



**Topographic Survey at King John's Palace
In Sherwood Forest
Castle Field, Waterfield Farm, Kings Clipstone,
Nottinghamshire.
(SK 60333 64766).**

Topographic Survey Report

**Andy Gaunt
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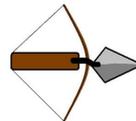
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Report MAS011



The Official Research

The Sherwood Forest



Archaeology Project



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

Topographic Survey Report

1. Summary

A Topographic Survey was undertaken by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in Castle Field, Waterfield Farm, King's Clipstone, Nottinghamshire during August 2013. The site contains the ruins of King John's Palace which is a scheduled monument number M4100. The Scheduled Monument only covers a small part of the survey area, which covered over 11 acres. The site is in the ownership of Michelle (Mickie) Bradley of Waterfield farm King's Clipstone.

The standing ruins form part of what was once an extensive medieval royal hunting palace in Sherwood Forest.

The topographic survey took the form of an objective survey using Leica Differential survey grade Global Positioning System (DGPS). The survey was designed to gather large volumes of data rapidly to allow a 3 Dimensional Digital Terrain Model (DTM) of the entirety of Castle Field to be produced in order to look for features previously undetected.

A Geophysical Resistance Survey by Gaunt (2010) had previously detected a large linear anomaly running northwest to southeast across Castlefield. This was interpreted by Gaunt as the boundary of the "Mannorgarth" depicted on the William Senior Map of Clipstone from 1630 (Gaunt 2010, 2011). It was speculated that this feature could represent the boundary of the Medieval Palace site (Gaunt 2010, 2011). Excavation of the feature in 2012 revealed a large ditch (Gaunt, Wright, Crossley & Budge 2015). A buried soil in one of the excavation trenches was postulated as the possible vertically truncated remains of a boundary bank on the eastern side of the ditch. It was posited

that this bank could represent the internal bank of the linear ditch and could have formed part a boundary to the site. The buried soil contained a single piece of worn pottery dating from the 13th- 14th century. It was not possible to prove for certain the existence of a bank through excavation in 2012, with only one of the two trenches excavated showing evidence of the buried soil (Gaunt et al 2015). A preceding excavation of the feature (Wessex 2011), and a subsequent excavation by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2014 did not record evidence of a bank. The 2014 excavation did however successfully date the ditch to the later 13th to earlier 14th century (Budge 2014a). Magnetometer survey by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC also detected the boundary ditch (Gaunt 2014; 2017).

The topographic survey undertaken here found a large linear banked feature running northwest to southeast, on the eastern side of the line of the infilled ditch. This is the first most convincing demonstrable evidence of a possible internal bank for the medieval ditch so far recorded.

The survey also helped to further demonstrate that the standing ruin is not located on the highest part of the site, but towards the end of a spur of land formed by the confluence of the River Maun and Vicar Water, identified previously by Gaunt (2011). The topographic survey also detected a "terrace" of land running east west across the southwestern part of the site to the south of the high ground. This terrace was subject to test-pitting in 2013 (Budge 2013). Whether this terrace is natural or the result of human activity is yet to be proven.

The survey also discovered a plateau of land to the north and northwest of the standing ruin, which Geophysical survey by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC (Gaunt 2017) and archaeological test-pitting by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC (Budge 2015) have suggested this area was a major part of the built environment of the medieval palace site.

As well as helping to detect the presence of features reported below, the data collected will form part of ongoing research by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC into the Palace site, and it's surrounding "*designed romantic medieval landscape*" interpreted by Gaunt (Gaunt 2011).

The survey data collected here used a trial method of rapid data collection using motor vehicles to transport the DGPS around the site. The data was partly an experiment in using this technique. The results proved the method of data collection to be very successful.

Mercian Archaeological Services CIC have decided that the results were of high significance to the understanding of the site, and so warranted publication here, and therefore the opportunity for public dissemination.

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 cow-shed, 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 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 bovate 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 (Milesen 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 2012).

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

5.2.1. Topographic survey methodology

5.2.1.1 Equipment

The survey was undertaken using differential survey grade Global Positioning System (GPS). The GPS system used was a Leica GPS Viva enabled to use Smartnet technology. This GPS system operates using Differential GPS (DGPS), where corrections are made to errors in the location data received from the satellites. The GPS rover was set to record either continuously or to take static points, depending on requirements as recommended in Ainsworth,

S. & Thomason, B. (2003). The DGPS device is mounted on a 2 metre high carbon fiber pole. The height of the pole is entered into the DGPS. The DGPS is therefore held by the operator 2m above the ground to help improve communication with satellites and mobile phone signals. The DGPS records its location in 3D, receives corrections from a remote source to correct its location, and then removes the 2m staff height before recording and storing its location in a data logger.

5.2.2.2. Control of survey

'Control is the accurate framework of carefully measured points within which the rest of the survey is fitted' (Ainsworth, et al. 2007). Section 2.1 Control of Survey in Metric Survey Specifications for English Heritage (Lutton 2003) states that metric survey 'must provide reliable and repeatable control capable of generating the required coordinates within the tolerances stated' (Lutton 2003). As well as falling within the accepted tolerance levels, this technique also fulfills the requirement that the control must be repeatable.

5.2.2.3. Topographic survey method

The survey was undertaken using objective survey techniques. Static points were recorded around the site, including the boundaries, fences and hedgerows. The outline of the standing ruin was also recorded. Alongside static points the rover was also set to record continuously to enable large amounts of data to be recorded on the fly.

The objective, systematic survey was carried out over the area marked out in figure 2 below. This is an area of over 11 acres.

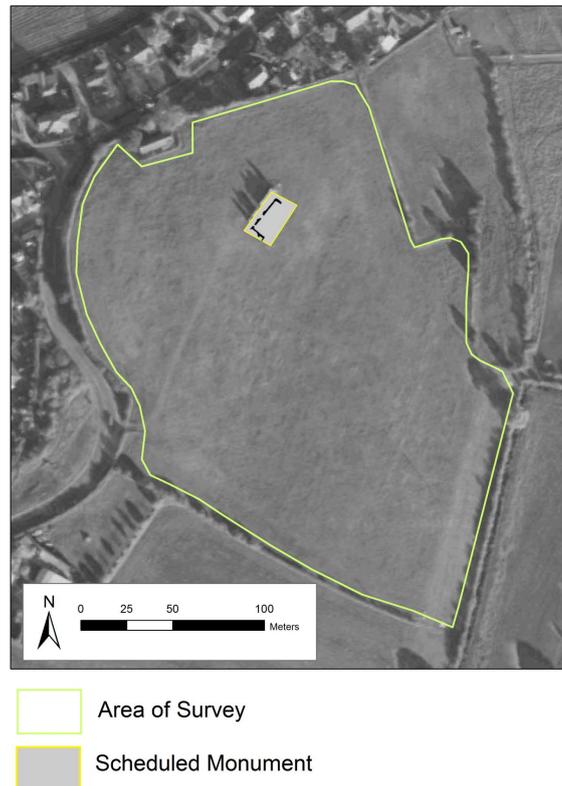


Figure 2: Location of area of Objective Topographic Survey. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2017. Contains Image © Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

Alongside static points, points were logged in continuous mode on foot. In this method the user holds the device and 2m pole above the ground and walks around collecting data. A 10cm off-set value is entered into the device to account for the device being lifted. The user has hold the base of the pole 10cm above the ground and must maintain this 10cm offset throughout the survey. The pole must also be held in a vertical position throughout.

For this survey it was decided to test a different method of rapid data collection by fitting the GPS device into a motor vehicle. The GPS was securely fixed, and it's height from the ground measured. The device was then set to collect data points every 0.25m as it moved around the site (see plate 1). 'On the fly' data collection enables large amounts of data to be collected. The trade-off for the ability to collected large numbers of data points in comparison to points acquired by static data collection; is a reduction in accuracy,

and a possibility of errors entering the data. This error can come from movement of the device when held by a person, and human error in maintaining the correct offset height for the pole, and failing to hold the pole vertically.

The experimental method of using motor vehicles was designed to see if these possible human errors could be reduced while increasing the rate of collection. In order to minimise the effects of bumps and undulation caused from the suspension, the motor vehicles were driven at slow speed. The data suggests that the technique resulted in smoother data collection than data collected by walking, and a more reliable maintenance of the offset height value than through carrying by hand. The device could be swapped between vehicles and the heights measured and entered into the device easily before continuing with the survey. This method allowed a large volume of points to be collected rapidly. Within the stated requirements for the survey this method of data collection proved extremely successful. The data points collected by all the data collection methods can be seen in figure 3.



Plate 1: Data collection using mounted survey grade DGPS on a motor vehicle for rapid data collection.



- Data point collected by DGPS Objective Topographic Survey

Figure 3: Data point coverage from objective survey.
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Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

5.2.2. Data preparation and analysis.

All data was processed in QGIS Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software.

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 - merciana2-282265

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 Archaeological Services CIC will also publish free downloadable versions of this report via our website.

