50 000 scale superficial deposits description shows: Alluvium - Clay, Silt, Sand And Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. These rocks were formed from rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium (www.BGS.ac.co.uk- accessed 10/04/2017). The alluvium sits beyond the study area covered by this survey.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1. Archaeological and Historical background

3.1.1. Prehistoric to Early Medieval

Evidence of minor prehistoric activity has been found on the site. During excavations in 2012, a flint flake was found. The flake dated to sometime from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age. 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 in Gaunt et al 2015).

In 2014 residual finds from excavation by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC included a *“few pieces of worked flint from a blade producing industry of probable later Mesolithic or early Neolithic date”* (Budge 2014a).

Excavation in 2015 by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC discovered a few knapped flint artefacts. These showed *“no obvious concentrations or patterns in their distribution and appear to represent no more than a background scatter, indicating minor prehistoric activity in the area but certainly not suggesting occupation or any kind of intense activity on the site. There were no tools or diagnostic pieces and a general date range of Mesolithic to Bronze Age is likely. Previous archaeological finds of blade-like flakes with abraded platforms suggest probable Mesolithic or early Neolithic presence in the area”* (Budge 2015).

A Bronze Age spearhead (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 5965) and an arrowhead (Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record, 5909) have been found in the parish (Gaunt 2011).

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. Typologically, and from their orientation, it is possible 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 (Garton 2008).

A test pit excavated by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC towards the highest part of Castle Field yielded a significant number of Pot-Boiler stones (fire cracked pebbles) in all contexts, suggesting proximity to an activity focus (Budge 2013).

The 2015 excavations by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC also found large quantities of Pot-Boiler stones. *“The pot boiler*

distribution data appears to suggest clustering in a number of areas, most particularly the southern part of the area investigated... This broadly correlates with the highest point of topography locally. Without the application of scientific techniques pot boilers can only be dated by their association with other, chronologically diagnostic, artefacts. The patterning of their distribution is broadly similar to the distribution of Roman pottery, but the sample size of the latter artefact class is small and more work would be required to confirm or deny this association and, by implication, this dating." (Budge 2015).

A number of Roman coins are listed on the Historic Environment Record for the Clipstone parish (Gaunt 2011). Residual Roman Pottery sherds have been found around Castle Field in various excavations (Rahtz 1960; Wessex 2011; Gaunt et al 2015) including those by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC (Budge 2013; Budge 2014a; Budge 2015; Budge 2016 in press). Excavations in 2014 by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC has extended the dating of Roman occupation by up to a hundred years. These excavations 100m southeast of the standing ruin discovered residual Roman pottery *"including the rim of a bead and flange bowl (sensu Darling and Precious 2014) of mid 3rd to 4th century date, extending the known chronology of Roman Activity on the site beyond the second century"* (Budge 2014a).

Excavation in 2014 of a linear feature (discovered by Geophysical Survey (Gaunt 2014; 2017)), revealed *"a ditch with relatively steep, flaring sides in the upper part of it's profile narrowing to an almost vertical sided slot towards the base. Aside from a few pot boiler stones its extensively leached main fill was devoid of finds"* (Budge 2014a). This ditch cut by an overlying later ditch. A residual sherd of Stamford ware pottery was found in the fill. This sherd *"should not post-date 1130 (Jane Young pers. comm.)... The ditch appeared to form an enclosure of unknown date, pre-dating the medieval palace*

and perhaps enclosing an area down to Vicar Water to the east. The presence of pre-palace pottery in the vicinity of this enclosure (Saxo-Norman Stamford Ware..., and a casual find by the landowner of late Saxon Early Stamford Ware from within the putative enclosure) is notable” (Budge 2014a).

Prior to the recent work by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC only a single piece of Saxon pottery representing a “*casual find by the landowner*” had ever been found in Clipstone.

Budge has recently pointed out that references by other writers “*to Saxon Pottery found at the palace derive from the the mis-identification of 13th -15th century Potterhanworth ware as “Saxon Shelly Ware”*” (Budge 2014a).

In his recent publication Wright suggests that “*Late Saxon Shelley-ware pottery was recorded... it is likely that these represent a background scatter of material associated with night-soil manuring of open fields*” (Wright 2016, 21). This suggestion is wrong and must be challenged robustly. These finds are not Late Saxon, they are 13th-14th century in date and do not indicate Late Saxon manuring.

However recent excavations by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in Castle Field in 2014, 2015 and 2016 have uncovered large quantities of Saxon pottery covering Early Saxon, Middle Saxon, Late Saxon, and Saxo-Norman dates. These include “*a number of sherds of early to middle Saxon pottery, including a hand made jar rim. Jane Young, who kindly examined these sherds along with the Saxon pottery from the Discover King John's Palace project (Budge 2015), noted that the range of fabrics and wide dating span of the material suggest it is more likely to come from occupation than isolated and short term activities*” (Budge 2016, in press). These discoveries are significant in understanding the earlier occupation and uses of the pre-palace site, and also for settlement development in the region.

Domesday Book shows that in 1066 the manor had two owners Osbern and Wulfsi (see below).

The excavations by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in both the village (Budge and Gaunt 2013), in Castle Field (Budge & Gaunt 2013; Budge 2013; 2014a; 2015; 2016) are beginning to build up a picture of occupation in the Saxon period that was previously unknown.

3.1.2. Medieval

The Domesday Book of 1086 refers to "*Clipestune*" with the following entry:

"Osbern and Wulfsi had 1 c.[carucate] of land taxable. Land for 2 ploughs. Roger has 1 1/2 ploughs in lordship and 12 villagers and 3 smallholders who have 3 1/2 ploughs.

1 mill, 3s [shillings]; woodland pasture in places, 1 league long and 1 wide.

Value before 1066, 60s; now 40s" (Morris 1977).

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*". The settlement has been recorded variously in the medieval period as *Clipestune* in 1086, *Clippeston(a)* in 1088, *Clipstona* in 1173, and also in relation to its royal status: *Kyngesclipston* in 1290, *Kingesclipston* in 1315, and also *Kyngisclipston* in 1474 (Gover et al 1940).

In the Medieval period the lordship of Clipstone and the royal palace there were located at the heart of medieval Sherwood Forest. This was the reason for the importance of the site and its subsequent expansion and development (Gaunt 2011).

“In Medieval times a forest was a defined geographic area subject to forest law. Forest law was 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 (Turner 1901). In the 13th 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 in the west (Crook 1979), in the 12th century it may have covered all of Nottinghamshire north and west of the Trent (Holt 1992). 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) (Crook 1994), however references to a dispute over keepership of the forest in the early 13th century suggest a forest in Nottinghamshire dating back to the reign of William I (Crook 1980). Sherwood Forest or at least a forest in Nottinghamshire was therefore well established by time of Henry II. The lordship of Clipstone passed from Roger de Busli, owner at Domesday in 1086 (Morris 1977) into crown hands in the early 12th century (Throsby 1796), and development of the royal hunting lodge was begun in 1164-7 (Crook 1976). Prior to this time the king mainly stayed in the nearby royal manor of Mansfield (Crook 1984), but from the reign of Henry II Clipstone became the main focus of royal retreat, politics and hunting in the forest. The palace was chosen as a meeting place between Richard I (the Lionheart) and William I (the Lion) of Scotland (Rahtz & Colvin 1960), and was the scene of a parliament held there in 1290 by Edward I (Crook 1976). As would be expected of a site of such importance, the hunting lodge or palace was subject to much building and repair during the period of its popularity from the reign of Henry II to the reign of Richard II.” (Gaunt 2011, pp7-8).

Excavations in Castle Field by Philip Rahtz in 1956; Trent and Peak Archaeology Trust in 1991; Wessex Archaeology 2011; Gaunt,

Wright, Crossley and Budge in 2012; and Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, have uncovered large amounts of archaeology dating from across the period of the medieval palace.

The earliest of these excavations was by Rahtz (see section 3.2 *Previous Archaeological Work* below). Notable finds include a carved "*Monster head*" from the 12th century (Rahtz 1960), which suggests at least one stone building from this period.

In 1176-80 up to £500 was spent on works at Clipstone which included the building of a chamber and a chapel, construction of a fishpond, and the formation of a deer-park (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p918).

What form these buildings took is currently not known; and it should be pointed out that at the current time the date of construction of the standing ruin is not known.

Wright is of the opinion that the extant building dates from the 12th century (Wright 2016). He suggests that the standing ruin at Clipstone was built by Henry II as a replica of the St. Mary's Guildhall (in the suburb of Wigford) in Lincoln (Wright 2016 pp30-37). The comparison to the St Mary's Guildhall seems to emanate almost entirely from the superficial examination of the position of two buttresses flanking a central doorway, and the near comparable size of the West Range at St. Mary's (Wright 2016 p34).

There are a number of elements of this interpretation that are worthy of discussion. Firstly; it is not definite that the gap in the standing ruin at King Johns Palace is the original main entrance to the building. There was possibly a doorway on the northeastern elevation of the building according to Rahtz: "*The overhanging masonry on the N.E wall suggests another doorway in the centre of this end*" (Rahtz 1906 p 34) that could also possibly have been the

entrance. The gap is also not central to the facade formed by the standing remains. The full dimensions of the building at Clipstone of which the standing ruin forms a part is also not certain. It is not certain that the projections on either side of the central opening were buttresses. Rahtz refers to them as such, but his excavations suggest that one of the buttresses may have actually extended further to the northwest than the other (Rahtz 1960, Fig 2 p27). With relation to the central overhang which he calls "F2" he states "*F2 is probably a doorway about 6 feet wide, placed S.W of centre, and has flanking buttresses on its outer (N.W.) side, which show traces of projecting ashlar at foundation and higher levels; the foundation is however continuous just outside the line of the presumed outer limit of the buttresses*" (Rahtz 1960 p 34). This probable extension of one of the buttresses further than the other suggests that it could at least possibly have been a wall projecting from the building, or at the very least it removes absolute certainty from any interpretation of their function.

The Francis Grose illustration from 1771 shows two adjacent openings or overhangs on the north side of the central gap. By the time of Rahtz's excavations this had become one "*overhang*" due to the recent collapse of the section dividing the two parts. As a result Rahtz seems to have treated the overhang as a single entity, and interpreted this northeastern "*overhang*" as a window. Sheppard (1991) discovered a doorway to the north of the central gap, of the ruin at Clipstone, and suggested that there was also a further window to the north of it on the northwestern frontage of the ruin, which explains the second overhang on the Grose picture. Wright accepts the theory of a doorway suggested by Sheppard, but makes no mention of Sheppard's suggestion of a window to the north of it (Wright 2016 p35).

Rahtz interpreted a window occupying the southwestern gap in the current ruin which he referred to as "F3": "*F3 is a small window*

which retains two dressed faces on its inner side, splaying from 3 feet externally to 5 feet internally. The ashlar has a straight edge on the S.W. side of this window" (Rahtz 1960 p34). This interpretation is supported by evidence in photographic plate 4A (Rahtz 1960). Contrary to the evidence given by Rahtz; Wright states this was a doorway and refers to an antiquarian drawing by Francis Grose from 1772 (Wright 2016) which shows the same feature as that photographed by Rahtz, but in less detail.

Rahtz also detected and interpreted walls extending northwestwards from the northeast end of the ruin which may have been a tower (Rahtz 1960, p27). If contemporary this would have masked the front of the building from view at this end. The date of neither structure is known so their relationship cannot be proved or disproved. However no such extension to the frontage is visible at Lincoln St. Mary's Guildhall, which unlike the ruin at Clipstone; actually occupies a road-side location.

In contrast the frontage of the Guildhall in Lincoln consists of a near central; moulded carriageway arch with segmental pointed inner arch, flanked by single buttresses (Stocker 1991) which leads through the west wing of the building, from the road immediately outside the building to the west; into a courtyard to the rear. The frontage is divided into five bays separated by shallow buttresses (Stocker 1991). If the two structures were superimposed, the door recorded by Sheppard at Clipstone would place it directly in line with the buttress separating the two northern bays at the Guildhall; showing that the two are not identical structures. The ruin at Clipstone does not appear to have been divided into bays. Also the central "*carriageway arch*" is over 8 feet wide at the Guildhall (Wigford) (Stocker 1991) as opposed to the central "*doorway*" at Clipstone which is only 6 feet wide (Rahtz 1960).

Differences in the two structures can also be seen on the

southeastern side of the building at Clipstone; where Wright points out that there are two rooms that do not exist at the Guildhall (Wigford) stating confusingly that they “*vary from the scheme at Wigford, but were integral to the design of the building*” (Wright 2016, p 35)

Stocker presents in his 1991 report on the Guildhall excavations, the theory that the Guildhall may have been a “*Hospicium*” used by Henry II for a crowning ceremony in 1157 (Stocker 1991 p38). Stocker produces compelling evidence for this but does also state that although “*the theory that St Mary's Guildhall was originally Henry II's Lincoln house may be the most satisfactory of those available*” the evidence is “*circumstantial*” (Stocker 1991 p40). Stocker goes further; stating that we should not expect to find a building like St. Mary's Guildhall at a rural royal palace site such as Clarendon (Stocker 1991 p40). Clarendon is a site very similar in nature to Clipstone, and is the site most suitable to compare and contrast findings. If we would not expect to see such a building at Clarendon we should question strongly whether we should expect to see one at Clipstone.

All of the above points serve to demonstrate that the dating of the ruin to the 12th century, and its proposed similarities to the Guildhall in Lincoln are not proven, and that there is certainly no consensus as to the dating of the ruin, or of its form, only a series of conflicting interpretations. There is a possibility that some of Wright's theories are correct, but there is no proof.

In contrast to the 12th century date posited (Wright 2016); Rahtz, and Colvin both dated the standing ruin to the 13th century (Rahtz 1960; Colvin 1963). The pottery that can be identified in the archive, that was used in this dating has been confirmed as from the 13th - 14th century in a review of the ceramic archive from the site (Young and Budge forthcoming). Rahtz also believed that two phases of

stone buildings pre-dated the ruin.

Sheppard's 2016 report questions the recent dating of the monument to the 12th century in contrast to Rahtz, and Colvin's dating of the 13th century: "*it is unclear to the author whether this results from a reassessment of Rahtz's findings (including pottery and small finds recovered), including his conclusions about there having been an undercroft, or whether a structural survey and assessment of stonework from on and around the monument has led to this conclusion*" (Sheppard 2016, p6).

With the above points in mind all theories presented by Wright for the origin of the ruin, the reasons for its construction, and any references to "*crown wearings*" and the politics of the second half of the 12th century in relation to Clipstone (Wright 2016 p33); should only be taken as unproven speculation, until a better understanding of the ruin and its function and date of construction can be ascertained archaeologically.

From his 1956 excavations Rahtz believed that a ditch encircled the extent of the palace site (which he excavated in a number of places), although he did state that other areas of buildings could have existed away from the standing ruin (Rahtz 1960). The Wessex report states that "*it is still not clear, however, whether the ditches found by Rahtz all formed part of the same feature,*" (Wessex 2011).

The profiles drawn by Rahtz (1960) of the "ditch" varied on the southern and western side of the ruins. Recent Ground Penetrating Radar survey by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC has detected the "*large enclosure ditch*" suggested by Rahtz (Gaunt 2015). It is possible from further examination of the data that this anomaly represents more than one feature, as it does not necessarily appear to join up with the ditch to the south of the ruin. The GPR survey undertaken by GSB unfortunately did not cover the area where the southern section and western section meet (Wessex 2011).

Despite these uncertainties with the evidence this feature has been suggested by some to represent the extent of the 12th century site (Wessex 2011; Wright 2016).

The GPR survey by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC will continue over the coming years at higher resolution. This will be published by the author (Gaunt) when complete. Until this time it will not be possible to be certain as to whether this is one single ditch feature, and it will certainly not be possible to state with confidence if it was the 12th century boundary of the site.

It should be noted that the excavations by Mercian Archaeological Services in 2014 discovered a ditch 100m to the south of the ruin that pre-dated the palace, and that this had a striking similarity in profile to the western part of the ditch recorded as “*Ditch 50*” by Rahtz to the West of the ruin (Rahtz 1960). The following comes from David Budge of Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in the Transactions of the Thoroton Society:

“Interestingly Rahtz recorded a ditch of markedly similar profile (Ditch 50), (Rahtz 1960, 35), though in his interpretation he linked it to other ditches with different profiles elsewhere on the site, and tentatively interpreted them as part of a single curvilinear boundary surrounding and extending west of the ruin. The contemporaneity of the supposed curvilinear boundary to the standing ruin have since been questioned, based on the evidence presented by Rahtz in his article, and it has been suggested that the supposed enclosure may pre-date the palace and have been filled in during the late 12th or early 13th century (Wright and Gaunt 2014, 242)”.* (Budge 2014a).

With questions over the nature of the 12th century boundaries suggested by Rahtz, and the presence of 12th century pottery outside of this feature (Gaunt & Budge 2013; Budge 2015; Budge 2016 in press); the extent of the 12th century site is as yet unknown.

However excavations by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC are beginning to demonstrate that the site in the 12th century occupied an area from around the standing ruin towards the road way to the north (Budge and Gaunt 2013; Budge 2015; Budge 2016 in press). It is hoped that over the coming years a fuller picture will emerge.

By the 13th- 14th century the site extended to cover a far larger area, with the south-western boundary ditch detected by Gaunt (2010) and excavated in 2011, 2012, and 2014, forming part of the boundary of the site at that time (Gaunt et al 2015; Budge 2014a).

