



global environmental solutions

Land off Brassington Lane, Old Tupton:
Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

V1.3



SLR Ref: 406.03727.00001

October 2011

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
3.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	3
4.1 Discussion of potential.....	5
5.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	6
5.1 Aims.....	6
5.2 Objectives.....	6
6.0 METHODOLOGY	7
7.0 RESULTS	7
7.1 Trench A.....	7
7.2 Trench B.....	9
7.3 Trench C.....	10
7.4 Trench D.....	11
7.5 Trench E.....	13
7.6 Trench F.....	15
7.7 Trench G.....	16
7.8 Trench H.....	19
7.9 Trench I.....	20
8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION	23
9.0 CONCLUSIONS	25
10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	26
11.0 CLOSURE	27

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location and application area

Figure 2: Site location and application area (after Google maps)

Figure 3: Post-war OS map data showing Ryknield Street as an earthwork passing through the site (indicated by arrows).

Figure 4: Scheduled area (after English Heritage) not to scale

Figure 5: Evaluation Trench locations in relation to the Scheduled area (pink) and the development area (red boundary) on OS base

Figure 6: Trench A, view to East

Figure 7: Trench A, south-facing section

Figure 8: Trench B, view to West

Figure 9: Trench C, view to west

Figure 10: Trench D, view to south, note tree-root bole and land drain

Figure 11: Trench D, pre- and post excavation views of cut 40

Figure 12: Trench E on recent topographic survey, note southern limit of trench meets northern edge of “pond”

Figure 13: Trench E view to south

Figure 14: Trench E, detail of modern backfill of cut at southern end of trench

Figure 15: Trench F, working shot view to south

Figure 16: Trench G

Figure 17: Trench G view to west

Figure 18: Trench G, detail of impression of brick floor on scorched clay (Context 72)

Figure 19: Trench H, view to north

Figure 20: Trench I, view to north east, working shot

Figure 21: Trench I, detail of section, note pond deposits towards base beneath later yellow clay and rubble backfill

Figure 22: Trench I, shown over pond on 1880 OS map

Figure 23: View to south west from beyond the eastern boundary of the site showing a car park terraced into the eastern side of the scheduled area, possibly impacting upon the Roman road

Figure 24: View to north west from beyond the eastern boundary of the site showing a car park terraced into the eastern side of the scheduled area.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Scheduling Description
Appendix B	Context Summary
Appendix C	Index to archive

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on an area of land located off Brassington Lane, Old Tupton, Derbyshire, centred on National Grid Reference 439040,365223 (NGR SK3904065223). The work was executed by SLR Consulting on behalf of Gladedale Estate Ltd to inform consideration of a planning application to develop the site with residential properties.

The site includes a Scheduled Monument, Roman Road (Rykniel Street) which will be preserved in situ outside the area intended for housing.

The evaluation involved the excavation and recording of nine trenches across the site outside the Scheduled Area.

No new significant archaeological remains were identified.

A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered close to the Scheduled Area from within the modern topsoil.

A heavily truncated, demolished brick-built post-medieval building was identified at the western side of the site close to the A61. This appeared to house a high-temperature industrial activity such as a forge or kiln. It had been removed prior to 1880.

There was evidence for extensive intrusive groundworks across the western half of the site during the 19th and 20th Centuries, which will have removed previously unknown archaeological remains from a large proportion of the development area.

The evaluation identifies the heritage matters to be addressed in consideration of the planning application, discusses potential mitigation measures and recommends that there are no historic environment issues which should prevent the development proceeding.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is the report of an archaeological evaluation executed by SLR Consulting on behalf of Gladedale Estates Ltd. The evaluation was to investigate the archaeological potential of an area of land ('the Site') located off Brassington Lane, Old Tupton, Derbyshire, centred on National Grid Reference 439040,365223 (NGR SK3904065223). The nearest postcode is S42 6JY.

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the trial trench evaluation to inform consideration of a planning application for residential development at the site.

An archaeological desk based assessment (Malim 2010) has previously been prepared for the site, and earlier topographic survey has led to the scheduling of a portion of the site by English Heritage on the grounds that a Roman road (Ryknield Street) passes through the site. The Client wishes to make an application for residential housing on the part of the site to the west of the scheduled area. The latter will remain as green space and a recreational area.

The local planning authority requested an archaeological evaluation of the development area prior to determination of the planning application for development of the site. This is consistent with national planning policy on archaeology and planning (PPS5).

A method statement was prepared in consultation with the Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist (DCCDCA), and the evaluation works were inspected during their excavation to confirm the correct methodology was employed.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The development area consists of two fields, approximately 1.5 hectares in extent, which lie within Old Tupton, north of Brassington Lane and east of the A61 Derby Road, with a green lane along the eastern edge and properties to the north (Figure 1). The site is covered with grass, low scrub and occasional mature trees (Figure 2). The centre of the application area is at NGR SK3904065223, and at an altitude of approximately 140m AOD.

The solid geology beneath the site consists of Pennine Lower Coal Measures made up of Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone overlain with drift geology of clay-rich loamy soils (British Geological Survey).

Tupton is located c.5km south of Chesterfield, 1.5km north of Clay Cross, and is situated on high ground 1km west of the River Rother. The land dips to the west towards a spring and small stream that flows south into the Press Brook, before rising again towards the higher ground towards Ashover.

