

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF AT
THE MASONIC HALL,
HIGH STREET, ILKESTON,
DERBYSHIRE, 2011**



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**A report for
Ilkeston Masonic Association Ltd**

*by
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OS Grid Ref. SK 4662 4185 (centred)
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SUMMARY

- An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA) on building works on the back of the Masonic Hall, Ilkeston, Derbyshire in July 2011. The hall was originally a Unitarian chapel built in 1869 on the site of an earlier chapel which dates back to 1718. The site lies within the historic core of the town and within its present-day Conservation Area.
- Permission was granted for a single storey rear extension in response to Planning Application ERE/0211/0044. The extension was designed to have a sunken floor level, requiring between 1.2m - 2.4m of overburden and soil to be removed from the area by machine.
- The site had most recently been used as the paved back yard of an adjoining public house. After this paving was removed topsoil averaging a depth of 40-50cm was found; this contained 19th and 20th century building rubble and an assortment of pottery and clay pipe stems from the same period. A land drain was recorded in the topsoil in the south facing section. The sandstone bedrock rose up towards the southern edge of the excavation, where the topsoil was at its shallowest.
- The site was found to have no archaeological features and finds dating from before the very late 18th Century, despite its central position and map evidence suggesting buildings in the vicinity since at least the 16th century. It is a possibility that the 1869 Unitarian chapel was built on the footings of or directly over the earlier chapel, and therefore all evidence of the 1718 chapel is now inaccessible. A surrounding boundary wall (largely demolished during the works) was made of 18th century bricks, and these walls may have surrounded the earlier chapel.
- The area behind this wall, the excavation area, is most likely to be the area shown as empty space in the centre of the East Street - High Street area on maps dating from 1598, 1798 and 1900. No evidence for rubbish pits or burial was seen during the watching brief and any superficial archaeology was probably lost during later building activity for buildings around the site, as disturbance and deposition of building materials was clearly evident.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report is the result of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) on building works on the west side of the Masonic Hall at Ilkeston, Derbyshire (OS Grid Ref. SK 4662 4185, postcode DE7 5JA; see Figure 1). The watching brief was commissioned by the Ilkeston Masonic Association Ltd. The hall was originally a Unitarian chapel built in 1869 on the site of an earlier chapel which dates back to 1718. The site is considered to be within the historic core of Ilkeston and it also lies within the north-east boundary of the town's official Conservation Area.

Planning permission had been granted for a single storey rear extension to be built at the Masonic Hall for a new dining room and a larger kitchen area. This was in response to Planning Application ERE/0211/0044, with the condition attached by the Development Control Archaeologist (acting on behalf of Erewash Borough Council) that an archaeological watching brief was required. This is due to the hall being situated within the historic core of Ilkeston and in consideration of the results of recent archaeological excavations in the vicinity. There was the potential to recover finds and features relating to the first chapel and possibly earlier occupation. It was thought possible that burials associated with this earlier chapel might be present within the yard, along with foundations and footings of cottages demolished on Anchor Row in the 1930s.

The watching brief was carried out between the 4th and 6th July 2011 and involved three visits to record a machine excavation. The extension area was examined and recorded in section by scaled drawing, and by film and digital photography. The site archive includes written records, drawings on polyester film and 5 black and white film negatives and prints, and 30 duplicate digital views in colour. Some of the latter are used as plates within this report.

The TPA site code is MHI. The site archive will be deposited at Derby Museum and Art Gallery by December 2011. The archive number is DBYMU 2011-21. This report also includes a copy of the completed OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological InvestigationS) form – see Appendix.

2. HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Ilkeston began as an Anglo-Saxon settlement, which became part of the Danelaw in the 9th century. The settlement is recorded in the 1086 Domesday Book as the village 'Tilchestune', where the 'T' was probably added accidentally by the scribe. During the Medieval period, Ilkeston passed through a succession of rich landowners. The population in 1600 was estimated to be

around 600 people, which grew to approximately 2,500 in 1800. Thanks to the expansion of the textile trade in the local area, the population boomed to 19,000 by the 1890s.

The Masonic Hall was built in 1869 as a Unitarian chapel on the site of an earlier dissenting chapel dating to 1718. During the 20th century the building was used by the G. W. Peacock printing company, and later as a Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall, before becoming a Masonic Hall in 1983. The ground floor was completely refurbished in the summer of 2009.

Dalby House (now Erewash Museum) is situated close to the Masonic Hall, on the opposite side of Anchor Row. The earliest known map for Ilkeston, drawn by Henry Fletcher in 1598, suggests that there has been a building on the site since at least that time, which may then have been in the possession of John Boote (Fig. 2). More is known about Dalby House after 1783, when Francis and Mary Agard moved into the property; it is believed that it was around this time that the 3-storey Georgian section of the house was built. The house was named after the Dalby family, headed by John Dalby who bought the property from Francis Agard in 1806. It was extended to its present size by Dr. George Blake Norman in the 1860s and factory owner Charles Maltby bought the house in 1888. In the 20th century some of the Dalby House outbuildings were demolished, extending the gardens and creating the present open plan car access of the museum. The refurbished stables make up the left side of Anchor Row in the direction pointing towards Lower Market Place.