6. Results

The survey has helped to demonstrate how the site is situated in its landscape. The site occupies the eastern end of a spur of land as described above. This spur of land forms a ridge running westwards from the site between two valleys. Its highest point is further to the west of the site. The highest part of the surveyed area is at 74.68 meters ODN (Ordnance Datum Newlyn, or sea level. All levels given below are in Ordnance Datum Newlyn). This is at the most westerly part of Castle Field (this can be seen in figure 4 represented as white in the greyscale image, and in figure 5 in white through to purple).

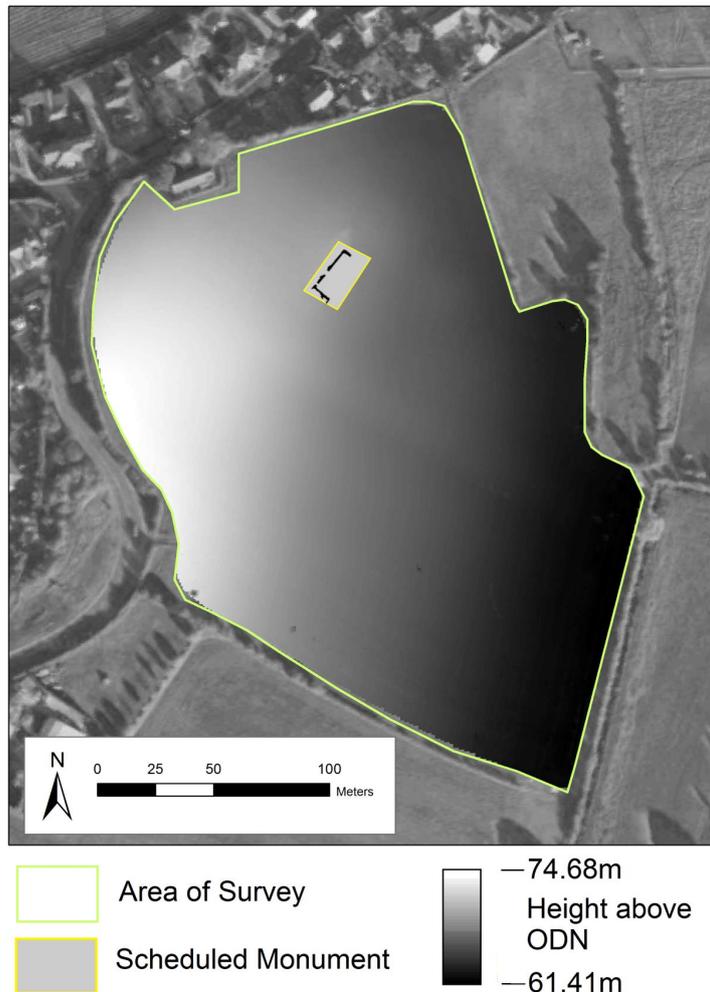


Figure 4: Topographic Survey Results, 2017. Image File.
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Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

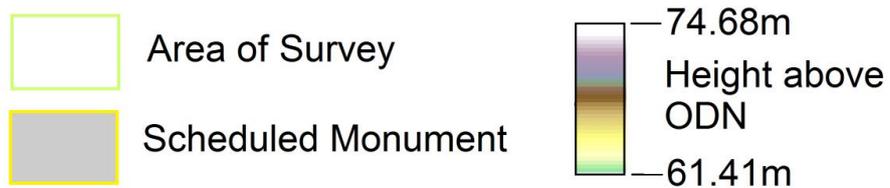


Figure 5: Topographic Survey Results, 2017. Colour Scale.
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Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

The images in figures 4 and 5 are Digital Terrain Models (DTM) built from the data obtained in the topographic survey. The colour ramp in figure 5 emphasises the positioning of the ruin in relation to the higher ground to the west and lower ground to the southwest and east. To the north and northwest of the ruin the land can be seen to level off into a plateau. This is highlighted in figure 6 below. This

plateau slopes from the southwest to northeast, but maintains a level surface from southeast to northwest. This area will also be discussed below in cross-section in figures 20 and 21.

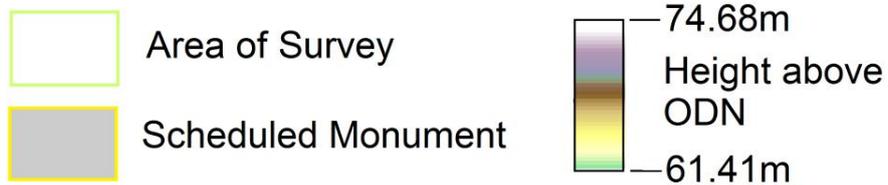


Figure 6: Colour scale DTM showing plateau to north and northeast of ruin. Showing the locations of cross-sections. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2017. Contains Image © Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

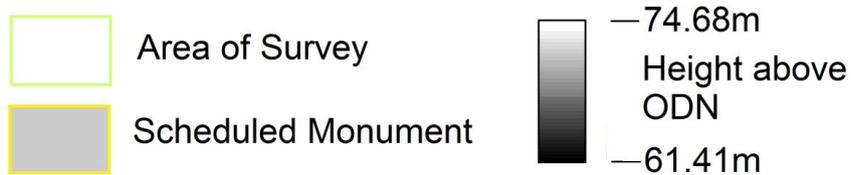


Figure 7: Topographic Survey Results, 2017. Shaded Relief Plot.
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Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

The shaded relief model in figure 7 shows the shape of the landscape within Castle Field. A number of features visible in this data set are set out and discussed in the figures 8, 9, and 11-22 below. These features are all individually described in cross-sections and 3D and 2D relief plots, depending on which method or combination of method best relates the results.

The high ground on the west of the site drops to the southwest where the slope breaks and levels to form a terrace. This can be

seen in the Three-Dimensional relief models created below from the survey data in figures 8 and 9. The breaks of slope of the terrace are marked by arrows in figure 9. The cause of this terrace are as yet unknown, and it may be a natural feature.

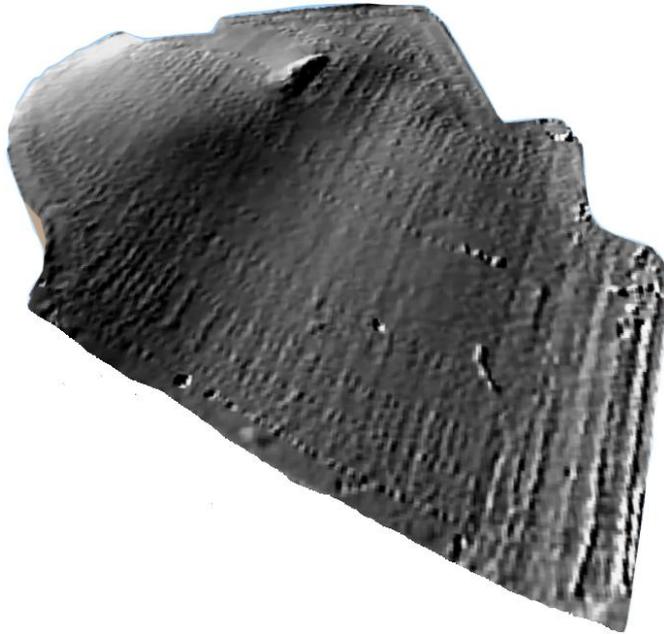


Figure 8: 3D Digital Terrain Model (DTM) of topographic survey data looking north.

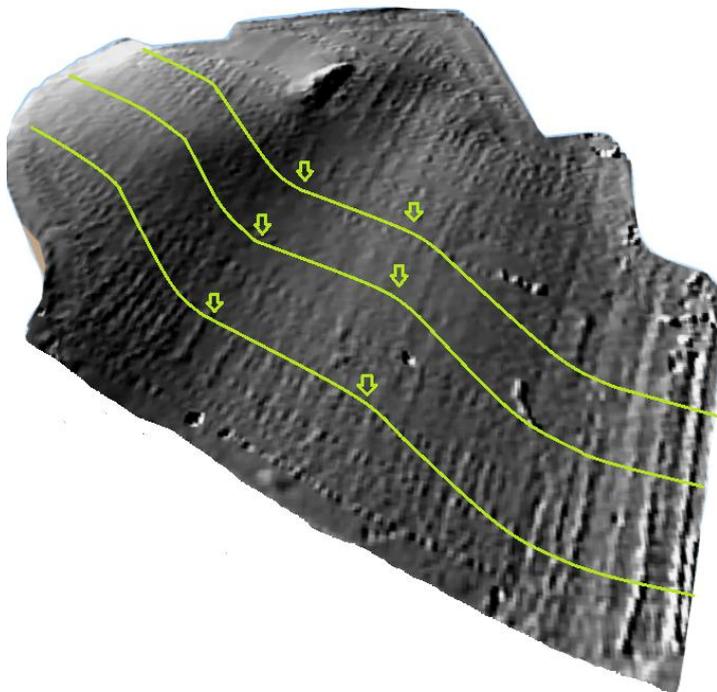


Figure 9: 3D Digital Terrain Model (DTM) of topographic survey data showing location of terrace. Arrows show break of slope. Looking north.