This ditch was excavated by Wessex in 2011, and by Gaunt, Wright, Crossley and Budge in 2012. The 2012 excavation suggested a 13th - 14th century date for the ditch (Gaunt et al 2015). Excavations by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2014 finally confirmed the dating of the ditch to this period (Budge 2014a).

The excavations in 2014 by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC also suggested that the boundary ditch was part of an extension of the palace in this period:

“Significant in terms of interpretation of the feature was the fact that the plough soil on the north side (the ‘inside’) of the ditch yielded relatively high quantities of medieval pottery, mostly of 13th-14th century and later, whilst that to the south of the ditch (‘outside’) yielded very few sherds. Combined with the evidence from previous excavations (particularly in relation to densities of medieval ceramics inside and outside the boundaries of the palace complex, eg test pits in the demense land to the southwest of the ditch (Budge 2013), and test pitting in the village (Gaunt 2013)), the evidence from this excavation suggests the ditch did indeed form the boundary to the palace complex. A paucity of 12th and early 13th century finds in this area suggests that if this was the boundary of the palace from the start then it was kept scrupulously clean, or more likely, that it only became the boundary of the palace following

expansion in the 13th or 14th century” (Budge 2014a).

The excavations by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2014 have therefore built on previous work, and given a proven date for the ditch first detected by Gaunt in 2010 as later 13th - 14th century. They have established that the boundary ditch was part of an expansion of the site in the later 13th - 14th century, and that the earlier boundaries of 12th and early 13th centuries lay in a different part of the site, presumed to be to the north as outlined above.

The Gatehouse to the palace is first mentioned in the 14th century (Colvin 1964).

It was first suggested by Mrs M A Bradley as likely to occupy the site of the current Maun, Arundel and Brammer cottages (pers. comm) which lie on the southern side of Mansfield Road on the north side of Castle Field.

During the filming of Time Team at King John's Palace; plaster was removed from a wall in Arundel Cottage to reveal part of a medieval wall preserved in situ. The following interpretation identifies the gatehouse, and parts of a possible curtain wall by Wessex in 2011:

“4.3.2. Observations of a small section of the rear wall of Arundel Cottage that borders the north of the site... revealed a regularly coursed wall using the same limestone seen in the upstanding remains. The regular coursing suggests that this is a medieval wall, as within a later wall using re-used stone one would expect to find greater variation in stone size and type.

”4.3.3 A pipe roll manuscript dated to 1348/9 describing work undertaken on repairs and improvements to the ‘palace’ talks of a ‘claustrum’ [barrier] encircling the manor in the north part from the great gates [gatehouse] to the angle of the field’. Maun Cottage was called The Gate Inn in the 18th century and may well be the location of the former gatehouse. The wall at the rear of the cottages is

therefore likely to be part of the perimeter wall of the manor site”
(Wessex 2011, pp8-9).

Following on from the interpretation of the cottages by Time Team (Wessex 2011) as the location of the gatehouse, (based on Mrs M A Bradley's suggestion), Mercian Archaeological Services CIC were given permission to access and record the cottages. Subsequently a survey was arranged of Brammer Farm House and Arundel Cottage, which was undertaken by Wright for Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2013. This survey mapped these walls and corroborated the interpretation that they formed part of the Medieval gateway and part of the curtain wall. The survey also postulated the presence of a possible splayed window (Wright 2013).

With the gatehouse on the northern edge, it is likely that an area enclosing some 7 acres may have formed the largest extent of the Royal Palace in the 13th- 14th centuries, centering on the enclosure of the 1630 “Mannorgarth” (Gaunt 2010; Gaunt 2011; Gaunt & Wright 2013; Gaunt & Budge 2013; Gaunt & Wright 2014, Gaunt et al 2015). Within this wider enclosure the main extent of the former built environment was possibly situated to the more immediate vicinity of the standing ruin, on all sides (Rahtz 1960; Sheppard 2016; Gaunt 2010; Wessex 2011; Gaunt 2017), and also to the north, northeast and northwest (Budge 2015).

To date; the complete boundary of the site during the 13th and 14th centuries is not fully proven, nor is the relationship to a possible site of domestic occupation within Castle Field to the northwest (Budge 2015). As with the 12th century boundary; excavations by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC are continuing into the boundaries of this once large and sprawling medieval palace (Budge 2015; 2016 in press), and it is hoped that eventually the boundaries will be understood more fully over the coming years.

Anomalies detected through geophysical survey; including

Magnetometer surveys (Masters 2004; GSB Prospection 2011; Gaunt 2017) Resistance Surveys (Masters 2004; Gaunt 2010) and Ground Penetrating Radar (GSB Prospection 2011; Gaunt 2015) have all suggested possible buildings or robbed out walls, ditches and other features, that could represent parts of the built environment of the medieval royal palace (and also any potential unknown preceding occupation).

It is important to stress that the layout of the medieval palace and its built environment (in any of its multiple phases of occupation from the 12th to the late 15th century, which included a high number of building phases and periods of reconstruction) is, to date, not yet understood.

This is particularly important following a recent publication which depicts a cartographic representation of the layout of the palace in the 14th century (Wright 2016). The map appears to show the measured location of the *Great Hall, Pentices, Privies, the Kings Kitchen, Queen's Kitchen, Queens Hall, Rosamund's Chamber, King's and Queen's Chambers, Kitchen, Buttery, Pantry, Porch, Chambers, and Roger de Mauley's Chamber...* the map locates and depicts the relationships on the ground of these buildings; but does not relate them to any archaeological evidence. Where archaeological evidence or anomalies are shown on the map, they do not have any function or interpretation provided, and are listed simply as "*excavated and geophysical anomalies*". The only building that is listed that comes from archaeological excavation is a "*tower?*" (Rahtz 1960) which the author seems to question. A "*chapel?*" is listed relating to the rectangular building excavated by Wessex (2011), but the interpretation provided appears to come from the depiction presented in the Time Team television program and not from either the archaeological report (Wessex 2011), or subsequent journal publication associated with the work (Brennan 2015). The Gatehouse is the only other feature from archaeological

work that in reality has a known (or measured) location. The ruins of "*King John's Palace*" are even named as such on the map and in the text (Wright 2016 p 103), even though they certainly did not carry this name at the time that the map claims to depict. No other building from the list above, (all of which are drawn on on the ground on the measured plan), have any reference to archaeological evidence.

This is not normal archaeological practice, especially on a site of such significance.

The use of historic documents cited in the book as enabling the reconstruction could have been useful if the author had provided a full transcription and translation of the documents to enable a critique of the work. Also the work could have been useful if the interpretation had been limited to the creation of a schematic diagram depicting "this is next to this" with referencing, degrees of certainty, and other caveats attached. This of course should not have been set in a "real world" cartographic map, but could have existed in isolation as a diagram or rough sketch. Such an approach could have been used by archaeologists to suggested uses of buildings if, and when, they are detected in either future archaeological prospection, or through excavation.

The drawing of the outlines of buildings (with suggested full interpretation on a cartographic representation of the site, but without any actually evidence for their location from any form of archaeological investigation) could actually be harmful and dangerous with regard to possible stewardship or protection of the site, and should be discouraged strongly. It is also quite unhelpful with regard to public engagement, and continuing research.

As stated above work is continuing into the boundaries of the site, and also into detecting and interpreting the layout of the site. It is hoped that one day further surviving buildings can be detected, and

possibly excavated, and their function, date and relationships understood. The written records would play an important part in this process.

Until that time we can use the surviving medieval records, many of which have been published by a number of historians, (notably Stapleton in late Victorian times, Howard Colvin in the 1960s, and more recently David Crook from the 1970s onwards) to demonstrate the size and importance of the site.

The following entries offer an insight into the development and use of the site through the medieval period (for a more comprehensive list of sources see the King John's Palace Archaeology webpage at: http://mercian-as.co.uk/kjp_sfap.html):

3.1.2.1. Henry II

1164-5: The first reference to Clipstone as a royal residence occurs in the Pipe Roll for 1164-5, when "*£20 were spent out of the farm of the honour of Tickhill 'on the work of the King's Houses of Clipstone'* (Pipe Roll II Henry II, p 53) (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 918). In the following year; "*1165-6, the Sheriff, Robert fitz Ralph, rendered an account of 44 shillings of the ferm of Clipstone. In stocking the same Manor—for six oxen 18s., ten cows 20s., ten sows 6s. 8d., ten bee-hives 6s. 8d., twelve sheep 4s*" (Stapleton 1890).

Stapleton lists the following expenditure at the site between 1170 and 1179:

In 1170-1 46s. 8d were expended on works at Clipstone, and in 1171-2 20s. was spent on enclosing the Hays around the Kings' House at Clipstone. In 1176-7: Expended at Clifton, with the vivarium (fish-pond), £210. This may be a mistake for Clipstone,

judging by subsequent references. The outlay was an enormous one. In 1177-8: "*Operations upon the vivarium of Clipstone £20; the chapel £20; the House £36 6s. 8d. This fish-pond may or may not have been the mill-dam as in after years. This is the earliest reference to the chapel; such an expenditure conveys the impression that it must have been connected with the cost of building the structure*".

The deer park at Clipstone was first enclosed in 1179-80 at the cost of £30 (Stapleton 1890).

1176-80: According to Colvin the above works mentioned by Stapleton equate to over £500 spent on works at Clipstone which included: building of a chamber and a chapel, construction of a fishpond, and the formation of a deer-park (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p918).

For some time after the death of Henry II the expenditure was chiefly on repairs (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 91)

1178 - 80: £89 spent on the works of enclosing of the park (Crook 1976. Clipstone Park and Peel. Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire 80. P35).

In 1181: Henry II visited Clipstone (Crook 1976). The King was at Nottingham about August 1181, whence he probably journeyed north (Stapleton 1890).

"A charter to the order of Lazarites, bearing date at Clipstone, very possibly belongs to this period. It is attested by Geoffrey the King's son, Fulk Painel, Reginald de Curteneye, Robert de Stuteville, Ralph fitz Stephen, Bertram de Verdon, Michael Belet, and William de Bendinges" (Eyton, 1878. p241).

In 1185 Henry II visited Clipstone (Crook. 1976. Clipstone Park and Peel. Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire 80).

“This appears to be the only other recorded visit of Henry, but it is probable that he was here on other occasions, though the sparse records and chronicles of this reign afford but general ideas of the royal progresses. He frequently traversed the neighbourhood in passing between the north and south of the kingdom, and in 1157, for instance, he spent a long period from September to December in Notts, and the Peak” (Stapleton 1890).

1185-6: For inclosing the court of Clipstone 60s., by the view of Humphrey de Bussei and Tom de London (Stapleton 1890).

1186-7: For breaking up the vivarium at Clipstone 50s., and for carrying the fish from the same to another vivarium (Stapleton 1890).

1186 - 7: money spent on repairing the park paling. (Crook 1976 p35).

3.1.2.2. Richard I

In 1189 John, Count of Mortain (the later King John), visited Clipstone when he owned the royal estates in Nottinghamshire (Crook 1976. P 44).

On March 29th 1194 King Richard I visited Clipstone: *“in the words of an early chronicler—Richard proceeded to view Clipstone and the Forest of Sherwood, which he had never before seen, and they pleased him much, and on the same day he returned to Nottingham”* (Stapleton 1890).

On the 2nd of April 1194 Richard I visited Clipstone again and met with William the Lion King of Scotland; *“the King again proceeded to Clipstone to meet William, King of Scotland there, ordering, in the meantime, that all who were lately taken in the castles of Nottingham, Tickhill, Marlborough, Lancaster, and Mount St. Michael, should be brought together at Winchester, on the morrow after Easter”*. The following day, 3rd April, being Palm Sunday, the

King remained at Clipstone on that account (Stapleton 1890).

Richard I's visits of 1194 were followed by repair to the fish-pond at a cost of £12 (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

1194: John, Count of Mortain (the later King John), visited Clipstone when he owned the royal estates in Nottinghamshire (Crook 1976. P 44).

3.1.2.3. King John

After becoming King in 1199 King John continued to show and interest in Clipstone when on March 19th 1200 he visited the site (<http://neogeography.com/timelines/JohnItinerary.html>).

"John's first visit to Clipstone as King took place in the first year of his reign. He was here on 19th March, 1200, and dated hence his charter to Nottingham, confirming grants made by him while Earl of Mortain. The following list of witnesses was appended thereto, and will be of interest as recording some few of the influential nobles in his company:—"Geoffry Fitz-Peter Earl of Essex, William Brewer, Hugh Bardolf, Robert Fitz-Roger, William de Stuteville, Hugh de Neville, Simon de Pateshull, Gilbert de Norfolk. Given by the hands of Simon, Archdeacon of Wells, and John de Gray, Archdeacon of Cleveland, at Clipstone, the 19th day of March, in the first year of our reign." (Stapleton 1890).

On November 20th King John again visited Clipstone (<http://neogeography.com/timelines/JohnItinerary.html>).

"During this same regnal year, in 1200, the men of Mansfield, commendably anxious to recover a lost right, offered the King fifteen marks for having Common of Pasture in the Park of Clipstone, as they were wont to have in the time of King Henry (II.) father of that King (John) before it was inclosed to make a park. At this time all favours, however just, requested of the King had to be accompanied

by presents. Fifteen marks—a mark being two-thirds of a pound, 13s. 4d.—amounted to £10, a large sum in those days. For money had then about fifteen times the purchasing power it has at the present day, which would make the amount equal to £150. Probably they found themselves unable to subscribe this amount for the privilege, which consequently lapsed, for the following year the sheriff reported that the amount was unpaid, and we hear no more of it (Stapleton 1890).

King John visits Clipstone on March 6th - 7th 1201
(<http://neogeography.com/timelines/JohnItinerary.html>).

“The King again called at Clipstone this year, on 6th March, in which month four out of five of his recorded visits took place. We have, doubtless, a reference to this visit in the account of William Brewer, Sheriff, this year, in which occurs the cost of carrying the King's bacons from Clipstone to Northampton, 10s. 10d., and to the Chaplain of Clipstone 20s. of his livery, from the Sunday next before the feast of St. Nicholas (St. Nic. 6th Dec.) until the Sunday next before the feast of the Ascension (Ascen. 18th May in year 2) by the King's writ, and likewise 20s. to him from that time till St. Michael (St. Mich. 29th September)” (Stapleton 1890).

In 2014 *“At the latter end of this year, on 26th December, while at Tewkesbury, the King sent to the Sheriff of Notts., ordering him to procure out of his ferm,—the county ferm,—so much as was necessary for the repair of the Houses of Clipstone, by view, &c., the amount to be computed to him, &c. The plural, Houses, is constantly used in writs of this character, and itself conveys an impression of what the place was probably like— a collection of buildings for every purpose, perhaps added to a central or main structure as occasion arose, without fixed design; and at a short distance, within the Hays, the necessary buildings and outhouses of a mediaeval farm with houses or huts for the men” (Stapleton 1890).*

On the 10th March 1205 King John visited Clipstone (<http://neogeography.com/timelines/JohnItinerary.html>).

“The King paid his third visit this year on 11th March[?] It was doubtless on this occasion, and for the royal table, that the Sheriff conveyed wine here. For on 28th September following the King, while at Nottingham, directed his writ to the Barons of his Exchequer, ordering them to reckon with that official for that which he had expended in carriage of wine from Nottingham to eleven places, including two tuns to Clipstone” (Stapleton 1890).

In 1205 the Chapel of St. Edwin was endowed by King John (Crook 1976. p35).

In 1206 *“The King on 10th March, while at Nottingham, directed the Barons of his Exchequer to reckon with the Sheriff for what he had expended—by the King's command and by view and testimony of legal men—in repairing the Houses of Clipstone”* (Stapleton 1890).

On the 27th December 1207 the King, being at Windsor, *“sent to the Sheriff of Notts., commanding him to allow to Philip Munekan money from the county ferm for the reparation of the Houses and Dam of Clipstone, which were in the custody of the said Philip”* (Stapleton 1890).

In 1208-9 King John spent £42 on the house and fish pond (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

1210: *“John was at Nottingham in November, 1210, for several days and until Tuesday in the feast of St. Andrew, which latter day is 30th November. On the Thursday following he was at Clipstone, whence he advanced half-a-mark to Thomas Fletcher de Prestito, or by way of imprest, which however appears to be deleted. He also advanced twelve shillings, on the same day and in a similar way, to Robert de Percy and John de Winterburn for the expenses of the soldiers in Ireland. It is uncertain on what day the King left Clipstone, but he*

spent the following Sunday and Monday at Lexington” (Stapleton 1890).

From December 2nd - 4th 1211 King John visited Clipstone (<http://neology.com/timelines/JohnItinerary.html>).

1214: *“August 8th Robert de Lexington, during the King's absence in France, was commanded by a deputy to cause what was needed to be done for the repair of the Lord King's Houses of Clipstone, by view of four lawful men,—whatever was so expended to be accounted to him at the Exchequer” (Stapleton 1890).*

Between March 26th - 27th 1215 King John visits Clipstone (<http://neology.com/timelines/JohnItinerary.html>)

“King John paid his last visit to Clipstone. He was here on the 26th and 27th; the 28th he was at Kingshagh; and on the 29th he was again at Clipstone. The latter date,— evidently a mere coincidence,—was the anniversary of the first visit of King Richard twenty-one years before, when Coeur-de-Lion was "much pleased" therewith. It is improbable but not impossible that John, being informed of the circumstance and perhaps already experiencing declining health, returned from Kingshagh to pass the day at Clipstone out of respect for his brother's memory” (Stapleton 1890).

