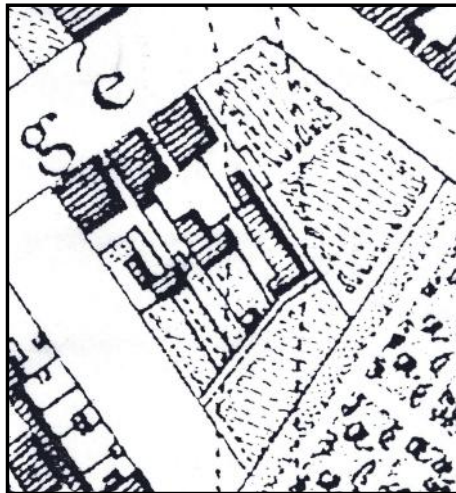




Trent & Peak
ARCHAEOLOGY

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT THE CORNER
OF BROOK STREET AND
BRIDGE STREET, DERBY, 2005**



The University of
Nottingham

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT THE CORNER
OF BROOK STREET AND
BRIDGE STREET, DERBY, 2005**

**A report for
Highgrange Homes**

*by
Richard Sheppard*

OS Grid Ref. SK 346 366
TPA Project Code: DCF.1
July 2011

Trent & Peak Archaeology
University Park
Nottingham
NG7 2RD

Tel: 0115 951 4823
Fax: 0115 951 4824
E-mail: TPA@nottingham.ac.uk

© Trent & Peak Archaeology 2011

SUMMARY

- An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit in October-November 2005 at a site on the south side of the junction of Brook Street and Bridge Street in Derby on behalf of Highgrange Homes. The site was roughly 50m by 35-40m in size, and five trial trenches were dug to examine about 6% of the study area. Previous local bore-hole evidence had found natural clays and gravels at 1.2m-1.4m.
- Historical maps of the area suggest that post-medieval buildings first appeared somewhere between 1791 and 1806. In 1792 Derby Corporation passed a second act that released land on Nun's Green, former common land on the floodplain of the Markeaton Brook, west of the established town. By the time of Cole's map of 1806 both Bridge Street or Brook Street had been laid out.
- A map of 1819 indicates a former in course of the Markeaton Brook passing through the study area. Such a meander may have existed prior to the likely canalization of the Brook after 1792 and one of the objectives of the evaluation was to investigate its possible presence. Flooding has been a recurring problem in Derby during historical times, mostly involving the Markeaton Brook rather than the River Derwent. Nun's Green may have acted as a natural flood plain before the area was developed.
- Five trenches were excavated in total. Two intended positions within the north-west part of the site were abandoned due to the presence of deep cellars and a large storage tank.
- In Trench 01 there was uncovered the rear east side of a former brick terrace running alongside Little Brook Street which dated from the early 19th century. This wall had brickwork on top of four courses of rubble gritstone blocks, 0.85m high and c.0.35m (15 inches) thick. An internal dividing wall was also stone-built. Behind the building there was an irregular-shaped brick-paved yard with a half-brick edging, possibly the base of a former timber shed or a similar ephemeral storage structure.
- Trench 02 uncovered evidence of two phases of the raising of ground level, initially below the front garden soils of the terrace, and again after the terrace had been demolished – about 2m in total above natural sands and gravels.
- Trench 03, situated close to the centre of the site, found evidence suggestive of the former course of the Markeaton Brook. This showed as a dip in the natural gravels and a thin layer of grey organic silt. Soils above indicated a deliberate building up of the ground level above what may have been a shallow and wide watercourse.
- Trench 04 was situated in the yard area of a building that had fronted 34-36 Brook Street. This uncovered a number of stone-capped brick-lined drains, a small rectangular feature (with inlet, outlet drains) and a circular well. What they were used for is not obvious but brewing for neighbouring public houses is a strong possibility.
- Trench 05 uncovered a scatter of unused clay-pipe fragments, stems, bowls and kiln waste. A few bowls bore the name Clever, perhaps William Clever who was a pipe-maker on nearby Willow Row in 1850. This part of the site had been an industrial works, latterly used by the Derwent Crystal Works between 1980-84. The trench contained two adjoining rooms, surrounded on two sides by irregular walls made up of flat stones, and by brick-lined passages on the north side. Each room had a brick oven-like feature with small furnace-like openings, filled with burnt material. Little industrial debris was found. The features post-dated the clay-pipe waste.

LIST OF CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Summary	2
List of Contents	3
List of Illustrations	3
1. Introduction	5
2. Historical background	5
3. Evaluation Trenches 01-05	6
4. Conclusions	9
5. References	9

Illustrations

Figures 1-14

Plates 1-13

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Location of the Brook Street – Bridge Street development site to the north-west of Derby city centre (indicated by pointer). Scale 1:25.000. (*Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618*).

Figure 2: The Brook Street – Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches added and numbered 01-05) overlain on the 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey map of 1994. Scale 1:500. Trench (*Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618*).

Figure 3: The Brook Street – Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on Cole's map of 1806. Scale 1:500.

Figure 4: The Brook Street – Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on Chatterton and Stanwick's map of 1819. Scale 1:500.

Figure 5: The Brook Street – Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on Dewhurst and Nichol’s map of 1838. Scale 1:500.

Figure 6: The Brook Street – Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on the Local Board of Health map of 1852. Scale 1:500.

Figure 7: The Brook Street – Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on a part 2nd (1900) and part 3rd Edition (1914) 25 inch scale Ordnance Survey map. Scale 1:500.

Figure 8: The Brook Street – Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on the revised edition 25 inch scale Ordnance Survey map of 1947. Scale 1:500.

Figure 9: The Brook Street – Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on the 25 inch (1:2500) scale Ordnance Survey map of 1967. Scale 1:500. (*Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty’s Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618*).

Figure 10: Plan of Trench 01. Scale 1:80.

Figure 11: A: Plan of Trench 03. Scale 1:80. B: part of north section. Scale 1:40.

Figure 12: Plan of Trench 04. Scale 1:80.

Figure 13: Plan of Trench 05. Scale 1:80.

Figure 14: Plain, inscribed and decorated clay-pipe fragments found in Trench 05. Scale 1:1.

PLATES

Plates 1-3: General views of the Brook Street - Bridge Street site in Derby. **1:** the site after clearance; **2:** cleaning by hand in Trench 02; **3:** deep cellars and a cavity for a petrol tank showing on the Bridge Street frontage.

Plates 4-6: Views of the Brook Street - Bridge Street site in Derby. **4:** the rear wall of the Little Bridge Street terrace (0022; in background) and the outline of brick-paved feature 0021; **5:** terrace internal cross-wall 0027; **6:** walls 0024, 0025 abutting the rear wall of the terrace.

Plates 7-9: Views of the Brook Street - Bridge Street site in Derby. **7:** part of the east section of Trench 02 (south end); **8:** north section of Trench 03, showing the water-filled deeper excavation; **9:** north-east end of Trench 04, showing the top of a well and several drains.

Plates 10-13: Views of the Brook Street - Bridge Street site in Derby. **10:** clay-pipe manufacture debris showing on the cleared surface by Trench 05; **11:** features 0104 and 0105; **12:** feature 0103; **13:** view of stone foundations 0112, from the west. Feature 0104 shows in the background.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit (since renamed) in October-November 2005 at a site on the south side of the junction of Brook Street and Bridge Street in Derby (OS Grid ref. SK 346 366) on behalf of Highgrange Homes (Fig. 1). The site in question covered an area between 34-36 Brook Street, the Derwent Crystal Factory on Little Bridge Street and Carlier Garage on Bridge Street, Derby. The site is defined on its south-west side by a pathway, the former Little Brook Street, which runs down to Markeaton Brook. Existing buildings on the site had been demolished and the area cleared of rubble by machine (plate 1). The site was to be used for the construction of 24 apartments, for which planning permission (Application no. DER/06/05/00949/PRI) had been granted.

The site was roughly 50m by 35-40m in size, or about 1800-2000m². The aim was to produce an assessment of the site based on trial trenching of a given percentage of the site – in this instance 6%, or about 120m². This would help determine the extent and depth of its historic use, and its relative importance. The positioning of trenches was based on existing knowledge of the site and took into account former buildings (in part to see whether cellarage survives), the open area between the buildings and the suggested presence of a former watercourse. Previous bore-hole evidence from local sites had found natural clays and gravels at depths of 1.2m-1.4m.

The TPA site code is DCF. The site archive consists of site and CAD drawings, 120 digital photographs (on CD) and artefacts recovered during the excavations (with a list).

2. Historical background

Historical information about the site, mainly in map form, suggests that post-medieval buildings first appeared somewhere between 1791 and 1806. Neither Bridge Street or Brook Street are shown on either Burdett's or Moneypenny's map of 1791 (the former an update of an original survey in 1757). In 1792, however, Derby Corporation passed a second Nun's Green Act that released land on Nun's Green, former common land on the floodplain of the Markeaton Brook. This stimulated the town's expansion westwards and the forming of a new industrial zone alongside the brook. New mills and streets of low-grade artisans' housing were built west of Ford Street, in an area later known as the West End (Craven 1994, 70).

By the time of Cole's map of 1806 both Bridge Street or Brook Street were in existence, although at that stage only two buildings extended into the study area and most of it remained still open ground (Fig. 3). A later map of 1819 shows more buildings within the north part of the site, together with the former line of the Markeaton Brook passing through the study area (Fig. 4).