Captain Gregory's Wine Vaults public house is situated on the corner of East Street and High Street. This is named after Charles Hiram Gregory (b. 1841) who came to Ilkeston in 1873 and took over the building, which pre-dates 1846. The area of the watching brief behind the Masonic Hall previously belonged to the public house and was used as a pleasure garden. It was an outside paved and concreted seating area before the public house's recent closure. Cellars within the public house have been partially dug into the sandstone bedrock. The majority of the buildings in the vicinity of Masonic hall date to the 18th and 19th centuries, including the garages situated in between the Masonic Hall itself and Captain Gregory's Wine Vaults. The general area is shown to be have been occupied from as early as 1598, according to a map drawn by Henry Fletcher (Fig. 2). After St Mary's Church, No. 9 East Street is the second oldest building in Ilkeston. There once stood a row of late 18th Century cottages behind the Masonic Hall, running along Anchor Row (Plate 1). These were demolished in the 1930s.

Also close to the site is St Mary's Church, which has been at its present site since at least the mid 12th century. In 1386 St. Mary's came under the jurisdiction of the Premonstratensian canons of Dale Abbey. Recent excavations of the house and grounds of the former vicarage exposed

potential evidence of a priest's house dating from the 13th and 14th centuries. The evidence included 92 sherds of painted medieval glass and late Medieval and early Tudor pottery. The discovery of sandstone foundations, alongside numerous sherds of mid 16th century pottery, suggests that a barn was built on the site of a demolished Medieval building. The barn and a recently excavated Medieval boundary wall can both be seen on the Fletcher map. Following a resistivity survey in 2005 which revealed other potential features, further excavations may occur in the future.

3. WATCHING BRIEF

The area of excavation for the Masonic Hall extension was approximately a 15m x 10m rectangle (Area 01), with a 6.8m x 1m trench dug alongside the former back alley of the hall (Area 02) – see Figure 5. The shallowest point excavated measured a depth of 1.5m at the northern edge of the site, and the deepest point measured 2.3m at the southern edge of the excavation. This difference was due to a higher level concrete platform that ran along the south of the site, extending out between 5-6m from the Anchor Row wall (foreground of Plate 3). The platform was accessed by steps and a ramp rising 80cm above the main paved area. The difference was also due to the main paved area being 105cm higher than the existing Masonic Hall ground floor. The new extension level was to be 40cm below the existing ground floor and, as a result, the excavation went deeply into the natural sandstone bedrock.

The area was excavated down through the paved and mortar layers, 0001 and 0002 respectively, a mid grey brown clay loam topsoil (0004), and through loose natural loamy sandstone (0005), and then solid layers of bedrock (0006). The topsoil (0004) contained large amounts of 19th and 20th century building rubble, alongside an assortment of pottery from the same period, including salt glaze and blue and white pottery, and a few clay pipe stems. A land drain was recorded in the topsoil in the south facing section, which ran on through the east facing section to the back of the Gregory Wine Vaults (Plate 6).

The topsoil reached its deepest point in Area 02, measuring down to a depth of 1.6m from 0001 at the north end of the 16m long section, directly below the back wall of the garages, in an area where there was a greater concentration of building rubble (far right of Plate 5). The level of the sandstone bedrock and the loose clay sandstone layer above it (0005) rose in level towards the southern edge of the excavation, and the topsoil here was relatively shallow. This would partly explain why the public house's cellars were dug through sandstone. The topsoil, averaging a depth of 40-50cm, underneath the concrete platform contained whole bricks, building rubble and redeposited

soil, suggesting that this was ground had been much disturbed by previous activities. Any previous archaeology and building foundations may have been lost during these.

A boundary running parallel to the back (west) and north sides of the Masonic Hall consisted of bricks $2\frac{3}{8} \times 4 \times 9\frac{3}{8}$ inches (60 x 101 x 238mm) in size, consistent with a date of 18th Century (Plate 7). This wall was largely demolished to make way for the extension (Plates 3, 4).

