



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND TO THE REAR OF THE ANGEL HOTEL, ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Report Number 2014/25 July 2014



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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on the excavation of foundation trenches on land to the rear of the Angel Hotel, Pinfold Street, Eckington. The watching brief was undertaken in order to satisfy an archaeological planning condition (planning reference NED/12/01022/FL) imposed. The only features observed during the watching brief consisted of the truncated remains of 19th-century red brick foundations associated with the Angel Hotel.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Land to the rear of the Angel Hotel, Eckington
ArcHeritage Project No.	4125141
Report status	Final
Type of Project	Watching Brief
Client	Mr. Jeremy White
Planning Application No.	NED/12/01022/FL
NGR	SK 4302 7947
OASIS identifier	archerit1-183330
Author	Richard Jackson
Illustrations	Rowan May
Editor	Mark Stenton
Report Number and Date	2014/25 03.07.14

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1 INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by ArcHeritage on the excavation of foundations for two new cottages in Eckington, Derbyshire (NGR SK 4302 7947). The watching brief was carried out in relation to planning application NED/12/01022/FL. The works were monitored by Richard Jackson, ArcHeritage archaeologist, on 28th May 2014. The report was commissioned by Mr. Jeremy White.

2 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located at the corner of Market Street and Pinfold Street in Eckington, Derbyshire (Figure 1). The underlying geology comprises sandstone bedrock overlain by natural clays. The land had been used as a car park prior to development. Ground cover throughout the proposal area was a tarmac surface.

The site is adjacent to the Eckington and Renishaw Conservation Area and lies within the curtilage of the Grade II listed Angel Hotel public house.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to monitor the excavation of foundation trenches and a service trench and to record any archaeological structures, features or deposits that were exposed during the works.

3.2 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with current industry best practice and IfA guidelines, as stipulated in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by ArcHeritage and approved by the development control archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council (see Appendix 3). The excavation of all foundation trenches was monitored by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the medieval core of Eckington. While there is no evidence of medieval activity within the proposal area, such activity is likely as the site formed part of the most densely-occupied area of the town by the early post-medieval period. The Angel Hotel public house was shown on the 1795 Eckington enclosure map. At that date, the hotel extended further back from the street frontage than it does at the present date, with part of the building extending into the proposal area. Historic Ordnance Survey maps also showed buildings to the north and west of the Angel Hotel, primarily along the site's Pinfold Street frontage. These structures appear to have been mainly 19th-century in date. The remainder of the site consisted of yards associated with the public house and nearby housing on Pinfold Street and Market Street.

The Angel Hotel retained its 18th-century footprint throughout the 19th and early to mid-20th centuries, and was shown with this plan on aerial photographs taken in 1971 and 1972. Demolition of the west side of the hotel appears to have taken place in association with the widening of Pinfold Street later in the 1970s.

5 EXCAVATION RESULTS

5.1 Monitored foundation trenches

The foundation trenches were excavated in adherence to the plan provided by the client (Figure 2). The trenches measured 0.8-1m in width and were excavated to a depth of 0.85m-1.9m, depending on the local ground conditions. Although excavation commenced with a toothless bucket, the use of a toothed bucket was frequently necessary due to the intractable nature of the compacted demolition rubble that was prevalent beneath the tarmac surface.

The typical stratigraphic sequence observed during the monitored works comprised a tarmac surface [101] and associated modern limestone hardcore bedding [102], with a combined thickness of 0.2m. This modern hardstanding sealed an extensive deposit of made ground [103] consisting of a mixture of sandstone rubble and demolition rubble. This material contained inclusions of red brick fragments, occasional fragments of sandstone masonry and slate roof-tile fragments. The made ground typically measured 0.5m in depth and directly overlay the local natural deposits of clay, with occasional sandstone outcroppings.