- Surviving 18th century close boundaries
- Possible route continuation of terrace
- Surviving 18th boundary

Figure 10: The continuation of the "terrace" to the southwest and its possible relationship to hedgerows. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2017. Contains Image © Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

This terrace appears also to extend beyond the survey area to the southwest (marked in yellow in figure 10). In medieval times this area to the southwest of the survey area was known as Waterfield (Gaunt 2010; 2011). The terrace extends through the landscape at least as far as the current Waterfield Farm (in red circle on figure 10). This area has a number of northwest-southeast orientated field boundaries which are remnants of a series of "closes" depicted on the 1766 estate map of Clipstone (marked as red lines in figure 10). These boundaries represent closes actually formed out of groupings of medieval selions (medieval field strips), and can be seen to have a curved shape. The most northerly (the southwestern boundary of Castle Field) displays a reverse "S" shape along its length which

suggests it was formed by medieval plough teams (see figure 10).

This reverse "S" shape was first detected by this topographic survey. Geophysical magnetometer survey has subsequently detected the same reverse "S" shape in the southeastern medieval boundary of the palace (Gaunt 2017 p92) which is on the same alignment as the southwestern boundary of Castle Field but situated further to the northeast (see figure (i) in Appendix 1). The boundary ditch of the palace separated the palace complex from the adjacent Demense land of the palace (Gaunt 2011). From its shape it can be suggested that the boundary ditch was probably created following the line of pre-existing ploughing (Gaunt 2017 p 92) (see figure (ii) in Appendix 1 for further explanation of these relationships). These include the palace boundary, demense land of the palace, and the Waterfield. The Waterfield was the medieval open field of Clipstone (Gaunt 2011), and was divided up by the time of the 1766 map into a series of closes including the romantically named "*Robin Hood's Close*". The medieval boundary ditch will be discussed further below.

A hedgerow running southwest to northeast can be seen (marked in blue in figure 10) on the southeastern side of Waterfield Farm. This boundary is also seen on the 1766 map. These closes were not present in the medieval landscape and are not therefore shown on William Seniors 1630 map. Mr M Bradley of Waterfield Farm is of the belief that this terrace may have formed part of a routeway through the landscape (pers comm), and this theory is being investigated by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC.

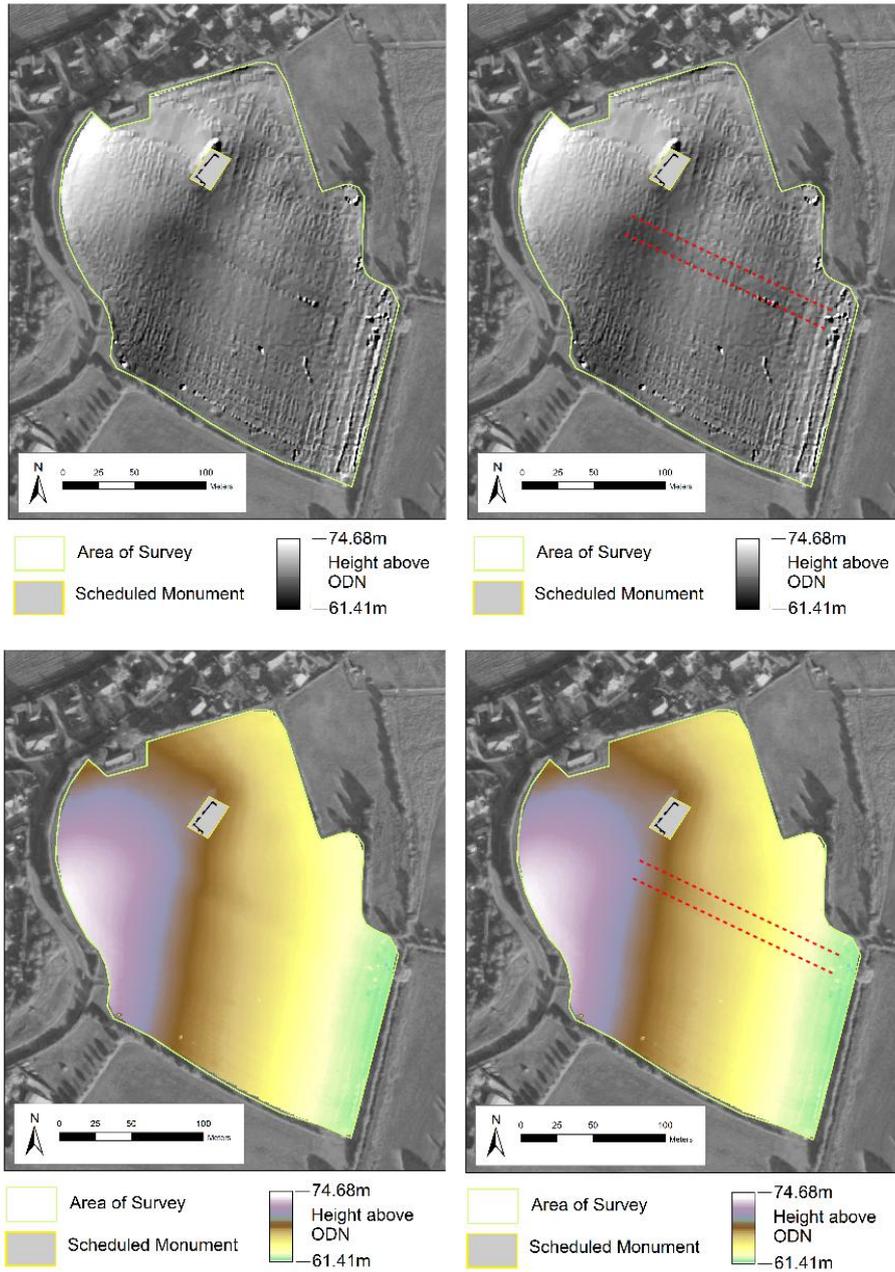


Figure 11: Linear bank on shaded relief plot and colour scale plot. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2017. Contains Image © Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

Figure 11 shows the location of a large linear banked feature which runs northwest to southeast across Castle Field. This feature is presented via plans and cross-sections in figures 12-19 below. The feature runs on the same alignment as the boundary ditch of the palace site mentioned above, and runs adjacent to the location of the ditch (filled in and not visible as an earthwork) along almost its entire length. The location of the ditch is known from Geophysical

survey (Gaunt 2010; 2017), and excavation by Wessex in 2011, Gaunt, Wright, Crossley and Budge in 2013; and Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2014.

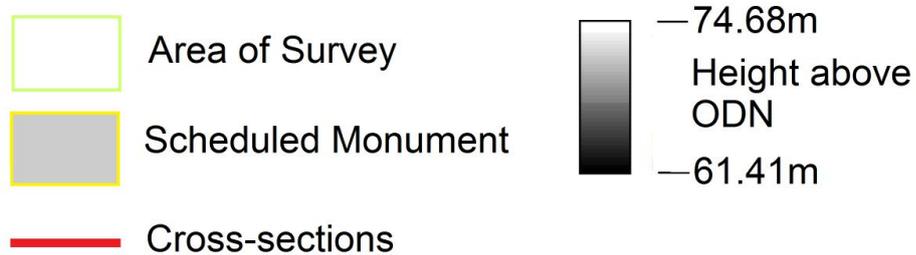


Figure 12: Showing the locations of cross-sections.
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Five cross-sections have been produced across the survey area from southwest to northeast. These are displayed with vertical exaggeration. Vertical exaggeration has been used to enable the features to be displayed in the report in a meaningful way. The horizontal distances covered are up to 200 metres in length and variations vertically are only over a few metres. Without vertical exaggeration ephemeral features would not be seen. The locations of the cross-sections in figures 13-19 are shown in figure 12. The results are then displayed in figure 19 below to show the location of the bank in Castle Field. Cross-section A-B is not shown with the most extreme vertical exaggeration as it contains no evidence of the bank.

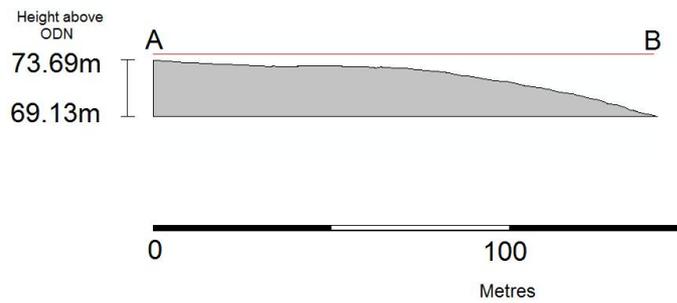


Figure 13: Cross-section A-B with vertical exaggeration.

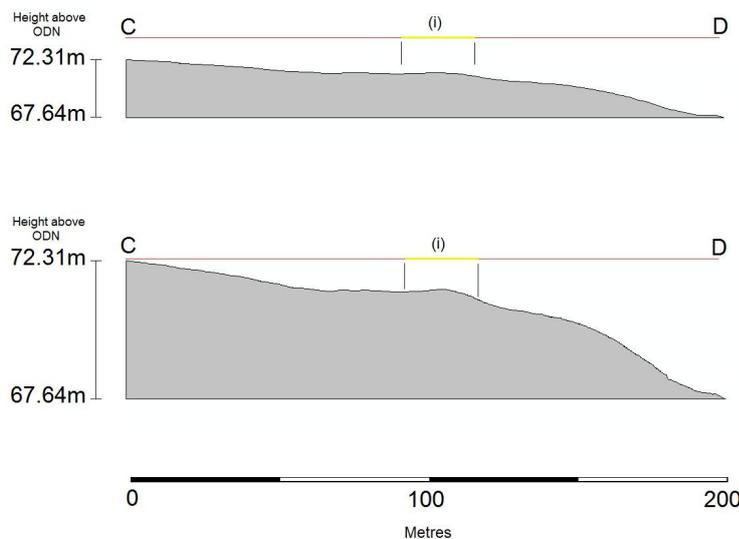


Figure 14: Cross-section C-D with two different vertical exaggerations.