The site contexts (soil layers, cuts and features) are listed below:

- 0001 Brick and slab floor level, up to 12cm thick.
- 0002 Very loose white mortar and plaster layer, clear boundaries, less than 10cm thick. Found across the extent of the site.
- 0003 Loose black charcoal lens. Clear boundaries, less than 5cm thick.
- 0004 Friable and fine mid grey brown clay loam with dark grey mottles, with less than 10% sub-rounded stone inclusions. Very frequent, but not consistent, modern rubble inclusions. Charcoal flecks in section. Finds include: Land drain, clay pipes, salt glaze, slipware, blue and white pottery (Plate 8). Ranges in depth from 50cm to 150 cm. Found across the extent of the site.
- 0005 Friable and coarse mid yellow sandstone mixed with a clay loam, merging with 0006. Transition between the solid bedrock and the topsoil. Up to 60cm thick at the south of the site. Found across the extent of the site.
- 0006 Loose but solid layers of the natural dark yellow orange sandstone bedrock. At its shallowest point, it measures 80cm below 0001. Found across the extent of the site.
- 0007 Loose lens of mudstone and modern rubble, sharp boundaries with 0004, potentially related to the land drain.
- 0008 Friable dark brown black clay loam, with less than 20% modern rubble inclusions. 3 sherds of blue and white pottery found.
- 0009 Concrete block boundary wall of Anchor Row.
- 0010 Concrete layer making up the top of the platform.
- 0011 Stacked layers of modern bricks. (0004) is held up behind them.
- 0012 modern brick wall, lining a pathway leading to the back gate of the paved area.
- 0013 Crushed concrete ramp.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The site was found to have no archaeological features and finds dating from before the late 18th Century, despite its central position and historical evidence suggesting use of the general area since at least the 16th Century. It

is a possibility that the 1869 Unitarian chapel was built on the footings of or directly over the earlier chapel, and therefore all evidence of the 1718 chapel is now inaccessible. The 18th century boundary wall could potentially be the original boundary to the earlier chapel.

The area behind this wall, the excavation area, is most likely to be the area shown as empty space in the centre of the East Street - High Street area on maps dating from 1598 (Fig. 2), 1798 (Fig. 3) and 1900 (Fig. 4). No evidence for rubbish pits or burial was seen during the watching brief and any superficial archaeology was probably lost during later building activity for buildings around the site, as disturbance and deposition of building materials was clearly evident.