The only notable exception to this stratigraphic sequence was located at the site's north-west corner, close to the junction of Pinfold Street and a side road serving the adjacent car park. Although no structures were observed during the monitored works, the depth of the made ground was much greater than in any of the other monitored foundation trenches (Plate 1). The final depth of the foundation trench in this portion of the site measured 1.9m below ground level. This greater depth was interpreted as the backfilled remains of the cellars that had been truncated in relation to the widening of Pinfold Street in the 1970s.

The only coherent structure observed during the monitored works was a small red brick wall [104]. This was constructed from unfrogged red bricks. The constituent bricks measured 22.5 x 11 x 8cm and were bonded with a sandy lime mortar. Orientated east-west, the wall measured 4m in length, was two skins thick and had a truncated vertical extent of 0.5m (Plate 2). The foundations of [104] were cut to the interface between the subsoil and natural. Wall [104] was interpreted as the truncated remains of buildings that had been demolished in association with the widening of Pinfold Street. The remains appeared to be the foundations that had comprised the south-west corner of these structures. The evidence recorded during monitoring was insufficient to definitively ascribe the structure to the Angel Hotel's primary phase of construction.

6 DISCUSSION

The watching brief identified very limited archaeological remains. One post-medieval wall was identified, but no archaeological artefacts, animal bones or human bones were discovered. No evidence was observed for past industrial activity, no charred or waterlogged deposits were recovered and samples were therefore not taken for environmental analysis.

The results gathered during the monitored groundworks suggest that any medieval remains that may once have been present within the site boundary have been rigorously truncated by later phases of redevelopment. The excavated ground consisted exclusively of post-medieval and modern material, with no trace of any medieval deposits sealed beneath. Part of the

Angel Hotel formerly stood on the site. This had also been subject to a rigorous demolition process, partly due to the widening of Pinfold Street in the late 20th century.

7 CONCLUSIONS

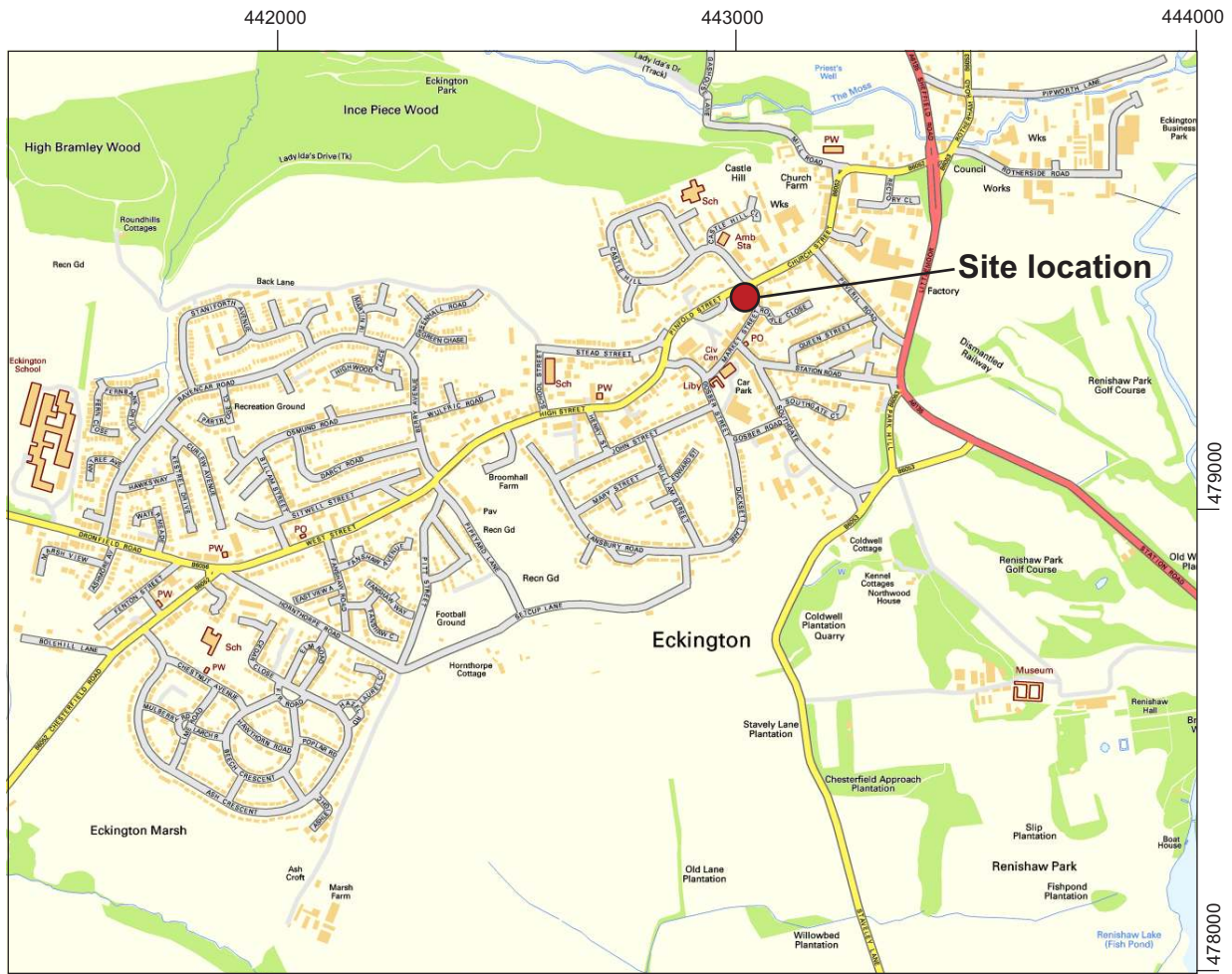
The archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of the Angel Hotel, Eckington, determined that no significant medieval or post medieval structures or deposits were preserved *in situ* beneath the modern car park surface. The raised topography of the site is attributed to the backfilling of the demolished remains of the former western end of the hotel buildings. While evidence of post-medieval activity was identified, no significant archaeological deposits were recovered and the archaeological potential of the site is deemed to be low.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