1215: March 29th - 31st King John visits Clipstone (<http://neology.com/timelines/JohnItinerary.html>).

3.1.2.4. Henry III

In 1219-20 the Great pond of Clipstone was again repaired together with the mill and palisade round the buildings (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

On the 23rd November 1220 Henry III, *“while at Winchester, directed the Barons of his Exchequer to reckon with Philip Mark, Sheriff, for seven pounds and eightpence, spent by him in*

reparation of the great Dam and Mill of Clipstone, and in repairing the Pale about the King's Houses there. Mr. Yeatman gives this amount, from the Sheriff's account, as £7 6s. 8d" (Stapleton 1890).

Stapleton refers to the following entry for 1221: "*The King, on the 15th June, being at Blythe, directed the following writ to Brian de Insula: You are commanded to take with you a Verderer of the bailiwick of Clipstone and go to Clipstone to view the burnt houses of our poor men there; and allow the same men a reasonable allowance of building-wood to rebuild their houses, where there is a sufficiency of this,—at the least detriment to our Forest. The above is an item of special interest. This, no doubt, is to what Thoroton refers when he says that Clipstone was burned it seems and repaired again before 5th. Henry III., 1220-1.*" He, however, is not quite right in setting the incident down as having happened before that year. These notes suffice to show that it took place during the year. Throsby, in his edition of—alias additions to— Thoroton, naturally wonders whether it was the 'palace' or the village that was burnt. We learn from the above that the houses of the King's "poor men," as he compassionately terms them— which at that time probably represented the village—were destroyed. But we have reason to believe that the Manor House was also destroyed in some measure. It seems, indeed, not unlikely that a large conflagration, such as would be involved in the case of the latter, perhaps spread to the outbuildings,—at least rather than the reverse. Until the "men"—doubtless feudatory tenants who claimed only to be tried at the court of their lord—had erected new huts they would probably have no roof to sleep under. The King seems to have recognised the urgency of their case for, on the 23rd June, only eight days after the above writ, while at Nottingham, he dispatched another to the same which only differed from the preceding in enjoining that the provision of the wood should be at the least detriment to the Forest above all " (Stapleton 1890).

In 1223 the king's chamber was damaged by fire, and one of the King's carpenters, Master Robert de Hotot, rebuilt it by taskwork for 15 marks. (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

On the 31 August 1227 "*Concerning the manor of Clipstone. The king has committed the manor of Clipstone to the sheriff of Nottinghamshire to keep to the king's use for as long as it pleases the king. Order to B. [Brian] de Lisle to cause the money that he received to repair the king's chamber of the same manor and has not yet put towards the repair to be delivered to the sheriff of Nottinghamshire, whom the king has ordered to cause that chamber to be repaired*" (Fine Roll C 60/27, 12 HENRY III (1227–1228). (http://www.finerollshenry3.org.uk/content/calendar/roll_027.html) (<http://www.foresttown.net/index.php/heritage/clipstone-park-chronology/>).

In 1233 the Kings Chamber was again rebuilt at a cost of £130. From a subsequent account it appears that it stood on an undercroft. (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919). In 1237-8, the undercroft below the king's chamber was divided up so that one part of the space could be used as a wardrobe (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

In 1243-4 "The sheriff of Nottingham is ordered to build at Clipstone, a fair, great and becoming hall of wood, and a kitchen of wood, and a wardrobe for the queen's use. Clipston, July 21." (Turner Page 205 / Liberate Roll, 28, Henry III.) (<http://www.foresttown.net/index.php/heritage/clipstone-park-chronology/>)

Howard Colvin shows that in 1244-5 Henry II built a new timber hall, 'large and handsome', for the queen, together with a kitchen and a wardrobe, also of timber. Cost £134 (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919), and in 1246-7 paid for the erection of a new chapel costing £26 13s. 4d. (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

A 'new chapel' and the queen's chapel are mentioned in 1252 when the King had them glazed with plain glass and wainscoted. Passage-ways were built to connect the King's chamber to the hall and chapel, and the hall was furnished with benches. (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

On December 13, 1252 The sheriff of Nottingham was ordered to make a "*wardrobe for the queen's use at Clipstone, and a privy-chamber in the queen's great chamber, and another privy-chamber at the head of the hall ; and to buy a chalice, vestments, books and other necessary ornaments for the new chapel; and to remove the high bench and the other benches in the new hall, and the small chimney in the great chamber and to make a chimney in the king's wardrobe, through a mantel, and through another mantel in the queen's wardrobe by one and the same flue [per unum et idem tuellum]*". (<http://www.foresttown.net/index.php/heritage/clipstone-park-chronology/>).

In 1252 "*The sheriff of Nottingham and Derby is ordered to break without delay, the wall at the foot of the king's bed in the king's chamber at Clipston, and to make a certain privychamber for the king's use, and cover it with shingles. Westminster, October 21.*" (Turner Page 262 / Close Roll, 36 Henry III.) (<http://www.foresttown.net/index.php/heritage/clipstone-park-chronology/>).

After 1252 Henry III ordered no new works at Clipstone, but the buildings were repaired from time to time during the remaining years of his reign. (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

3.1.2.5. **Edward I**

In 1279 Edward I was at Clipstone (David Crook. 1976). 1279-80 Edward I built two new chambers with chapels for himself and his queen at a cost of over £400 (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p

919).

Colvin suggests standing ruin may represent one or both of these new chambers (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

1280: Edward I at Clipstone (Crook 1976).

"Raine, the Blyth historian, records that during the first five days of August, 1280, the writs of Edward are dated either in Sherwood Forest or at Clipstone" (Stapleton 1890).

1282-3: Edward I erected a stable for 200 horses at a cost of £104 8s. 5d. (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

1284: Edward I at Clipstone (Crook 1976).

1290: September 15th - 17th Edward I at Clipstone (Gough, 1900).

1290: September 20th - 22nd Edward I at Clipstone (Gough, 1900).

1290: October 11th - November 11th Edward I at Clipstone (Gough, 1900).

"October Parliament at Clipstone called to rubber stamp the King's Crusade and the date for departure was set as midsummer 1293" (Morris, 2000, P228).

"Its accommodation must have been stretched to the limit, with the chancery and its clerks having to stay at nearby Warsop" (Crook 1976. P35).

"The King, in the autumn of 1290, with a design of proceeding to the borders of Scotland, summoned the Parliament to meet him at Clipstone on 27th October. This was done, possibly, with the idea of thus being nearer Scotland than would have been the case had he called the Parliament together in London. Yet it does not appear that he was over anxious to press in that direction, for during the year he was never more than a day's journey further north than Clipstone.

"At the beginning of September he was at Geddington and

Rockingham; on the 11th he was at Hardby, in this county, where, in the following month, his consort Queen Eleanor died. From 13th to 17th he was at Newstead Priory; on the 18th and 19th at Rufford Abbey. On the 20th he was at his own house at Clipstone, which, however, he left on the morning of the 23rd for Dronfield. He remained in Derbyshire until 7th October, when setting out again for Clipstone, he arrived on the 12th and remained.

“On 13th October he issued an order for payment of 200 marks from his treasury to Lopus de Pistoria and his associates, merchants of Pistoria.

“Edward also issued hence, during this regnal year, and doubtless, if we could ascertain, about the same date, an order for payment of 3,000 marks from his treasury to Lopus Bonchi and Gradus Pini, of Pistoria. A much larger sum was ordered to be paid the following year, as mentioned below, which probably was also on the occasion of the present visit, which covered the commencement of the next regnal year.

“On the 14th October, writing hence, the King protests that he intends to go to the Holy Land, and accepts the tenths granted for that object.

“The King issued another writ hence dated on Monday next after the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, which feast is on 18th October.

“On 23rd October he issued a writ for the payment of the annual fee of Francis Accursius.

“The following note concerning a certain Elias de Hanville and his one servant, taken from the royal accounts, is interesting if only as recording the rate of wages at this period. “To the same for the wages of one man and the expenses of one horse, bringing the jewels which came out of the wardrobe, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne into Scotland, and returning with them from Scotland to Clipstone, from the 21st day of September to the last day of October—for 31 days—receiving per day 2d. for the man aforesaid, and for the horse

3d.—12s. 11d.

"The Parliament was opened on St. Michael's Day, November; and the 251 pleas, with the petitions, then presented "before the Lord King," with the answers, cover twenty-one of the large folio pages of the printed Rolls—the roll for this occasion occurring as third in the work.

"This— decidedly an event of the first importance in Clipstone's history, when probably a larger number of the nobility and great men of the kingdom were assembled than at any other time —the Parliament Oak was in all likelihood intended to commemorate. Whether the tree was planted in memory of the event, or what was the special connection, if any, between them, it is now impossible to say. The theory that the great national assembly was held around this tree, which careless writers continue to perpetuate, is almost too puerile to require correction.

"Edward remained here until 11th November, and possibly one or two days later, but it is certain that he had left on the 14th. He was several days at Lexington, whence he removed to Marnham, and on the 20th he was again at Hardby. He was there up to the 28th, on which day the Queen breathed her last. She died of a lingering disease—a slow fever—and from this we can understand why the quietness and seclusion of Hardby should be chosen for her in preference to the presence of the King at Clipstone, where the Court and Parliament were to be held. The foregoing remarks, it should be added, refute the statement of certain of the chroniclers who aver that Edward was called from the borders of Scotland to the death-bed of his Queen" (Stapleton 1890).

1290: In an *"Account of the receipts of the lands in Tynedale and Cumberland lately held by Alexander III. (of Scotland), with a statement of how the money has been applied,"* we find that, besides a large sum expended at Lexington, £25 and 160 was spent in repairs on the Houses, Dams, and Weir of the Manor of

Clipstone" (Stapleton 1890).

1300: Edward I at Clipstone (Crook 1976).

1301: reference to 'the King's wood of Clipstone called "*le Parke*" (Crook 1976. p36).

3.1.2.6. **Edward II**

In 1307 Edward II was at Clipstone (Crook 1976).

"On the occasion of this visit the following documents were issued hence:—.

20th September.—The King, by Letters Patent, contitutes William de Carleton, Eoger de Hegham, and Thomas de Cantebrugg, Barons of the Exchequer, during his pleasure.

20th September. — King to the Sheriffs of England, ordering them to seize into the King's hands all the lands and tenements, goods and chattels, of Walter de Langton, Bishop of Litchfield, late treasurer of King Edward I.

25th September.—King asks the Sheriff of Gascony and the Constable of Bordeaux to ship 1,000 tuns of good wine for his Coronation, to be paid for by the Friscobaldi of Florence.

26th September.—King to Dionysius, King of Portugal, respecting the restitution of an English ship recovered by the Portuguese from some pirates.

With reference to this, the first, year of the King's reign, it may be added that among the documents formerly preserved in the office of the Queen's Remembrancer is mentioned one entitled "Clipiston Regis: Compotus Thomae de Merke, servientis Domini Regis, in Manerio de Clipiston." Or in English—"Kings' Clipstone: The account of Thomas Mark, servant of the Lord King, in the Manor of Clipstone." A translation of this manuscript would doubtless prove

extremely interesting" (Stapleton 1890).

1315: October 29th Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1315: October 31st - November 26th Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1315: November 28th - December 12th Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1315: 10 December 1315 "*Dec. 10 [1315]. Clipston. To Robert de Cliderhou, escheator this side Trent. Order to repair the chimnies (camina) and houses in the manor of King's Clipston and in the hermitage near the chapel of St. Edwin, where a hermit shall dwell by the king's ordinance, and the ponds of the stews in the manor. By K. on the information of William Inge.*" (Page 257) (JD - FT) Calendar of the Close Rolls AD 1313-1318 (EdwardII) [1893]. Available from: <https://archive.org/details/cu31924091068993> <http://www.foresttown.net/index.php/heritage/clipstone-park-chronology/>.

1315: December 20th Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1315 -16: December 23rd - January 25th Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1316: February 27th - March 14th Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1316: December 9th - 10th Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1316: December 9th. Roger Mortimer at Clipstone. (Calendar of Patent Rolls 1313-17, p574) (Mortimer, 2004, P 306).

1316: December 13th -23rd Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1316: December 18th. Roger Mortimer at Clipstone. (Calendar of

Patent Rolls 1313-17, p574-5) (Mortimer, 2004, P 306).

1316: December 30th. Roger Mortimer at Clipstone. (Calendar of Patent Rolls 1313-17, p610) ((Mortimer, 2004, P 306).

1317: January 1st - 16th Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1317-18: Edward II erected some new buildings within a 'peel' or enclosure in the southern part of the park, including a barn, a cowshed, and '*other necessary buildings*'. (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 919).

1318: August 18th - 20th Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1318: "*Edward was at Clipstone in August this year, and on the 18th he issued hence a Safe Conduct for the messengers of the Cardinals, going into Ireland. He was at Nottingham on 24th— 26th, but had again returned to Clipstone on 5th September, if not earlier, and on the 10th he wrote to Philip King of France, complaining in detail of the injuries done by the latter's subjects to the English*" (Stapleton 1890).

1318: September 1st - 15th Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

1320: February 1st - 3rd Edward II at Clipstone (Hartshorne, 1861).

3.1.2.7. **Edward III**

1327: April 17th Edward III visited Clipstone (Ormrod, 2013, P 611).

1327: April. "*The King's tenants of Clipstone presented him with a petition. They stated that from time immemorial they had been accustomed to take all the ferns growing in 'a place which is now called the park of Clipstone' for an annual payment of a mark, to collect fallen leaves without payment and to have pasture there for all kinds of beasts in return for two of their number performing the office of keeping the King's vert and venison. They complained*

about ten years previously Edward II had enclosed the park, foregoing the income but causing them a loss equivalent to 100 shillings a year by leaving them with insufficient pasture. They had also lost the benefit of the ferns, which were strewn in sheep and cattle folds overnight and mixed with dung to form a valuable manure, and the leaves, which were used as a compost. The enclosure had therefore interfered with important parts of the agricultural cycle” (Crook 1976. p37).

1327: May. An inquest into the claims made by the men of Clipstone in April 1327, held by John de Cromwell, the King's chief forest justice, at Warsop in May ratified their claims (Crook 1976, p38).

1327: August 28th Edward III visited Clipstone (Ormrod, W. M. 2013. Edward III. Yale University Press. P 611). Mark Ormrod suggests that a tournament was held at Clipstone by Edward III at this time (Ormrod, 2013, P 67). (RDP, iv, 376-8; E 101/383/3).

“After holding a tournament at Clipstone in Sherwood Forest at the end of August the king and his mother retired to Nottingham to await events” (Ann Paulini, 337; Tanquery, ‘The Conspiracy of Thomas Dunheved, 1327’ EHR xxi (1916), 119-24) (Ormrod Edward III p66)

1327: November 12-15th Edward III visited Clipstone en-route from Newstead Abbey to Blyth (Ormrod, 2013, P 611).

1327: *“TNA E101/383/3 m.2. This notes gold thread purchased for decorating purple harnesses for the tournament at Clipstone... The tournament probably took place between 15-16 November, when the King was at Clipstone” (Mortimer 2007, p449).*

1327: November 27th -29th Edward III visited Clipstone en-route from Blyth to Newstead (Ormrod, 2013, P 611).

1327-8: *“Edward III had all the buildings which his father had erected in the peel dismantled and set up again near the manor*

house, with the exception of the greater gate of the peel, and the building over it' which were to remain" (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 920).

1328: August 26th. Roger Mortimer at Clipstone. (Calendar of Patent Rolls 1327-30, p351) (Mortimer, 2004, P 314).

1328-9: *"The King, for good service, &c., granted to Robert de Clipstone, the custody of the Manor and Park of Clipstone, with its appurtenances, to hold so long as he should well and faithfully perform his office. He was to answer to the Exchequer for the issues, and keep the Manor in repair at the King's cost, and the Park Pale at his own, receiving for the reparation of the said Pale, timber of the dry wood there, and taking every day for himself, the Parkers, and makers of the said Pale, 7d."* (Stapleton 1890).

1328: August 30th. Roger Mortimer at Clipstone. (Mortimer, 2004, P 314).

1328: January 9th-14th Edward III stayed at Clipstone en-route from Newark to Blyth (Ormrod, 2013, 611).

"...The following membrane, m.3, includes payments for six harnesses for the tournament at Worcester between 25-30 November 1327, and a harness for the tournament at Clipstone and Rothwell between 24 November- 12 December 1327. The King was at Clipstone on 29-30 November 1327 and 9-15 January 1328..." (Mortimer 2006. P449).

Note there is some confusion between Historians as to which of Edward III's stays at Clipstone in 1327-1328 was the occasion of the tournament.

"The dating of these in Mortimer, The Perfect King , 449, seems wrong: there are no dates in the accounts... The Clipstone dates make more sense if they are after Christmas rather than before

Edward I's funeral" (Barber, 2014, p 573).

Therefore Barber suggests January 9th - 14th 1328 for the Clipstone Tournament.

"We have detailed accounts for some of his equipment, such as the two suits of armour covered in purple velvet made for the Clipstone tournament, embroidered with 21,800 gold threads in a pattern of crowns and oak leaves at a cost of £8 3s. 4d." (Barber, 2014, p50).