Markeaton Brook

The dashed line on Chatterton and Stanwick's map is the course shown on the 1791 maps when the brook appears to have taken a more meandering route across Nun's

Green. A horse-shoe shaped loop in the brook's course is shown that had not appeared on Speed's earlier map of 1610 and some doubt has been raised as to its later existence (McKeown 2006, 29). The loop may well have existed prior to the likely canalization of the Brook after 1792 and one of the objectives of the evaluation was to investigate whether it had passed through the site as the 1819 map indicated.

Flooding has been a recurring problem in Derby during historical times. Contemporary records indicate 12 inundations between 1587 and 1842 (Conway, 1991, 7), with another major one occurring within living memory in 1932. Most were associated with nationally recorded weather patterns and most involved the Markeaton Brook, rather than the River Derwent. Local historian William Hutton wrote in 1791 that '*...originally (called) Hodde-brook, (it) has its source a few miles off, and turns several mills before becoming lost in the Derwent. I have known this little spirited brook whose common depth does not exceed five inches, rise from its bed about six feet below the ground floor, to within eighteen inches of the chamber.*' The Markeaton Brook has a steeper incline gradient than the Derwent and it has been suggested that the area of Nun's Green (also known as Nun's Meadows) would have acted as a natural flood plain before the area was developed (Conway 1991, 96).

By 1838 an open strip of land running through the south-west part of the site had been used for a terrace of about 9 houses facing onto Little Brook Street, a narrow street running between Bridge Street and Brook Walk (Fig. 5). By 1852 most of the site was occupied by buildings, including a possible factory / workshop alongside its eastern boundary (Fig. 6; area of Trench 05). At this point the land to the east of the study area, at one time probably an orchard, appears to have been largely occupied by commercial or industrial buildings. This area was later the site of a large foundry, which extended into a sizeable east part of the study area.

By 1947 most buildings across the west side of the study area (including the terrace) had disappeared (Fig. 8). Site clearance probably occurred with the condemnation of old housing in the area that followed serious flooding in 1932. Most of the site was still open in 1967 (Fig. 9), although a large garage later made use of the available space (Fig. 2).

It was thought that archaeological evidence might remain to indicate how the land was used before the 19th century, whether or not the Markeaton Brook coursed through the site as had been suggested, and what evidence might remain of the early 19th century housing on the site.

3. Evaluation Trenches 01-05

Five trenches were excavated in total and their numbered positions are shown in Figure 2. Four were excavated by machine and a fifth area (Trench 05) was largely cleaned by hand. Two positions initially intended to be excavated within the north-west sector of the site were abandoned as that area was found to contain the deep cellars of earlier buildings facing onto Bridge Street, together with a large storage tank for the more recent garage (Plate 3).

Trenches 01 and 03 were situated along the supposed line of the former course of the Markeaton Brook, which according to Chatterton and Stanwick's map of 1819 had once passed through the area. Two other trenches (02, 04) were sited away from or adjacent to known areas of disturbance, whilst Trench 05 was an area suspected as containing a possible clay-pipe factory and was largely excavated by hand with particular attention given to minor detail.

TRENCH 01 (Fig. 10): The area of Trench 01 was found to be largely disturbed by former buildings and industrial storage tanks at its south end. The west side of the trench followed the rear east side of a former brick terrace running alongside Little Brook Street, which dated from the early 19th century; the trench was extended westwards to locate its front west side. The east wall survived to a depth of at least 1.2m, made up of about 6 brick courses above four courses of rubble gritstone blocks, 0.85m high and c.0.35m (15 inches) thick (Plate 2). Along an uncovered length of about 8m there was no indication of doorways or windows.

Behind the building there was an irregular-shaped brick-paved yard with a half-brick edging which may indicate a former timber shed or a similar ephemeral structure used for storage etc (Plate 4). The plan suggests that this was entered from the north side by a brick boundary wall. The map evidence indicates that it was connected to workshops situated to the north-east, and was not necessarily associated with the housing that it abutted.

A part-brick, part-stone wall was also found extending back from the terrace (Plate 6). Trenching across the terrace uncovered an internal stone-built cross-wall that had separated two of the houses within the terrace (Plate 5). This was shallower in height at only two courses high and was built off made ground. No trace of a floor was discernable.

Ground to the rear of the housing had subsequently been built up with mixed layers of sand, ash, and demolition material. All finds recovered, with the exception of one unstratified medieval green-glazed sherd, were no earlier than 19th century in date.

TRENCH 02 (Fig. 2): This trench was excavated close-by to the west on the line of the terrace's front gardens. It uncovered part of a stone boundary wall that had extended south-westwards from the terrace found in Trench 01. Alongside this it showed that the ground had been built-up nearly 2m with post-medieval layers above natural sands and gravels (Plate 7). This had occurred in two phases, with 0.6-0.8m of material below a garden soil, and a second build-up above this. The latter probably followed on from the demolition of the housing and was probably part of a deliberate raising of the ground level close to Markeaton Brook. This is likely to have occurred after serious flooding in 1932.

TRENCH 03 (Fig. 11): Situated close to the centre of the site, this trench found evidence suggestive of the former course of the Markeaton Brook. This showed as a dip in the gravels and a thin layer of grey organic silt (0087), extending about 1.2m in width up to a later deep foundation trench on the east side (Plate 8). This contained a

brick wall (0090), that may have been a rebuild (by 1852) on the line of an earlier boundary shown on the 1806 map (Fig. 3). The wall remained as a boundary until recent times.

Natural gravel was found at a depth of about 2.1m, dipping about 0.3m where the silt showed. Soils above containing ash, clay, mortar, clay and charcoal / coal again indicated a deliberate building up of the ground level above what may have been a shallow and wide watercourse. The depth of this trench, the unstable nature of the soils and fuel contamination made recording of this feature especially difficult (Plate 8).

TRENCH 04 (Fig. 12): This trench was situated in the yard area of a building that had fronted 34-36 Brook Street, just south of the Ram Inn. This uncovered more demolition material and a number of stone-capped brick-lined drains, a small rectangular feature (with inlet, outlet drains) and a circular well (Plate 9). What they were used for is not obvious and it is likely that the buildings behind which they were found, were used for a variety of different purposes from the early 19th century onwards. However, brewing for neighbouring public houses is a strong possibility. The trench was stopped where it reached the stone-built east wall of an outhouse.

TRENCH 05 (Fig. 13): In the area of Trench 05 a scatter of unused clay-pipe fragments, stems, bowls and kiln waste was found in the ground clearance (Plate 10). The area was subsequently partly cleared by machine and then hand-excavated, to investigate whether a clay-pipe manufactory had been present. The area, bounding the south-east border of the site, had been an industrial works until recent times, latterly used by the Derwent Crystal Works between 1980-84. Previously part of an adjacent foundry the site had probably been used for small-scale glass-making.

The area consisted of two adjoining rooms (Areas 1 and 2) , surrounded on two sides by irregular walls made up of flat stones of differing sizes, probably a foundation wall for an upper structure; the two rooms were separated by a brick wall (Plate 13). Each room was headed by a brick oven-like feature with two small furnace-like openings, filled with burnt material (Plate 12). On the north side of each room there was a narrow passage, the east one featuring a sunken stone-floored room filled with coal debris, reached from a lobby at the west end (Plate 11). The west room's passage ended in a debris-filled brick-lined pit, the purpose of which could not be determined. Little industrial debris was found. These features were found to post-date the clay-pipe waste, some of which was found to be within soil layers through which the walls had been cut.

Over 800 clay-pipe pieces were recovered, including a quantity of decorated bowls. Amongst these were a few that bore the name Cleever, perhaps William Cleever who was a pipe-maker on nearby Willow Row in 1850 (Slater's Directory of Derbyshire) – see Figure 14. Further research may connect other parts of the collected material to other known pipe-makers known to have been on Brook Street and Lower Brook Street, although how their waste came to be deposited within the area of Trench 05 remains unclear.

4. Conclusions

The excavation results provide some evidence to suggest that the Markeaton Brook had passed through the area and that the area had subsequently been deliberately raised in height, perhaps in tandem with a straightening out and canalization of the brook in the first half of the 19th century. There was no indication that the area had been settled prior to this. There is also evidence that following further flooding that the ground level was again raised, most likely using the demolition rubble accruing from the deliberate removal of buildings from the west part of the site at some point before 1947.

The stone foundations of the terraced housing and the deliberate use of stone in the cellars of buildings on Bridge Street (including those still used in the Ram Inn) suggests a deliberate policy in the area close to Markeaton Brook to counter possible damp problems and to provide solid walling within what may initially have been unstable, introduced soils. This is of interest as most early 19th century housing was built solely of brick and the general poor quality of the structures explains why most housing from that period has been removed. However, by the time the terrace on Little Brook Street was demolished it was a century old, the individual houses were small and reliant on outside facilities and had probably suffered water damage.

5. References

Conway, G. E., 1991. 'The 'Great Flood' of Derby, 1st April 1842.' Unpublished thesis, University of Nottingham.

Craven, M., 1994. *Derby History and Guide*. Alan Sutton, Stroud.

McKeown, R., 2006. *The Rivers of Time*. Tranters, Derby.

ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUSTRATIONS

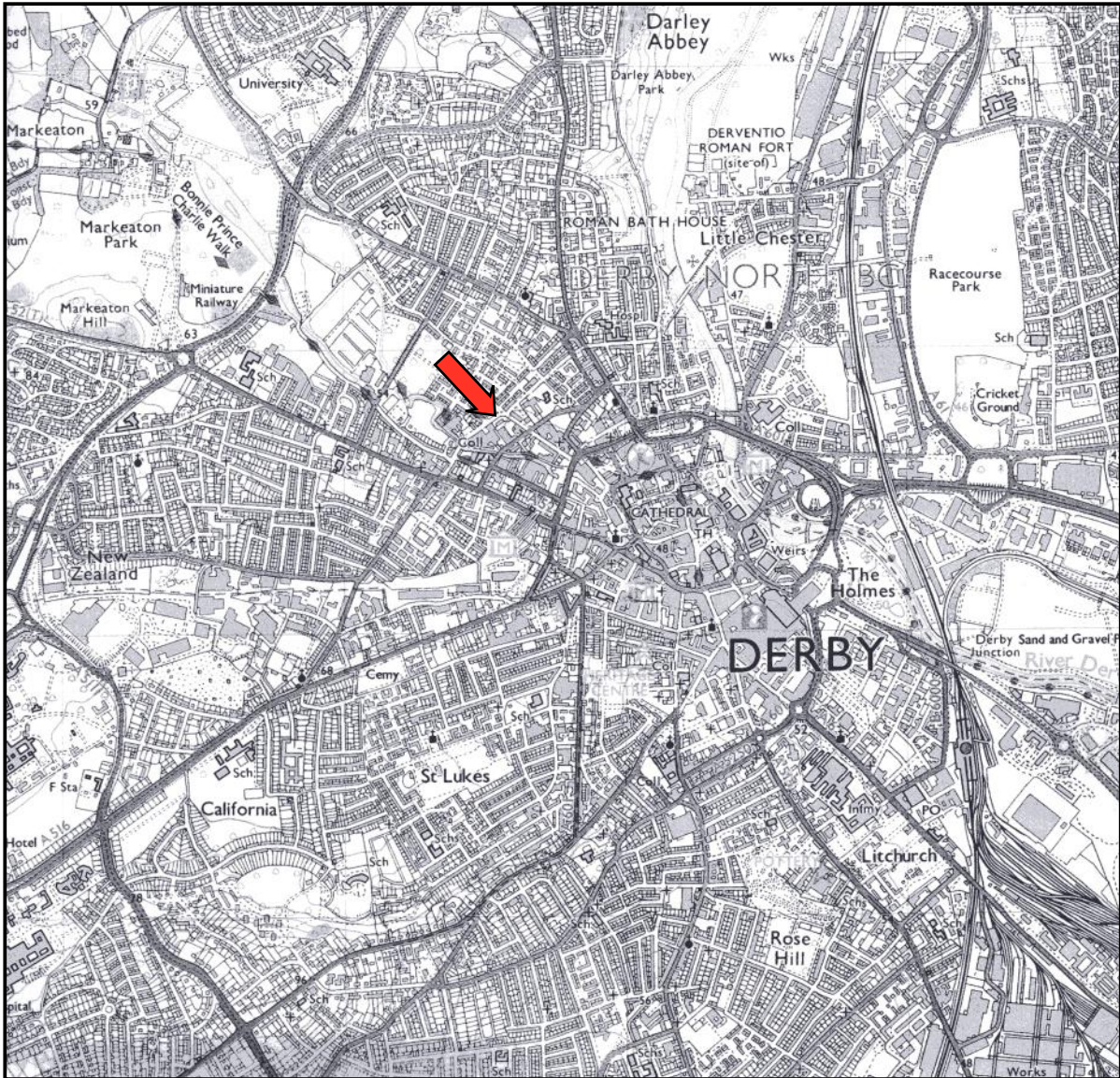


Figure 1: Location of the Brook Street – Bridge Street development site to the north-west of Derby city centre (indicated by pointer). Scale 1:25,000. (*Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618*).

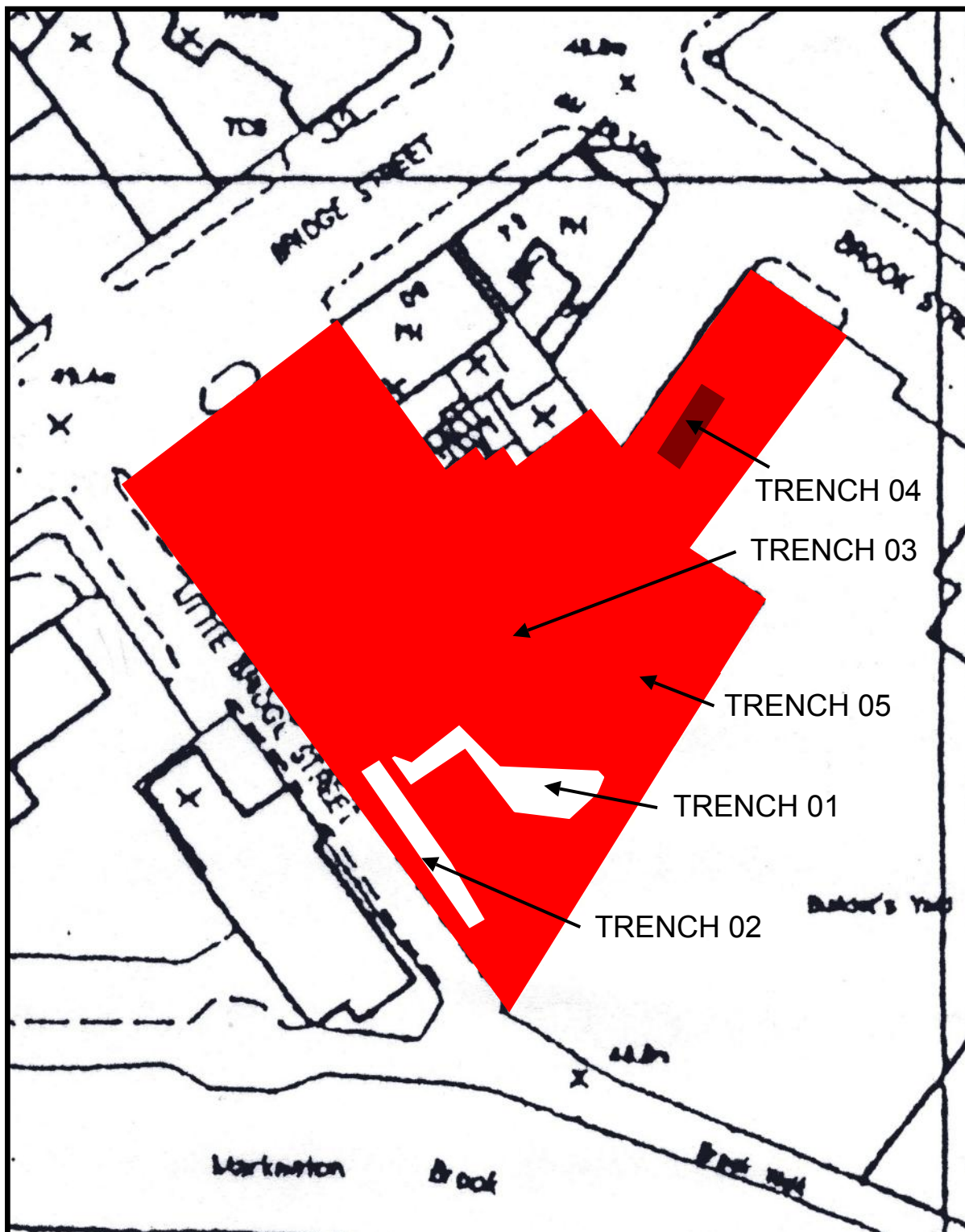


Figure 2: The Brook Street - Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches added and numbered 01-05) overlain on the 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey map of 1994. Scale 1:500. Trench (*Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618*).



Figure 3: The Brook Street - Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on Cole's map of 1806. Scale 1:500.