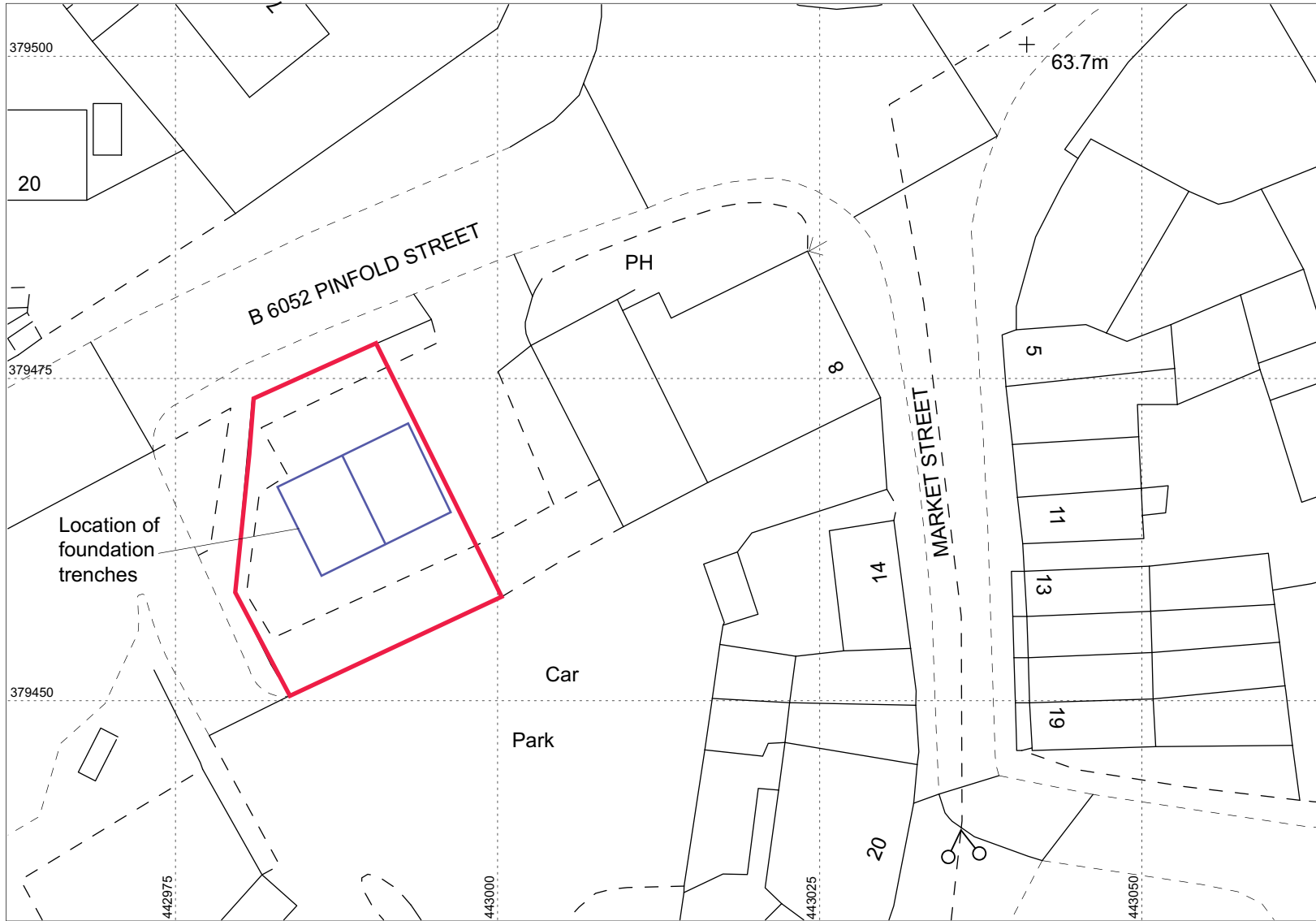
Documents

ArcHeritage. 2014. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief. Unpublished ArcHeritage WSI.