Figure 2: Site location and application area

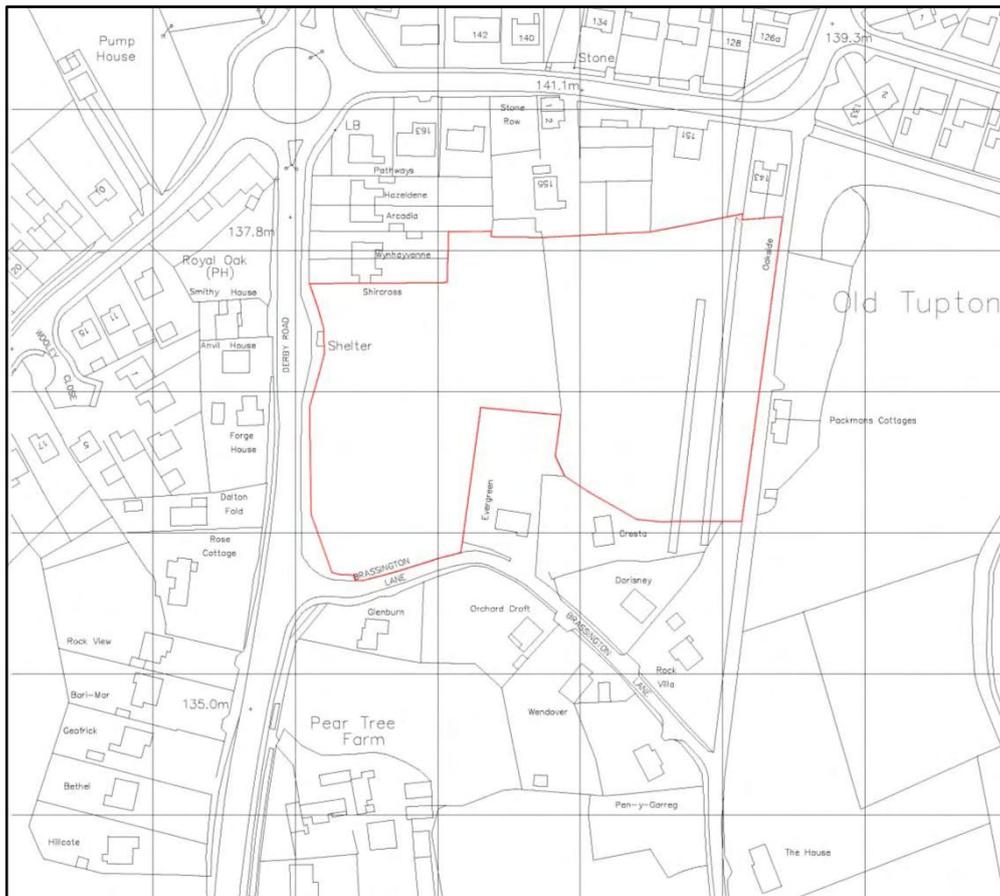


Figure 2: Site location and application area (after Google maps 2007)



3.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The SLR staff involved in the preparation of this report include:

Andy Towle BA MA PhD MifA	Associate	site work and report preparation
Tim Malim BA MifA	Principal	project management
Laurence Hayes BA MifA	Associate	quality control

SLR Consulting would like to thank Paul Stock of Gladedale Estates Ltd and Steve Baker of Derbyshire County Council for their assistance in the preparation of this document. Thanks are also due to Jon Humble of English Heritage for discussion of the scheme and management of the Scheduled Monument. Gerry Martin and Kate Griffiths of Gerry Martin Associates assisted in the fieldwork. SLR is grateful for the assistance of local residents Mr Matkin and Mr Len Willis, who provided comment and documentary evidence for 20th Century land use at the site which aided interpretation of the evaluation results.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological background for the site is described in greater detail in the Desk Based Assessment and Evaluation Method Statement. A brief summary of the results of the DBA is reproduced here.

There was no evidence for prehistoric archaeological remains within the site or the wider study area (1km zone) examined in the DBA. However, given the site history and topographic position, there was a potential for the survival of remains from these periods if they were present. The subsequent Roman road running through the site may have followed an established prehistoric route.

Romano-British archaeological remains are known to be present within the application boundary: this consists of the road otherwise known as Rykniel Street (Malim 2010: 9-10). The stretch within the site boundary was part of the route between Little Chester (*Derventio*) near Derby and Chesterfield, both Roman military settlements established by the late 1st Century AD.

This road was recorded by Margary:

“Half a mile beyond Clay Cross the present road bears away a little to the west through Old Tupton, and this has preserved a fine piece of agger between Egstow and Tupton smithy which stands near the entrance to Tupton Hall. The fragment runs the whole length of a meadow to the south of the smithy as a fine agger 40 feet wide and 3-4 feet high. It also appears just to the south of Egstow Hall Farm as an agger on the south side of the stream. A section examined here showed that the surface layer of stones had barely survived, but the core of rammed gravel and clay remained, 17 feet wide, and a later deposit of earth, 12 inches thick, covered the road.” (Margary 1973, chapter 7, 308)

The road is recorded as an earthwork in post-war OS mapping (Figure 3), and has subsequently been surveyed by English Heritage in preparation for its designation as a scheduled monument (Figure 4). The scheduling description is reproduced as Appendix 1 below.

Figure 4: Scheduled area (after English Heritage) not to scale



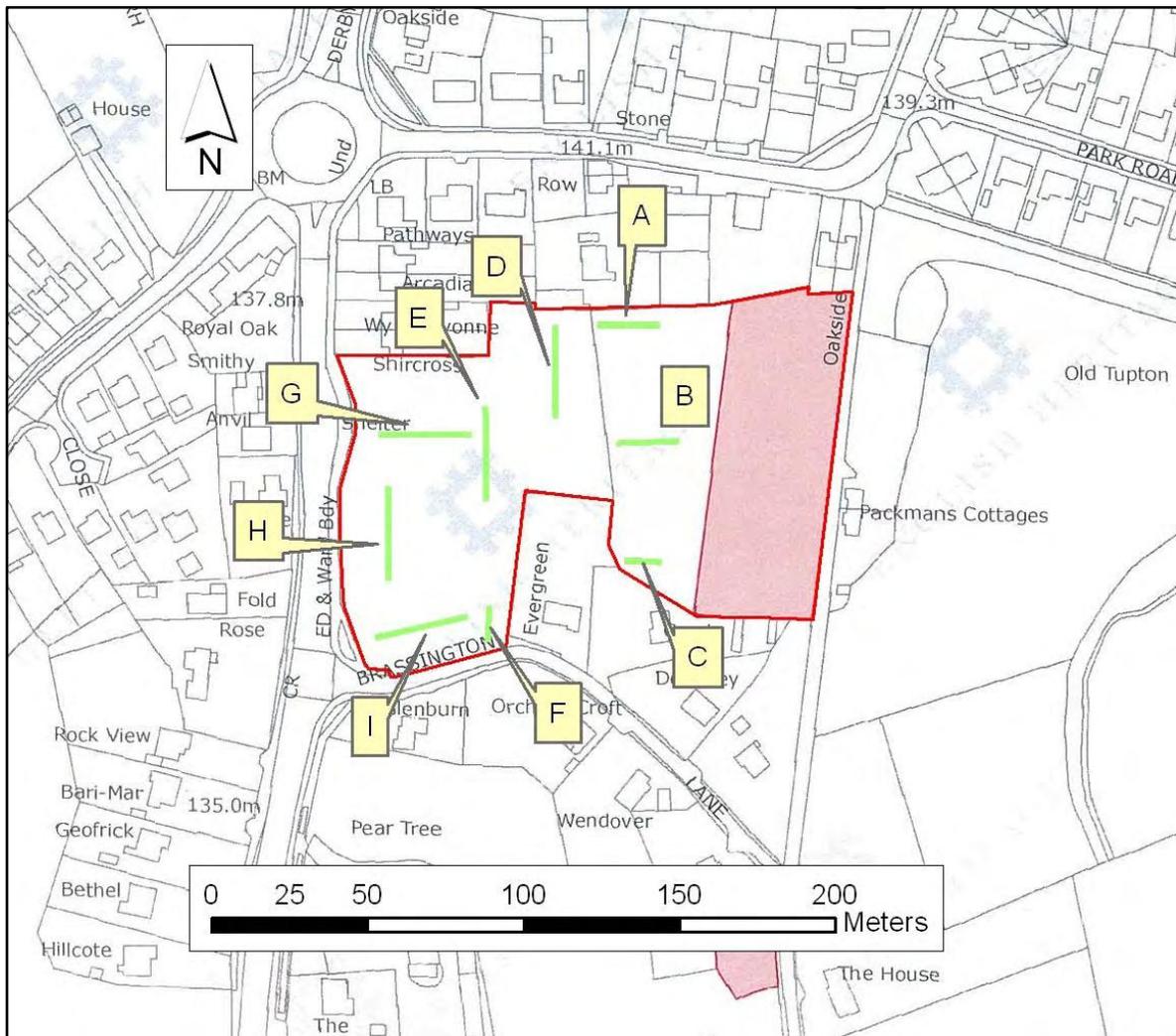
The area is known to have been occupied during the Anglo-Saxon period, although there are no known archaeological remains from this period within the site. Tupton is assumed to have been established during this time, being an Anglo-Saxon placename. The boundary between Wingerworth and Tupton parishes, thought to have been formed prior to the Norman Conquest is partially co-terminus with the northern limit of the site (Malim 2010: 5).