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

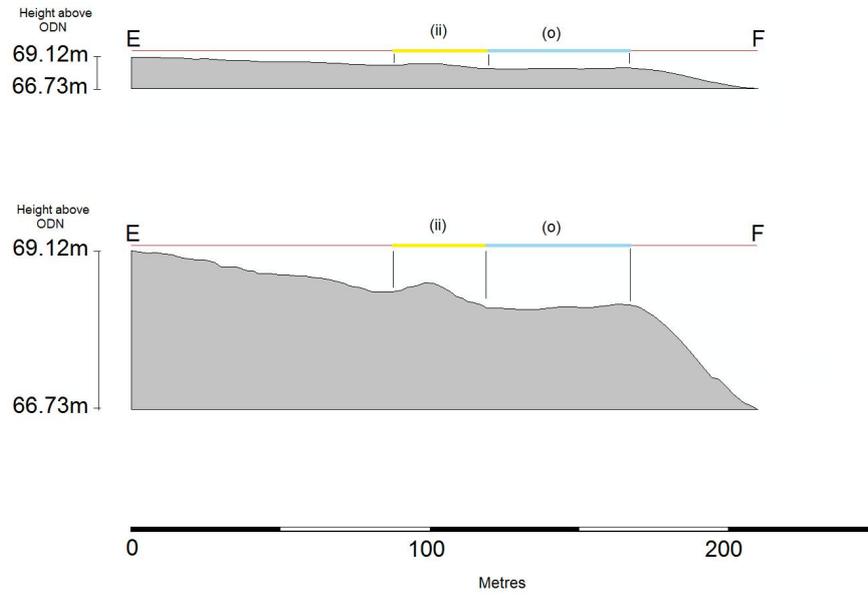


Figure 15: Cross-section E-F with two different vertical exaggerations.

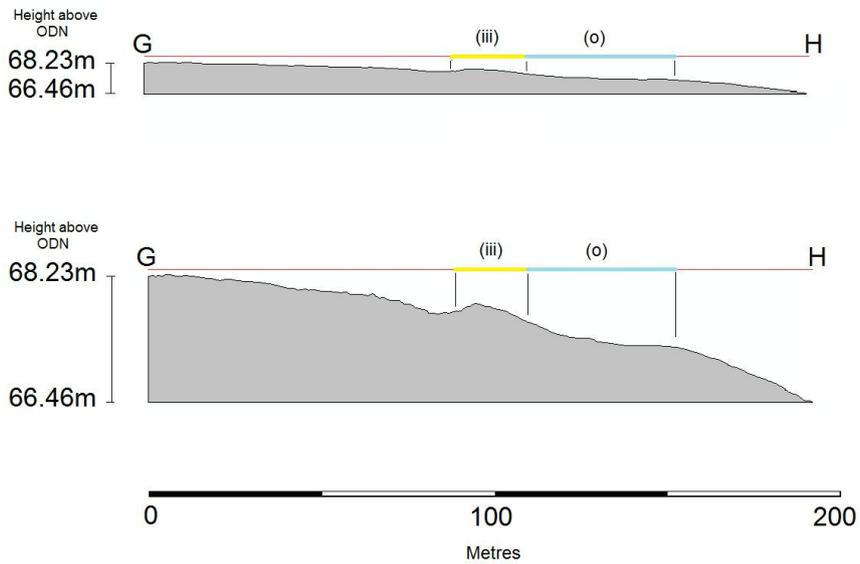


Figure 16: Cross-section G_H with two different vertical exaggerations.

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

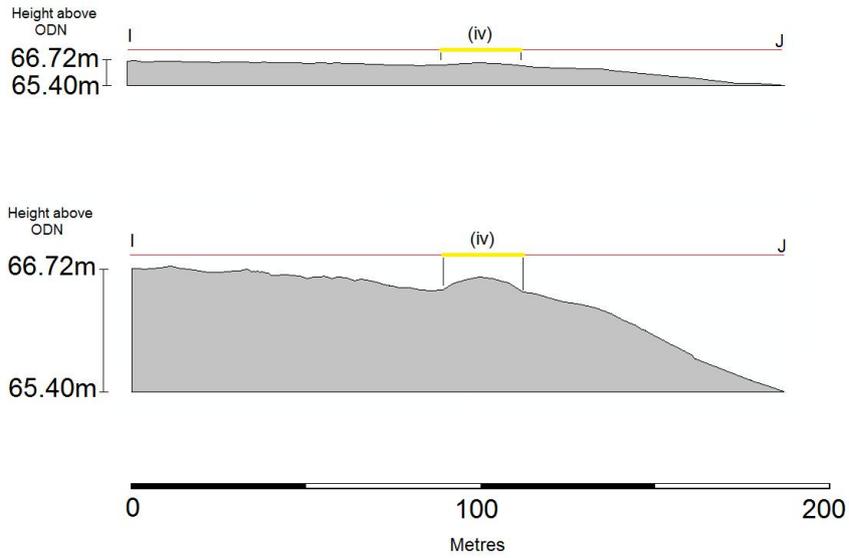


Figure 17: Cross-section I-J with two different vertical exaggerations.

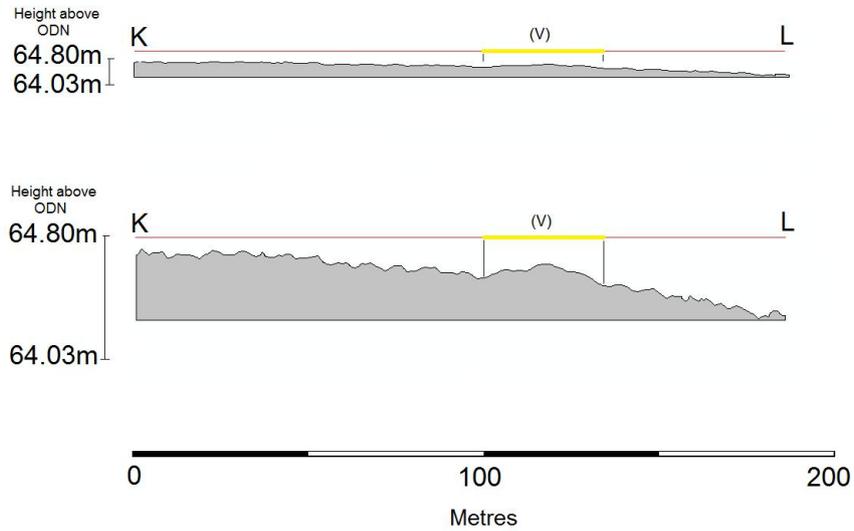


Figure 18: Cross-section K-L with two different vertical exaggerations.

The bank can clearly be seen in cross-sections C-D, E-F, G-H, I-J, and K-L in figures 14-18. Cross-section A-B shows that the bank does not exist in this area. Section A-B is north of the boundary

ditch to the palace site, and the absence of the bank here may be related to the absence of the boundary ditch at this location. The boundary ditch only runs up the field to roughly level with the standing ruin (Gaunt 2010; 2017).

The bank is shown in the cross-sections above as (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v). The location of the bank is located in yellow on the representation of the line of the cross-section (red) above each ground surface in figures 14-18. The cross-sections (red) and the location of the bank on each cross-section (yellow) are displayed in relation to the survey data and Castle Field in figure 19. This clearly shows the bank running across Castle Field from northwest to southeast.

The results of the survey for each location gives the following data:

At location (i) the ditch is 27.01m wide. The ground level on the southwestern side is 71.25m, and the ground level on the northeastern side is 70.64m. The top of the bank is at 71.33m high. The top of the bank is 0.08m higher than the ground on the southwest and, 0.69m higher than the ground on the northeast side. At location (ii) the bank is 26.23m wide. On the southwestern side of the bank the ground level is at 68.50m. The ground level on the northwestern side of the bank is at 68.24m. The top of the bank is at 68.65m. The top of the bank is therefore 0.15m metres higher than the ground to the southwest, and 0.41m above the ground level on the northeastern side. At location (iii) the bank is 16.72m wide. On the southwestern side of the bank the ground level is 67.70m. The top of the bank is at 67.85m, representing a 0.15m rise in elevation. On the northeast side of the bank the ground level is 67.35m high, making the bank 0.5m higher than the ground on the northeast side. At location (iv) the bank is 20.02m wide. At this location the ground surface on the southwest side of the bank is 66.50m, rising to 66.67m on top of the bank. This represents a rise in ground level of 0.17m. the ground level on the northeast side of the bank is 66.40m representing a rise in ground level to the top of the bank from this

side of 0.27m.