"Clipstone is the first recorded instance of a very rare practice of jousting at night; there is one other known example in England later in Edward's reign, at Bristol on New Year's Day 1358. The image of the young King riding out into the night, the torchlight glinting on the gold of his armour, is a harbinger of the highly visual nature of Edward's later knightly celebrations" (Barber, 2014, p50).

1327-8: The men of Clipstone asserted that the park was a recent enclosure made by Edward II. Their testimony was biased but Edward III accepted their case (Crook 1976. p36).

1328: February 14th - 15th Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod. 2013. P 612).

1328: June 27th Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod. 2013. P 612).

1329-30: *"A mandate was dispatched to the Sheriff, this year, of which the following is a translation:—Intelligence is brought to us that the Great Gate and Sluice of our Mill of Clipstone, at the head of our great Dam there, are very weak and ruinous, and that the bursting of that Dam and loss of our fish therein is to be feared, except the same Gate and Sluice are repaired and amended. You are commanded, therefore, to repair and amend the same, for which ten marks will suffice"* (Stapleton 1890).

1330: August 29th - September 4th Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, 2013. P 613).

1330: September 1st Roger Mortimer at Clipstone (Mortimer. 2004. P 317).

1330: September 22nd - 23rd Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod. 2013, P 613).

1330: September 22nd Roger Mortimer at Clipstone (Mortimer, 2014. P 318) before departing for Nottingham where he was captured on November 18th.

1330-1: Edward again, this year, issued Letters Patent for the Chantry in the Chapel within the Manor of Clipstone. (Stapleton, A. 1890).

1331: 25th - 27th July Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, 2013. P 613).

1331: August 5th - 6th Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, 2013. P 613).

1331: At Clipstone; Queen Phillipa heard an impromptu concert of singing by a group of women from Bilsthorpe (Ormrod, 2013, P 316).

1331: *"Edward made another call this year, and on 13th August wrote from Clipstone to four Cardinals, on behalf of Simon Archbishop of Canterbury.*

"During this reign, the particular year being uncertain, John de Sutton, of Warsop, presented a petition to Parliament which, from the reference to the King's father, may doubtless be placed well within the first ten years of this reign. As it is brief and explains itself, a translation in full of the petition, and the response to it, is appended:—

"To our Lord the King and to his Council, showeth John de Sutton, Knight, that whereas he holds the Manor of Warsop of our Lord the King in Chief, and that the King has, during the last ten years, made an inclosure of his wood of Warsop, thus depriving the

Manor of forty acres of soil, and holds it inclosed within, as part of, his Park of Clipstone,—to his great disinheritance, and to the impoverishment of his tenants, who ought to have Commonage there.

“Answer: Let there be a writ sent to the Justice of the Forest, to make inquiry of the articles alleged in this petition, and of all other necessary matters, &c. Also let the records of the late King, our father, be searched, to see if something may not be found to stay John's action; the inquiry and certification to be returned into Chancery,—the King himself advises this” (Stapleton, 1890).

1332: October 9th - 11th Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, 2013, P 614).

1335: 11 April - May 2nd Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, 2013, P 616).

1336-7: *“The Jury, this year, said that Peter Witheberd, of Kings' Clipstone, had a messuage and one bovat and a half in Kings' Clipstone, by the service of 2s. 6d. per annum, according to the custom of the Manor of Kings' Clipstone, of the ancient demesne of the Crown, and William Witheberd was his son and heir, and above thirty years old”* (Stapleton, 1890).

1337: May 19th - 25th Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, 2013, P 617).

Edward III and Queen Phillipa were at Clipstone celebrating the marriage of one of the King's esquires, Roger Beauchamp, with the queen's damsel Sybil Patteshull. (Ormrod, 2013, P 128).

1339: While in Anderlecht Edward III ordered his ministers at home to speed up the current programme of improvements at Clipstone (Ormrod, 2013. P 102).

1339-40. *“The King, for good service, &c., granted to his valet,*

Robert de Maule, the custody of his Manor and Park of Clipstone in Sherwood.

"The same year an inquisition resulted in the report that Henry de Wytheton, chaplain, within the Manor of Clipstone, had by Letters Patent of the King, for his sustenance, five marks per annum, receiving it from the issues of the Manor aforesaid" (Stapleton 1890).

1343: September 10th - 11th Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, 2013, P 620).

1345: December 4th - 5th Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, W. M. 2013. Edward III. Yale University Press. P 621).

1345: Edward was at Clipstone again on 10th December. At this time he directed a writ to his Treasurer, to *"deliver 51,000 florins to Peter Gretheved, for rewards to the Earls of Lancaster and Pembroke, and to Walter de Manny"*. (Stapleton 1890).

1345: Money spent on hinges, hooks and plates for gates. Presumably for the park, (Crook 1976. P 35), or maybe for the palace.

1348-9: works carried out included:

- Rebuilding the Knights' Chamber
- Repair to the Great Hall
- The Queen's Hall
- The King's Kitchen
- Queen's kitchen
- The Great Chamber
- Rosamund's Chamber
- Roger De Mauley's Chamber

- The Treasurer's Chamber
- Chamber of Lionel the King's son
- The Great Chapel
- The Chapel next to the King's Chamber
- The King's Long Stable
- The Great Gateway

The Knight's Chamber was a timber-framed building standing on a 'groundwall' of stone, but more important buildings were of stone. The roofing material was Mansfield slate. (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 920).

1350: September 20th - 24th Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, 2013, P 623).

1350: Edward again at Clipstone on 20th September, "*he granted hence a License of Mortmain to the Hospital of St, John the Baptist, Nottingham*". (Stapleton 1890).

1350: "*Sept. 23 [1350]. Clipstone. Grant for life to Robert Rotour, chaplain, of the chantry of the king's chapel within the manor of Clipston, with the chapel of St. Edwin within the forest of Shirewode ; he taking for the chantry yearly by the hands of the sheriff of Nottingham as much as other chaplains, who have held the chantry, have been accustomed to take for the same.*" Calendar of the Close Rolls, Edward III, Vol. 12. 1364-1368 [1910]. Available from: <http://www.archive.org/stream/calendarofcloser12grea#page/n3/mode/2up> <http://www.foresttown.net/index.php/heritage/clipstone-park-chronology/>.

1354: August 26th - 31st Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, 2013, P 624).

1355: Edward III refurbished the fishponds. (Ormrod, 2013 P 103).

1355-6: Robert Rotor or Rotour was appointed as Chaplain of Clipstone with a fixed annual stipend of one hundred shillings (Stapleton 1890).

1358-9: *"The King, for good service, &c., granted to Richard de la Vache, the office of Seneschal or Steward of Sherwood Forest, and the custody of the Manor and Meadow of Clipstone, and of the Hays of Bestwood, Bilhagh, and Birkland, with appurtenances, to have for his whole life, receiving yearly, £10 12s. 11d.*

"The same year the King assigned Robert Rotor —described as 'clericus' or clerk, one in holy orders—to repair (or oversee the repairs of) the defects of the manor of Clipstone.

"This was he who had been appointed Chaplain three years before. It may appear strange to us that a priest should be employed in an occupation of such a secular character, but that the practise was widely prevalent at this period we have ample evidence" (Stapleton 1890).

1360: 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 Birklands which was served by the chaplain of Clipstone. (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 920)

1363: July 25th - 31st Edward III at Clipstone. (Ormrod, 2013, P

627).

1367: further repairs by William of Elmesley who in 1360 had been appointed clerk of the works at the Manor of Clipstone and the lodge of Bestwood (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 920-1).

1367-73: Entrances to the park are mentioned in the records, one towards Warsop and one towards Clipstone, and locks and keys for them (Crook 1976, p35).

1375-6: William de Elmeley, 'clericus,' set over the works, which had been ordained, at Nottingham Castle, Bestwood Lodge, and Clipstone Manor (Stapleton 1890).

1375: further repairs by William of Elmesley (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 921).

3.1.2.8. Richard II

1382-3: John Davy, Chaplain in the Chantry of Clipstone (Stapleton 1890).

1387: Richard II at Clipstone (Crook 1976, p35).

1393: Richard II at Clipstone (Crook 1976, p35).

3.1.2.9. Henry IV

1400: *"By agreement this year George [de] Dunbarre, Earl of March, or Earl of the Marches of Scotland, promised to transfer his homage to the King of England, who, in return, granted him the Castle of Somerton and the Manor of Clipstone, with appurtenances, for life.*

"The document was drawn up in quaint old English, commencing as follows:

'This Endenture Maad at the Toune of the Newe Castil opon Tyne, the xxv day of the Monyth of Juyl, the Zere, Frome the Incarnation of oure Lorde Jesu Crist, a Thousand and Four Hundreth, Between the Noble and Mythty Prince Henry, by the

Grace of God, Kyng of England and of France, Lorde of Ireland, on the ton syde, and his Cousin George de Dunbarre, Erie of the Marche of Scotland, on the tother syde, etc'." (Stapleton 1890).

1401: Henry IV gave the manor for life to George Dunbar, the Scottish Earl of March, who had lost his estates by joining the English cause, but it is doubtful whether he ever obtained possession (Colvin Vol II p 921).

1401: June 28th—"The grant by which the Manor passed to the Earl bears this date. By a writ dated 20th July the King allows him to enter and stay in England" (Stapleton 1890).

1409-10: "John Bever, about this year, held a toft and bovate in Clipstone, in Free Burgage, by the service of 12d. per annum, as parcel of £4 10s. per annum, the ferm of the Town of Clipstone" (Stapleton 1890).

Little building or repair was done to the site during the reigns of Henry IV or Henry V (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 921).

3.1.2.10. Henry V

1414-15: "The only note we have of the reign of Henry V., whose years commence on the 21st March, is in the King's Letters Patent to the Abbot of Rufford, in which he confirms the possession of lands by the Abbey with their bounds, &c., and among other provisions then confirmed, 'the men of the Manors of Clipstone and Edwinstowe may take nothing in the wood of the said Abbot within the Forest of Sherwood'" (Stapleton 1890).

3.1.2.11. Henry VI

1434: The King's council authorised an issue of £200 for repairs (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 921)

1435 - 1446: over £650 was spent on the buildings by William Clerk

of Gedling as local deputy to the Clerk of the King's Works. (Colvin Vol II p 921) According to the summarised enrollment of his account (which is all that survives) the money was spent on repairs and on 'making a certain new tower within the said manor and other new buildings'. (Colvin, Brown & Taylor 1963 Vol II p 921)

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, Brown & Taylor 1963).

3.1.3. The Designed Romantic Medieval Landscape

The Medieval Landscape of Clipstone was a designed landscape, altered by the crown to form an idealised Forest in Miniature, suitable for Royal Hunting. The layout of this landscape seems to suggest a design reflected in the depictions of landscape in contemporary literature, such as that depicted in the 14th century Arthurian poem *Gawain and the Green Knight* (Gaunt 2011; Gaunt & Wright 2013).

In 2006 the current author (Gaunt) began working on creating a map of the landscape of medieval Sherwood Forest, with Alan McCormack (former Keeper of Antiquities at Nottingham Castle), while working as a Community Archaeologist at Nottinghamshire County Council. This mapping helped Gaunt form the beginning of what would develop into a deep and intimate knowledge and understanding of the landscape of Sherwood Forest, particularly in the Medieval period. In 2009 the act of Gaunt standing on top of the ruins of King John's Palace, during restoration work, and observing the relationship of the site to the surrounding woodlands, led to

investigations into the historic mapping and documents, and relating them to the actual landscape through surveying and field work.

This in turn led in 2010 to a Geophysical Resistance survey of the 11 acres of Castle Field (Gaunt 2010) with the intention of understanding the layout of the palace, in order to create a 3D model of the site, and relate the palace to the landscape in ArcGIS through 3D modeling. This survey led to a new interpretation of the palace site as being the same or similar to the 6- 7 acre 'Mannorgarth' as depicted on a 1630 map of Clipstone (Gaunt 2010; 2011).

This formed the basis of a subsequent Masters Dissertation; *Clipstone Park and the Kings Houses- Reconstructing and interpreting a medieval landscape through non-invasive techniques*, for the University of Birmingham Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, completed in 2011 (Gaunt 2011).

This work represented a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding the landscape utilising; Geophysical Survey, Level One Archaeological survey, infra-red data, historic mapping, documentary analysis, translation and interpretation of medieval perambulations and original sketch maps.

The resulting landscape analysis (computerised GIS based reconstruction of the landscape of Clipstone in Medieval times based on the 1630 map by William Senior, and other historic mapping and documents, and computer generated 3D models) enabled a theoretic examination of the landscape.

This was the first full interpretation of the landscape of Clipstone (David Crook wrote about the landscape of Clipstone in his publication *Clipstone Park and Peel* (1976), but Gaunt's 2011 work was the first fully integrated multi-disciplinary analysis).

All subsequent landscape discussions are based on this work.

From this quantitative study of the landscape it became apparent to Gaunt that the medieval landscape at Clipstone should be compared to other large royal palace sites in the country such as Clarendon and Woodstock, and abroad such as Hesdin in France.

Work by eminent academics including Dr Amanda Richardson on medieval deer parks and hunting landscapes has suggested that landscapes around high status hunting palaces have an element of design, some of which reflects the desire to create landscapes similar to those depicted in the Romance literature of the times (Richardson 2007).

The GIS reconstruction created by Gaunt (2011) enabled a more qualitative interpretation to be undertaken in a quantitative environment, as suggested by Henry Chapman for using GIS in Landscape Archaeology (Chapman 2006). Using this computer simulation and analysis work alongside on-the-ground observations, it became apparent to Gaunt that these elements of romantic design (as identified by Amanda Richardson at Clarendon), were present in the medieval landscape of Clipstone. These findings were subsequently put forward in 2011 (Gaunt 2011).

Following further development by the author (Gaunt), including more on the ground interpretation these were published in the Thoroton Transactions by Gaunt (with some contributions on the built environment by Wright (Gaunt and Wright 2013).

Elements of design recognised by Gaunt in the medieval landscape include: *Launds, Holynes* (A wood of Holly trees for fodder for fallow deer in the park), *Cunygre* (rabbit warrens), *Clipstone Wode*, *Fliskerhaw Wode*, the *Great Pond*, and other features, including the medieval open fields, and possible relationship of the palace site to the *mannorgarth* (Gaunt 2011).

The following excerpt from Gaunt 2011 demonstrates elements of

the designed landscape of Clipstone including the relations of the palace to the deer *Launds*, and the topography and surrounding wood and Forest:

“The landscape of Medieval Clipstone is very much dominated by the park and royal palace site. The Palace site occupies the head of a spur of land created by the confluence of two rivers. As well as the complex of buildings which make up the palace the site also extends to the south to include an area of rabbit warrens across the valley of Vicar Water, and to the east to include the large fish pond, and a stew pond for storing fish ready for the table within the complex itself. The Palace site is situated on a rise above the village which is level with the approach from the northwest, and the royal manor of Mansfield. It becomes visible when the roadway turns to face the palace. Views from the palace in this north-westerly direction take advantage of an area of launds or deer lawns which extend into the park. These views both to and from the palace are the key to its orientation. This is the view from the palace that takes most advantage of its setting, and is the view to the palace that most demonstrates its grandeur. The palace is meant to be seen from this northwestern view, be it from in the park, or from the approach from the northwest. Views across extensive launds are also seen to the southwest where the view from the palace across the launds is framed by Fliskerhaw wood to the north and Clipstone wood to the south, with the launds flanking the sides of the Vicar Water Valley as it rises towards woodland at its western end.

All the views from the palace on the north, west and southern sides are framed by woodland at their furthest view. This gives an impression of being in a wild and wooded environment, a back drop for the palace and parkland. It has been suggested that such a setting and the use of views was an essential part of the make up and use of medieval parks. ‘They provided wood and especially timber, or grazing for horses, or many other practical uses, but

crucially they still existed as an ornament and provided a private place of recreation in the full meaning of the word' (Fletcher 2007). Beyond just being functional sites that were by chance also beautiful parks can be viewed as 'ornamental landscapes' (Taylor 2000). This suggests perhaps a deliberate maintenance or even manufacture or design of the landscape to be ornamental. In the absence of much discussion available from the historic records which are by their nature concerned mainly with the recording of expenses and building costs, attention has focused more recently on romantic literature. Examples such as the depiction of Bertialk's castle in Gawain and the Green Knight have been suggested as a source of inspiration for park land creation and the retreats of medieval kings, or as a reflection of an ideal. The ideal being parkland surrounded by the wild wood and containing expansive launds used to frame whitewashed palaces (Richardson 2007). Similar royal residences have been shown to back up this view that the landscape was used as a backdrop to be enjoyed. The intention of Henry I in his efforts at Woodstock seems to have been as much to create a comfortable retreat as to make a statement of power and authority (Mileson 2007). Edward III also seems to have made additions to Woodstock palace with the intention of enjoying the beauty of the landscape, with a reference to a balcony being constructed in 1354 in order to provide his daughter Isabella with better views over Woodstock Park (Colvin 1986). Such a consideration would seemingly not be made if the landscape was merely one of function or status. A recent reconstruction of Clarendon Palace by English Heritage shows the residence to be raised on a steep scarp above a valley from which the northern launds rise. 'Visitors would see the palace scarp terrace dominating the skyline, backed by trees, and would have to climb the hill to the western entrance having traversed the park below' (Richardson 2007). This description is very similar to the landscape and palace at Clipstone, especially the approach from the northwest.