Similarly, there were no known archaeological remains from the Medieval or Post-Medieval periods within the site boundary, although there is well established settlement in the immediate vicinity of the site. The extraction of coal and ironstone were significant local industries during the 18th, 19th and early 20th Centuries in the area. There was no evidence prior to the evaluation for such activities within the site boundary which, if present, would otherwise have truncated earlier archaeological remains.

4.1 Discussion of potential

The scheduled area occupies approximately 30% of the application site (0.5 hectares) which will be left as managed green space in the proposed development. This leaves a hectare of site within which housing is proposed and in which there remained a potential for the survival of previously unknown archaeological remains. It is assumed that the scheduled area will account for the area of highest archaeological potential, but the evaluation was designed to establish if there should be any further archaeological constraints to the proposed scheme.

Figure 5: Evaluation Trench locations in relation to the Scheduled area (pink) and the development area (red boundary) on OS base



5.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were:

- to provide information on the presence/absence, location and characteristics of archaeological remains at the site,
- to inform consideration of a planning application to develop the site

5.2 Objectives

The specific objectives of the evaluation were:

- To excavate a 5% trial trenching sample of the site (i.e. 5% of 1 hectare = 500m²),
- to excavate and record 9 archaeological trial trenches (i.e. eight 30 x 2m trenches and one 10 x 2m trench),

- the trenches were to be arranged adjacent to the scheduled area to establish if Romano-British remains are present beyond the protected area, and also elsewhere on the site to see if any other remains are present
- to recover all artefacts and, where necessary, palaeoenvironmental samples from deposits of potential significance
- to analyse the site records, artefacts and ecofacts to produce a report on the archaeology of the site
- to identify the significance of any archaeological remains to inform the planning process.
- To submit an ordered archive to a suitable local repository.

6.0 METHODOLOGY

The site works were undertaken between 13th and 19th July 2011. The trenches were located as indicated in the method statement, with minor amendments to avoid obstacles- the final locations were accurately recorded and are shown in Figure 5 above. Significant depths of modern made ground were identified at several locations reflecting 20th Century land use not recorded in the DBA. The trenches were hand-cleaned, and sondages (test pits) into the underlying drift geology were excavated to confirm its correct identification. Cut features were observed, investigated and recorded: had significant remains been present they would have been identified. The site works were inspected by Steve Baker of Derbyshire County Council to confirm that the methodology employed was acceptable and to discuss the provisional results of the evaluation.

7.0 RESULTS

A total of nine trenches were excavated across the site, which was subdivided into two areas by a north – south aligned terrace wall. The trenches were located as shown in Figure 5. No Prehistoric archaeological remains were identified during the evaluation. A single residual sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from topsoil during the evaluation, but no other remains dating to this period. No Anglo-Saxon or Medieval remains were identified. The heavily disturbed remains of post-medieval industrial activity were noted close to the A61, and there was evidence for widespread terracing and ground disturbance from the 19th and 20th Centuries. No significant archaeological remains were identified at the site.

Trenches A-C were located within the eastern, higher portion of the site perpendicular to the alignment of the Roman road, positioned >5m away from the scheduled area as advised by the local authority archaeologist. Trenches D- I were located on lower-lying ground on the western side of the site.

7.1 Trench A

Trench A was aligned east – west located towards the northern limit of the site, to the east of the terrace wall and west of the Roman road, between NGR points 439038,365250 and 439058,365250. The trench was 21m long and 1.8m wide. This trench was situated on ground which sloped steeply down to the west. It was located to see if any Romano-British roadside activity was present in this area.

No archaeological remains were identified within Trench A.

The underlying drift geology consisted of yellow clay with bands of (the underlying) broken mudstone exposed in places. There was evidence for root disturbance and animal burrows in the upper surface of the "Natural". The topsoil was 300mm thick, and consisted of dark brown clayey silt. There was no evidence for the presence of any distinct colluvial deposits or buried soil horizons. The modern surface was covered with dense undergrowth and occasional trees.

Figure 6: Trench A, view to East



Figure 7: Trench A, south-facing section



7.2 Trench B

Trench B was aligned east – west located towards the centre of the site, to the east of the terrace wall and west of the Roman road, between NGR points 439044,365212 and 439065,365213. The trench was 20m long and 1.8m wide. This trench was also located on ground which sloped steeply down to the west. It was positioned to see if any Romano-British roadside activity was present in this area.

No significant archaeological remains were identified within Trench B.

The underlying drift geology consisted of yellow clay with bands of (the underlying) broken mudstone exposed in places. There was evidence for root disturbance and animal burrows in the upper surface of the “Natural”. The topsoil was 300mm thick, and consisted of dark brown clayey silt. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the topsoil whilst the trench was being opened by machine. This was an un-abraded rim sherd 80mm long from a *mortaria* (food preparation bowl) (see Appendix C).

There was no evidence for the presence of any distinct colluvial deposits or buried soil horizons. The modern surface was covered with dense undergrowth and occasional trees.

The sherd of pottery could not be correlated to any structures or cut features, and can be regarded as “background noise” in an area which had activity during this period. The trench was located 24m to the west of the *agger* of the Roman road, 11 m to the west of the scheduled area. It is therefore assumed that the sherd is derived from accidental loss/breakage on the road which has been integrated into the topsoil downslope of the road during the subsequent period.