At location (v) at the southeastern end of the field, the bank is 27.40m wide. The top of the bank is at 64.63m high. The ground level on the southwestern side is 64.50m high, and on the northeastern side the ground level is at 64.38m. The bank is therefore 0.13m higher than the ground surface on the southwestern side and 0.25m above the ground level on the northeast of the bank.

It is presumed here that ploughing has reduced the height of the bank, and widened the bank by spreading the soil over a wider area through backwards and forwards ploughing across the bank.

Although the general trend in the landscape is that the land is lower to the northwest of the bank than to the southeast, it can be seen in cross-section E-F in figure 15 and G-H in figure 16 that there is a difference in the landscape that appears to relate to the presence of the bank. In these two cross-sections it is noticeable that the land to the northwest of the bank forms a slight plateau (recorded in light blue in figure 15, 16 and 19). This is shown to be different to the slightly more sloping ground to the southwest. It is possible that this change in ground levels represents a change in land use either side of the bank, this could represent "outside" and "inside" the palace enclosure, which was suggested from variations in medieval pottery distribution detected in excavation by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC (Budge 2014a).

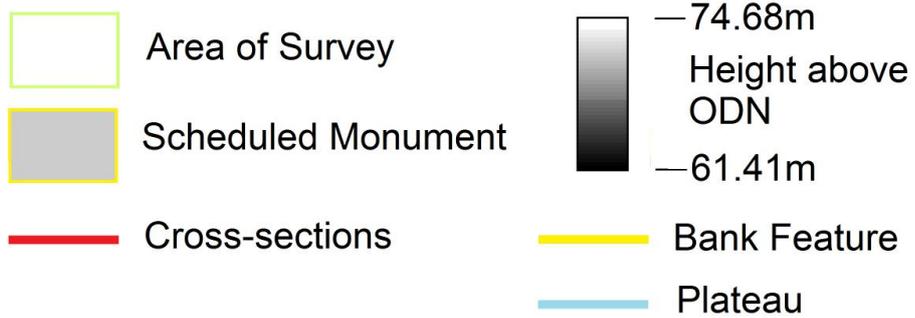
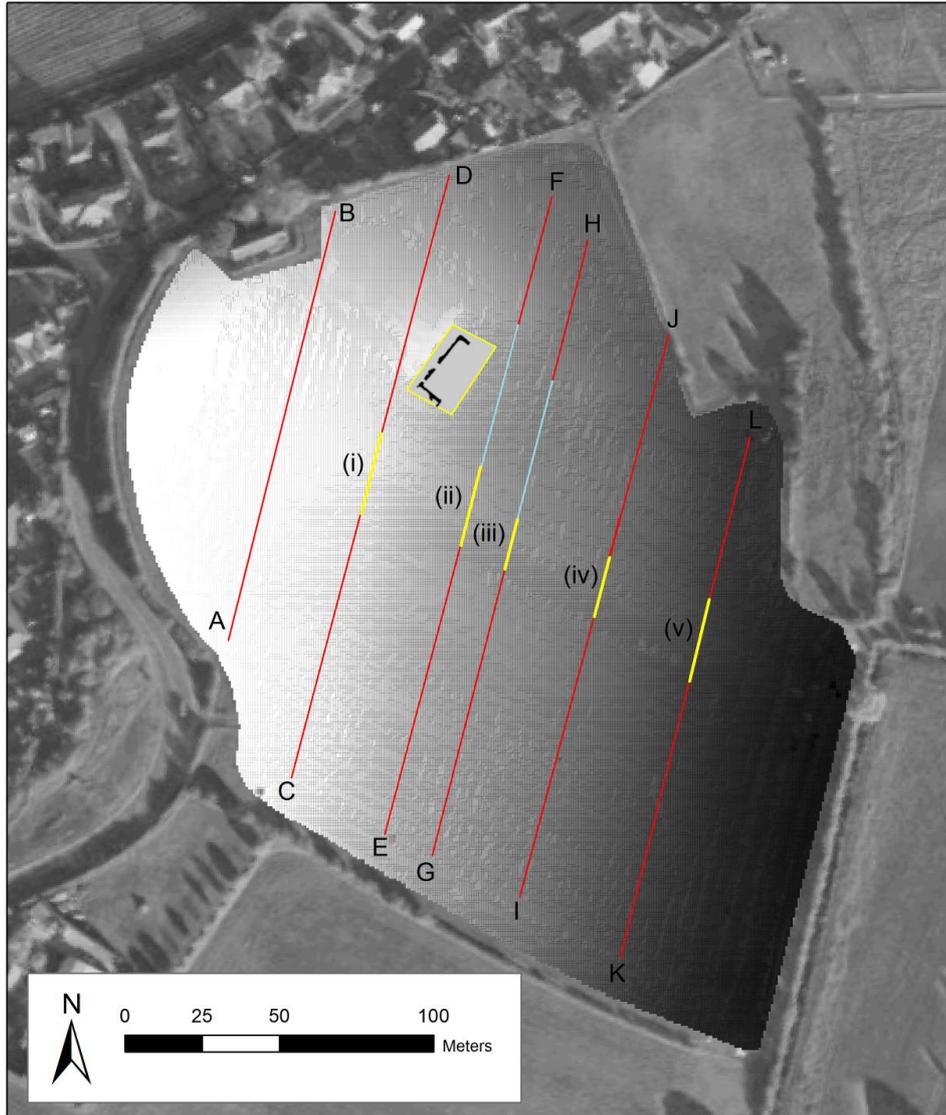


Figure 19: Showing the locations of “Bank Feature” in relation to cross-sections. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2017. Contains Image © Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

The cross-sections show that although ephemeral, the feature runs for

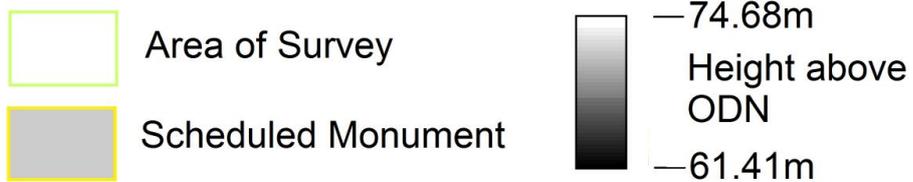
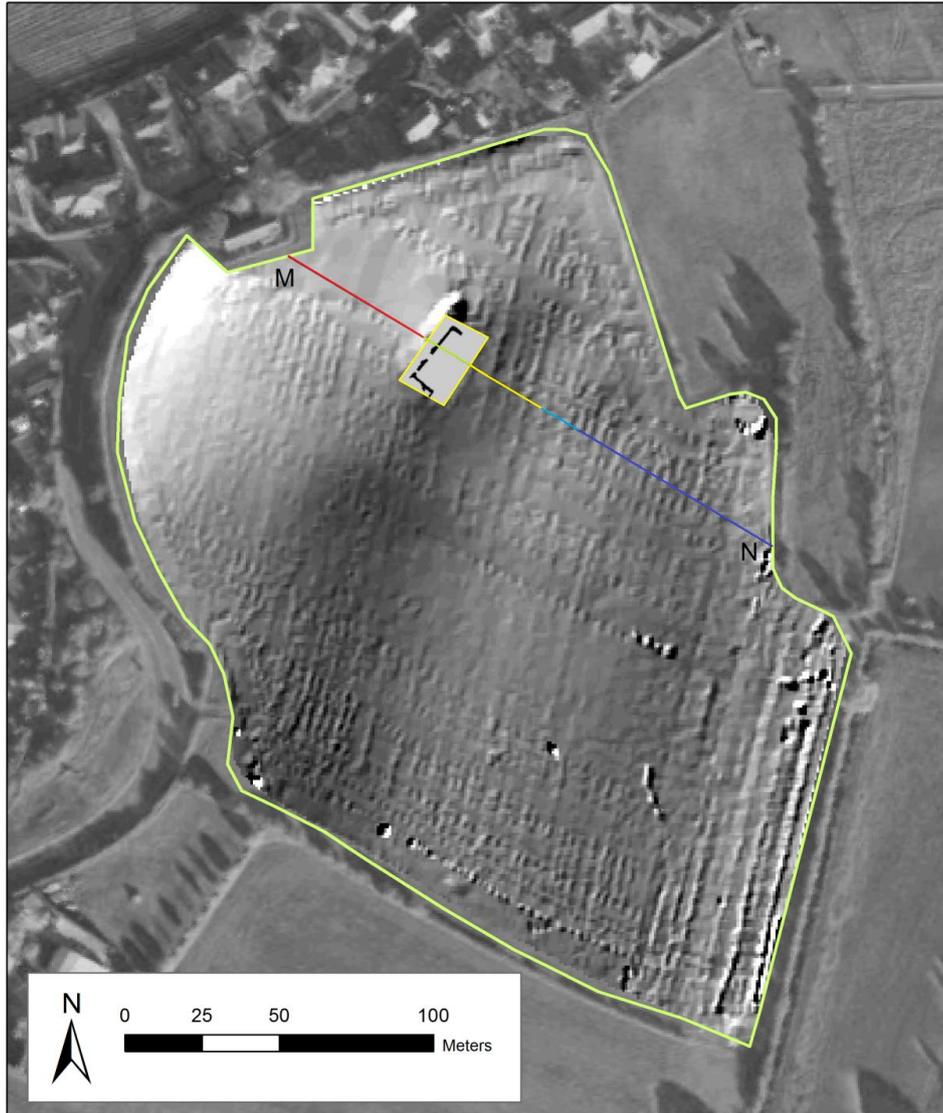


