

# **EREWASH FLOOD DEFENCES**

**A report of an archaeological watching brief 2010/11.**

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**Project code: EFD**

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## Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology were contracted by Black and Veatch on behalf of the Environment agency to conduct a watching brief on ground works associated with the erection of flood defences at the Toton Water Treatment works, Toton, Nottinghamshire.
- All intrusive ground work was monitored during the course of the watching brief.
- In most instances the ground works did not penetrate below the surface of a sub soil layer and/or were excavated into made ground.
- The exception was Area 04 where in order to construct a crossing over the River Erewash a section of the river bank was cut through.
- There were no archaeological features or artefacts revealed as a result of the ground works.
- Geoarchaeological assessment was undertaken by staff from Trent & Peak Archaeology using a Van Walt percussion window sampling kit in Area 05 in order to locate a possible palaeochannel. Holes were drilled with window samplers of c.50 to 100mm diameter and extracted in 1m steps with stratigraphy recorded from the ground surface downwards

**EREWASH FLOOD DEFENCES, TOTON , NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.  
Report of an archaeological watching brief.**

**CONTENTS**

SUMMARY

CONTENTS

1, INTRODUCTION	1.
2. BACKGROUND	1.
3. METHODOLOGY	1.
4 RESULTS	1.
5 CONCLUSIONS	2.

Appendix 1 Summary context list.

Figures

Plates

List of Figures

Figure 1 Site plan

Figure 2 South east facing section of Area 04.

List of Plates.

Plate 1 Area 02, hand excavated trench. Looking south west.

Plate 1. Brick rubble in base of Area 02. Looking south.

Plate 3 Area 03, narrow slit trench incorporated into Area 02. Looking north.

Plate 4. Excavating through the river bank to provide a smooth surface. Looking north east.

Plate 5. Stone laid over the surface and into the river to construct a ford. Looking south west.

Plate 6. Area 04, section through the river bank. Looking north west.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was contracted by Black and Veatch on behalf of the Environment Agency to conduct an archaeological watching brief on ground intrusion associated with the erection of flood defences around the Toton Water Treatment works, Nottinghamshire centred on SK50882 33872.

1.2 The works were part of a wider scheme of flood defences carried out by the Environment Agency along the left bank of the River Trent from Sawley to Colwick.

1.3 The works along the Erewash consisted of the erection of a flood walls on the left bank of the river and on its right bank parallel to the railway track. Figure 1.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The intrusive ground work took place in the flood plain of the River Erewash a little over 1 kilometre north west of its confluence with the Trent.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

3.1 All intrusive groundwork was monitored and recorded by photograph, digital and 35mm black and white print.

3.2 All archaeological features were recorded by photograph and drawing at a scale of 1:20. The locations of any drawings were clearly marked in a plan of the site

3.3 Any finds were given an individual finds code, .e.g. AAA and their location recorded.

3.4 Where top and sub soils were removed using a machine a bladed ditching bucket was used (Areas 04 and 05).

## **4. RESULTS**

4.1 **Area 01**, land to the west of the treatment works. This consisted of a narrow grassed area between the treatment works and the river and was the site of the erection of a flood wall. Figure 2.

4.2 **Area 02**. A hand excavated trench 2m wide by 300mm deep extending the length of Area 01. Plate 1.

4.2.1 Topsoil, 0001, was removed by hand exposing 0002, a mid to light brown silty loam with 40% small stone inclusions and modern brick rubble. 0002 was consistent throughout the area. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed. Plate 2

4.3 **Area 03**. A narrow slit trench, hand excavated, along the side of Area 02 in order to expose a service cable so as to avoid damage when the main trench was excavated. Area 03 was incorporated into Area 02 as the latter was advanced. Plate 3.

4.3.1 The hand excavation of Area 03 did not extend below the level of Area 02, i.e. 300mm. No archaeological features or artefacts revealed

4.6 **Area 04**. Figure 2. A large part of Area 04 had been stripped prior to the watching brief starting. A large amount of building rubble, concrete and brick had been dumped on the stripped area and along its eastern edge a haul road some 20m wide had been laid.

4.6.1 At the south eastern end of Area 04 a ramp was cut to allow vehicular access to the river which was to be crossed after the building of a stone ford. This was to allow plant and men to safely cross the river to Area 05. Top and sub soils were removed by a tracked machine using a bladed ditching bucket.