Figure 8: Trench B, view to West



7.3 Trench C

Trench C was aligned east – west located towards the southern limit of the site, to the east of the terrace wall and west of the Roman road, between NGR points 439047,365174 and 439059,365174. The trench was 12m long and 1.8m wide. This trench was located on ground which sloped steeply down to the west. It was positioned to see if any Romano-British roadside activity was present in this area. The trench was foreshortened to fit between mature trees located in this area.

No archaeological remains were identified within Trench C.

The underlying drift geology consisted of yellow clay with bands of (the underlying) broken mudstone exposed in places. There was evidence for root disturbance and animal burrows in the upper surface of the “Natural”. The topsoil was 200mm thick, and consisted of dark brown clayey silt. There was no evidence for the presence of any distinct colluvial deposits or buried soil horizons. The modern surface was covered with dense undergrowth and occasional trees.

Figure 9: Trench C, view to west



7.4 Trench D

Trench D was aligned north – south located towards the northern limit of the site, to the west of the terrace wall on the lower portion of the site, between NGR points 439025,365251 and 439025,365221. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide. This trench was located on level ground. There were no specific targets in this area.

No significant archaeological remains were identified within Trench D.

The underlying drift geology consisted predominantly of broken mudstone covered in places by yellow clay. The topsoil was 200mm thick, and consisted of dark brown clayey silt. There was no evidence for the presence of any distinct colluvial deposits or buried soil horizons. The modern surface was covered with dense undergrowth.

Three cut features were identified in the trench: two modern land drains and a circular pit. The pit (Context 40) was 1.1m in diameter and backfilled with irregular fragments of broken sandstone and fragments of brick.

Given the level nature of the ground in the area of Trench D, and in light of a photograph provided by a local resident, it is assumed that the area was subject to a widespread truncation/terracing cut, which largely removed the clay overlying the mudstone in this area. This may have been an activity associated with localised quarrying of clay deposits, or preparation of the ground for leisure use (as recorded in the Scheduling description in Appendix 1 and records held by local residents). The drains are assumed to post-date the terracing cut, and the shallow pit had an irregular base, and was interpreted as a back-filled tree-root bole.

Figure 10: Trench D, view to south, note tree-root bole and land drain



Figure 11: Trench D, pre- and post excavation views of cut 40



7.5 Trench E

Trench E was aligned north – south, located towards the centre of the site, to the west of the terrace wall on the lower portion of the site, between NGR points 439002,365224 and 439002,365194. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide. This trench was located on uneven ground: the adjacent ground level was between 135.99 and 137.07m AOD. There were no specific targets in this area.

No significant archaeological remains were identified within Trench E.

The underlying drift geology consisted predominantly of grey-yellow clay with bands of blueish clay and patches of the underlying broken mudstone showing through.

Two cut features were identified within this trench. A modern land drain was recorded close to the northern limit of the trench, aligned north east to south – west, crossing the trench obliquely. A large backfilled cut was located at the southern limit of the trench (beginning 2m from the southern end, and clearly extending to the south). This cut had steep straight sides and was not “bottomed”: it was machine excavated to a depth of 1.2m and it rapidly began to fill with water. The backfill consisted of redeposited natural clay and modern building debris, including bricks and concrete. This feature is interpreted as a backfilled cut, which could be correlated to the deep depression immediately to the south of the trench which had not been filled in. This feature is not recorded on any of the historic or recent OS maps for the site, but is indicated on a topographic survey prepared for the client (Figure below). It is therefore interpreted as a modern cut. The excavation of the cut will have removed any earlier archaeological remains present within its footprint, which clearly extends beyond that indicated on a recent topographic survey.

The topsoil was 200 – 300mm thick, and consisted of dark brown clayey silt. There was no evidence for the presence of any distinct colluvial deposits or buried soil horizons. The modern surface was covered with dense undergrowth.

Figure 12: Trench E on recent topographic survey, note southern limit of trench meets northern edge of cut feature

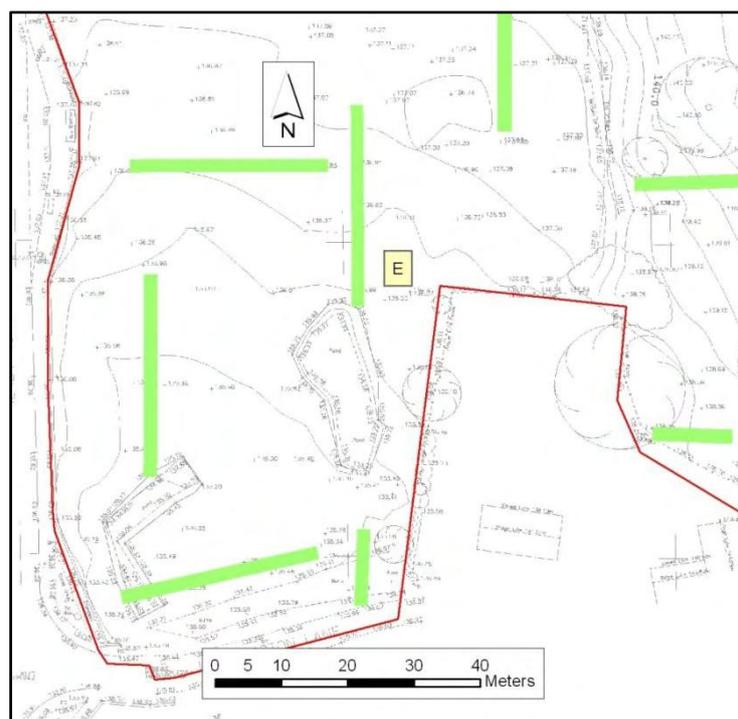


Figure 13: Trench E view to south



Figure 14: Trench E, detail of modern backfill of cut at southern end of trench



7.6 Trench F

Trench F was aligned north – south, located towards the southern limit of the site, to the west of the terrace wall on the lower portion of the development area, between NGR points 439003,365160 and 439003,365148. The trench was 12m long and 1.8m wide. This trench was located on uneven ground: the adjacent ground level was between 135.58 and 136.21m AOD. There were no specific targets in this area.

No significant archaeological remains were identified within Trench F.

The trench was excavated into made ground to a maximum depth of 1.5m, whereupon it filled rapidly with water. The made ground consisted of redeposited natural clay mixed with modern building rubble (broken reinforced concrete, brick and mortar). It is not clear whether the trench was located over a large backfilled cut feature (such as identified in Trench E), or was into material dumped over earlier land surfaces. This area of the site has clearly been subject to significant ground disturbance during recent times, and the potential for archaeological survival at this location should be considered to be low.

The topsoil was 200 – 300mm thick, and consisted of dark brown clayey silt. There was no evidence for the presence of any distinct colluvial deposits or buried soil horizons. The modern surface was covered with dense undergrowth.