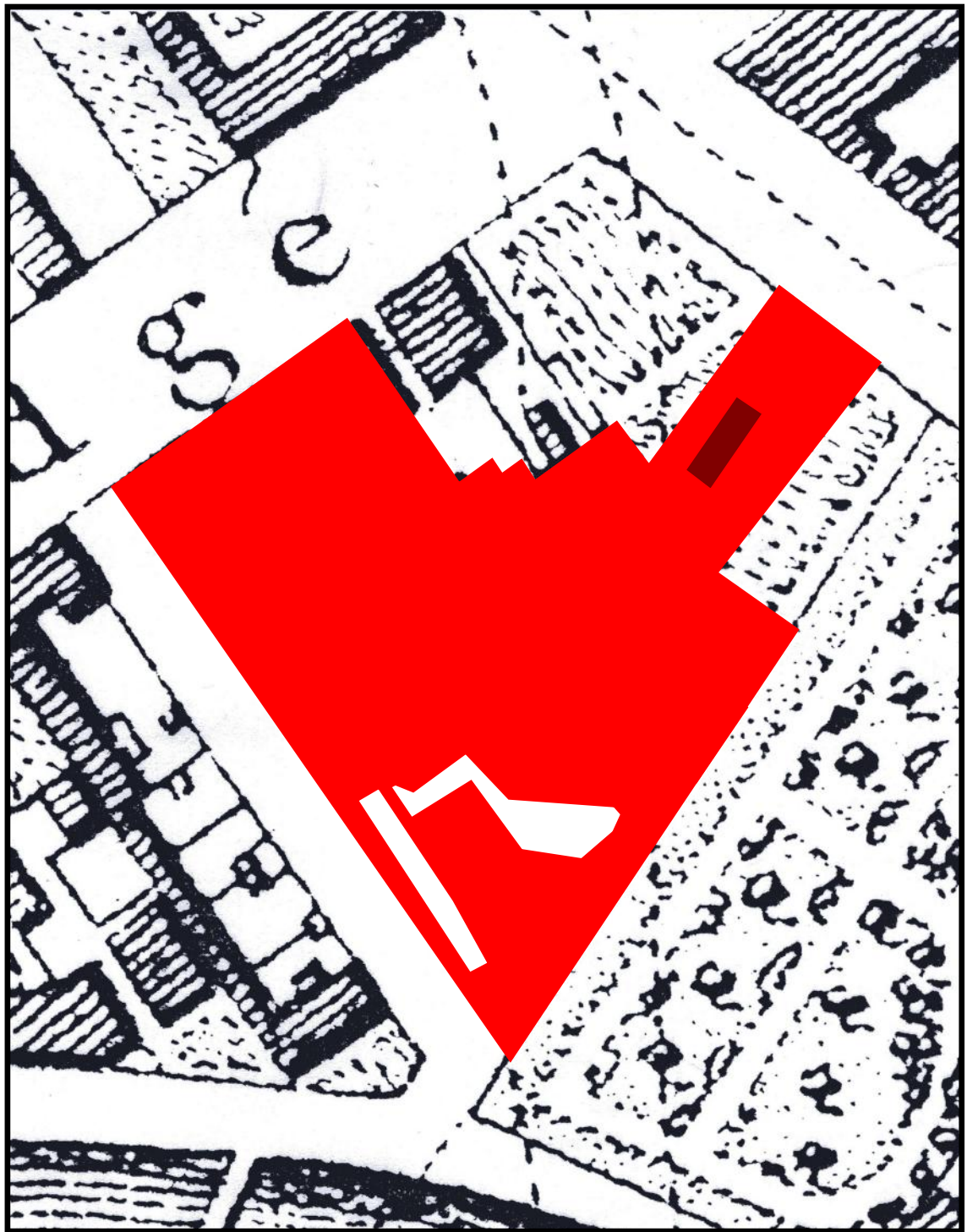


Figure 4: The Brook Street - Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on Chatterton and Stanwick's map of 1819. Scale 1:500.

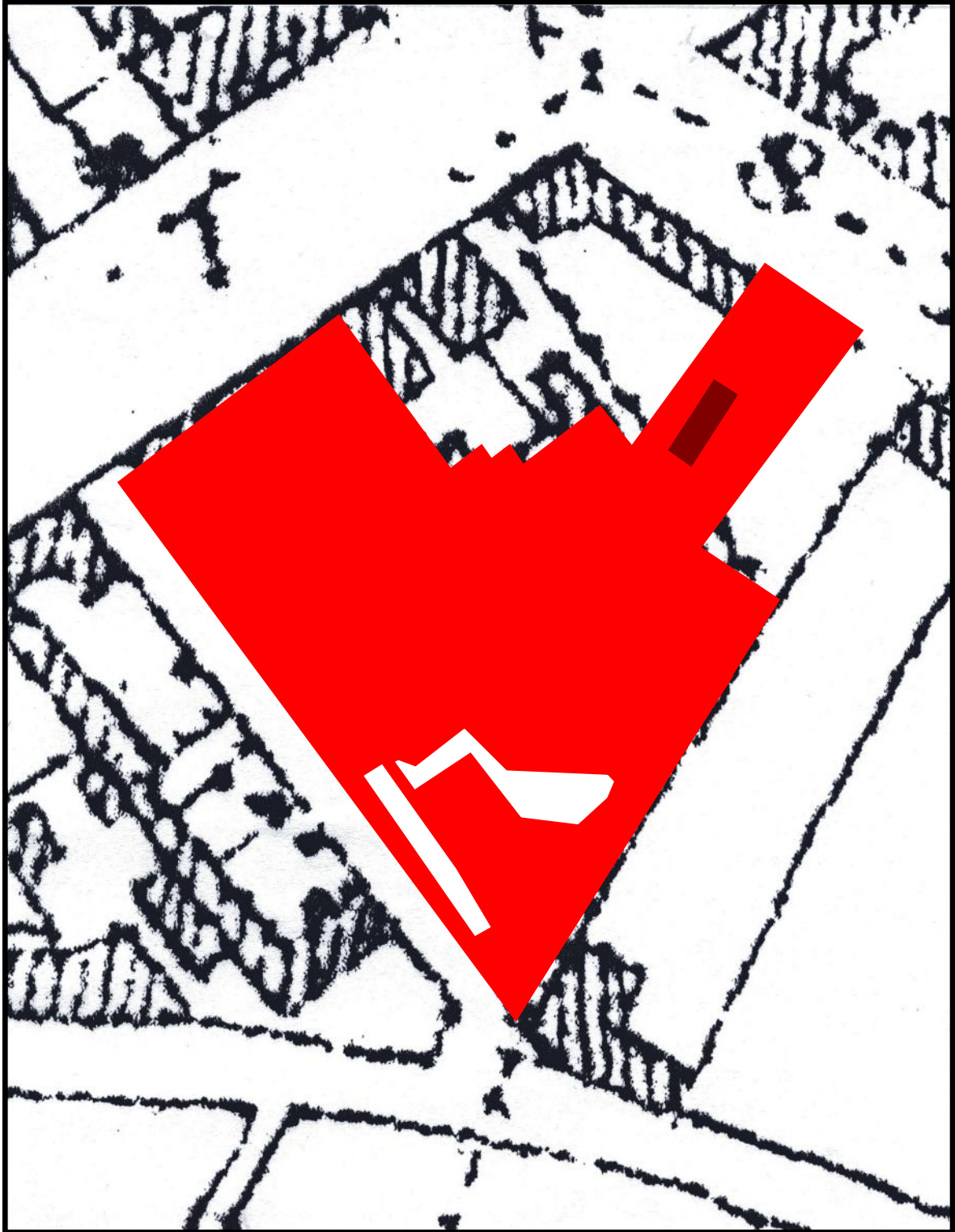


Figure 5: The Brook Street – Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on Dewhurst and Nichol's map of 1838. Scale 1:500.

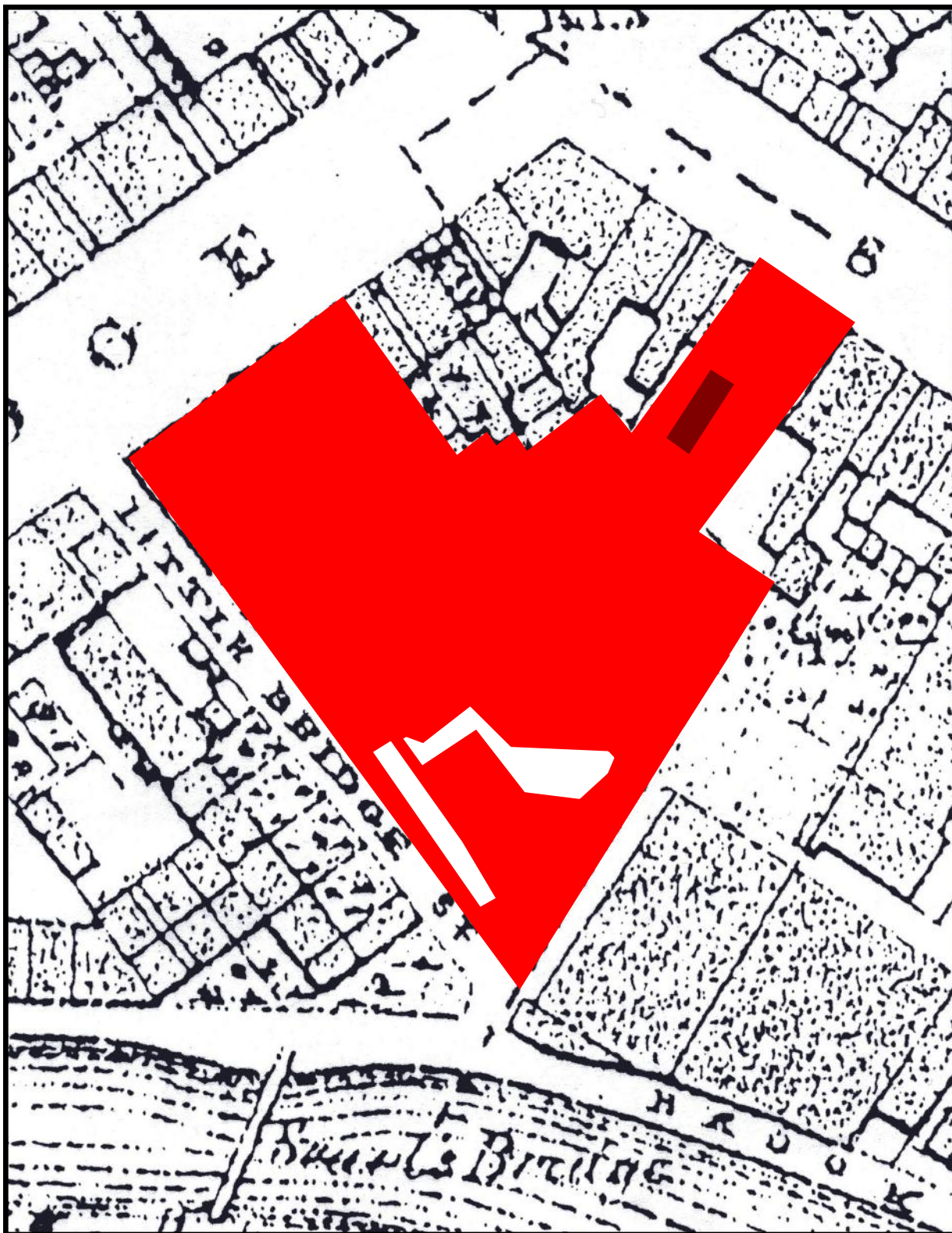


Figure 6: The Brook Street - Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on the Local Board of Health map of 1852. Scale 1:500.