It is necessary to be cautious when suggesting that the park and palace were designed to operate together, due to the difficulty in stating a single designer for a park such as Clipstone. It seems more likely that the park, palace and landscape developed in unison in a piecemeal fashion through the medieval period. But what does seem apparent from examining the medieval landscape is that the palace was developed to take advantage of its setting. It would be hard to imagine that this was not done with a romantic ideal or an appreciation for beauty and the setting within a landscape of hunting and perceived romance". (Gaunt 2011).

The landscape of Clipstone has been identified by Gaunt as being similar to that depicted in the *Gawain and Green Knight* poem. There is possibly also evidence to back this up with relation to the built environment at Clipstone: Saltzmann in his 1952 book *Building in England Down to 1540 A Documentary History* actually states the following:

"In 1368, at Clipstone, we find a payment 'for making 2 chimneys (camenorum) with plaster of Paris, which had blown down by the wind (Saltzmann 1952)"... He states that the entry comes from the King's Rememberancer, Accounts roll E101/460/20, and continues: "...-implying that the were external- and these correspond to the 'chalk whyt chymnees' on a castle roof in a contemporary romance" (Saltzmann 1952). He references this 'contemporary romance' as "Gawayn and the Grene Knight, quoted in Addy, Evolution of the English Home, 116" (Saltzmann 1952).

If this is a true interpretation by Saltzmann and Addy relating to interpreting Plaster of Paris Chimneys at Clipstone to those depicted in *Gawain and the Green Knight*, this goes some way to corroborating Gaunt's interpretations of the designed romantic landscape of Clipstone, and suggests that this romantic design was mirrored in the built environment of the palace.

In a recent publication Wright appears to claim to have been the person who interpreted the landscape of Clipstone from the 1630 map, and to have been the person to interpret the landscape as being similar to that in the *Gawain and Green Knight* poem (Wright 2016). He claims to have been directly inspired by both the 1630 map and the *Gawain and the Green Knight* poem to undertake his research (Wright 2016 p vi-vii).

Wright does not credit Gaunt as being the one to have undertaken the landscape analysis work, or as coming up with the theories relating to romance literature and the *Gawain and Green Knight* poem in relation to the landscape of medieval Clipstone.

Instead Wright appears to present himself as having undertaken the work. His assertions are demonstrably not true.

3.1. 3. Post Medieval

The King's Houses at Clipstone began a rapid decline from their heyday in the 13th and 14th centuries. Diminishing royal interest in the 15th century manifested itself in no further visits by any monarchs following the reign of Richard II. This decline of royal interest in the King's Houses throughout the 15th century fits an overall national pattern. Steane has pointed out that the residences of the monarchy in the later middle ages focused 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 & ruyne 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 fynyshed 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” (Colvin 1963)

“This 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, but clearly there was a rapid period of decline” (Gaunt et al 2015).

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 (Ministers Accounts: SC6 Philip & Mary/505(Notts); Gaunt et al 2015).

The documentary evidence for ruin and decay is perhaps confirmed by the archaeology: excavations by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2013 found evidence of ‘recycling’ of palace material by one of the villagers in the post medieval period:

“Here a small, early post medieval , pit was found dug into the natural sands. A quantity of medieval window glass had been dumped in the pit before it was backfilled. The majority of the glass was plain and included some largely complete quarries (with very neatly grozed edges), but a small quantity of painted glass was also present. Both cylinder and crown techniques of manufacture were present and more than one phase of glazing, or more than one window seems likely to be represented. It seems probably that the villager living on this plot ‘liberated’ a window or two from the palace

as it was falling into disrepair in the early post medieval period with the aim of harvesting the lead. Perhaps not having the technology to recycle the glass or not having easy access to a market for it, they dug a hole in order to conceal the evidence of their crime!" (Budge & Gaunt 2013).

3.2 Previous Archaeological Work

The site of King John's Palace and surrounding landscape of Clipstone have been subject to a number of archaeological investigations which are recorded below. These fall into a number of discrete phases, but until the more recent inclusion of the site in Mercian Archaeological Services CIC's *Sherwood Forest Archaeology Project* in 2013, the each formed discrete individual pieces of work, and did not form any part of an overarching investigation or project. All archaeological works are listed with the location of the published report which can be seen in the bibliography. Unfortunately there are a number of pieces of work which have not been reported at the time of publication despite the lapsing of a number of years; Wright stone recording undertaken in 2008; Wright 2014 Maun Cottage survey; and Sheppard 1991 fieldwalking (mentioned in appendix in Sheppard 2016).

3.2.1. 2013-present, The Sherwood Forest Archaeology Project at King John's Palace

- 2016 Archaeological Training Field School, King John's Palace, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. A second season of excavation occurred in a trench close to the road frontage of the site, in the grounds of the building known as the Tin Tabernacle. This part of the site "*may contain some*

of the only surviving remains of the road frontage of the palace, while the lack of 20th century ploughing may mean any remains are well preserved. The most significant finds, however, came from the re-deposited spoil from the tabernacle foundations. These were a number of sherds of early to middle Saxon pottery, including a hand made jar rim. Jane Young, who kindly examined these sherds along with the Saxon pottery from the Discover King John's Palace project (Budge 2015), noted that the range of fabrics and wide dating span of the material suggest it is more likely to come from occupation than isolated and short term activities. The re-deposited spoil also contained quantities of late Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery, much of the latter datable to the 12th century and probably contemporary with the earliest documented royal activity on the site. Relatively large quantities of 13th - 14th century pottery were also present” (Budge 2016 in press).

- 2016 Ground Penetrating Radar Survey at King John's Palace, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. This GPR Survey continued the survey from 2015 with further coverage to the east and southeast of the monument. The results will be published at the end of the project, in line with Mercian Archaeological Services CIC's publication policy.
- 2015 Archaeological training Field School, King John's Palace, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. The first season of excavation occurred in a trench close to the road frontage of the site, in the grounds of the building known as the Tin Tabernacle. This part of the site *“may contain some of the only surviving remains of the road frontage of the palace, while the lack of 20th century ploughing may mean any remains are well preserved. The most significant finds,*

however, came from the re-deposited spoil from the tabernacle foundations. These were a number of sherds of early to middle Saxon pottery, including a hand made jar rim. Jane Young, who kindly examined these sherds along with the Saxon pottery from the Discover King John's Palace project (Budge 2015), noted that the range of fabrics and wide dating span of the material suggest it is more likely to come from occupation than isolated and short term activities. The re-deposited spoil also contained quantities of late Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery, much of the latter datable to the 12th century and probably contemporary with the earliest documented royal activity on the site. Relatively large quantities of 13th - 14th century pottery were also present” (more details Budge 2016 in press).

- 2015 Discover King John's Palace - Test Pitting Project, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC with The Sherwood Forest Trust. This test-pitting excavation formed part of the Sherwood Forest Trust's Big Lottery funded Discover King John's Palace Project. The project won a public television vote on ITV as part of the People's Million's. 1,500 people visited the site as part of the project with 500 school children visiting the site and 126 people digging as part of the community archaeology excavation. The project was designed to investigate the northeastern part of the site to look for the medieval boundary. Previous work had established the location of the 13th / 14th century boundary ditch on the south side of the palace (Gaunt et al 2015, Budge 2014a). This feature is traceable as a geophysical anomaly (Gaunt 2014), earthwork, and as a land parcel division depicted on maps from the earliest, in 1630, through to 1835, after which it was removed. This feature can be traced by all three means to the point to the west of

the standing ruins. North and west of this point the boundary cannot be traced in the geophysical survey data and cartographic evidence for its course is ambiguous. The results for this project can be seen in Budge 2015.

- 2015 Ground Penetrating Radar Survey at King John's Palace Phase 1, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC: This GPR Survey covered the area to the north and west of the monument, and is the first part of a survey designed cover the entire site in multiple levels of resolution over a five year period. The results will be published at the end of the project, in line with Mercian Archaeological Services CIC's publication policy. Preliminary results are published in Gaunt 2015.
- 2014 Archaeological Training Field School, King John's Palace, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. The 2014 fieldschool focused on the intersection of geophysical anomalies representing possible ditches (Gaunt 2017). The excavation confirmed the dating of the medieval boundary ditch. An older ditch (possible enclosure) in the southwestern corner of Castle Field, was cut by the boundary ditch of the palace. It was suggested that this ditch/enclosure pre-date the palace site. Further information is available in Budge 2014(a).
- 2014 Geophysical Magnetic Survey at King John's Palace, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. This survey covered the whole of Castle Field, and detected anomalies including the boundary ditch (Gaunt 2010; Gaunt 2011; Budge 2014a, Gaunt et al 2015), and possible buildings. The results are published in Gaunt 2017.

- 2014 St. Edwin's Chapel, Kings Clipstone, Fieldwalking, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. This survey covered the field to the south of St Edwin's Chapel. The fieldwalking helped to confirm the location of the chapel through the presence of scattered building stone. Finds within the spread of stone included 13th- 14th century Nottingham type jug sherds, sherds from Brackenfield in Derbyshire, and a sherd of 15th-16th century Ticknall Cistercian Ware pot. Pot-boiler stones were also detected in a number of concentrations, but these are so far undated from around the field. The results are published in Budge 2014(b).
- 2014 St. Edwin's Chapel Geophysical Magnetic Survey, Kings Clipstone, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. The field south of St Edwin's Chapel was subject to a Magnetic Survey. Unfortunately conditions and problems with equipment resulted in poor results. The site is due to be re-surveyed by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in Autumn 2017. The results of the 2014 survey will then also be included in the the report for the 2017 work as an appendix.
- 2014 Standing Building Survey of Maun Cottage by James Wright for Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. A survey of Maun Cottage was undertaken by James Wright. Unfortunately at the time of publication (April 2017) no report exists for this work or has been received, and no communication has been received following the expiration of a negotiated deadline of April 2016.
- 2013 Digging the Demense, Test pitting project in Castle Field, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. This test-pitting project targeted the area in the west of Caste Field

interpreted as being in the Waterfield (Gaunt 2011). The excavations detected mainly plough-soils. Further information is published in Budge 2013.

- 2013 King Clipstone Village Project, test pitting in village to investigate settlement development, by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. This project excavated test-pit in the village, including 2 pits within the boundaries of the palace site. One test-pit revealed evidence of 'recycling' of palace material by a resident of the village. Here a small pit, early post-medieval, pit contained a dump of medieval glass from the palace site (more information is published in Budge & Gaunt 2013).
- 2013 Standing Building Survey of Brammer Farm House and Arundel Cottage by James Wright for Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. This survey detected and recorded in-situ medieval walls interpreted as the Gatehouse of the Palace. The report is published as Wright 2013.

3.2.2. 2009 - 2012, Start of modern research projects

- 2012 Boundary Ditch Excavation; Gaunt, Budge, Crossley and Wright. This project opened two trenches across the linear anomaly identified by Gaunt (2010) and suggested as the boundary of the "*Mannorgarth*" (Gaunt 2011). "*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” (Gaunt et al 2015).

- 2011 Time Team excavation. Wessex Archaeology. Seven trenches were excavated by Wessex Archaeology on behalf of Videotext Communications Ltd during April 2011. The majority of these lay close to the area of the Scheduled Monument. The Time Team excavations were the first major archaeological excavations within the site of the medieval royal palace at Clipstone. Although there are problems with the pottery dating for the Medieval period, (discovered during a re-assessment of the pottery archive for the site) and with the suggestion that there were no medieval cooking pottery vessels found (Young and Budge forthcoming), the excavations discovered a number of previously unknown features relating to the built environment of the palace. These include a wall to the southeast of the southwestern wall of the monument, on the same alignment. This could either suggest the building of which the ruin formed a part, is far larger than previously believed, or it could represent another building or perhaps representing a range of buildings. Its relationship to the ruin is not known but its alignment with the southwestern wall is clearly interesting. To the east of this feature, a probable robbed out wall was discovered on a similar orientation, but not on the same alignment. A buttress was discovered on the northeast side of the robbed out wall. This suggests that the interior of any building associated with the robbed out wall and buttress must have lain to the southwest.

To the northeast of the standing remains, a rectangular

building to the north of the standing ruins, but on a different alignment to them, was excavated (Wessex 2011, Brennan 2015).

Other possible walls and features were not excavated but were recorded in the geophysical surveys below. The full report can be found in Wessex 2011, and a publication of the results is seen in Brennan 2015.

- 2011 Ground Penetrating Radar Survey and Magnetometer Survey, King John's Palace, GSB Prospection. Undertaken during the filming of Time Team at King John's Palace in April 2011. Amongst the anomalies found was a rectangular response that was subsequently interpreted as a chapel by Wessex (Wessex 2011), also walls to adjacent to the northwest face of the standing ruin (Wessex 2011) these probably relate to the "*Tower*" suggested by Rahtz (1960), and a number of potential walls orientated parallel and perpendicular to the standing remains were detected on the southeast side of the monument, some of these walls were excavated (Wessex 2011).

The results of the survey although "*frustrating*" according to the report, have helped to located a large number of possible walls in and around the monument, that are the first major starting point in understanding more of the layout of the site, and are therefore a great asset to the archaeological record.

- 2011 3D and 2D Archaeological reconstruction of medieval designed romantic landscape of Clipstone: In 2011 Gaunt undertook a reconstruction of the landscape of medieval Clipstone in GIS and 3D software with data from the 1630

map of the lordship and other historic documents. (Gaunt 2011). This reconstruction in 2D and 3D and the accompanying reporting constituted the first major analysis of the landscape as a whole.

- 2010 Geophysical Resistance Survey: This survey by Gaunt covered the entire 11 acres of Castle Field. It was the first geophysical investigation on the site to cover the whole field, and not targeted merely on the immediate proximity of the standing ruins. The survey aimed at determining the boundaries, extent, and possible built environment of the site. The survey detected a number of anomalies that could represent parts of the built environment, as well as possible garden features. The main anomaly detected was a 160m long anomaly running northwest-southeast across Castle Field. This was interpreted as the boundary of “Mannorgarth” (Gaunt 2010). The report for the survey is available in Gaunt 2010.
- 2009 Level One Survey of parish by Gaunt and research for MA. Recorded the location of boundary oaks, and the suggested deer leap in Kings Wood to the north of the parish (Gaunt 2011).

3.2.3. 1991 - 2008, Consolidating the ruins

- 2008 Condition Survey of Monument by Peter Rogan (Chartered Architect and Historic Building Consultant) (Rogan 2008).
- 2008 Stone Amnesty, James Wright (Historic Buildings Assistant) Nottinghamshire County Council. The report for

this 2008 project by James Wright is unwritten (Historic Environment Record (HER) request last made in April 2017).

- 2004-5 Condition Survey of Monument, by Jason Mordan (Senior Practitioner in Historic Buildings) and James Wright (Historic Buildings Assistant), Nottinghamshire County Council; Photographic record, condition survey and structural analysis of monument. The results can be seen in Mordan and Wright (2005). Wright also published the results of the Mordan and Wright report in the Thoroton Transactions as Wright (2004).
- 2004 Geophysical Resistance and Magnetometer Survey by Peter Masters, PCA Archaeology. This identified a number of linear anomalies identified as robbed out foundation trenches, ditches and traces of earlier excavations (Masters 2004).
- 1991 Archaeological Investigation by Trent & Peak Archaeology during repairs to ruin. Excavations within the Scheduled Monument as part of reconstruction work to the ruin. The report was published in 2016 by Richard Sheppard.

The excavation's study area was set beneath "a gap about 5.5m long in the main north-south wall, whose rubble core is today about 1m thick. The excavations suggested that there was no ashlar facing to the inner wall of the ruin on the ground floor level- suggesting possibly only thickly applied plaster, as the foundations to the wall only extend out from the wall on the outer side to support ashlar, and on the "inner" side there is no such provision. The foundations on the northwest part of the wall extended down at least 1.5m.

A possible post medieval “*support wall*” was recorded on top of the medieval foundations, on the inner side. A gap in the wall foundations at the southern end of the excavated area suggest a door way lined on either side by ashlar stone. Sheppard also speculates a window on the same wall further to the north: “*Based on the limited evidence found: a gap in the foundation walling with a possible ashlar inner edge, the presence of an early yet secondary stub wall... and the showing of two former openings at this end of the monument on the Grose Print, the author suggests that there may have been at this north end of the monument’s main wall both a narrow doorway (possibly with steps leading down into an undercroft, later robbed) and an adjacent window to the north, which may have been partly infilled*” (Sheppard 2016).

- 1991 Fieldwalking of Castle Field by Trent & Peak Archaeology. One exceptional find was a jetton, found at “*some distance*” from the monument (No report, exists-discussion submitted as appendix in Sheppard 2016).

3.2.4.1950s, Earlier excavations:

- 1956 Evaluation excavations conducted by Philip Rahtz. In October 1956 Philip Rahtz excavated 2 long evaluation trenches extending outwards at right angles to the monument through its centre. A number of smaller trenches and inspection slots were also excavated in an attempt to trace features such as a posited boundary ditch. Finds included a possible Roman feature, post holes, pits and possible beamslots from the 12th or early 13th century. Rahtz interpreted the ruins as dating from the later 13th century

based on archaeological finds.

4. Research Aims and Objectives

The project ties in with Research Objective 7G - Estates, architecture and power: investigate the relationship between castles and great houses and their estates, as specified in *East Midlands Heritage- An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*. (Knight and Vyner et al).

The Project was also designed to answer Mercian Archaeological Services CIC's research questions into the landscape of Sherwood Forest. The project also ties into Mercian Archaeological Services CIC's long term research aims for understanding the boundaries and the layout of the site including the built environment.