Figure 20: Showing the location of cross-section M-N. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2017. Contains Image © Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

Figure 20 shows the line of cross-section M-N. This runs northwest to southeast through the centre of the ruin, and shows the shape of the ground across the field in this direction. The cross section can be seen in figure 21. The cross section reveals the plateau of land seen in figure 6 above. The ground is roughly level on the northwest

side of the ruin on this alignment. The plateau is marked in red on the cross-section and its location in Castle Field is shown in red on the line of the cross-section in figure 20. The other features detected are displayed in the same way on figures 20 and 21 in green, yellow, light blue and dark blue respectively. The ground level at (M) is 70.00m ODN and rises by on 0.10m across the 56m length of (vi) to 70.13m. This is a rise of only 0.0017m or 1.7mm per metre on this alignment. The ground then rises within the site Scheduled Monument area of the standing ruin to 70.50m, before falling steeply to 69.19m on the southeastern side of the ruin, This represents a drop in elevation of 1.31m in a distance of 11m in area (vii). This is a drop of 0.12m per metre. The ground then drops 67.25m in area (viii) representing a further fall in elevation by 1.94m over a distance of 25.38m this is a drop of 0.08m per metre. The land drops to 66.86m in area (ix) before dropping to the southeastern edge of the site (N) at 63.50m ODN. The area of (viii) is displayed below in figure 23 as (F) and will be discussed in section 7.

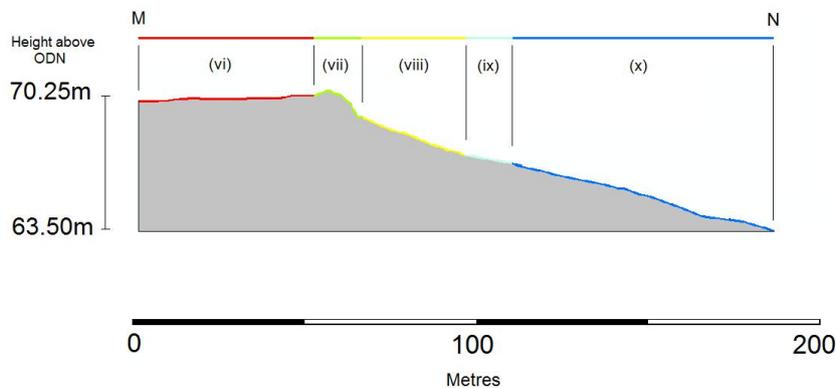


Figure 21: Cross-section M-N. With vertical exaggeration.

Figure 22 shows a raised area of ground (red circle), visible in the shaded relief model in figure 7 and 22. This area is approximately 28m in diameter. The area is discussed below in section 7.

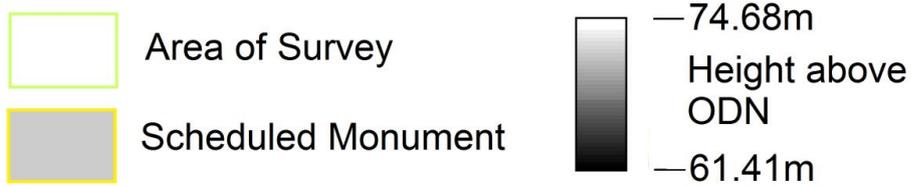
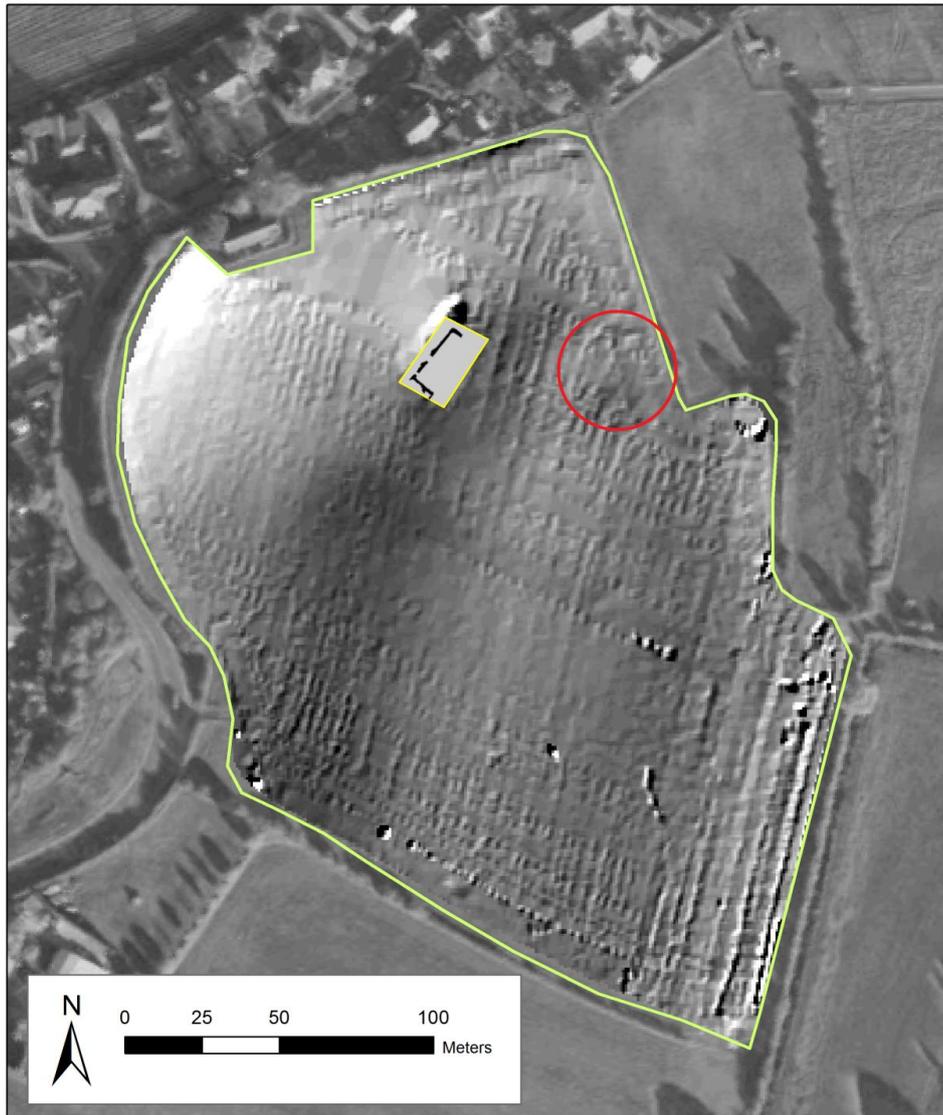


Figure 22: Shaded relief model showing location of raised feature. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2017. Contains Image © Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

7. Interpretations and conclusions

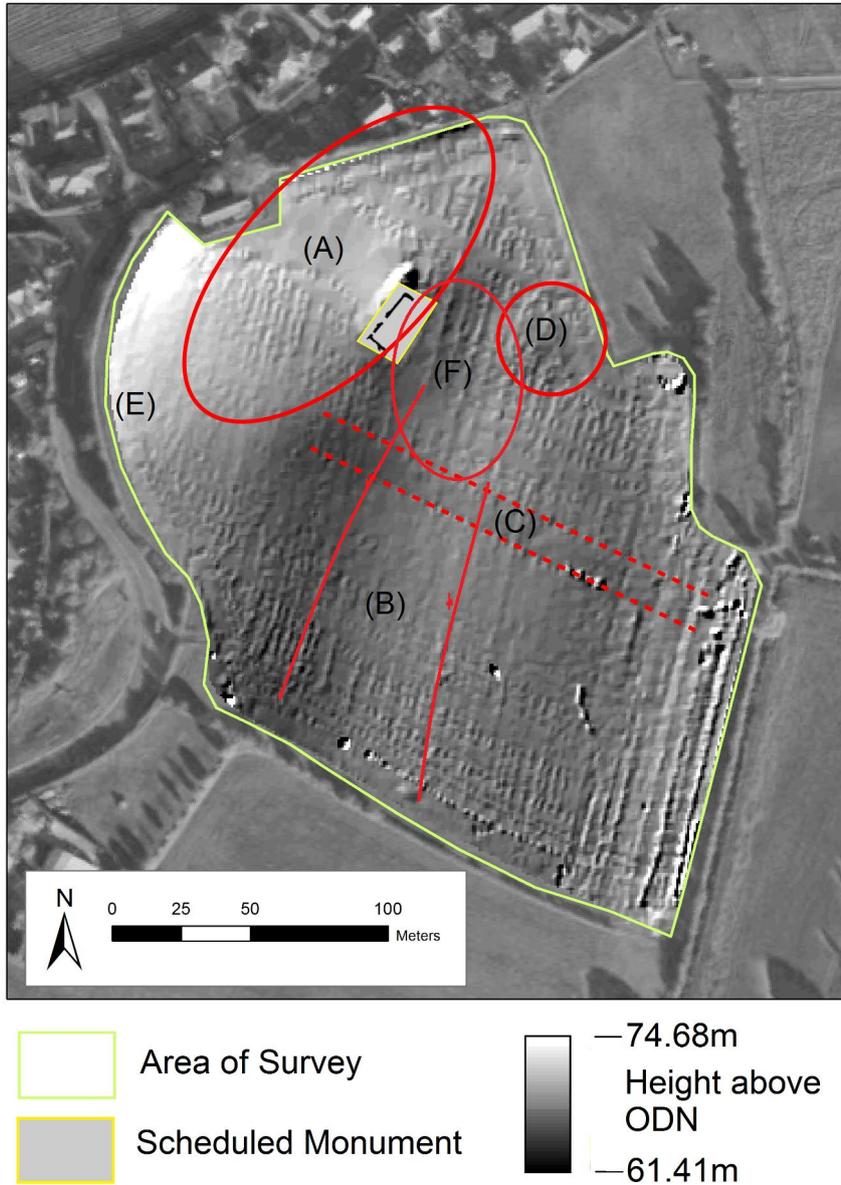


Figure 23: Shaded relief model showing features detected in survey. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] 2017. Contains Image © Google Earth. Image © 2017 Getmapping plc