4.6.2 The bank of the river was cut through to provide an even sloped surface to give access to a crossing point over the river. This was stoned up to provide a firm surface for the passage of plant and machinery to the opposite bank. Stone was also used to provide a stable surface across the river bed. Plates 4 and 5.

4.6.3 A section of the bank exposed by the machining was recorded by photograph and drawing, Figure 3 and Plate 6.

The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded

<b><i>Context</i></b>	<b><i>Thickness</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
0001	250mm	Mid brown loam
0003	280mm	Mid to light brown silty loam with less than 40% small rounded stones.
0004	460mm	Mid to light brown silty loam with Inclusions.
0005	280 mm	Gravel in orange sand matrix.

4.6.4 There were no archaeological features or artefacts revealed as a result of the ground intrusion in Area 04.

## **5 Area 05. Land north west of the railway.** Figure 2.

5.1 Ground intrusion was confined to the 'skirt' of the railway embankment and consequently only exposed the made ground of the embankment itself.

5.1.2 There were no archaeological features or artefacts revealed.

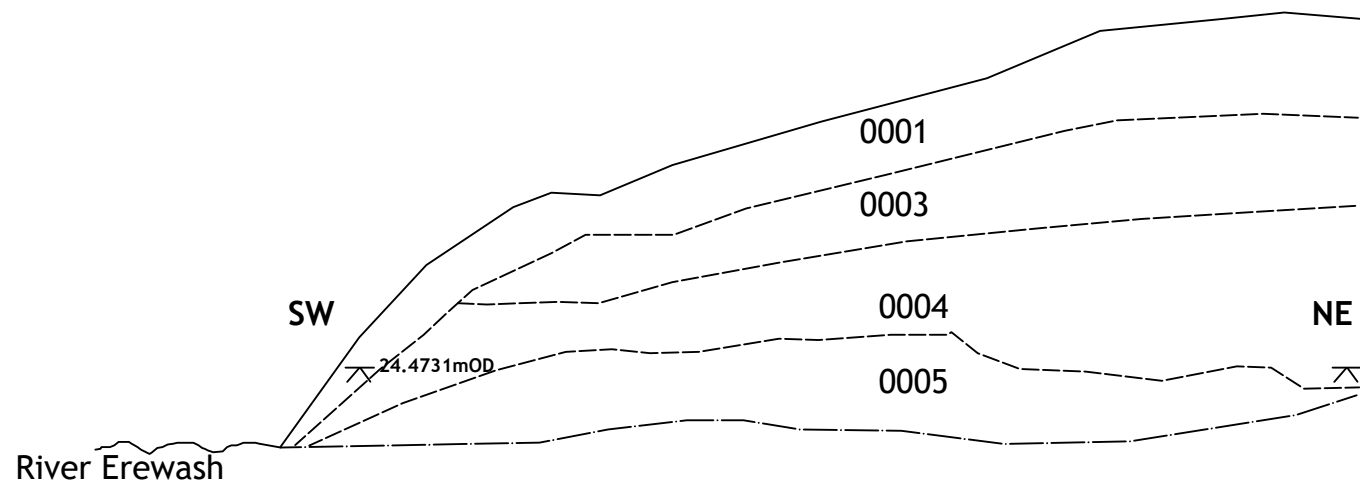
## **6. CONCLUSIONS.**

6.1 In all areas of work the ground intrusion was minimal thereby reducing the possibility of revealing any archaeological features.