5. Methodology

5.1. Geophysical Survey

5.1.1. Standards

The surveys and reporting were conducted in accordance with English Heritage guidelines, *Geophysical survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (David, Linford & Linford 2008); the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Draft Standard and Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey (2010); the IfA Technical Paper No.6, *The use of geophysical techniques in archaeological evaluations* (Gaffney, Gater &

Ovenden 2002); and the Archaeology Data Service Guide to Good Practice: *Geophysical Data in Archaeology* (draft 2nd edition, Schmidt & Ernenwein 2010).

5.1.2. Equipment

The survey was undertaken using a Bartington Grad601 fluxgate Gradiometer. This technique involves the use of hand-held magnetometers to detect and record anomalies in the vertical component of the Earth's magnetic field caused by variations in soil magnetic susceptibility or permanent magnetisation; such anomalies can be caused by archaeological features. The gradiometer works by measuring the earth's magnetic field at two separate sensors; one positioned 1 metre above the other. The lower of the two sensors is placed nearer to the ground surface and so is affected by magnetic variations in the soil. The signal is either higher or lower than the top sensors. This 'gradient' is recorded.

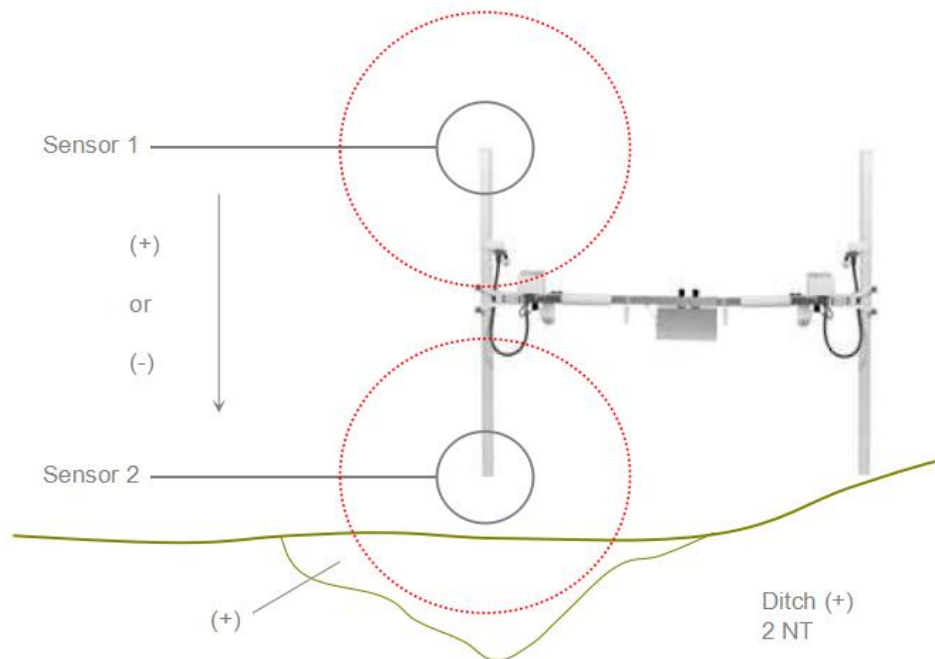


Figure 2: Fluxgate Gradiometer recording buried and in-filled ditch as a high magnetic anomaly. A. Gaunt © Mercian Archaeological Services CIC, 2015.

5.1.3. Magnetometry Fieldwork Methods

5.1.3.1. Survey Area

The survey area was chosen to maximise the coverage of Castle Field. A baseline was established parallel to the northern boundary of the field off-set south by a few metres to allow clearance east-west. A right angle was then created from the northeastern corner to run along the edge of the northeastern boundary of Castle Field. This baseline and right-angle formed the basis of the survey with the survey starting in the northeast corner of Castle Field. A 20m grid was then marked out established across the survey area using tapes and off-set measurements. The corners of grid squares were recorded to Ordnance Survey coordinates using a Leica Differential Geographic Positioning System (DGPS) survey instrument. DGPS is accurate to +/- 100mm (Crutchley 2010) which complies with English Heritage requirements for control of archaeological survey (Lutton 2003). The grid was re-established as necessary by staking out points using the DGPS

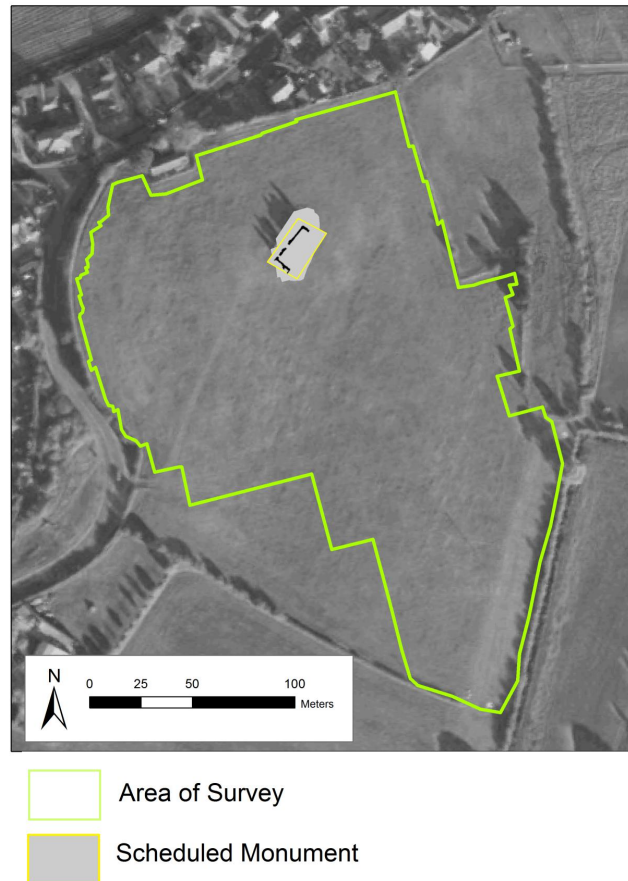


Figure 3: Locations of area of Magnetometer survey. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2017. Contains Image © Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

5.1.2.2.2. Measurements

Measurements of vertical geomagnetic field gradient were determined using Bartington Grad601 dual fluxgate gradiometer. A parallel traverse scheme was employed and data were logged in 20m grid units. The instrument sensitivity was nominally 0.03nT, the sample interval was 0.25m and the traverse interval was 1m.

5.1.2.2.3. Data

Data was downloaded on site onto a laptop for initial processing and storage. The data was then backed up onto Mercian's data network, with copies made of the data for processing.

5.1.2.3. Interpretation and archiving

5.1.2.3.1 Data processing

A combination of Snuffler version 1.14, and Geoplot v.3 software was used to process the geophysical data and to produce a continuous tone greyscale image of the raw (minimally processed) data. A plot of filtered data is also provided. The greyscale images and interpretations are presented below. A palette bar relates the greyscale intensities to anomaly values in nanoTesla.

5.1.2.3.2.

The following basic processing functions have been applied to the geomagnetic data:

5.1.2.3.2.1. Clip.

This clips data to specified maximum or minimum values; to eliminate large noise spikes; also generally makes statistical calculations more realistic.

5.1.2.3.2.2. ZMT

ZMT or Zero Mean traverse. This sets the background mean of each traverse within a grid to zero; used for removing striping effects in the traverse direction and removing grid edge discontinuities.

5.1.2.3.2.3. Interpolate

This increases the number of data points in a survey to match

sample and traverse intervals; in this instance the data have been interpolated to 0.25m x 0.25m intervals

5.1.2.3.2.4. **Destripe**

This is used to remove error caused during data collection, due to problems maintaining a regular pace walking traverses.

5.1.2.3.3. **Anomaly types**

A colour-coded geophysical interpretation plan is provided. Three types of geomagnetic anomaly have been distinguished in the data:

5.1.2.3.3.1. **Positive**

Positive magnetic regions of anomalously high or positive magnetic field gradient, which may be associated with high magnetic susceptibility soil-filled structures such as pits and ditches.

5.1.2.3.3.2. **Negative**

Negative magnetic regions of anomalously low or negative magnetic field gradient, which may correspond to features of low magnetic susceptibility such as wall footings and other concentrations of sedimentary rock or voids.

5.1.2.3.3.3

Disturbance

Magnetic

Magnetic Disturbance high amplitude and can be composed of either a bipolar anomaly, or a single polarity response. It represents magnetic interference from modern from items such as fencing, vehicles or buildings. It is commonly found around the perimeter of a site near to boundary fences.

5.1.2.3.3.4. Dipolar

Dipolar magnetic paired positive-negative magnetic anomalies, which typically reflect ferrous or fired materials (including fences and service pipes) and/or fired structures such as kilns or hearths.

5.1.2.3.3.5. Bipolar

A bipolar anomaly is one that is composed of both a positive response and a negative response. It can be made up of any number of positive responses and negative responses. For example a pipeline.

5.1.2.3.3.6. Interpretation

Plot

A colour-coded archaeological interpretation plan is provided. Except where stated otherwise in the text below, positive magnetic anomalies are taken to reflect relatively high magnetic susceptibility materials, typically sediments in cut archaeological features (such as ditches or pits) whose magnetic susceptibility has been enhanced by decomposed organic matter or by burning.

5.2. Data preparation and analysis.

All data was processed in QGIS Geographic Information Systems (GIS), including the production of maps and interpretation plots.

5.3. Archiving and reporting:

5.3.1. OASIS

An OASIS entry pertaining to the work has been created. The OASIS identifier for the project is OASIS ID - merciana2-193064.

5.3.2 Historic Environment Record

A copy of the report has been logged with the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

5.3.3. Public Dissemination online

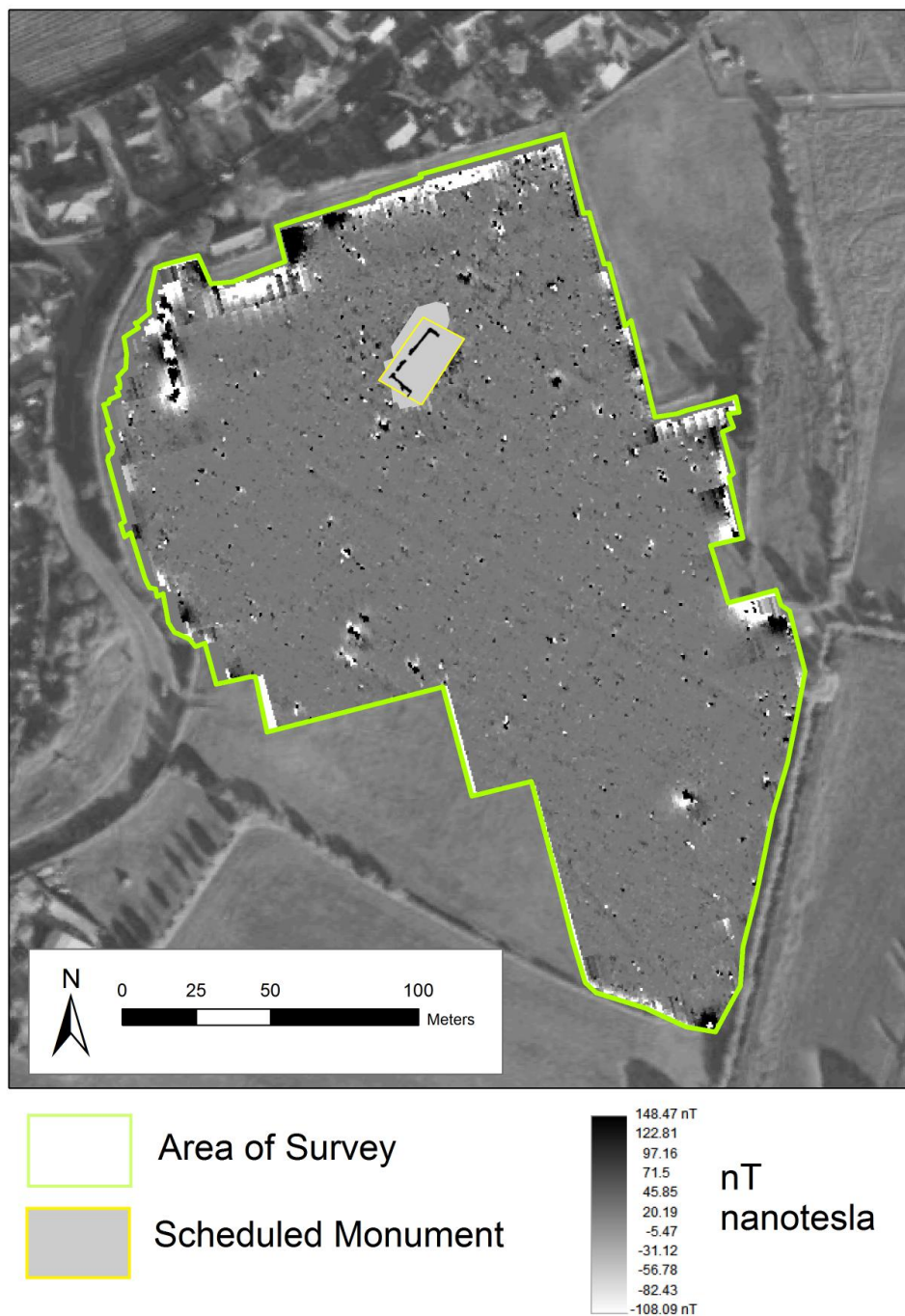
Mercian will also publish free downloadable versions of the report via our website.

5.4. Community Archaeology

As a community archaeology company Mercian Archaeological Services CIC are experts in involving members of the public in archaeological projects. Alongside seeking to answer various archaeological research questions; the project was designed to engage local people in the heritage and history of Clipstone,

Sherwood Forest and the King John's Palace site through participation in archaeological fieldwork. The fieldwork was undertaken with the help of volunteers and local community members. Photographs can be seen in the Appendix.

6. Results



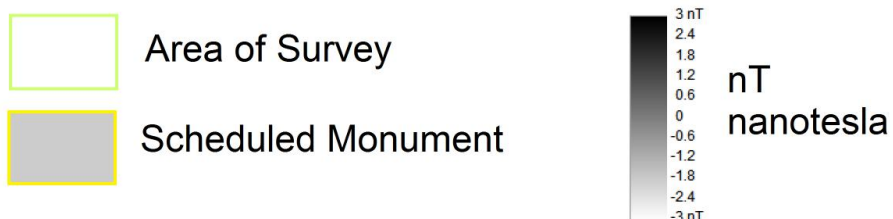


Figure 5: Results of Magnetometer Survey Clipped to +/- 3nT. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2017. Contains Image © Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc



Figure 6: Results of Magnetometer Survey Clipped to +/- 0.75nT. Contains OS data
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Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7 contain the results of the magnetometer survey of Castle Field undertaken in 2014. Figure 4 is a greyscale plot of the raw data. Figure 5 is a greyscale plot of the data set clipped to +/- 3 Nanotesla (nT). In this image a

greyscale colour ramp represents all the data. The data has been clipped so that any value equal to or above $+3\text{nT}$ is displayed as being $+3\text{nT}$, and any data equal to or below -3nT is displayed as -3nT . The colour ramp is applied to all other values between $+3\text{nT}$ and -3nT . The greyscale therefore has a variation of 6nT . All values of $+3\text{nT}$ and -3nT are displayed in figure 7.

Figure 6 is also a greyscale plot with the data clipped to $\pm 0.75\text{nT}$. In this image a greyscale colour ramp represents all the data. The data has been clipped so that any value equal to or above $+0.75\text{nT}$ is displayed as being $+0.75\text{nT}$, and any data equal to or below -0.75nT is displayed as -0.75nT . The colour ramp is applied to all other values between $+0.75\text{nT}$ and -0.75nT . The greyscale therefore has a variation of 1.5nT . All values of $+0.75\text{nT}$ and -0.75nT are also displayed in figure 7.

Figure 7 displays high and low magnetic anomalies from the image in figures 5 and 6. Data from Figure 5 with a positive polarity of $+3\text{nT}$ and over are depicted in dark blue. Slightly lower positive magnetic anomalies ($+0.75\text{nT}$) from figure 6 are displayed in figure 7 in light blue. Data from Figure 5 with a negative polarity of -3nT and over are depicted in red. Slightly lower negative magnetic anomalies (-0.75nT) from figure 6 are displayed in figure 7 in pink.

The higher dark blue positive magnetic values are overlain on the slightly lower light blue values. The stronger negative values in red are overlain on the slightly lower pink values.

This combination of weaker anomalies and stronger anomalies combined allows a greater chance to detect any patterns in the data and is intended to allow more ephemeral features to be displayed.