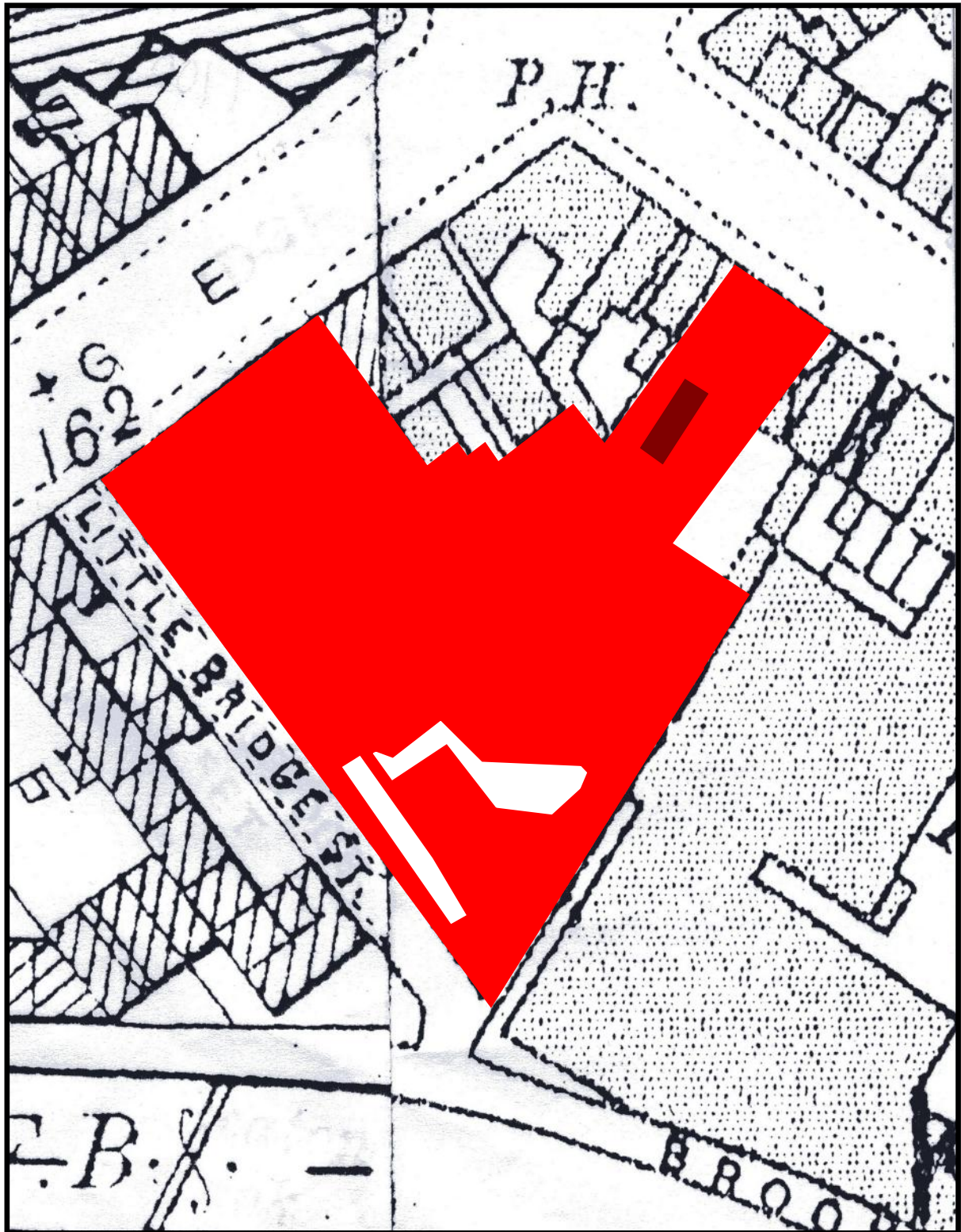


Figure 7: The Brook Street - Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on a part 2nd (1900) and part 3rd Edition (1914) 25 inch scale Ordnance Survey map. Scale 1:500.

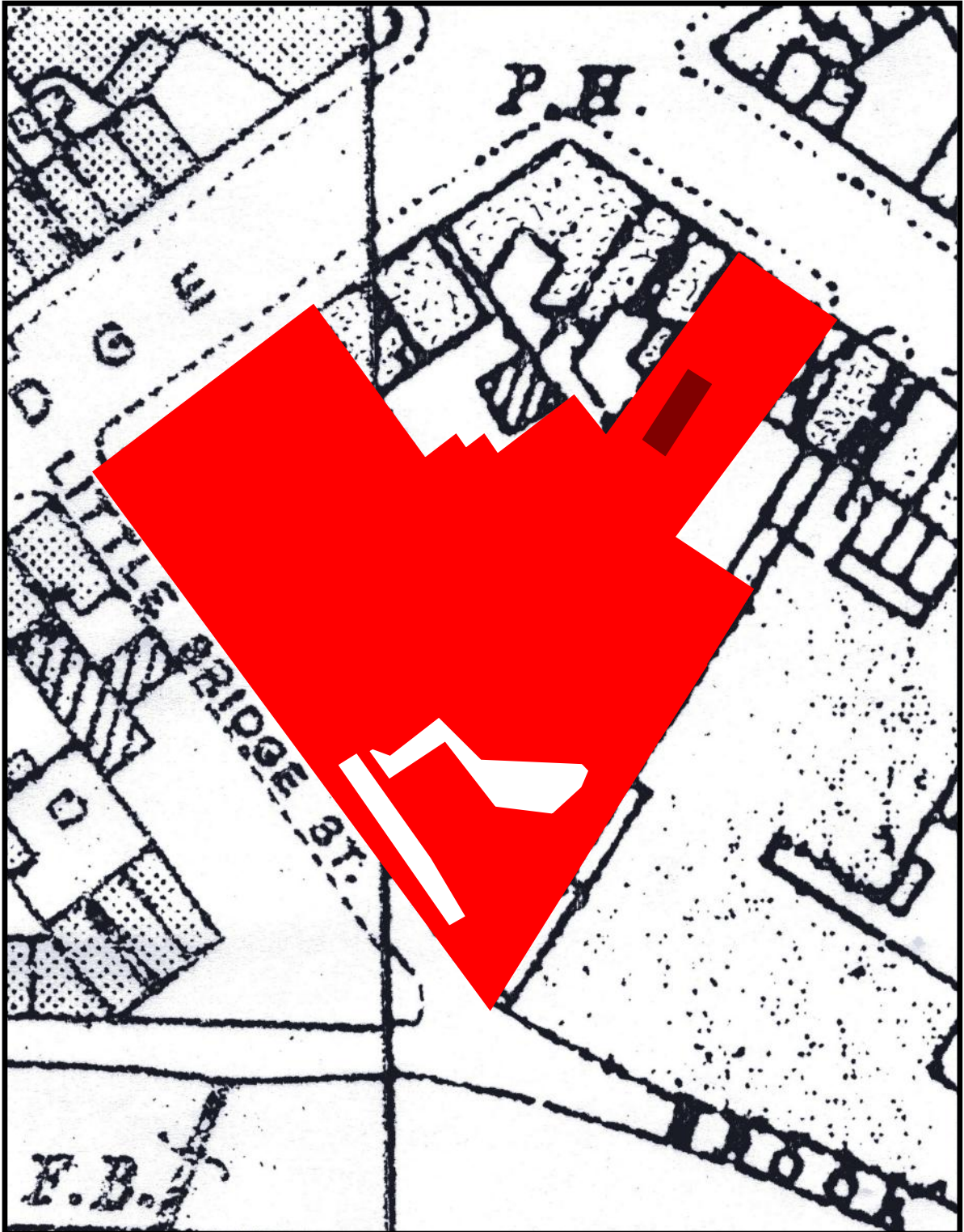


Figure 8: The Brook Street - Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on the revised edition 25 inch scale Ordnance Survey map of 1947. Scale 1:500.