Figure 15: Trench F, working shot view to south



7.7 Trench G

Trench G was aligned east – west, located towards the western limit of the site, on the lower portion of the development area, between NGR points 438968,365215 and 438998,365215. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide. This trench was located on uneven ground: the adjacent ground level was between 136.53 and 136.85m AOD. There were no specific targets in this area.

No significant archaeological remains were identified within Trench G, although truncated remains of a demolished post-medieval structure were recorded.

The underlying drift geology consisted of grey-yellow clay (Context 74). In places the upper surface of this deposit had been heated in-situ (Context 72), capturing the impression of the heated brick surface lain over it, but subsequently removed (Figure 18).

The earliest recorded human activity in the trench was a terracing/foundation cut (Context 83) noted close to the eastern limit of the trench. This contained fragments of a brick structure up to two-courses high (Context 70, Figures 16-17); between the brick structure and the cut was a deliberate construction backfill of compact blueish clay and burnt material (Context 82). The nature of the brick structure was unclear- it is assumed to have been part of a rear wall for a building, but it was almost completely destroyed by later clearance. The upper surface of the surviving brickwork was located at 135.84m AOD, 0.55m below the adjacent ground level. The bricks were unfrogged and not mortared, and varied in size between 240mm x 120mm x 70mm and 220mm x 110mm x 70mm

Further to the west the base of a robbed-out/demolished wall was recorded (Context 73). This context was 0.9m wide and consisted of fragments of fire-cracked sandstone pressed into the upper surface of scorched natural clay. Several bricks survived in-situ within it suggesting a mixed brick and stone construction. The colour of the clay was light to mid pinkish brown, and different to deposit 72, which was orange-red: the two zones had clearly been heated to different temperatures. The maximum dimension of 72 was 3.2m east-west within the trench, the southern extent was outside the trench boundary. Given the form of the deposits, it is suggested that 73 marks the location of a wall enclosing a high-temperature source (furnace/kiln/forge?) which had originally had a brick floor. To the west of the robbed-out wall was a deposit of ash and fine coal debris, regarded as in-situ rake-out material from the use of the high temperature structure.

The structure was fragmentary in nature, and had clearly been demolished leaving limited remains- demolition debris was recorded in plan (Contexts 81 and 71) and observed in section to a depth of 450mm above the base of the trench. Modern services were noted towards the western limit of the trench (Contexts 76, - 78 incl.).

The structure is not recorded within the historic ordnance survey mapping for the site (the earliest examined here dates to 1880). A smithy was present on the opposite side of the road to the site in 1880, and it is possible that this was an associated structure which had gone out of use before the survey of the OS map. A photograph from 1904 shows the uneven ground in this area of the site and an absence of any such structures at this point.

The topsoil was 200 – 300mm thick, and consisted of dark brown clayey silt. The modern surface was covered with dense undergrowth.

Figure 16: Trench G

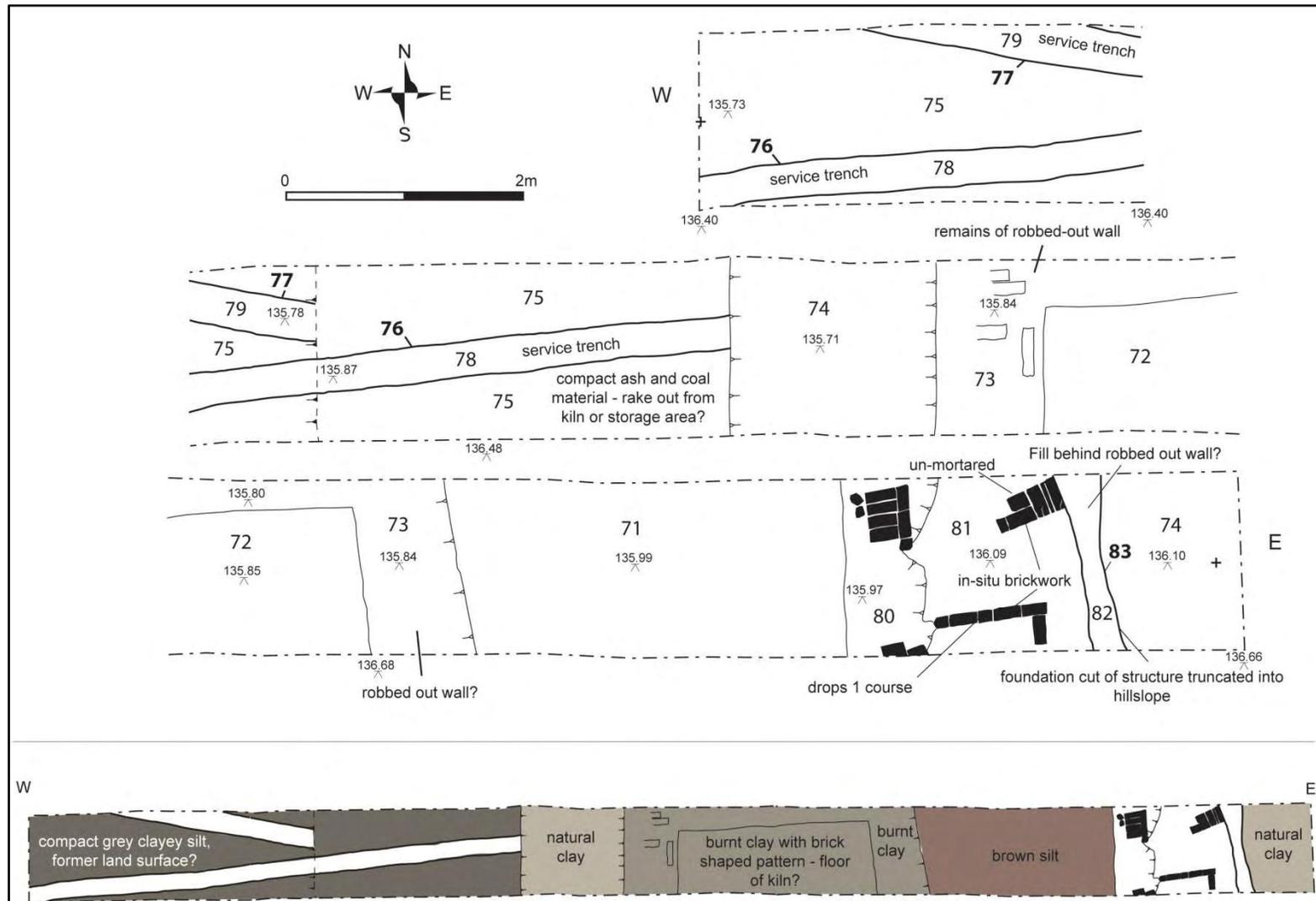


Figure 17: Trench G view to west



Figure 18: Trench G, detail of impression of brick floor on scorched clay (Context 72)



7.8 Trench H

Trench H was aligned north – south, located towards the western limit of the site, on the lower portion of the development area, between NGR points 438971,365198 and 438971,365168. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide. This trench was located on uneven ground: the adjacent ground level was between 136.08 and 135.98m AOD. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m below the adjacent surface. There were no specific targets in this area. The land surface at this part of the site is approximately 1m below the adjacent pavement beyond the western limit of the site.