5. REFERENCES

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<http://www.ilkecam.com>

<http://www.ilkestonhistory.org.uk>

ILLUSTRATIONS

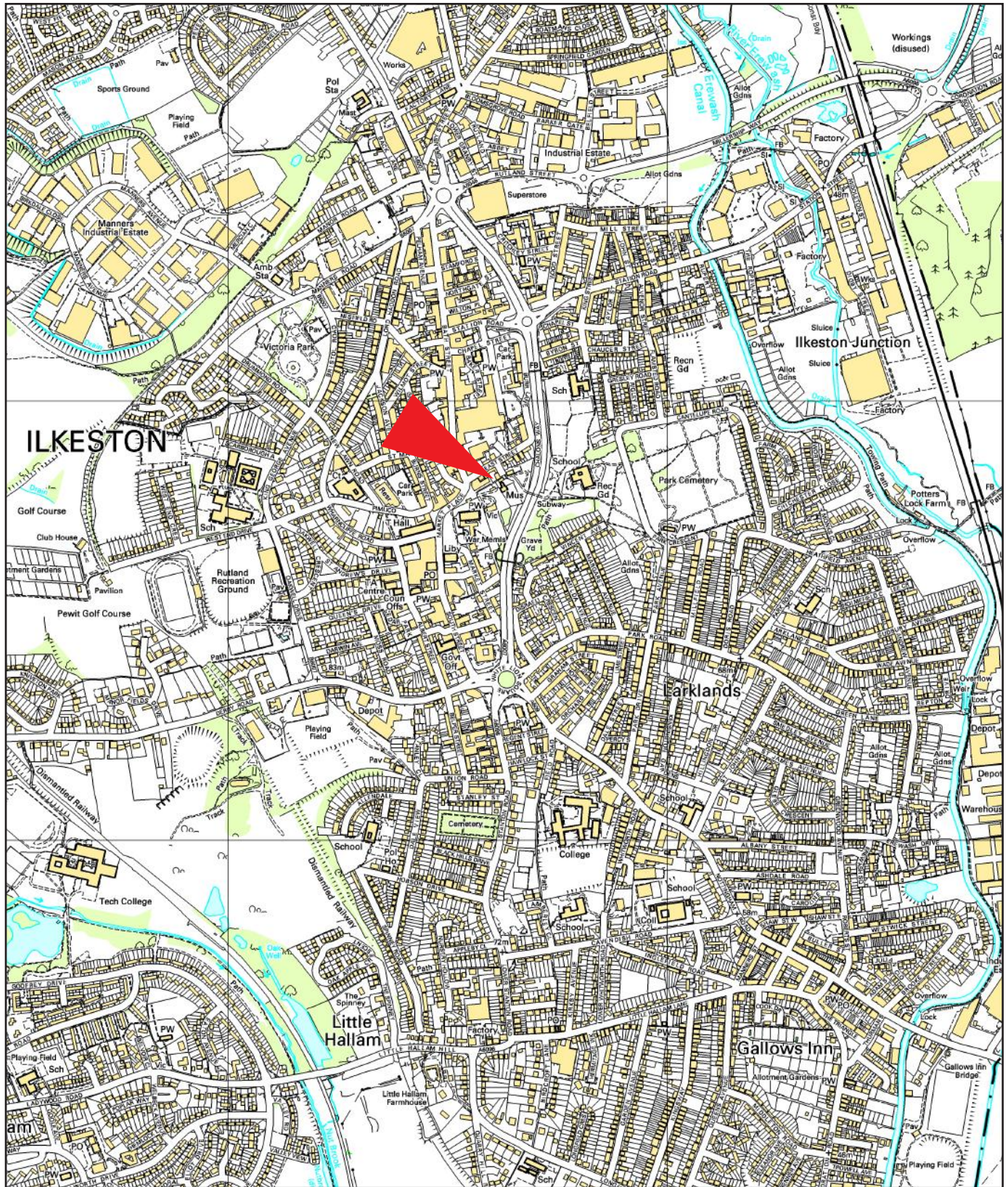


Figure 1: Location of the site at the back of the Masonic Hall, High