9 FIGURES

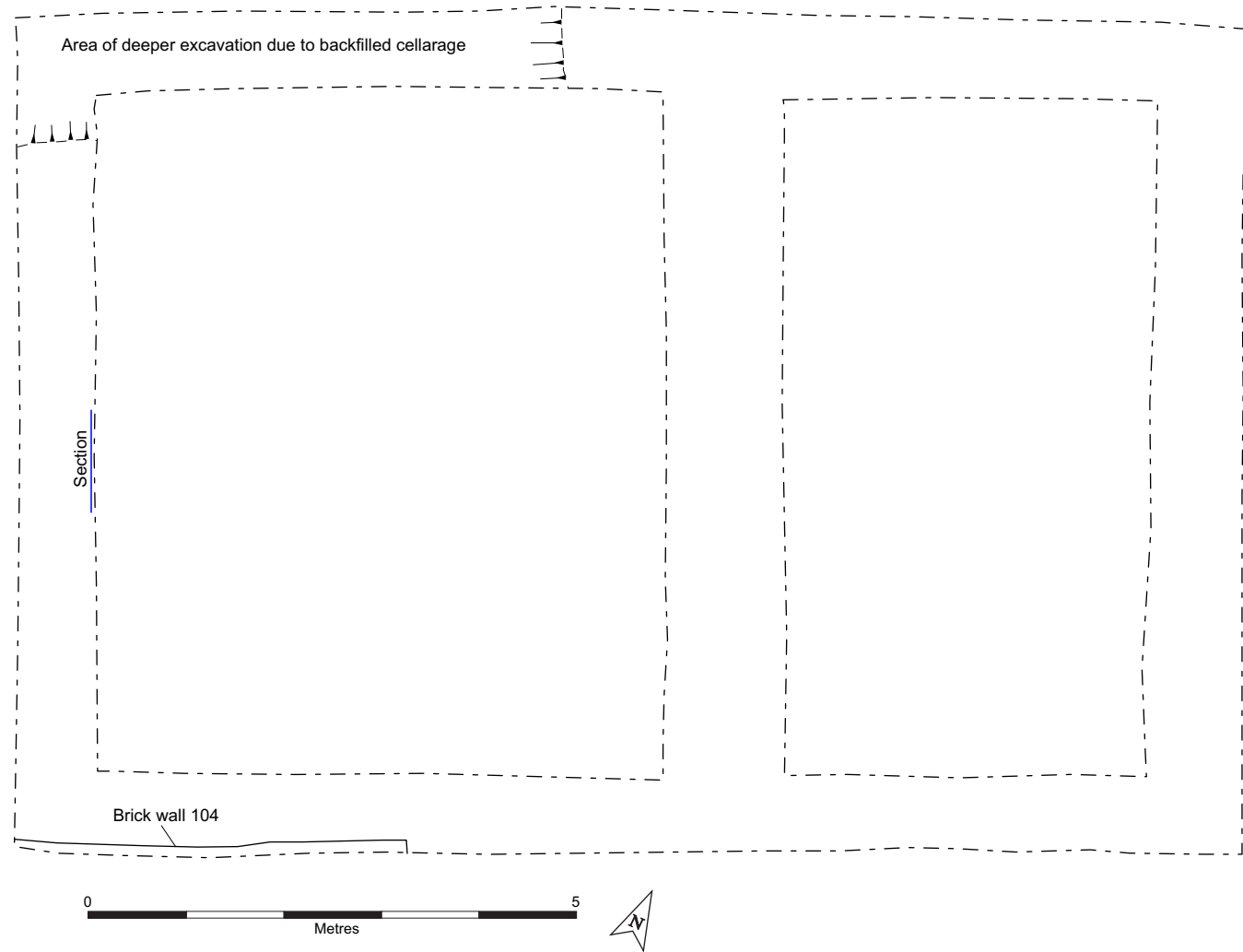
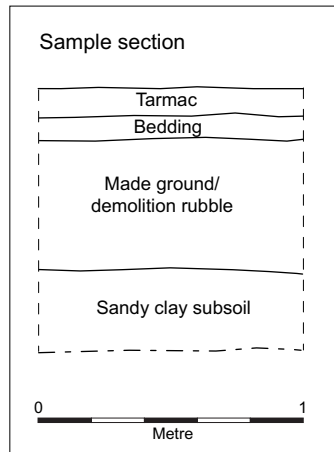


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Figure 2: Plan showing location of foundation trench



10 PLATES



Plate 1: Working shot showing depth of made ground, looking north-east.



Plate 2: Structure [104], facing south-east. 1m scale.

APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

Item	Number of items
Context register	1
Context sheets	1
Levels register	0
Photographic register	1
Drawing register	1
Original drawings	1
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	0
Colour photographs (films)	0
Digital photographs	14
Finds register	0
Sample register	0
Sample sheets	0
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST

Trench no	Context no	Description
n/a	101	Tarmac surface
n/a	102	Hardcore bedding for [101]
n/a	103	Made ground
n/a	104	Red brick wall
n/a	105	Natural

Table 1: List of contexts

APPENDIX 3 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Site Location: Angel Hotel, 8 Market Street, Eckington

NGR: SK 4302 7947

Proposal: Construction of 2 cottages

Planning ref: NED/12/01022/FL

Prepared for: Jeremy White by ArcHeritage, 23/05/14

Status of WSI: Final - approved by Steve Baker

1 SUMMARY

1.1 A planning application has been submitted for the construction of two cottages, each with two bedrooms, on land to the rear of the Angel Hotel, Market Street, Eckington. The proposal is to cut the existing tarmac to excavate foundation trenches and a service trench, whilst leaving the rest of the tarmac *in situ*.