No significant archaeological remains were identified within Trench H.

This trench contained a drain, a modern post and a spread of demolition material,

The underlying drift geology consisted of yellow clay.

A spread of ash-rich demolition debris was observed at the northern end of the Trench H extending 3.5m into the trench. It is assumed to be derived from the structure recorded in Trench G to the north. No structural elements were observed within this material.

The drain consisted of sections of ceramic pipe, and was aligned north west to south east- it was a modern (i.e. 20th Century) service. It crossed the trench obliquely mid way along its length. Water ran down the line of this drain filling the trench with water shortly after its excavation.

A modern squared-off timber post was observed within the trench- this could not be correlated to any features observed in the historic mapping or photographs.

The topsoil was 200 – 300mm thick, and consisted of dark brown clayey silt. The modern surface was covered with dense undergrowth.

Figure 19: Trench H, view to north



7.9 Trench I

Trench I was aligned approximately east - west, located towards the southern limit of the site, on the lower portion of the development area, between NGR points 438967,365149 and 438996,365156. The trench was 30m long and 1.8m wide. This trench was located on uneven ground: the adjacent ground level was between 135.00m and 135.48m AOD. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.9m below the adjacent surface. There were no specific targets in this area.

No significant archaeological remains were identified within Trench I.

This trench penetrated through modern levelling materials to the base of a large backfilled cut feature interpreted as a former pond. The base of the pond was observed at 1.9m below the adjacent surface (i.e. at approximately 133.34m AOD at the western end of the trench). The primary fill of the pond consisted of black silty clay, 0.5m thick, assumed to be pond-silt. This was covered by a similar deposit 0.4m thick containing burnt material and occasional brick fragments, this is also assumed to have been deposited within the active life of the pond. Subsequent deposits consisted of non-homogenous demolition material containing

varying proportions of clay, broken shale, limestone fragments and broken bricks. This is interpreted as modern materials used to backfill the pond. The pond was identified from mapping evidence from 1880 (see Figure 22) and photograph evidence held by a local resident dated to 1908.

The topsoil was 200 – 300mm thick, and consisted of dark brown clayey silt. The modern surface was covered with dense undergrowth.

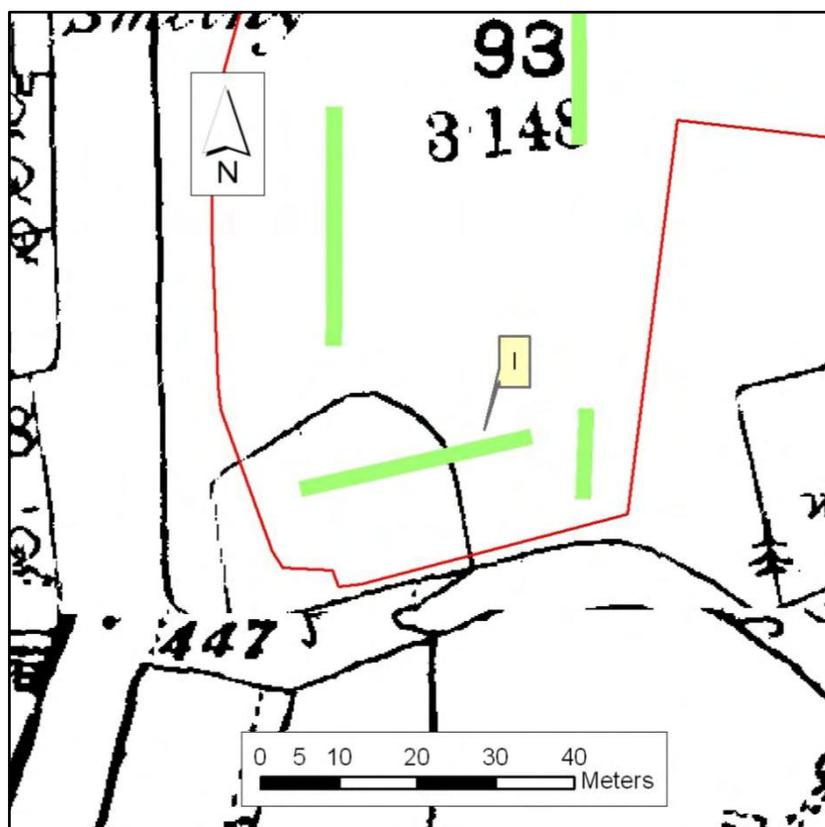
Figure 20: Trench I, view to north east, working shot



Figure 21: Trench I, detail of section, note pond deposits towards base beneath later yellow clay and rubble backfill



Figure 22: Trench I, shown over pond on 1880 OS map



8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

The evaluation has not identified evidence for the presence of any prehistoric archaeological remains, nor any evidence for structural remains dating to the Romano-British period (the single sherd in topsoil might be considered as background noise adjacent to the road).

There was no evidence for occupation of the site during the post-Roman and Medieval periods.

The truncated high-temperature structure is of uncertain function and date (pre 1880's), and was very heavily damaged by demolition. This is not considered to be a significant archaeological phenomenon. It would be possible to mitigate the development impact on this structure by ensuring that a watching brief is undertaken during construction groundworks. The scope of this could be established with the local authority archaeologist and made a condition of planning consent.

There is evidence for extensive groundworks across the site which will have removed much archaeological material, if it were ever present- this includes the terracing of the hillside to create the platform observed in a photograph of the site dated to 1904, the establishment of the pond observed on the 1880 map, subsequent topographic survey and evaluation trenching. The depressions observed towards the western site limit in the photo of 1904 look like artificial cuts, which may be derived from localised quarrying such as for road construction (borrow pit for the adjacent A61). Alternatively the site may have been subject to small-scale coal mining/prospecting: pits are noted to the north of the site on the 1880 map, and coal seams are known to be close to the surface in this area. Local residents suggest that during the National Strike of 1926, local miners illicitly dug coal at the site for personal use (this has not been independently verified, and given the propensity to waterlogging and presence of ponds, should be treated as a possibility only).

The Scheduled Roman road will not be directly impacted upon by the proposed *housing* development. The management of this area as an open public space has the potential to realise direct positive physical impacts. A site meeting attended by representatives of English Heritage, Derbyshire County Council Archaeology Section, Glendale Estates Limited has been held to discuss the scheme and how the Scheduled Area may be managed (12.09.11). It was agreed that a management scheme for the scheduled area, involving the removal of all the immature trees and shrubbery, with a mowing regime and provision of an information panel adjacent to the monument would represent a significant improvement on the current arrangements, and help secure the conservation of the site for the future. A number of the established, mature trees will be retained in recognition of their amenity value to current and future residents.