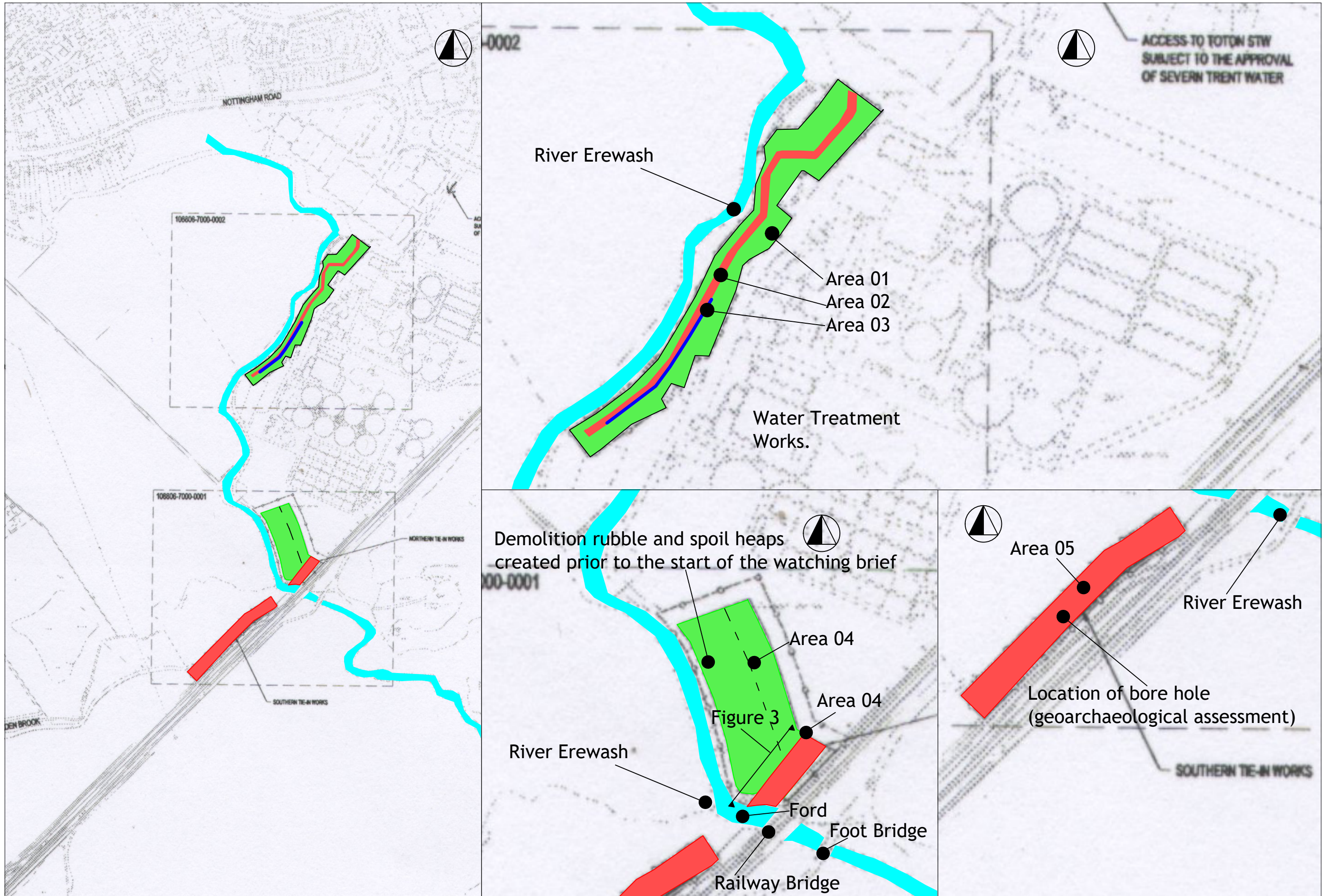
6.2 Much of the area was in ground that had been previously disturbed by activity associated with the water treatment works and the railway. This suggests that any archaeological features that may have been present could well have been removed prior to the current works being undertaken.

**Appendix 1 Summary context list.**

<b>CONTEXT</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>THICKNESS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
0001	01,02,03,04	270mm	Mid brown loam
0002	01,02,03	50mm observed	Mid/light brown silty loam with >40% rounded stones.
0003	04	290mm	Similar to 0002
0004	04	450mm	Mid/light brown silty loam with <5% rounded stone inclusions
00005	04	250mm observed	Orange sand and gravel.



- 0001 mid brown loam
- 0003 mid brown silty loam with > 40% rounded stone inclusions
- 0004 mid to light brown silty loam
- 0005 orange sand and gravel



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ARCHAEOLOGY

EFD Figure 1. Site Plan, Scale 1:5000 @A3 and detailed plans, Scale 1:2000 @A3.





**PLATE 1. Area 02, hand excavated trench. Looking south west.**



**PLATE 2. Brick rubble in base of Area 02. Looking south.**



**Plate 3. Area 03, narrow slit trench incorporated into Area 02.  
Looking north.**



**PLATE 4. Excavating through the river bank to provide a smooth surface. Looking north east.**



**PLATE 5. Stone laid over the surface and into the river to construct a ford. Looking south west.**



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