Street, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, highlighted by the arrow. Scale 1:12,500. Contains Ordnance Survey data. © Crown Copyright and database right 2011.

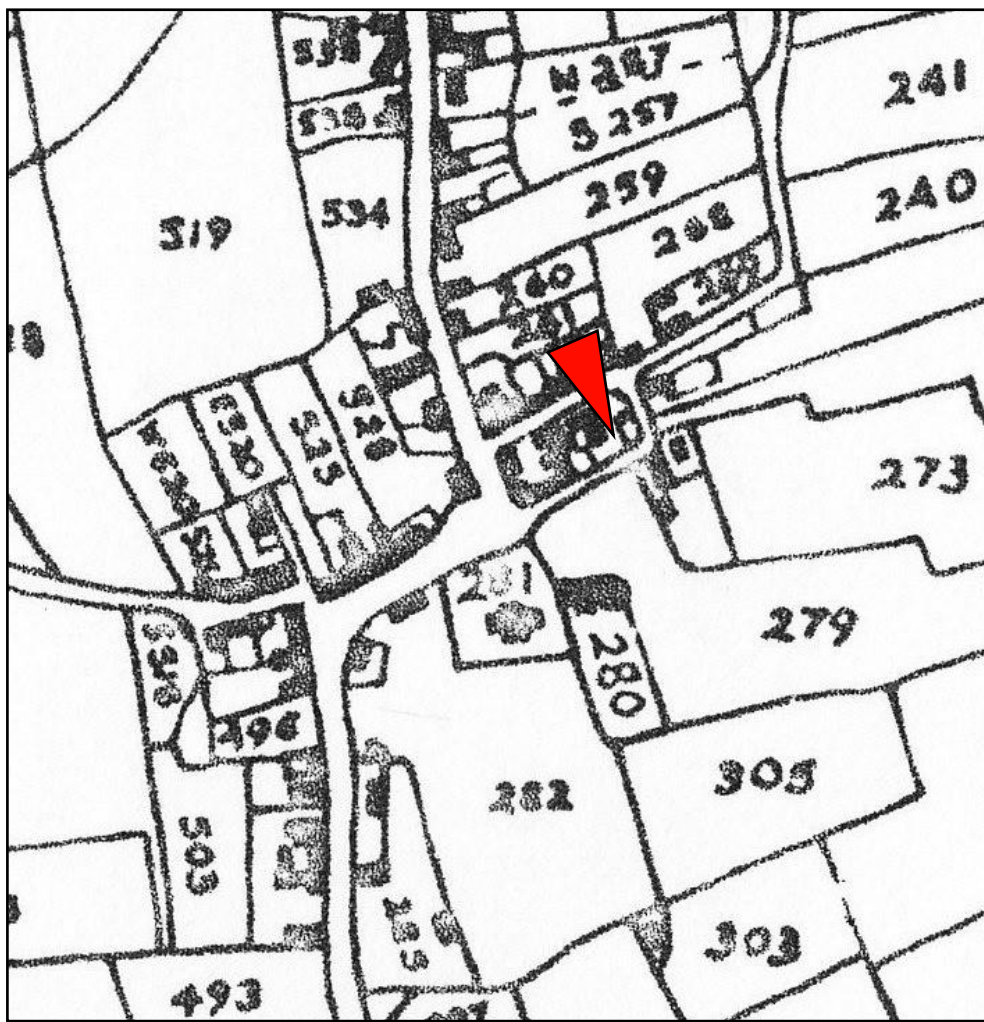
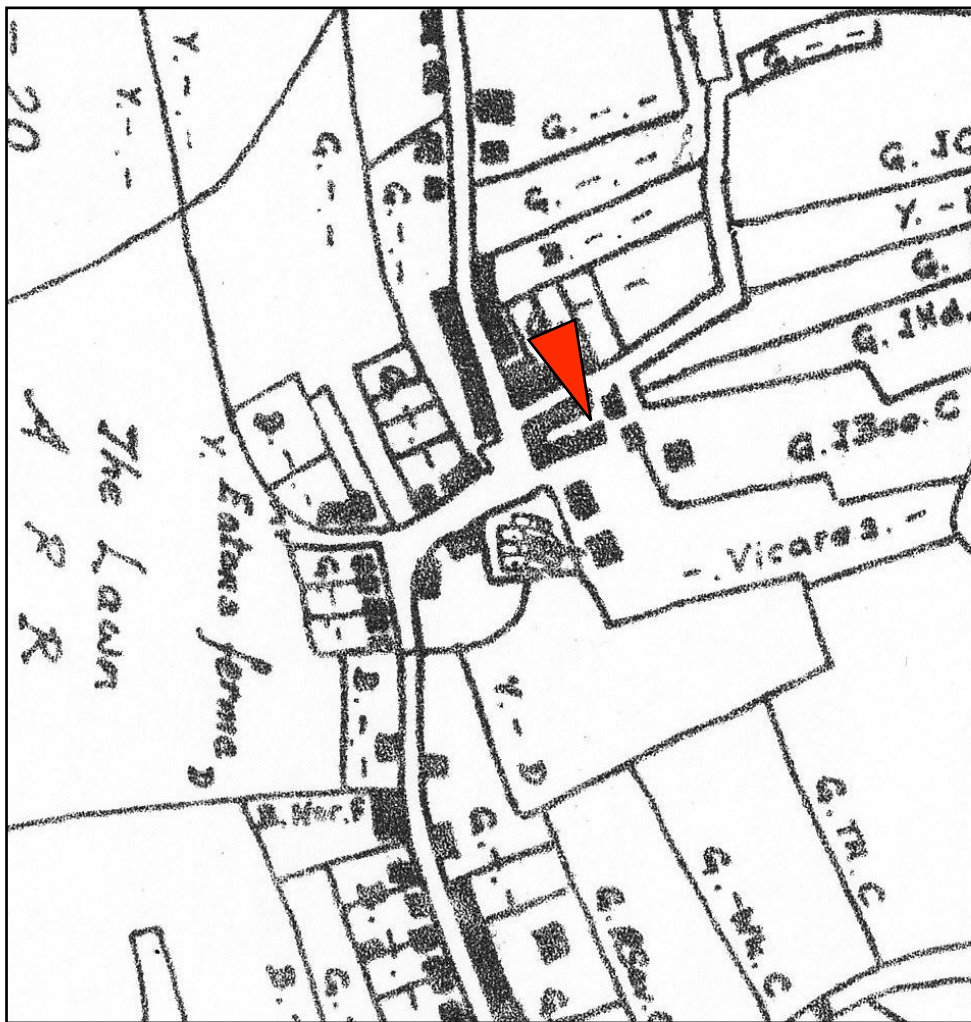