It was noted that prior to the scheduling of the area several car parks had been established on the eastern side of the monument (see Figures 23-24).

Figure 23: View to south west from beyond the eastern boundary of the site showing a car park terraced into the eastern side of the scheduled area, possibly impacting upon the Roman road



Figure 24: View to north west from beyond the eastern boundary of the site showing a car park terraced into the eastern side of the scheduled area.



It may be helpful to ensure that the Scheduled area is well segregated from the rest of the site during construction works to ensure that inadvertent damage does not take place.

The impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Scheduled Monument has not been considered at length in this evaluation report, although it was discussed during the site meeting. The shift in the adjacent land use from overgrown, derelict land to a housing development represents change in the wider setting, but not one which can be readily defined as negative. The presence of the Roman road is currently obscured from view by the

trees and undergrowth and is not readily discernable on the ground from the underlying topography. The site is currently surrounded by a busy road and houses with established gardens containing mature trees- these elements of the landscape will remain unchanged with the development. In the long term, the setting will consist of more of this suburban character as gardens become established within the new development. The road itself will become more apparent as a feature of the local landscape if it is cleared of some trees and kept free of undergrowth. The public appreciation of this heritage asset would be enhanced with the erection of a display board.

Despite being partially located over a Scheduled Monument, the historic environment should not represent a significant constraint to the proposed scheme: no remains worthy of preservation in situ or separate advance mitigation recording were identified in the evaluation works.

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

This report records the successful execution of an archaeological evaluation at the site, and informs consideration of the historic environment in relation to the proposed scheme.

No new significant archaeological remains were identified at the site.

The evaluation demonstrated widespread post-medieval / modern disturbance at the site in the non-scheduled area, which will have reduced the potential for the survival of previously unknown archaeological remains.

The application makes no proposals for development of the Scheduled Area. The development will accommodate the Scheduled Monument as public open space, and represents an opportunity for positive management of the monument into the future.

10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Malim, T (2010) Proposed Residential Development off Brassington Lane, Old Tupton, Derbyshire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. SLR Consulting Report Ref 406.3202.00001.

Margary I (1973) Roman Roads of Britain.

Schiffer, M.B. (1987) Formation Processes of the Archaeological Record. University of Utah Press. ISBN 0-87480-513-9

Towle A (2011) Proposed Residential Development off Brassington Lane, Old Tupton, Derbyshire: Archaeological Evaluation Method Statement. SLR Consulting Report Ref 406.3202.00001.

11.0 CLOSURE

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of Gladedale Estates Ltd; no warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

Appendix 1: Scheduling Description (after English Heritage) map not to scale

(<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1021444> accessed 06.09.11)

List Entry Summary

This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance. This entry is a copy, the original is held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Name: Section of Ryknield Street Roman road 220m north east of Pear Tree Farm

List Entry Number: 1021444

Location

The monument may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Derbyshire

District: North

District

Parish: Tupton

East
Type: District

Derbyshire
Authority

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 25-Jun-2010

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: RSM

UID: 35627

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Monument

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Roman roads were artificially made-up routes introduced to Britain by the Roman army from c.AD 43. They facilitated both the conquest of the province and its subsequent administration. Their main purpose was to serve the *Cursus Publicus*, or Imperial mail service. Express messengers could travel up to 150 miles (241km) per day on the network of Roman roads throughout Britain and Europe, changing horses at wayside 'mutationes' (posting stations set every 8 miles (12.87km) on major roads) and stopping overnight at 'mansiones' (rest houses located every 20-25 miles (32km-40km)). In addition, throughout the Roman period and later, Roman roads acted as commercial routes and became foci for settlement and industry. Mausolea were sometimes built flanking roads during the Roman period while, in the Anglian and medieval periods, Roman roads often served as property boundaries. Although a number of roads fell out of use soon after the withdrawal of Rome from the province in the fifth century AD, many have continued in use down to the present day and are consequently sealed beneath modern roads. On the basis of construction technique, two main types of Roman road are distinguishable. The first has widely spaced boundary ditches and a broad elaborate agger comprising several layers of graded materials. The second usually has drainage ditches and a narrow simple agger of two or three successive layers. In addition to ditches and construction pits flanking the sides of the road, features of Roman roads can include central stone ribs, kerbs and culverts, not all of which will necessarily be contemporary with the original construction of the road. With the exception of the extreme south-west of the country, Roman roads are widely distributed throughout England and extend into Wales and lowland Scotland. They are highly representative of the period of Roman administration and provide important evidence of Roman civil engineering skills as well as the pattern of Roman conquest and settlement. A high proportion of examples exhibiting good survival are considered to be worthy of protection.

The section of Ryknield Street to the north east of Pear Tree Farm has been recognised to be one of the best preserved sections of Roman road in Derbyshire, surviving for over 100m as an upstanding earthwork that is seemingly undisturbed. It constitutes a significant stretch of the road between the Roman forts at Chesterfield and Pentrich. The monument will retain important archaeological deposits which will contribute significantly to our knowledge and understanding of the form of construction of this important feature of Roman infrastructure.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

This monument includes a section of Ryknield Street Roman road, here visible as an earthwork, forming part of the original Roman road between Chesterfield and Little Chester. This is a proven Roman road serving Chesterfield and Pentrich Roman forts traceable for many miles to the north and south of the site. The earthwork survives well in two sections and the monument is therefore defined by two separate areas of protection. These two areas of

Ryknield Street have been identified as the best preserved section of the Roman road certainly within the county of Derbyshire if not further afield.

At Old Tupton the road is broadly aligned north-northeast by south-southwest, angling eastwards towards Eckington as it continues northwards of the site. The northernmost section survives as a substantial earthwork approximately 105m in length and 1-1.5m in height and rises to a cambered surface. The western limit of the earthwork has been obscured through a raising and levelling of the ground to the west of the monument that might relate to the use of the site as a cricket pitch in the early C20. The southern area of protection is more denuded standing approximately 0.3m high. It is approximately 30m in length, the southernmost 10m of the earthwork having been truncated, possibly at the time Egstow Hall (a Grade II listed building) was built in the C17. The earthwork does not survive above ground immediately beyond this section. Investigation beneath the peak of the camber to the west of Packman's Cottages revealed a stony or hard substrate at a depth of 10-20cm which is understood to be the road surface. A second partial excavation found 5cm by 5cm pieces of sandstone at a depth of 20-25cm. These findings are comparable to the construction material discovered during excavation of a section of the road to the north in New Tupton in May 1975. Here at least two phases of road surfaces were revealed.