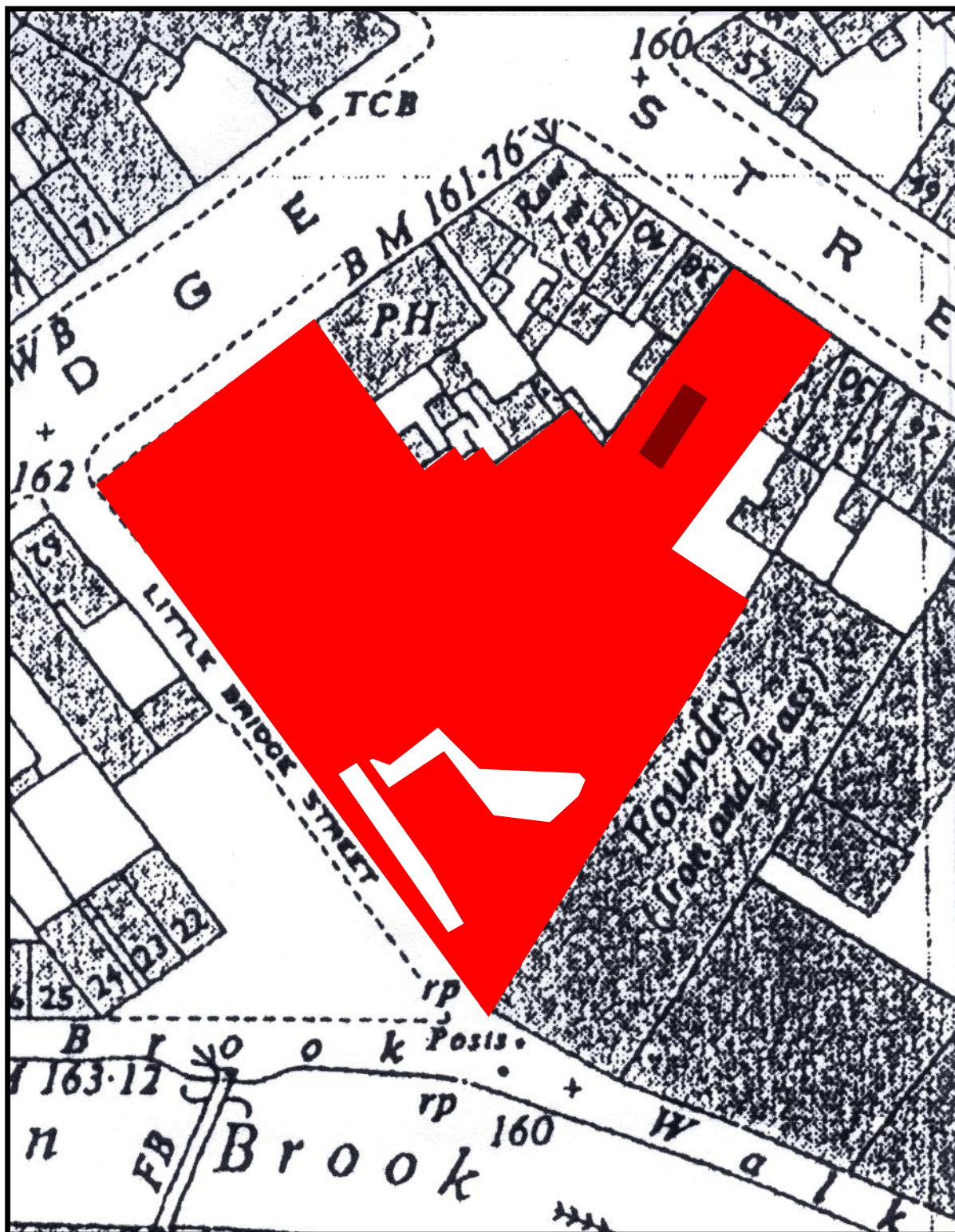
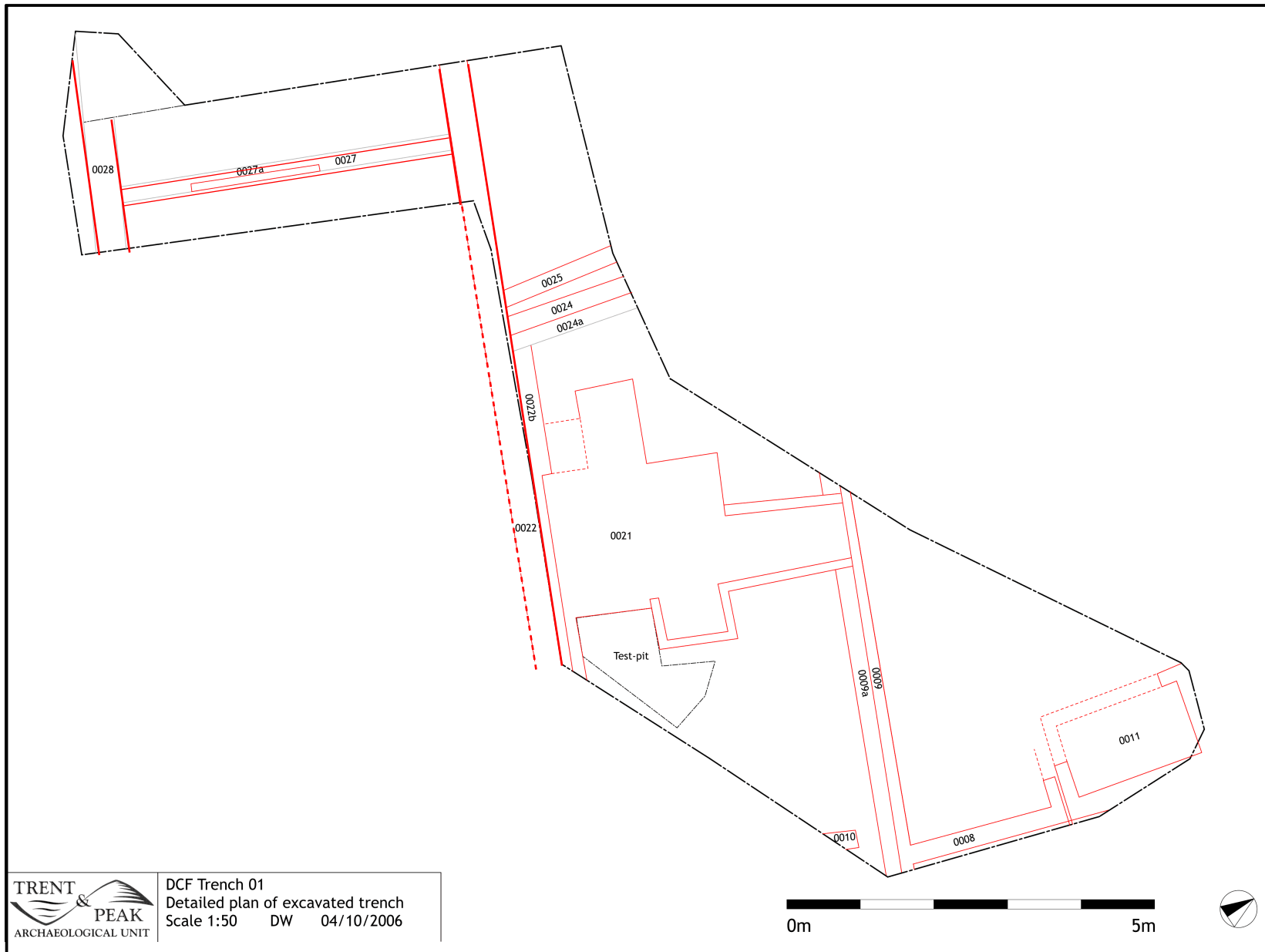