Figure 2: 1598 map of Ilkeston, drawn by Henry Fletcher, showing the position of St Mary's church, a building on the spot where Dalby house is today, and the buildings surrounding the study area (highlighted by the arrow).

Figure 3: 1798 Enclosure award map, showing Anchor Row, its cottages, the earlier 1718 dissenting chapel and the study area (highlighted by the arrow).

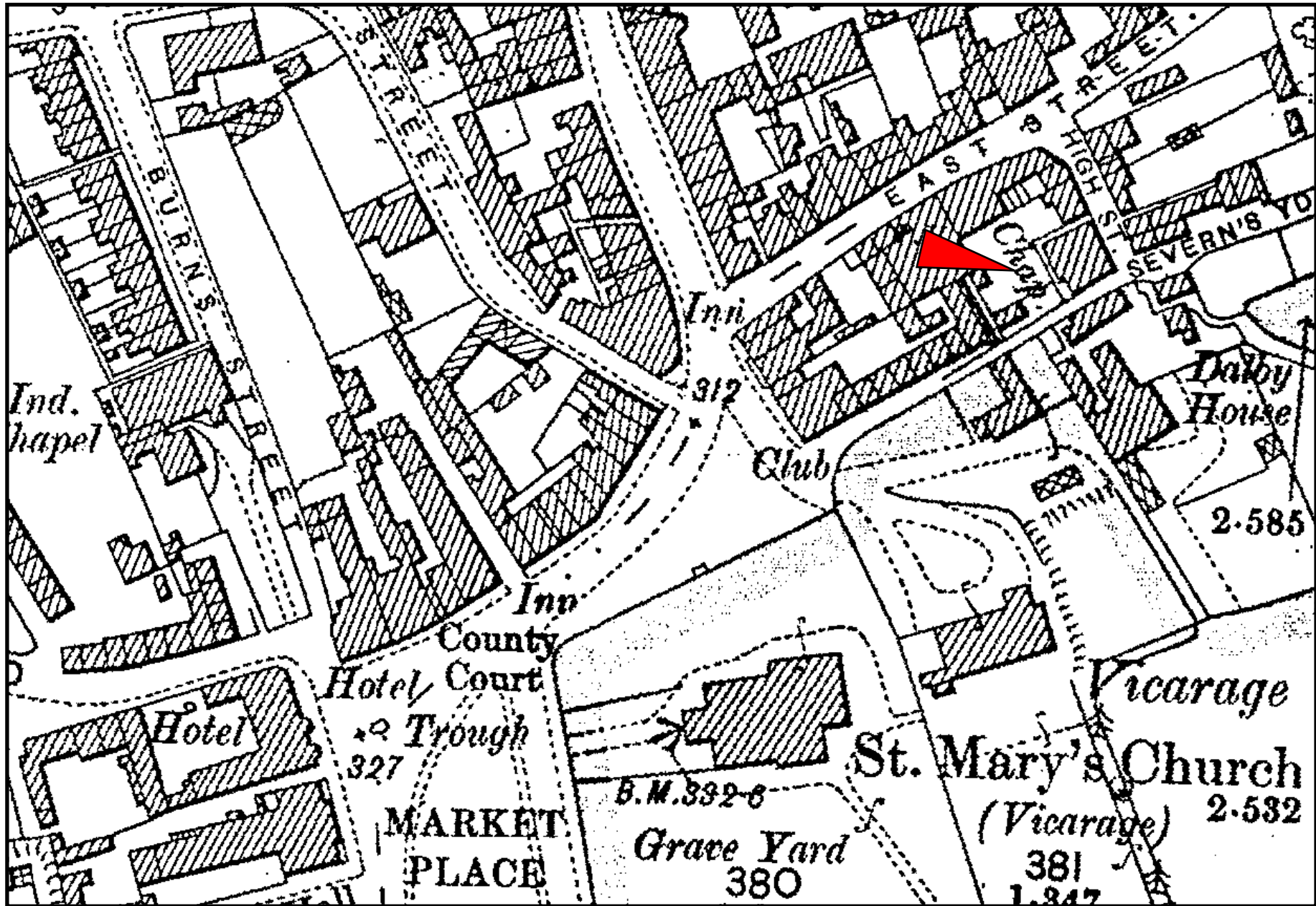


Figure 4: The study area as shown (highlighted by arrow) on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch scale map of 1900 (Sheet 46:13). Not to regular scale.