As discussed in the results section above a number of features were detected by the topographic survey. The data has helped to confirm the location of the ruin to the east of the highest part of the site (E) in figure 22 above; which itself forms part of a ridge of high ground between two valleys as first discussed by Gaunt in his landscape

assessment and 2D and 3D reconstructions of the medieval landscape (Gaunt 2011). The site is seen to occupy the spur at the eastern end of this ridge of land.

As stated above, 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).

The area in the western/northwestern part of the field is shown as being within a separate enclosure on the William Senior map of 1630, complete with a property. Archaeological excavations in this part of the field by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2015 have recorded occupation in this area all the way from pre-palace times through to post-palace times (Budge 2015; 2016 forthcoming). It is possible that this area was a domestic property separate to the palace site.

The raised area of ground (D) in figure 22, and in figure 21 above, may be the location of buried archaeological remains. It lines up with an area of anomalies detected by geophysical magnetometer survey by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC

and could also possibly be the location of a hearth (Gaunt 2017 p95).

The survey detected a fall in elevation in the land to the southeast of the highest location (E) in figure 22 and displayed in figures 4 and 5. The ground falls away to the southeast before leveling off to form a terrace of ground marked (B) in figure 22, and displayed above in figures 7, 8 and 9. The discovery of this feature led to it being investigated through test-pitting by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2013 (Budge 2013). The reasons for this terrace are yet to be confirmed, but research is continuing.

The topographic survey detected a plateau of ground on the north and northwestern sides of the standing ruin, marked (A) in figure 22, displayed in figure 6 above, and as (vi) in figure 20. This relatively level area sits to the north and northwest of the ruin (vii) in figure 20. This area has been suggested as a location of a major part of the built environment of the medieval palace site following recent geophysical magnetometer survey by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC (Gaunt 2017), and excavation of archaeological test pits by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC (Budge 2015).

To the southeast of the ruin is an area marked (F) on figure 22. The cross-section M-N in figures 19 and 20 shows how the ground drops very steeply within the area of the ruin (vii), and then drops away from the toe of the ruin on the southeast side (viii). The ground then levels slightly (ix) before dropping away naturally to the southeast. Although this area drops in elevation from northwest to southeast, the ground is actually relatively level on a southwest to northeast alignment as shown in figures , marked (O) 14 and 15 and as light blue lines in figure 19. Geophysical survey (Gaunt 2017) and excavation (Rahtz 1960;

and Wessex 2011) have suggested that a major part of the built environment lay within the steeper section (viii). Robbed out walls and a surviving buttress (Wessex 2011), as well as a large number of anomalies (Wessex 2011; Gaunt 2017) were discovered in this area.

20th century ploughing may have removed archaeology in area (viii) (in figure 21, marked in blue in figure 21). However it is equally likely that buried archaeological remains including a stone buttress may also have reduced the amount of leveling of the ground in this area. The area to the southeast (x) (on figure 21, and dark blue line in figure 20) contains less anomalies (Gaunt 2017), and it is possible that area (viii) represents the remains of the built environment, and area (x) represents an area within the palace site (Gaunt et al 2015; Budge 2014a), but beyond the main area of buildings. There are plans by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC to continue the archaeological test-pitting from 2015 across the remainder of Castle Field. Excavations by this method to the north and northwest of the ruin have helped to suggest the limits of the built environment in that area (Budge 2015). There are also plans by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC to survey this area with Ground Penetrating Radar in the coming years. Little is so far understood about the built environment of the palace, and it is hoped that these methods combined will begin to answer Mercian Archaeological Services CIC's research questions regarding the built environment of the palace, in the coming years.

Perhaps the most significant feature detected by this survey is the long linear raised bank running northwest to southeast across Castle Field. This feature is marked (C) in figure 22, and is displayed and analysed in figures 13-18 above.

Although ephemeral in places this is clearly the remains of a linear banked feature. A geophysical resistance survey by Gaunt (2010) had previously detected a large linear anomaly running northwest to southeast across Castle Field. This was interpreted by Gaunt as the boundary of the "Mannorgarth" depicted on the William Senior Map of Clipstone from 1630 (Gaunt 2010, 2011). It was speculated that this feature could represent the boundary of the Medieval Palace site (Gaunt 2010, 2011). Excavation of the feature in 2012 revealed a large ditch (Gaunt et al 2015). A buried soil in one of the excavation trenches was postulated as the possible vertically truncated remains of a boundary bank on the eastern side of the ditch. It was posited that this bank could represent the internal bank of the linear ditch and could have formed part a boundary to the site. The buried soil contained a single piece of worn pottery dating from the 13th- 14th century.

It was not possible to prove for certain the existence of a bank through excavation in 2012, with only one of the two trenches excavated showing evidence of the buried soil (Gaunt et al 2015). A preceding excavation of the feature (Wessex 2011) and a subsequent excavation by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2014 did not find evidence of a bank. The 2014 excavation did however successfully date the ditch to the later 13th to earlier 14th century (Budge 2014a).

Magnetometer survey by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC in 2014 also detected the boundary ditch (Gaunt 2017). The large linear banked feature detected by this survey running northwest to southeast, on the eastern side of the line of the infilled ditch is the most convincing demonstrable evidence of an internal bank for the medieval ditch so far recorded.

Figure 24 (and figure (iii) in Appendix 1) shows a possible

(purely hypothetical) outline of the bank in relation to the ditch assuming the bank was built from the material of the ditch and was of the same volume. The reconstruction is provided for visualisation purposes and should not be taken as a measured representation or as being archaeologically correct. However the evidence for the existence of the bank provided by this survey has made this simple visualisation possible.

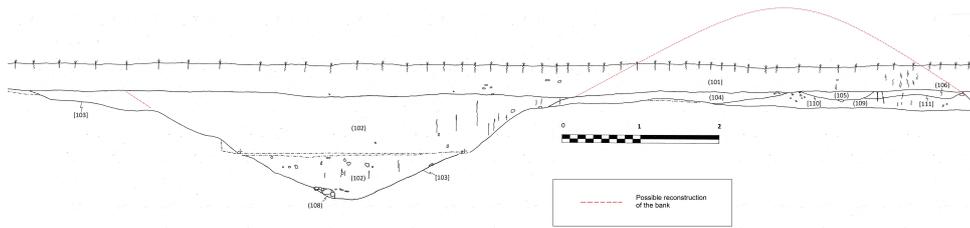


Figure 24: Excerpt of the profile of the southeast facing section of the boundary ditch from Gaunt et al 2015. A possible outline for the bank based on the dimensions of the ditch has been added in a dashed red line for visualisation purposes.