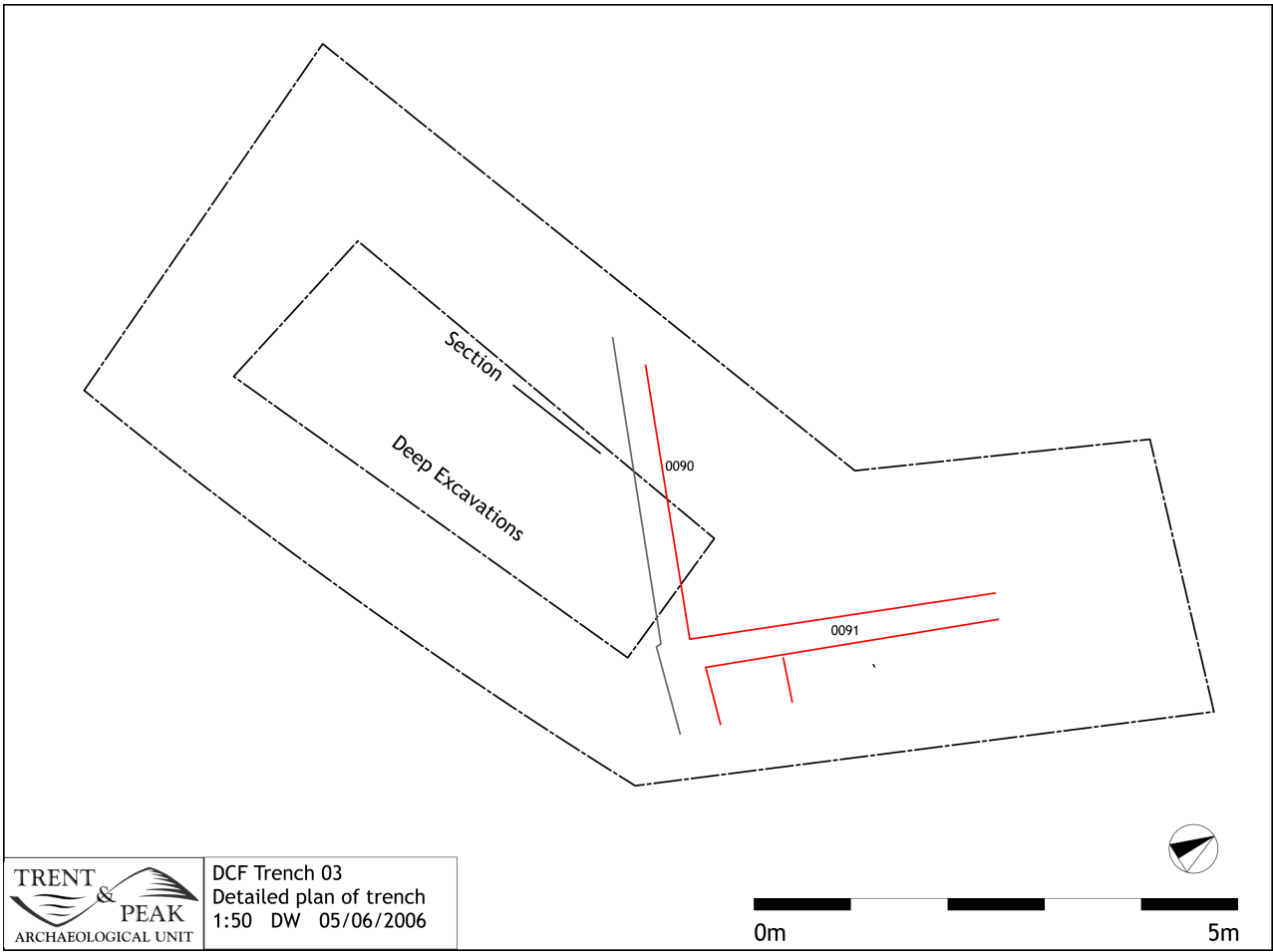
Figure 9: The Brook Street - Bridge Street, Derby development site (outline shown in red, with trenches) overlain on the 25 inch (1:2500) scale Ordnance Survey map of 1967. Scale 1:500. (Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618).



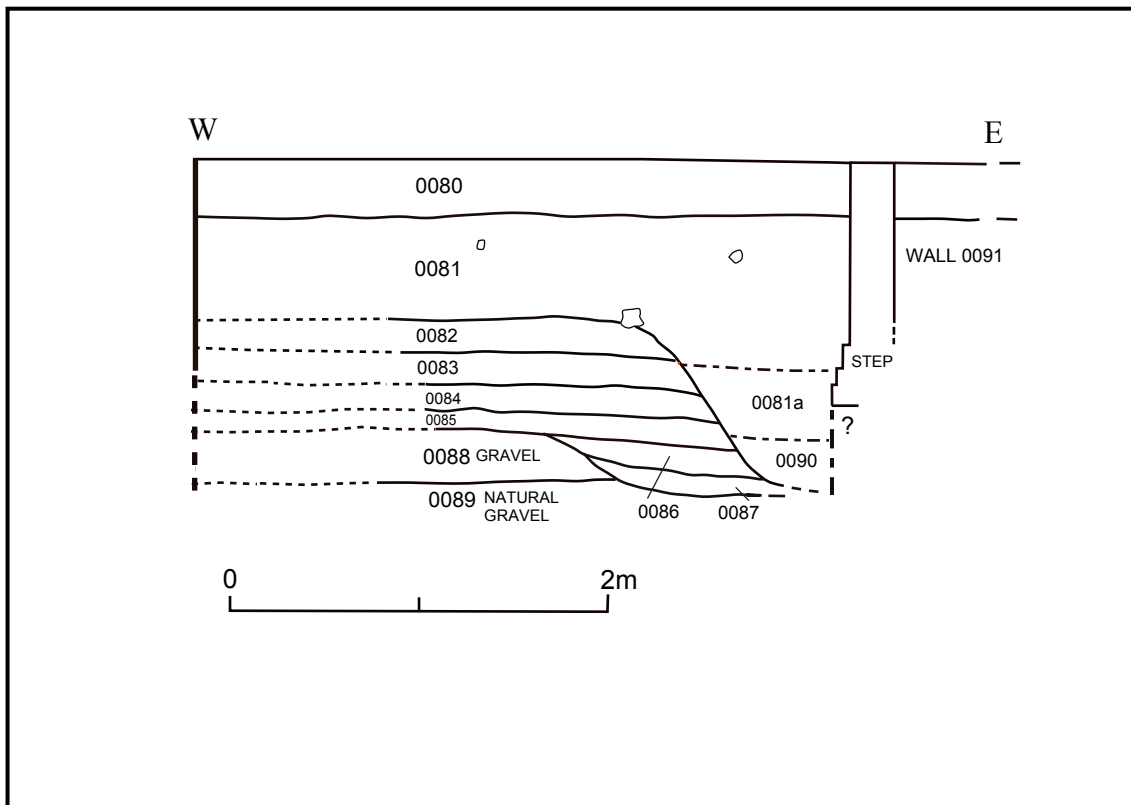
TRENT & PEAK
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

DCF Trench 01
 Detailed plan of excavated trench
 Scale 1:50 DW 04/10/2006

Figure 10: Plan of Trench 01. Scale 1:80.



A



B

Figure 11: A: Plan of Trench 03. Scale 1:80. B: part of north section. Scale 1:40.

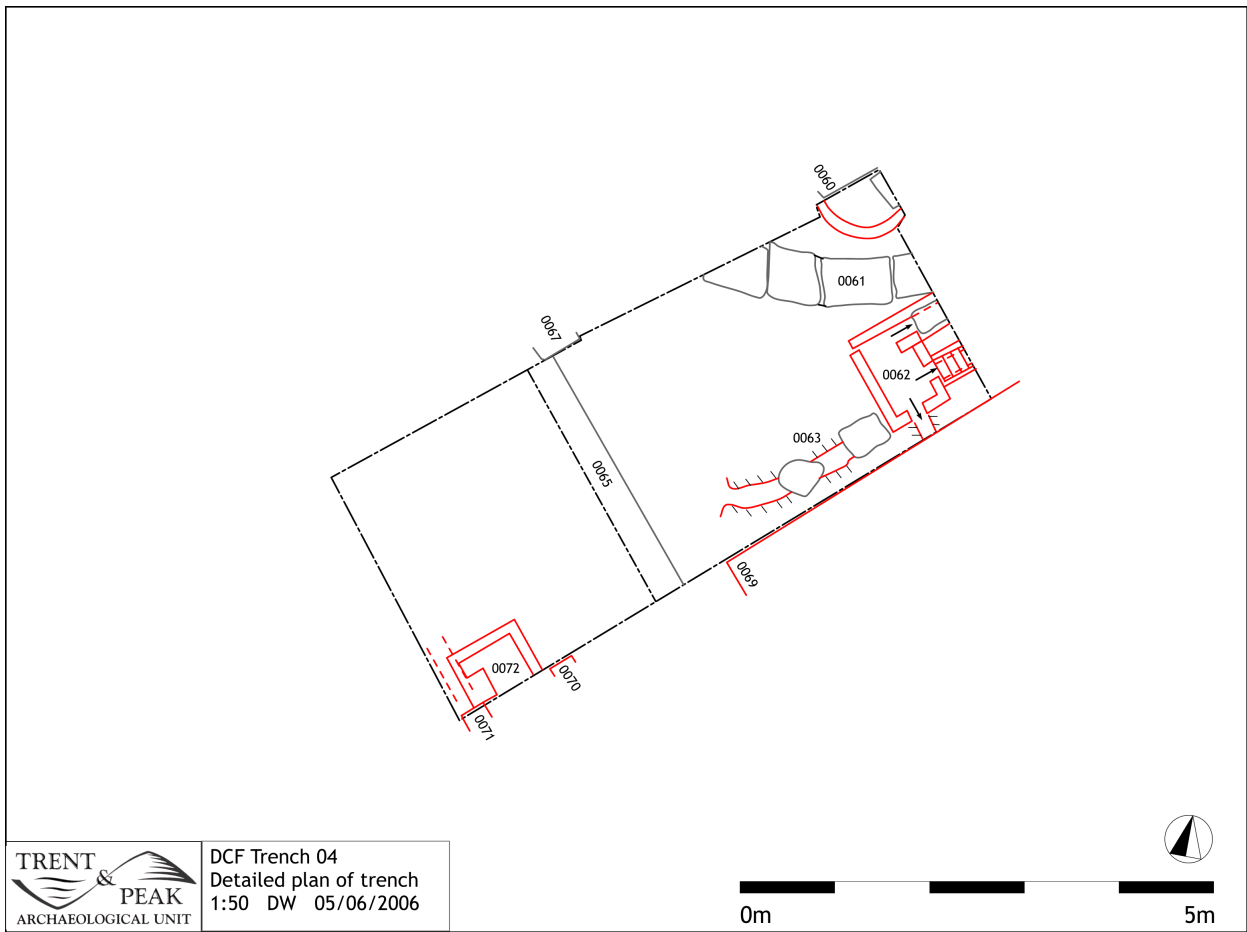


Figure 12: Plan of Trench 04. Scale 1:80.