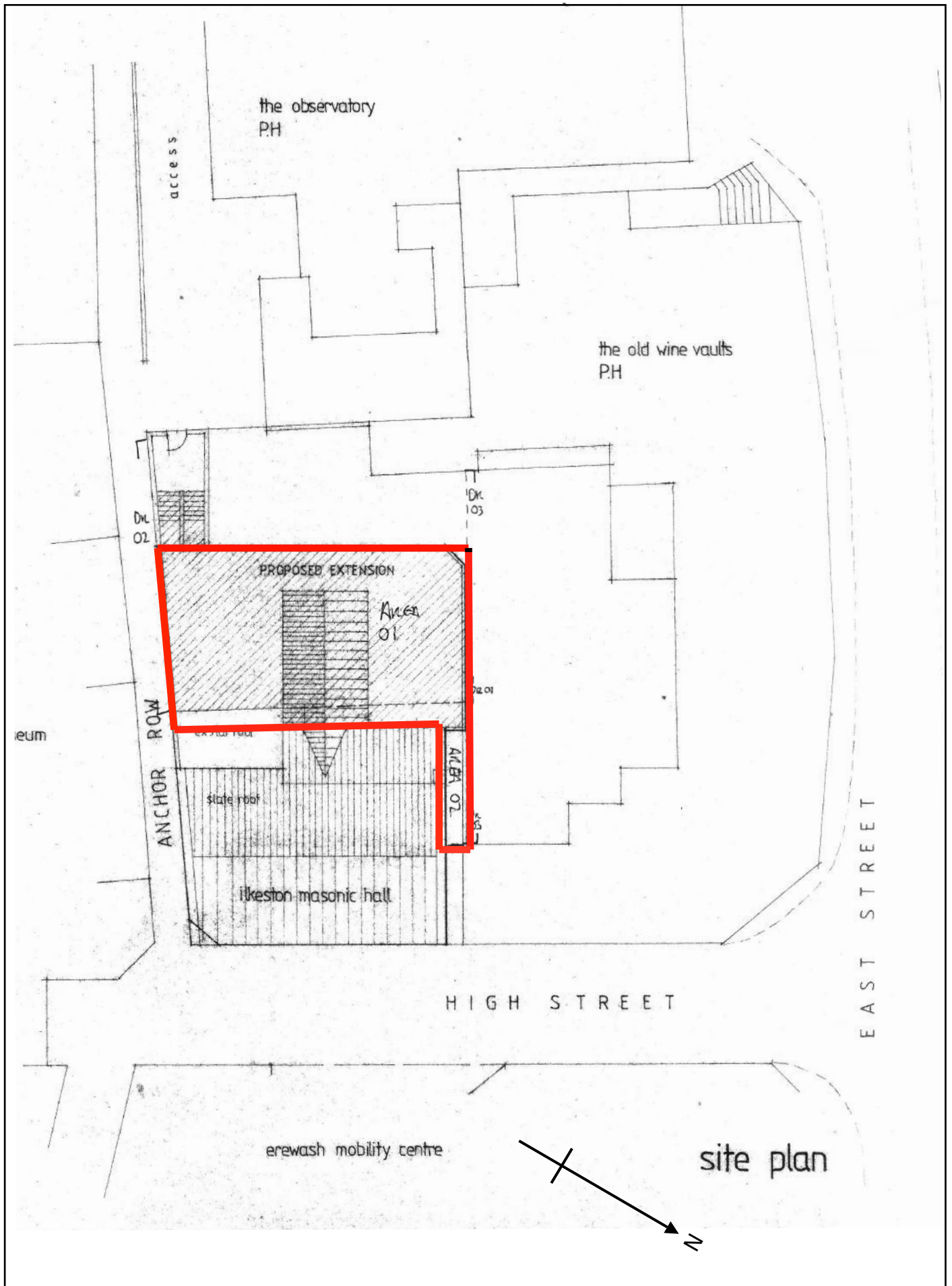


Figure 5: Architect's plan of proposed extension to the Masonic Hall, Ilkeston, with study area highlighted. Scale 1:250.

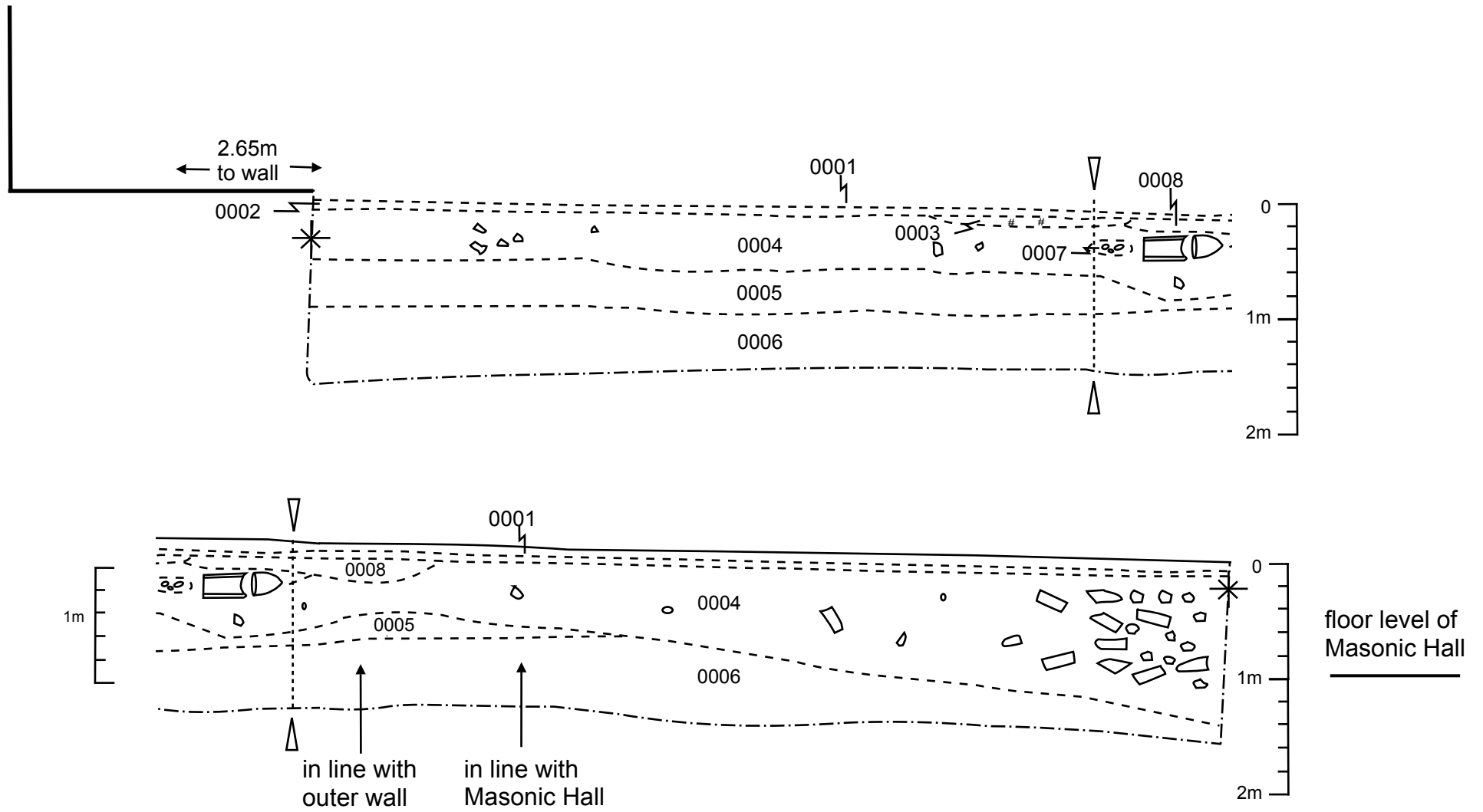


Figure 6: South facing section of the foundation trench for the extension to the Masonic Hall, Ilkeston. Scale 1:50. Drawn by L. Binns.