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Appendix 1

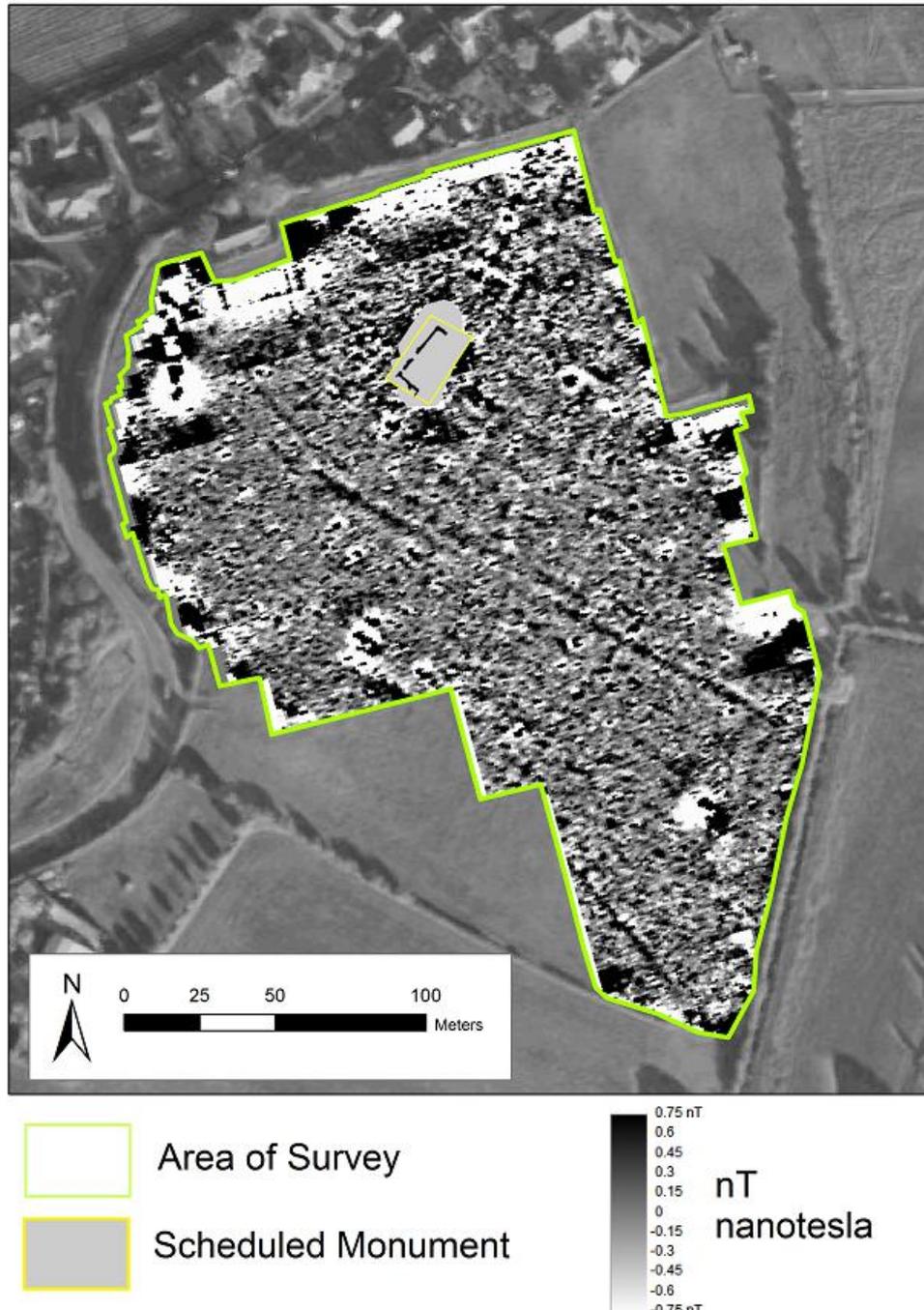


Figure (i) Magnetometer Survey Results from Gaunt, A. 2017. *Geophysical Magnetometer Survey of King John's Palace in Sherwood Forest. Castle Field, Waterfield Farm, Kings Clipstone, Nottinghamshire.* Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. Geophysical Survey Report. MAS024.

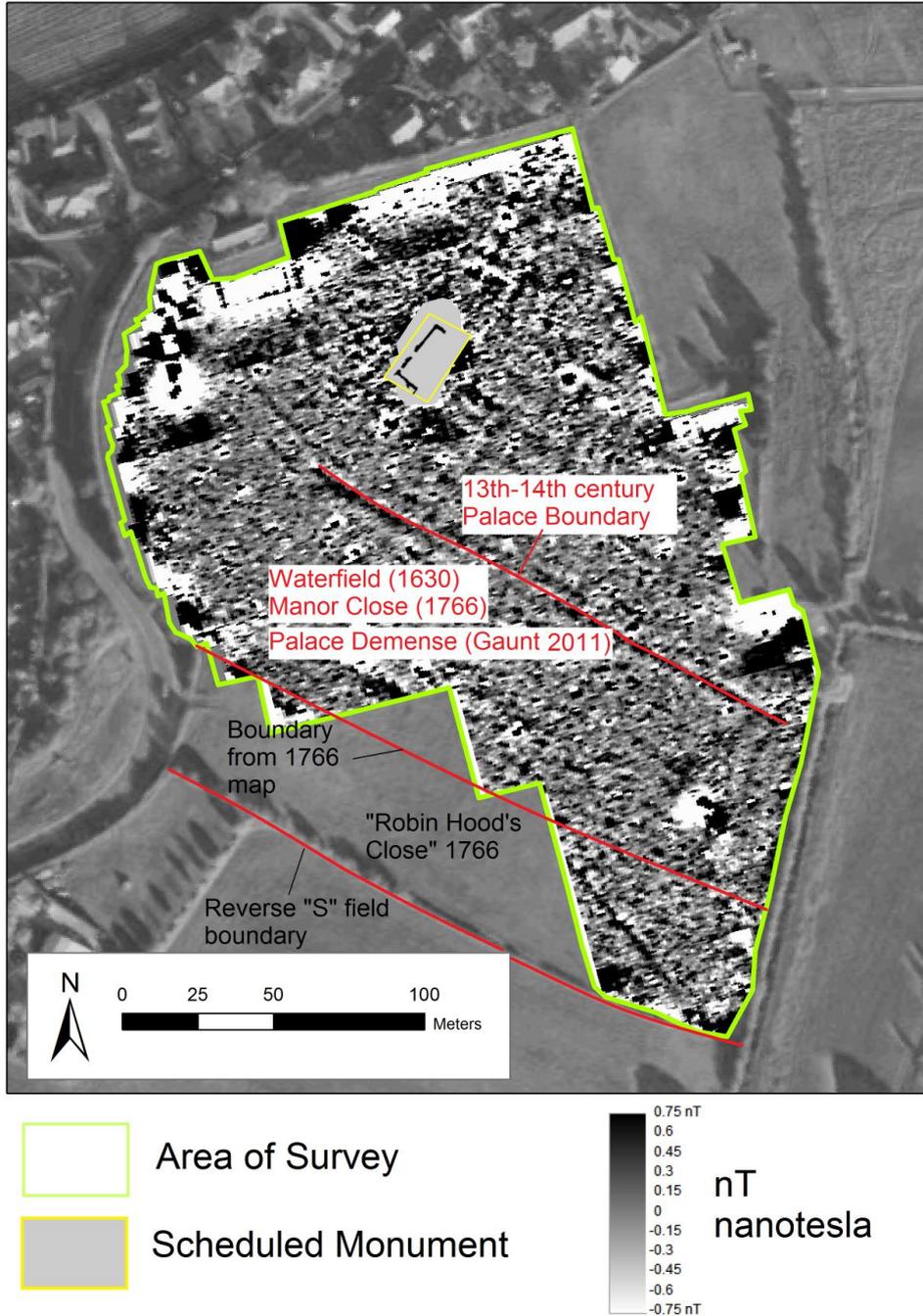


Figure (ii) Magnetometer Survey Results from Gaunt, A. 2017. *Geophysical Magnetometer Survey of King John's Palace in Sherwood Forest. Castle Field, Waterfield Farm, Kings Clipstone, Nottinghamshire.* Mercian Archaeological Services CIC. Geophysical Survey Report. MAS024. Overlain with annotation showing location of palace boundary ditch, and historic field boundaries including Robin Hood's Close, and the location of the possible Palace Demense (Gaunt 2011 p 38).

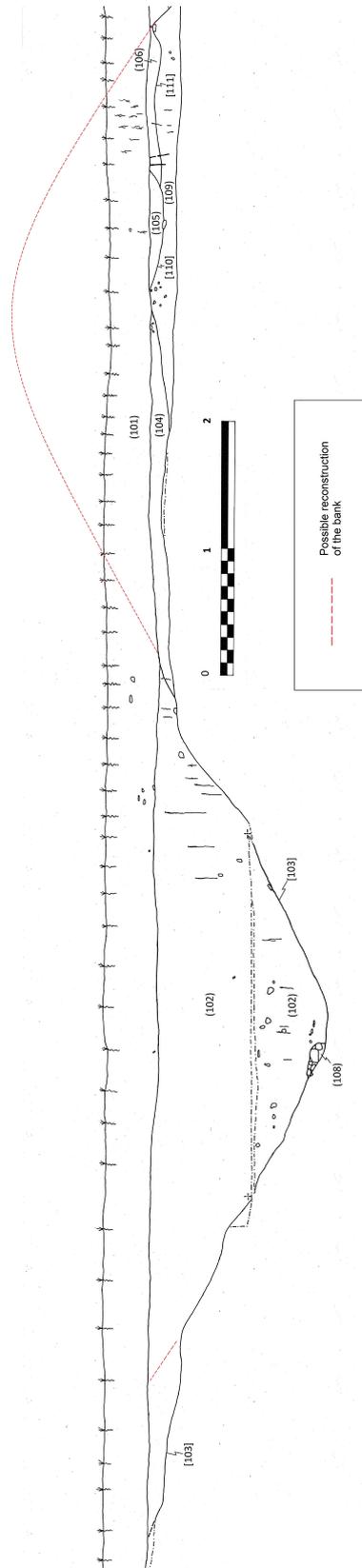


Figure (iii) Southeast facing section of Trench 1 Gaunt et al 2015. Annotated with possible outline of internal bank. Possible surviving bank soil is (104) containing 13th-14th century pottery fragment,