1.2 The following archaeological condition has been imposed:

a) No development shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing, and until any pre-start element of the approved scheme has been completed to the written satisfaction of the local planning authority. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and

1. the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;

2. the programme for post-excavation assessment;

3. provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;

4. provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;

5. provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation;

6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of investigation.

b) No development shall take place other than in accordance with the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (a).

c) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (a) and the provision to be made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

ArcHeritage, May 2014 Page 2

1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in consultation with Steve Baker, Derbyshire County Council development control archaeologist. The work will be carried out in accordance with this WSI.

2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

2.1 The proposal site is located at the corner of Market Street and Pinfold Street, Eckington, Derbyshire. It is on land to the rear of the Angel Hotel and currently comprises a tarmac-surfaced car parking area.

3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

3.1 The proposal site is just outside Eckington and Renishaw Conservation Area and is within the curtilage of the Angel Hotel, a grade II listed public house. It is also within the medieval core of Eckington, as defined in the Extensive Urban Survey Archaeological Assessment Report (Stroud 1999).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

4.1 The site is within the medieval core of Eckington and, by the time of the Parliamentary Enclosure of 1795, it was part of the most densely-occupied area of the town. This indicates the potential for buried archaeology of medieval and later dates within the site.

4.2 The Angel Hotel was depicted on the 1795 enclosure map, at which date the building extended further back from the street frontage, within the proposal site. This layout was still depicted on historic Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th and early 20th century, and was also shown on aerial photographs of 1971-72. The building appears to have been substantially shortened in recent decades, and remains of the former building may survive within the site.

4.3 Historic maps also show buildings to the north and west of the Angel Hotel, primarily along the site's Pinfold Street frontage. These mainly appear to be of 19th-century date, with some older buildings on the corner of Pinfold Street and Market Street shown in 1795, just outside the proposal area. The Pinfold Street buildings appear to have been lost during road widening in the 1970s. The remainder of the site appears to have been made up of yard areas associated with the Angel Hotel and the nearby housing.

4.4 The impact on buried archaeological remains from the road widening, the demolition of the rear section of the Angel Hotel and the construction of the current car park is currently unknown. The ground level appears to have been raised for the construction of the car park, which may have resulted in archaeological deposits being protected. There is consequently the potential for the survival of buried archaeology to survive within the proposed development site. This could include remains of medieval and early post-medieval date, associated with activity to the rear of buildings in the medieval period, and with the post-medieval buildings recorded on the site.

5. GROUNDWORKS TO BE MONITORED

5.1 This work will comprise a continuous/comprehensive watching brief, on the cutting of the tarmac and excavation of all foundations, service trenches and any subsequent groundworks involving excavation. If the initial monitoring indicates that the underlying deposits are entirely modern in origin, the watching brief may be suspended, following agreement from the Development Control Archaeologist.

6 DELAYS TO THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

6.1 All earth-moving machinery must be fitted with a toothless bucket and operated at an appropriate speed to allow the archaeologist to recognise, record and retrieve any archaeological deposits and material. A toothed bucket and/or concrete breaker may only be used where absolutely necessary to remove hard surfaces and other obstructions, and this must be agreed in advance with the on-site archaeologist.

6.2 It is not intended that the archaeological monitoring should unduly delay site works. However, the archaeologist on site should be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate hand excavate, sample and record any exposed features and finds. In order to fulfil the requirements of this WSI, it may be necessary to halt the earth-moving activity to enable the archaeology to be recorded properly.

6.3 If medieval remains are encountered, work will be halted pending a decision on the requirement for further archaeological fieldwork by the Development Control Archaeologist.

6.4 Plant or excavators shall not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeologist on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

7 RECORDING METHODOLOGY

7.1 If a base plan of intervention areas is available, the areas being monitored will be determined using this information. If a plan is not available, or the watching brief work involves monitoring of long linear works, interventions which are not mapped, or large open areas, the location of the monitoring will be determined using a hand-held GPS, which will provide accuracy to c.2m.

7.2 Unique context numbers will only be assigned if artefacts are retrieved, or stratigraphic relationships between archaeological deposits are discernible. In archaeologically 'sterile' areas, soil layers will be described, but no context numbers will be assigned. Where assigned, each context will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions.