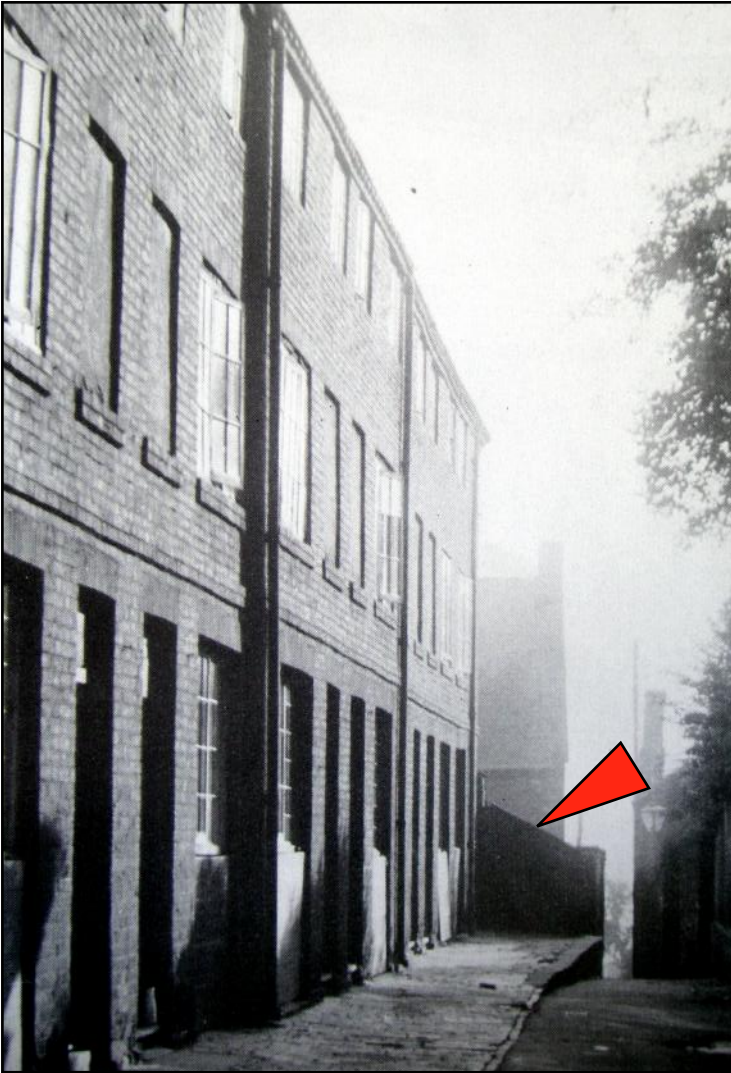


Plate 1: Cottages on Anchor Row, Ilkeston in the 1930s. The study area is indicated.



Plate 2: The front elevation of the Masonic Hall on High Street, Ilkeston.



Plate 3: The study area prior to excavation, showing the concrete platform, part of the public house, a rear boundary wall and the Masonic Hall (to right).



Plate 4: Removal of concrete platform and part of the boundary wall behind the Masonic Hall, Ilkeston.



Plate 5: South-facing section of area cleared behind the Masonic Hall, Ilkeston.



Plate 6: Detailed 2m long view of section.

APPENDIX

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Project details

Project name	Masonic Hall Ilkeston
Short description of the project	Watching brief on ground preparation for extension to a 19th century chapel building situated within the historic core of Ilkeston.
Project dates	Start: 28-06-2011 End: 31-12-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MHI - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ERE/0211/0044 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	YARD Post Medieval
Monument type	BEER GARDEN Modern
Significant Finds	RUBBLE Modern
Significant Finds	POT Modern
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE EREWASH ILKESTON Masonic Hall
Postcode	DE7 5JA
Study area	150.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 4662 4185 52.9716638644 -1.305706359190 52 58 17 N 001 18 20 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project brief originator	Development Control Archaeologist
Project design originator	Richard Sheppard
Project	Richard Sheppard

director/manager
 Project supervisor Laura Binns
 Type of sponsor/funding body Other Charitable Trust
 Name of sponsor/funding body Ilkeston Masonic Hall Association Ltd

Project archives

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