All hardstandings, fence posts, boundary markers, the roofed structure located in the south west corner of the southern area of protection and the gate and gate posts are excluded from the scheduling, but the ground beneath all these features is included.

At Old Tupton the road is broadly aligned north-northeast by south-southwest, angling eastwards towards Eckington as it continues northwards of the site. The northern-most section survives as a substantial earthwork approximately 105m in length and 1-1.5m in height and rises to a cambered surface. The western limit of the earthwork has been obscured through a raising and levelling of the ground to the west of the monument that might relate to the use of the site as a cricket pitch in the early C20. The southern section of the monument is more denuded standing approximately 0.3m high. It is approximately 30m in length, the southern most 10m of the earthwork having been truncated, possibly at the time Egstow Hall (Grade II) was built in the C17. The earthwork does not survive above ground immediately beyond this section. Investigation beneath the peak of the camber to the west of Packman's Cottages revealed a stony or hard substrate at a depth of 10-20cm which is understood to be the road surface. A second partial excavation found five by 5cm pieces of sandstone at a depth of 20-25cm. These findings are comparable to the construction material discovered during excavation of a section of the road to the north in New Tupton in May 1975. Here at least two phases of road surfaces were revealed.

All hardstandings, fence posts, boundary markers, the roofed structure located in the south west corner of the southern area of protection and the gate and gate posts are excluded from the scheduling but the ground beneath all these features is included.

MAP

EXTRACT

The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract.

Appendix B: Context Summary

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context Number</i>	<i>Description</i>
A	1	Natural clay drift geology
	2	topsoil
B	10	Natural clay drift geology
	11	topsoil (sherd of R-B pot)
C	20	Natural clay drift geology
	21	topsoil
D	40	Cut: tree bole
	41	Fill of tree-bole 40
	42	Natural clay and mudstone geology
	43	topsoil
E	50	Natural clay drift geology
	51	modern cut
	52	fill of 51
	53	topsoil
F	60	20th C dumped building waste
	61	topsoil
G	70	brick structure
	71	demolition debris
	72	heated upper surface of natural clay
	73	base of robbed-out wall
	74	Natural clay drift geology
	75	demolition debris
	76	Modern linear service cut
	77	Modern linear service cut
	78	fill of 76
	79	fill of 77
	80	trampled construction debris beneath 70
H	81	demolition debris over 70
	82	construction backfill between 70 and 83
	83	terracing cut for construction of building
	90	Natural clay
	91	modern wooden post
I	92	spread of demolition debris
	93	unexcavated drain
	94	topsoil
	100	Natural
	101	pond cut
	102	pond silt
	103	modern backfill
	104	topsoil

Appendix C: Index to Archive

Rim sherd of *mortaria* recovered from topsoil in Trench B



The site archive consists of:

- Copy of Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

- Copy of Evaluation Method Statement

- Copy of this Evaluation Report

Original site records consisting of:

- Two sheets of trench drawings at scale 1:20 and 1:50

- Context sheets

- Level calculations

- Trench Summary Sheets

- 1 artefact (sherd of pottery - see above).

- Photographic Index

- Context Index

- High Resolution digital photos on CD

Other material consisting of:

- Copies of photographs of the site dating to 1904 and 1908

- Copy of English Heritage sketch survey for scheduling purposes

- Copy of Derby Evening Telegraph article (16-11-2002) about Ryknield Street

Archive Location: temporary storage at SLR Warrington (as of October 2011). Available for inspection by arrangement (contact: Andy Towle, atowle@slrconsulting.com 01925 827218).



global environmental solutions

AYLESBURY

7 Wornal Park, Menmarsh Road,
Worminghall, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire HP18 9PH
T: +44 (0)1844 337380

BELFAST

24 Ballynahinch Street, Hillsborough,
Co. Down, BT26 6AW Northern Ireland
T: +44 (0)28 9268 9036

BRADFORD-ON-AVON

Treenwood House, Rowden Lane,
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2AU
T: +44 (0)1225 309400

BRISTOL

Langford Lodge, 109 Pembroke Road,
Clifton, Bristol BS8 3EU
T: +44 (0)117 9064280

CAMBRIDGE

8 Stow Court, Stow-cum-Quy,
Cambridge CB25 9AS
T: + 44 (0)1223 813805

CARDIFF

Fulmar House, Beignon Close, Ocean
Way, Cardiff CF24 5HF
T: +44 (0)29 20491010

CHELMSFORD

Unit 77, Waterhouse Business Centre,
2 Cromar Way, Chelmsford, Essex
CM1 2QE
T: +44 (0)1245 392170

DUBLIN

7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy
Arbour, Dundrum, Dublin 14 Ireland
T: + 353 (0)1 2964667

EDINBURGH

No. 4 The Roundal, Roddinglaw
Business Park, Gogar, Edinburgh
EH12 9DB
T: +44 (0)131 3356830

EXETER

69 Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2NF
T: + 44 (0)1392 490152

FARNBOROUGH

The Pavilion, 2 Sherborne Road, South
Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 6JT
T: +44 (0)1252 515682

GLASGOW

4 Woodside Place, Charing Cross,
Glasgow G3 7QF
T: +44 (0)141 3535037

HUDDERSFIELD

Westleigh House, Wakefield Road,
Denby Dale, Huddersfield HD8 8QJ
T: +44 (0)1484 860521

LEEDS

Suite 1, Jason House, Kerry Hill,
Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4JR
T: +44 (0)113 2580650

MAIDSTONE

19 Hollingworth Court, Turkey Mill,
Maidstone, Kent ME14 5PP
T: +44 (0)1622 609242

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Sailors Bethel, Horatio Street,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 2PE
T: +44 (0)191 2611966

NOTTINGHAM

Aspect House, Aspect Business Park,
Bennerley Road, Nottingham NG6 8WR
T: +44 (0)115 9647280

ST. ALBAN'S

White House Farm Barns, Gaddesden
Row, Hertfordshire HP2 6HG
T: +44 (0)1582 840471

SHEFFIELD

STEP Business Centre, Wortley Road,
Deepcar, Sheffield S36 2UH
T: +44 (0)114 2903628

SHREWSBURY

Mytton Mill, Forton Heath, Montford
Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1HA
T: +44 (0)1743 850170

STAFFORD

8 Parker Court, Staffordshire Technology
Park, Beaconside, Stafford ST18 0WP
T: +44 (0)1785 253331

WARRINGTON

Suite 9 Beech House, Padgate Business
Park, Green Lane, Warrington WA1 4JN
T: +44 (0)1925 827218

WORCESTER

Suite 5, Brindley Court, Gresley Road,
Shire Business Park, Worcester
WR4 9FD
T: +44 (0)1905 751310



Energy



Waste
Management



Planning &
Development



Industry



Mining
& Minerals



Infrastructure