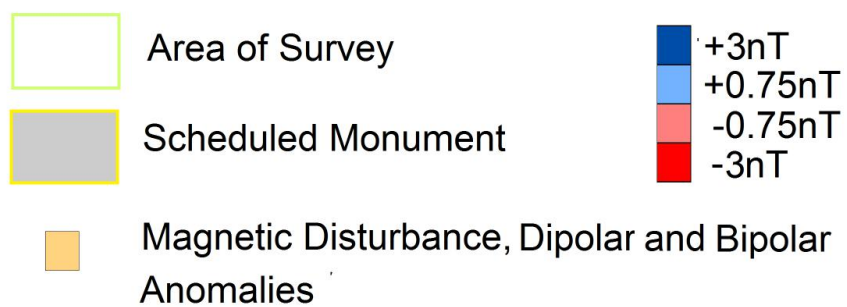
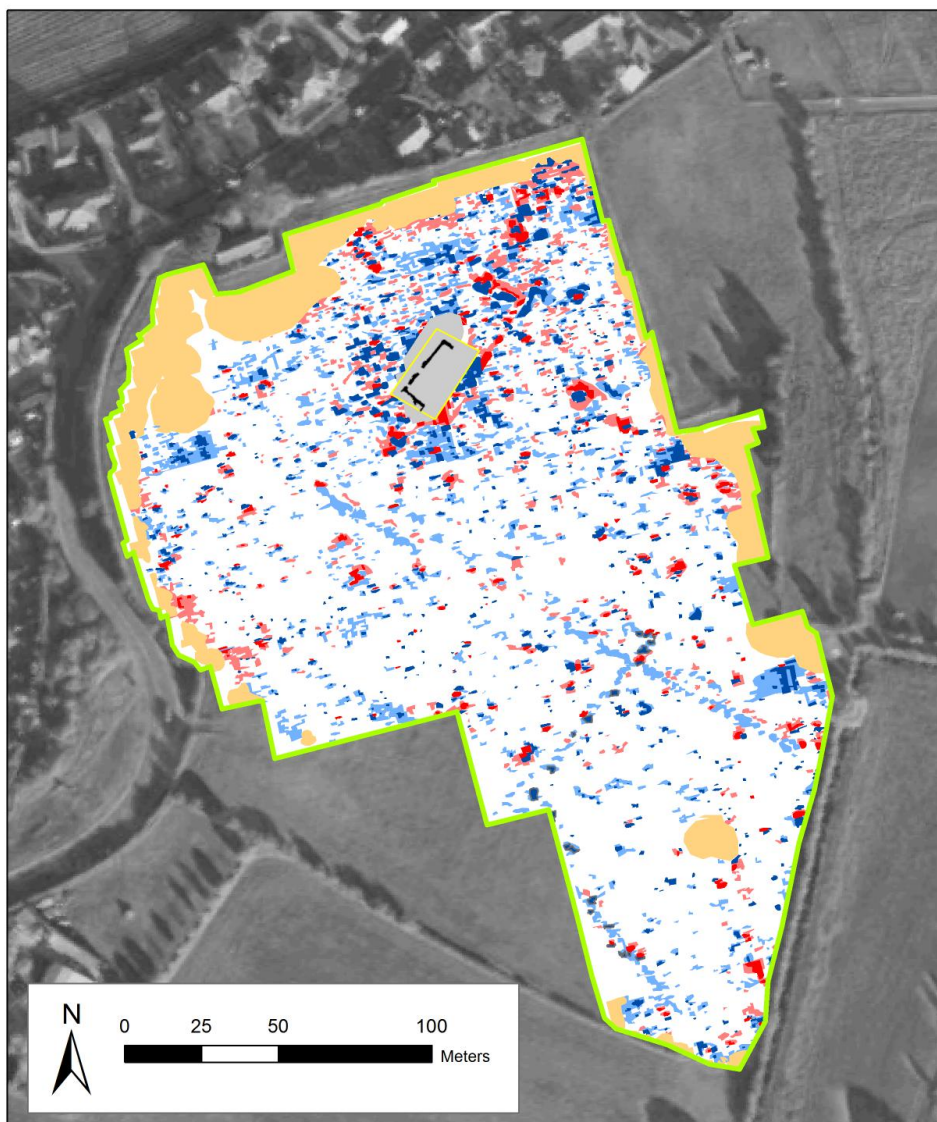


Figure 7: High and Low Magnetic Anomalies.
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It is clear from the results that there is a heavy clustering of anomalies in the norther part of the surveyed area, on all sides of the standing ruins, and extending northeastwards. This can be seen in figures 5, 6 and 7 collectively. Many of these features form right angled and linear anomalies and trends that could reflect anthropogenic features. There are also other clear anomalies and trends visible in the data set and the interpretation plots which will be discussed below in relation to the numbering system in figure 9. Following this various interpretations will be proposed in section 7. *Interpretations and conclusions*.

Figure 8 shows anomalies caused by magnetic disturbance, bipolar, and dipolar anomalies. The anomalies on the edges of the survey area particularly on the northern, eastern and western sides are caused by magnetic disturbance caused by exposure to metal either below surface, or by proximity to metal objects. The areas of magnetic disturbance on the edges of the survey area marked as "*disturbance from fencing*" on the plot in figure 8 because they are caused by metal in fencing, or in fencing within the hedgerows enclosing the field. Two dipolar anomalies, one on the eastern edge of the southern part of the site (a), and one sub-circular anomaly towards the centre of the field in the southeastern part (b) are caused by overhead power cable pylons. The area marked in red on figure 8 is a linear Bipolar anomaly caused by a buried metal pipe (Mr M Bradley pers comm). Two dipolar anomalies are marked (c) and (d) on figure 8, and could represent buried ferrous material. The largest anomaly in the cluster of dipolar anomalies has a polarity of $\pm 96\text{nT}$, and could represent an area of thermoremnance or burning. Dipolar anomalies are marked (e), (f) and (g). Anomaly (e) may represent a buried ferrous signal. Anomalies (f) and (g) may represent areas of burning or

thermoremnance. Dipolar anomaly (f) has a polarity of $\pm 90\text{nT}$, and Dipolar anomaly (g) has a polarity of $\pm 50\text{nT}$.

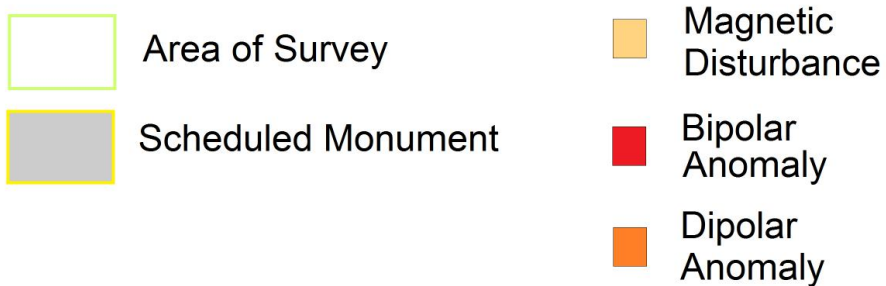
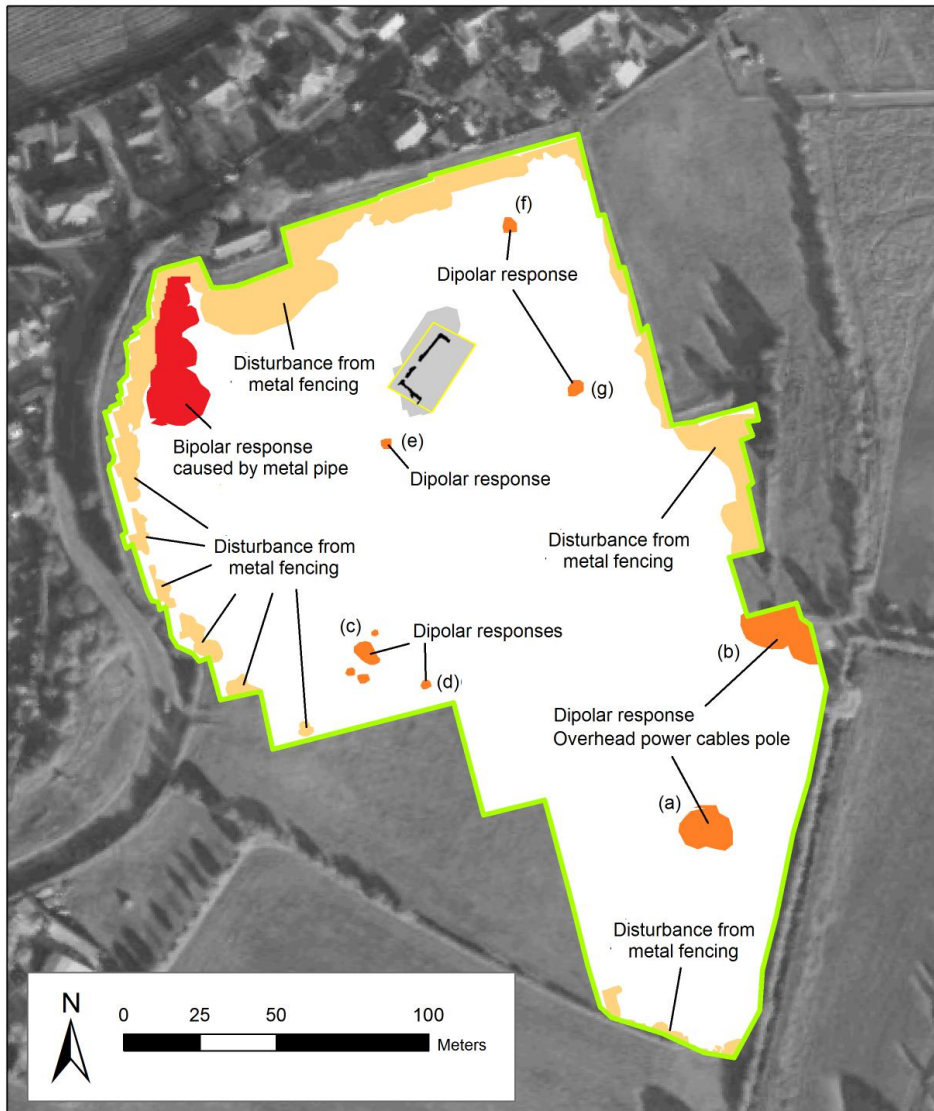


Figure 8: Magnetic Disturbance, Bipolar, and Dipolar Anomalies.
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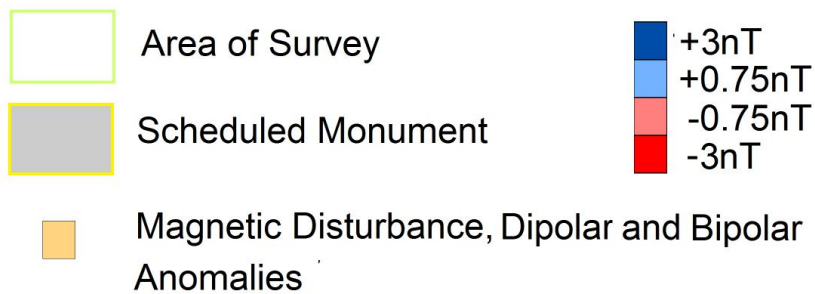
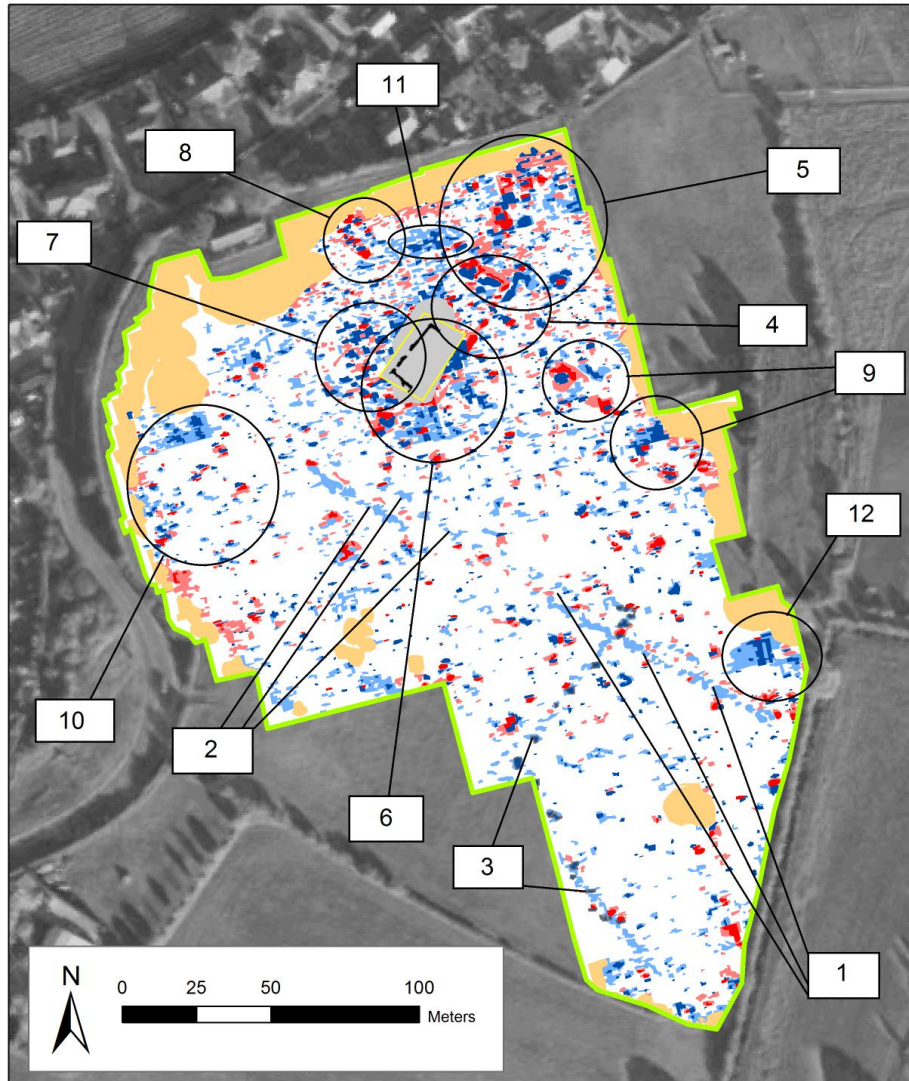


Figure 9: Magnetometer Results Plot.
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Anomalies 1 and 2 as identified in figure 9 are parts of a linear anomaly which runs approximately 180m from northwest to southeast across Castle Field. Although appearing in figure 9 to consist of a number of discrete areas of primarily lower positive

(+0.75nT, light blue) polarity anomalies; when the evidence from figures 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 are all compared together the feature can be seen to consist of a linear which has a higher polarity responses along its edges and relatively neutral polarity along parts in the centre. The feature does in places have small patches of low magnetic anomalies along its length. The linear anomaly is up to 5 metres in width.

To the south of feature 1 is feature 3 a linear positive polarity (0.75nT) magnetic anomaly, orientated northeast to southwest. The feature appears turn to the southeast at its southwestern end and could continue to the southeast as a linear positive magnetic (0.75nT) anomaly.

In the area in the north of the survey area, there is a concentration of anomalies surrounding the standing ruin. Feature 4 is a series of low magnetic anomalies which appear to be at right angles to each other. The anomalies (red and pink) appear to form a rectangular feature which is orientated on a similar alignment to the standing ruin on its northeastern side. On the southeastern side of the low magnetic linear anomalies, are a series of high magnetic linear anomalies also seeming to be at right angles to each other.

To the northeast of the anomalies (5) is a large collection of high and low magnetic anomalies forming shapes include right angular lines and solid blocks which appear to be distributed in a rough line running from feature 4 northeastwards to the north corner of the survey area.

Areas 6 and 7 are formed of a mix of linear, right angled and blocks of high and low magnetic anomalies to the south and west of the standing ruins.

Feature 8 in figure 9 represents an area of alternating high and

low magnetic circular anomalies that form a possible angular 'C-shaped' feature consisting of two parallel lines orientated northwest to southeast, with a similar line of high and low magnetic sub-circular features appearing to form a line joining the two parallel lines to form on the northwestern edge.

The area highlighted as '9' on figure 9 forms two separate clusters of high and low magnetic anomalies 35 metres and 60 metres respectively; to the southeast of the standing ruin and the concentration of anomalies surrounding it. The northwesterly of these two clusters of anomalies includes a high anomaly coloured dark blue, surrounded by a low magnetic area, roughly circular in shape. This is a dipolar anomaly. This is the dipolar anomaly labelled (vii) in figure 8. The area marked 10 is a loose cluster of anomalies on the western side of the site, they will be discussed in section 7 below.

Anomalies 11 and 12 may be the result of slight errors in data collection. The area of high magnetic anomalies in area 10 lie at the opposite end of a grid square to magnetic disturbance caused by fencing on the northern side of the grid square. In this instance the high magnetic anomalies terminate exactly in line with the southern edge of a data grid. In such circumstances where anomalies line up precisely with data grids, they should be treated with caution. This is also the case with the western parts of the high magnetic anomalies in area 12 in figure 9. The more eastern part of the high magnetic anomalies in area 12 are caused by a modern concreted drain. The anomalies and trends discussed above will be discussed in the interpretation and conclusions below. Most of the anomalies and trends discussed below are orientated either to features (standing ruin), or are orientated in a different direction to the direction of data collection. Trends or anomalies parallel or perpendicular to the direction of data collection are not included.

7. Interpretations and conclusions

The image in figure 10 is a plot of the outlines of anomalies, and of linear trend derived from the data collected and displayed in figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Figure 11 contains the features numbered that form the interpretations and the discussion below.