7.3 Archaeological deposits will be planned at a basic scale of 1:50, with individual features requiring greater detail being planned at a scale of 1:20. Larger scales will be utilised as appropriate. Cross-sections of features will be drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation. All drawings will be drawn on inert materials. All drawings will adhere to accepted drawing conventions

7.4 Photographs of archaeological deposits and features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. The photographic register will comprise 35mm format black and white prints. Digital photography and/or 35mm colour slides may be used in addition, but will not form the primary site archive. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.

7.5 Areas which are inaccessible (e.g. for health and safety reasons) will be recorded as thoroughly as possible within the site constraints. In these instances, recording may be entirely photographic, with sketch drawings only.

7.6 All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the IfA guidance for archaeological materials. Unstratified material will not be kept unless it is of exceptional intrinsic interest. Material discarded as a consequence of this policy will be described and quantified in the field.

Finds of particular interest or fragility will be retrieved as Small Finds, and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.

7.7 All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication First Aid for Finds, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.

7.8 A soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains where suitable deposits are identified. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2002). Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the evaluation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. Soil samples of approximately 30 litres for flotation (or 100% of the features if less than this volume) will be removed from selected contexts, using a combination of the judgement and systematic methodologies.

- Judgement sampling will involve the removal of samples from secure contexts which appear to present either good conditions for preservation (e.g. burning or waterlogging) or which are significant in terms of archaeological interpretation or stratigraphy. (Given the nature of an archaeological watching brief, it is anticipated that the implementation of a systematic sampling methodology will not be possible).

7.9 No known industrial activity has been recorded at the site. If industrial activity of any scale is detected, industrial samples and process residues will also be collected. Separate samples (c. 10ml) will be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) (English Heritage 2001).

7.10 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with ArcHeritage specialists and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.

7.11 In the event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left in-situ, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately. An osteoarchaeologist will be available to give advice on site.

☐ If disarticulated remains are encountered, these will be identified and quantified on site. If trenches are being immediately backfilled, the remains will be left in the ground. If the excavations will remain open for any length of time, disarticulated remains will be removed and boxed, for immediate reburial by the Church.

- If articulated remains are encountered, these will be excavated in accordance with recognised guidelines (see 6.12) and retained for assessment.
- Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.

7.12 Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in

accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, IfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and English Heritage guidance (2005).

8 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

8.1 Upon completion of the groundworks, a report will be prepared to include the following:

- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
- b) An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
- c) An account of the methodology and results of the operation, describing structural data, associated finds and environmental data.
- d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored.
- e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports as necessary.
- f) Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
- g) A copy of the key OASIS form details
- h) Copies of the Brief and WSI
- i) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report

8.2 Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body and to Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER). Copies will also be supplied in PDF format. On completion of the project, an online OASIS form will be completed at <http://oasis.ac.uk/>.

8.3 The requirements for archive preparation and deposition will be addressed and undertaken in a manner agreed with the recipient museum. In this instance Weston Park Museum, Sheffield is recommended and an agreed allowance should be made for the curation and storage of this material.

8.4 Provision for the publication of results, as outlined in the Brief, will be made.

8.5 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the County Council and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY

9.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.

9.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

10 TIMETABLE & STAFFING

10.1 The timetable for the archaeological works is to be confirmed. The programme for any watching brief will be dependent on the programme for ground works.

10.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:

- Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
- Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers
- Medieval Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
- Finds Officers - Geoffrey Krause & Rachel Cubitt
- Human Remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd) & Rebecca Storm (University of Bradford)
- Palaeoenvironmental remains – Northlight Heritage
- Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues – Dr Rod Mackenzie
- Conservation – Dr Ian Panter

11 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

11.1 Notice will be provided to Steve Baker, Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist, in advance of work commencing on site, and he will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed. ArcHeritage will notify Steve Baker of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with Steve Baker.

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13 KEY REFERENCES

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See also the HELM website for a full list of English Heritage Guidance documents.

<http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.19701>

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