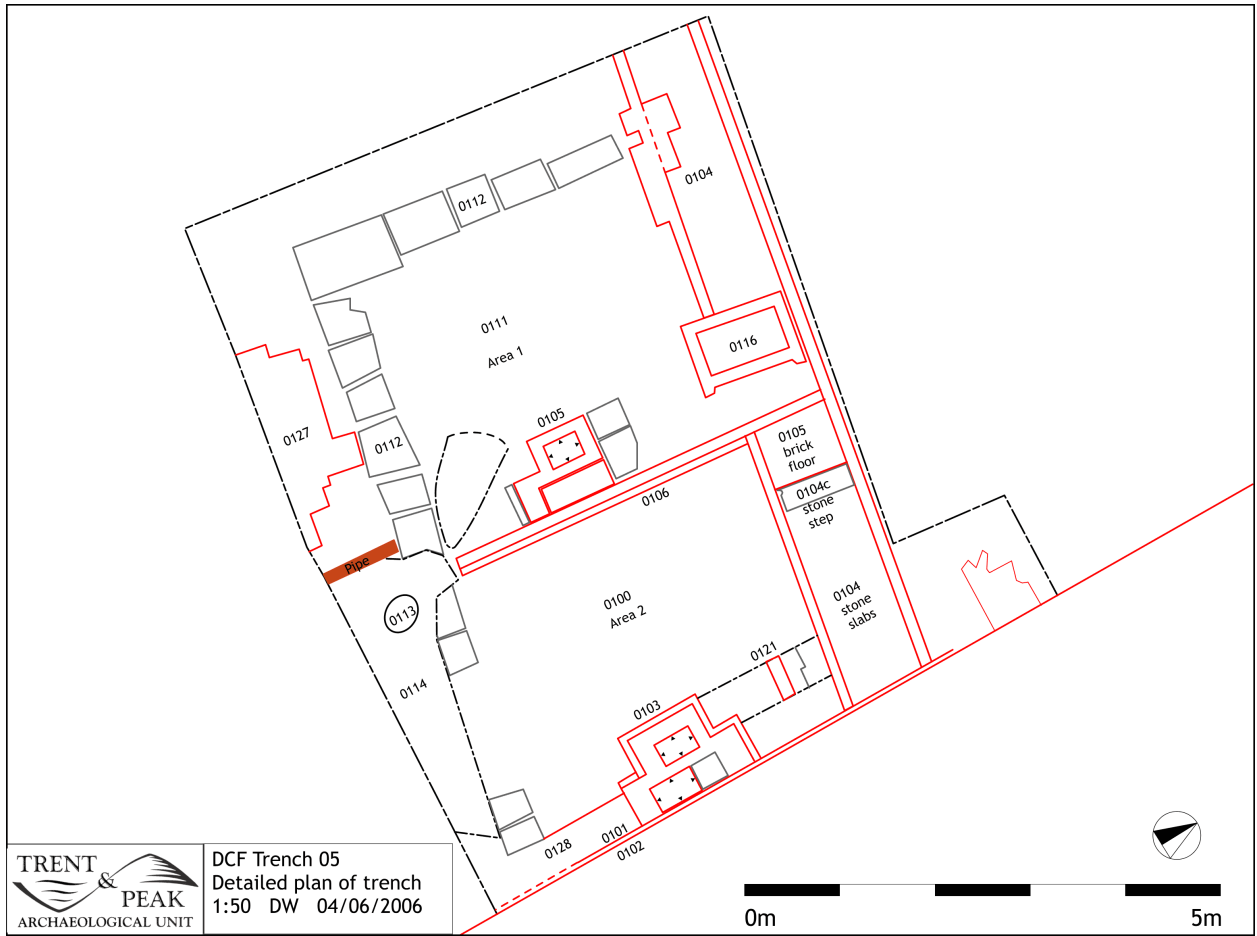


Figure 13: Plan of Trench 05. Scale 1:80.

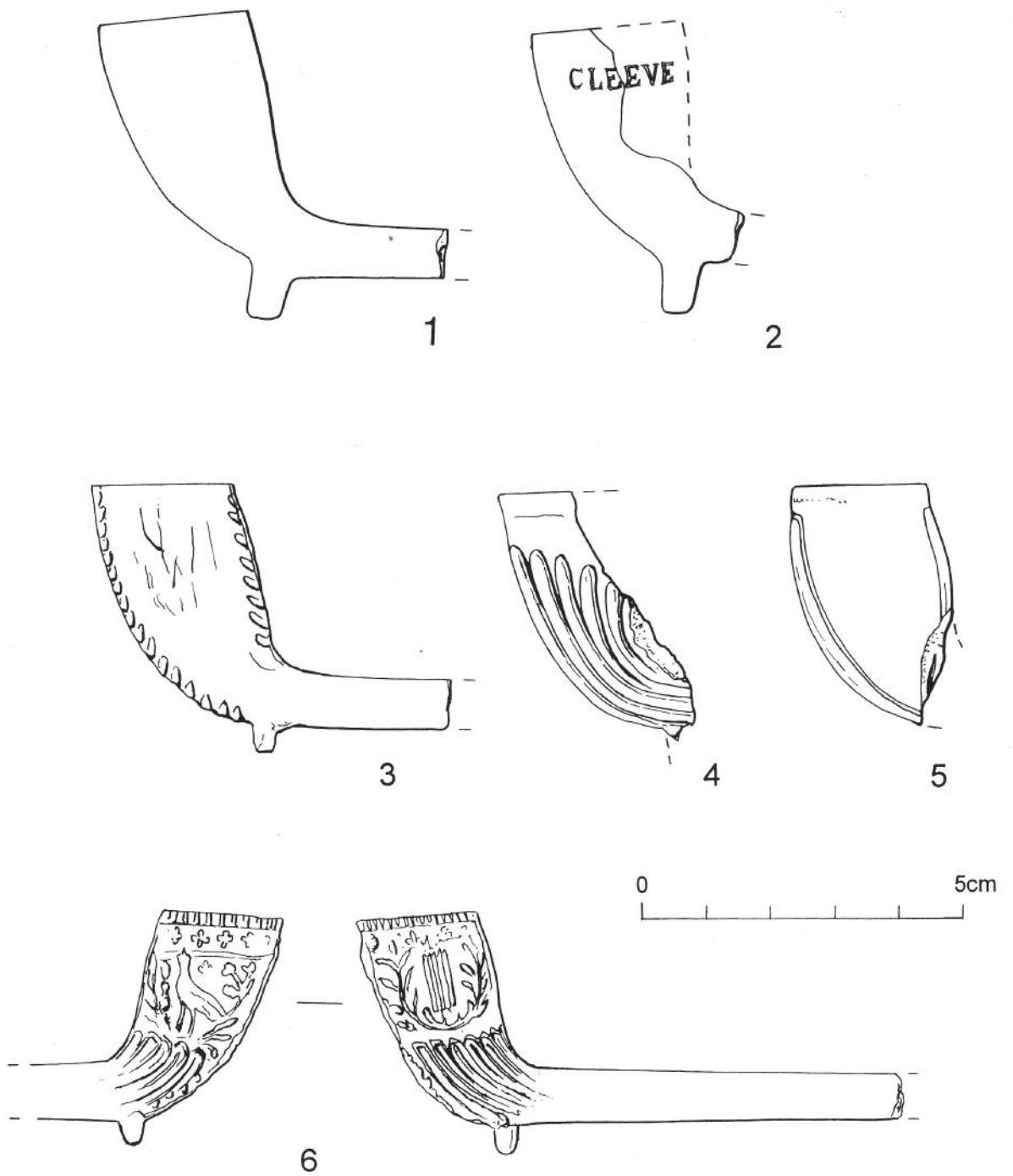


Figure 14: Plain, inscribed and decorated clay-pipe fragments found in Trench 05.
Scale 1:1.



1



2



3

Plates 1-3: General views of the Brook Street - Bridge Street site in Derby. **1:** the site after clearance; **2:** cleaning by hand in Trench 02; **3:** deep cellars and a cavity for a petrol tank showing on the Bridge Street frontage.



4



5



6

Plates 4-6: Views of the Brook Street - Bridge Street site in Derby. **4:** the rear wall of the Little Bridge Street terrace (0022; in background) and the outline of brick-paved feature 0021; **5:** terrace internal cross-wall 0027; **6:** walls 0024, 0025 abutting the rear wall of the terrace.



7



8



9

Plates 7-9: Views of the Brook Street - Bridge Street site in Derby. **7:** part of the east section of Trench 02 (south end); **8:** north section of Trench 03, showing the water-filled deeper excavation; **9:** north-east end of Trench 04, showing the top of a well and several drains.



10

11



12



13

Plates 10-13: Views of the Brook Street - Bridge Street site in Derby. **10:** clay-pipe manufacture debris showing on the cleared surface by Trench 05; **11:** features 0104 and 0105; **12:** feature 0103; **13:** view of stone foundations 0112, from the west. Feature 0104 shows in the background.