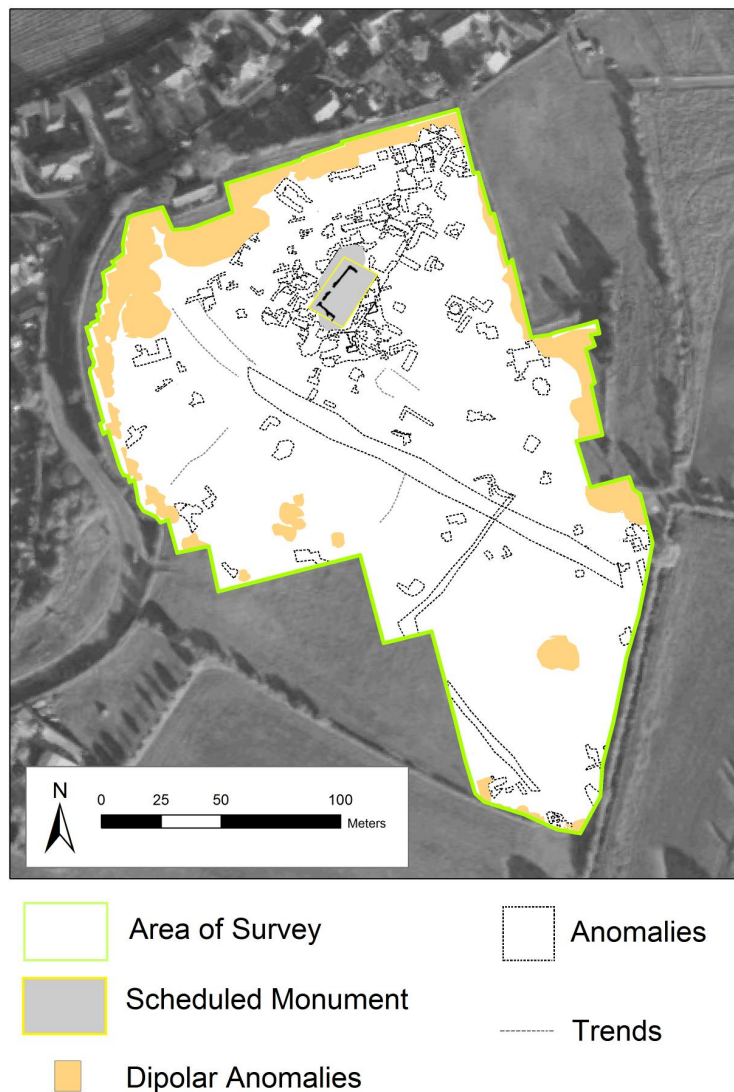


Figure 10: Anomalies and Trends.
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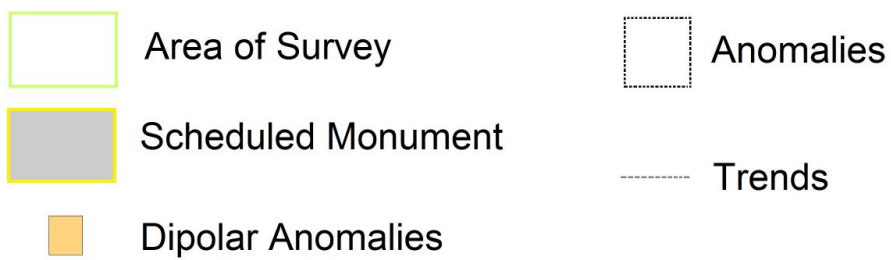
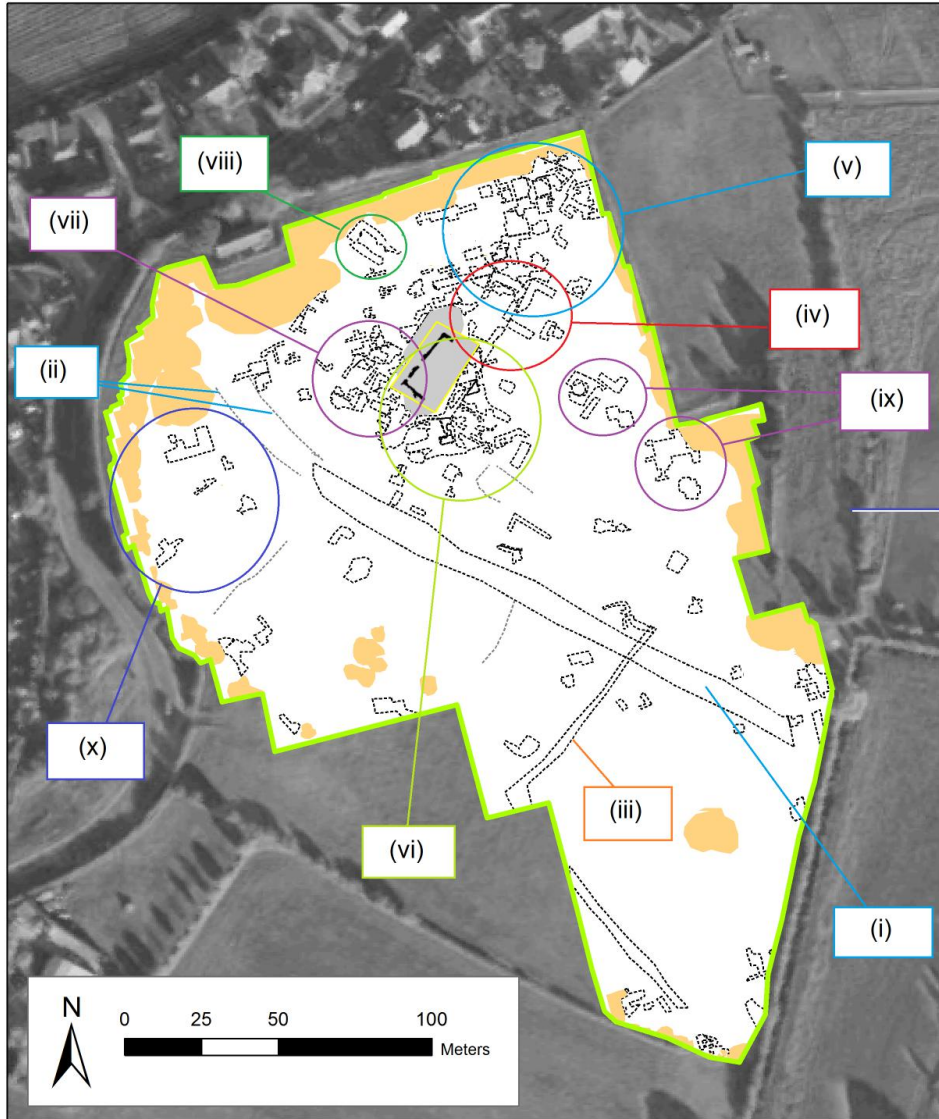


Figure 11: Anomalies and Trends Interpretation Plot.
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Anomaly (i) (1 and 2 in figure 9) represents the late 13th to 14th century medieval boundary ditch of a part of the palace complex on the southwestern side. This feature has been confirmed

through excavation in 2011 (Wessex 2011), in 2012 (Gaunt et al 2015), and by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2014 (Budge 2014a). The feature was first detected by Gaunt in 2010, and its dating was confirmed by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC during the 2014 excavations (Budge 2014a). When viewed on figure 4, 5, and 6, the feature can be seen to form a gentle reverse 'S' shape. This shape is indicative of medieval ploughing, and may suggest that this part of the boundary was extended over a pre-existing medieval field. The medieval Waterfield lies further to the West (Gaunt 2011), and the area immediately adjacent to the boundary on the 'outside' or southern side formed the "*Demense*" for the palace in medieval times (Gaunt 2011, Gaunt and Budge 2013, Gaunt and Wright 2013, Gaunt et al 2015).

The feature labelled (ii) is a pair of parallel curvilinear linear trends seen in the Magnetometer survey results in figures 4, 5 and 6. They may represent the continuation of a boundary to the north of where anomaly (i) terminates. This is the first visible trend reflecting the possible location of a boundary north of the termination of feature (i). Historic maps from 1630, 1766, and 1841 (Budge 2015) show a number of possible boundaries for the site over time. The boundary is shown to have split at the northern end of feature (i), and taken a number of different routes over time. An enclosure is formed by this split which is shown to contain a property in 1630. The features labelled (x) may represent ephemeral features within this enclosure. Ceramics from within this enclosure show occupation from pre-palace through to post-palace times (Budge 2015). To the south of (x) is a faint linear trend running northeast-southwest which may represent a boundary to the possible area of (x). Further interpretation of the boundaries of the site in the location of feature (ii) and (x) will be presented in the archive report for the

Discover King John's Palace excavations in 2015 (Budge forthcoming).

The linear positive magnetic anomaly (iii) in figure 11 (3 figure 9) was confirmed by excavation in 2014 to be a ditch. The feature was cut by the medieval boundary ditch (i) and was shown by pottery to pre-date the palace. The feature may form and enclosure of Saxon , Roman or prehistoric date (Budge 2014a).

The linear anomalies labelled (iv) (4 in figure 9) may possibly represent the former location of buildings. The negative magnetic anomalies (red and pink in figure 9) appear to form a rectangular feature which is orientated on a similar alignment to the standing ruin on its northeastern side. If these linear anomalies do form a single building then the weak nature of the response does not suggest that the full outline of a building is preserved. The anomaly may represent rubble now occupying a robber cut. If this is a building it could be over 23 metres in length by over 10 metres in width. On the southeastern side of the low magnetic linear anomalies, are a series of positive magnetic linear anomalies also seeming to be at right angles to each other. These anomalies may also represent the location of a former building, and may represent robber trenches filled with top soil, leading to slight magnetic enrichment of the subsoil.

The linear cluster of high and low magnetic anomalies in the north of the survey area (v), shown as 5 in figure 9. These anomalies form a collection of high and low magnetic anomalies forming shapes include right angular lines and solid blocks which appear to be distributed in a rough line running from feature (iv) northeastwards to the north corner of the survey area. These may represent the foundations and robbed out remains of a possible range of buildings. This area also contains dipolar response (f) from figure 8. The location of this

possible area of burning, in an area of possible buildings, could suggest it represents a hearth.

Feature (vi) is a cluster of anomalies to the south of the standing ruin. These may well represent the robbed out remains of foundations of buildings. They may also contain disturbance from the excavations from Time Team in 2011 on both the southern and western sides of the ruin. Excavations on the southern side of the monument found evidence of a robbed out wall on the same orientation as the southwestern wall of the standing ruin, and a buttress and robbed out wall trench further east of this (Wessex 2011). Interestingly none of Rahtz's long linear trenches (Rahtz 1960) have been detected by the survey, neither has the ditch he excavated that and posited as the 12th century boundary of the site (Rahtz 1960).

Feature (vii) may be the remains of up to three buildings on the north side of the standing ruin, situated to the north of the ruin on its northwestern side. There may also be evidence of a small part of the feature identified by Rahtz as a possible tower (Rahtz 1960) which he interpreted as projecting from the north end of the northwest face of the ruin.

This all begins to suggest a large number of buildings adjacent to, or in front of the northwest face of the ruin, as well as to the northeast, southeast, and southwest sides.

In between the right angled linear anomalies mentioned above, positive and negative anomalies surrounding the ruins may represent archaeological features associated with the palace. They may also reflect a large covering of demolition rubble in this area. Excavations in 2015 demonstrated a large concentration of building stone in the vicinity of the monument on the northern side (Budge 2015). This was also the case on the southern side in the area surrounding the ruin (Wessex

2011).

Anomaly 8 (viii) (8 on figure 9) may represent the outline of a building to the north of the ruin. It is possible, if this is the case, that this building could form the possible southwestern range of a courtyard to the north, and bordered on the southern side by the range of possible buildings (iv). This courtyard might extend to the gatehouse in the north. This of course is speculation and cannot be proven in any way at this stage. However the purpose of the survey is to begin the process of understanding the layout of the site, its boundaries and built environment, and such an idea is not beyond the realms of possibility.

The survey has helped to suggest the possible extent of the main built environment of the palace site, which is displayed in Figure 12 below. Outside of this built up area; 35 metres to the southeast of the ruin, feature (ix) contains a series of anomalies that may also represent buildings away from the main built environment of the palace. The northwestern-most of these anomalies includes the dipolar response (g) from figure 8. Its locations in and around an area of posited buildings may suggest that this anomaly was a hearth.

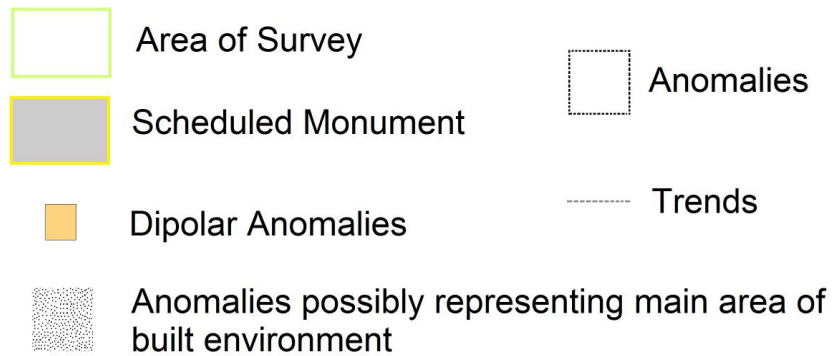
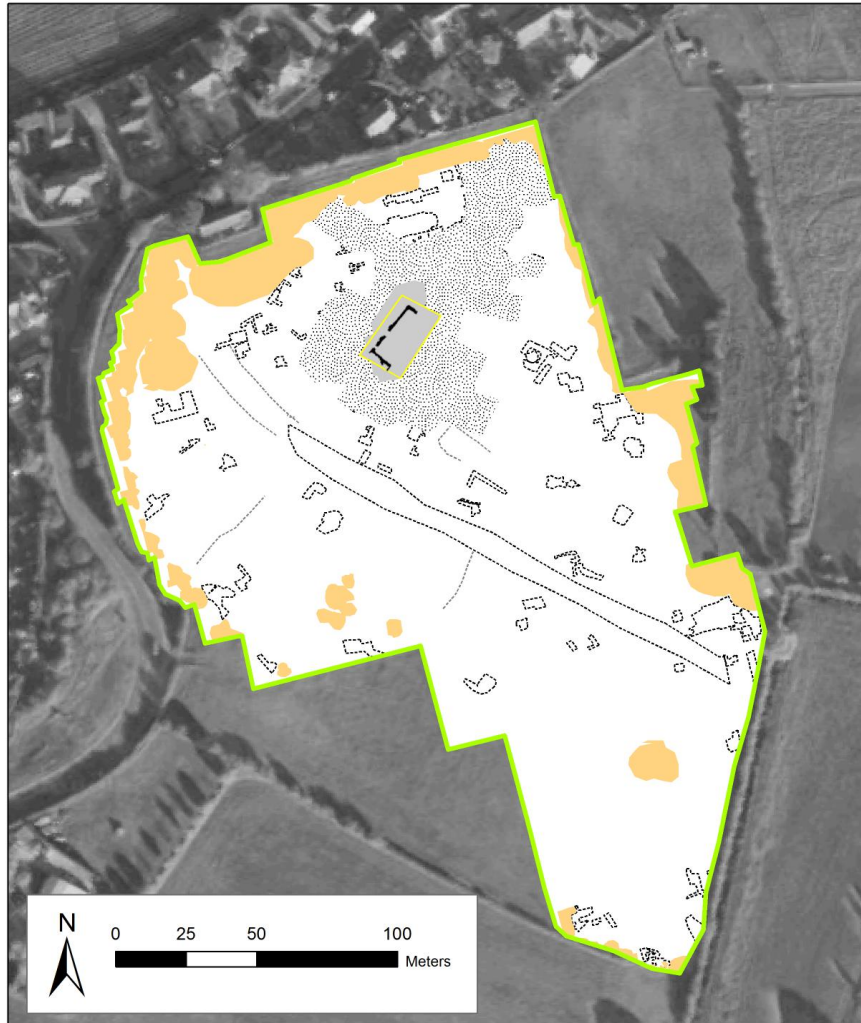


Figure 12: Anomalies and Trends and possible area of main built environment.
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It is important to state that a geophysical magnetometer survey records and maps anomalies. It does not map archaeological features. It is possible, and even probable that these anomalies

are anthropogenic in origin and therefore represent archaeological remains. The lines and outlines displayed in figures 10, 11, and 12 which are used as part of the discussion relating to interpretations and conclusions do not claim to portray the actual location of buildings. They display the locations of anomalies and trends that may be worthy of further investigation, and may be used to help begin the process of understanding the site of King John's Palace. They should not be used to confirm the presence of buildings or to create a map of the site, unless they are subsequently confirmed by excavation. The process of understanding a site as large and complex as the site of the former "*King's Houses*" at Clipstone, known as King John's Palace is a long and slow one, that will take decades. It requires a multidisciplinary approach covering a wide range of surveys, excavations, and research. The site was not only a medieval royal palace, there are artefacts and remains extending from the Mesolithic to the present day, and unpicking all aspects of the occupation of the site over thousands of years will take years of painstaking work.

This project forms part of a much larger body of work by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC that is beginning to reveal the picture of the site at King John's Palace, and its surrounding landscape. This research archaeology is able to function outside of the usually time restraints and time demands of the planning system, and as a result more thorough results and discussions can take place. It is hoped that the data and images produced as part of this survey can go some way towards contributing to this process.

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Appendix

Community Archaeology Photographs

Geophysical Magnetometer Survey at King John's Palace in Sherwood Forest.
Castle Field, Waterfield Farm, Kings Clipstone, Nottinghamshire.



Geophysical Magnetometer Survey at King John's Palace in Sherwood Forest.
Castle Field, Waterfield Farm, Kings Clipstone, Nottinghamshire.



Geophysical Magnetometer Survey at King John's Palace in Sherwood Forest.
Castle Field, Waterfield Farm, Kings Clipstone, Nottinghamshire.

