

FLORENCE SHIPLEY HOUSE, HEANOR DERBYSHIRE.

Report of Trial Trenching

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Project Code - FSH

TPA Report No. 006/2013




The former tennis court, Area 05, Florence Shipley House

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Summary

- Trent & Peak archaeology was contracted to carry out a programme of trial trenching at Florence Shipley House, Heanor, Derbyshire centred on SK43508 46503
- The trial trenching was carried out in advance of the demolition of the current structures and the construction of new buildings.
- Seven trial trenches were opened and recorded in the current grounds and on land to the south of this that is to be incorporated into the proposed development.
- The site stands at the top of a scarp slope on which the town of Heanor stands. The frontage of the site faces north on to Market Street which comprises the medieval main thoroughfare of the town.
- The proposed development extends for 30m down the slope to the south and for a further 25m to incorporate waste ground at the base of the slope.
- Two of the trial trenches, Areas 01 and 02 revealed evidence of the building of the current structure which took place in the 1960's. Outside the scope of the trial trenching but recorded on the 1881 OS is a well that is situated at the front of the site.
- Area 03, 04 and 05, to the rear of the current building showed evidence of substantial landscaping associated with the laying out of a tennis court. This is probably dated to the late 19th/ early 20th century there being no indication of a tennis court on the 1881 OS.
- In Area 05 a probable linear feature and associated post hole were recorded cut into the natural at the base of the excavation. There was no dating evidence from these features and their period and extent remain unresolved.
- Areas 06 and 07 were excavated on waste ground to the south of the current property boundary. This waste ground is to be incorporated in the proposed development.
- There were no archaeological features or deposits revealed in Area 06 which was excavated through undisturbed stratigraphy to the natural.
- Area 07 appears to be sited over a disused coal pit, its lower layers being consistent with deposits associated with coal measures. The recorded stratigraphy strongly suggests an episode of backfilling with subsoil lying beneath deposits usually found between the subsoil and the bedrock.
- No dating evidence was produced by the excavation and so a date for the pit cannot be established at present. Nearby coal pits are recorded on the 1881 OS so coal measures are relatively near the surface in this area. It is probable that the deposit relates to 'out cropping' and a possible date for this may be the period immediately after the General Strike when locked out miners recovered coal on their own account.
- Evaluation revealed a clear patterning in the recorded stratigraphic sequence and level of archaeological potential. Unsurprisingly those trenches in close proximity to the current building (both to the south and north) revealed evidence of substantial disturbance and truncation, consistent with little or no surviving archaeological potential. In contrast the results of three areas (05, 06 and 07) at slightly greater remove from the existing structure, and all on the north side) indicated an increased level of archaeological potential. Area 05 contained undated potential features, whilst towards the northern edge of the development zone Area 06 revealed an apparently undisturbed sedimentary sequence, whilst Area 07 yielded evidence suggestive of possible localised coal extraction, perhaps in the form of historic 'out cropping'.

- Further work in conjunction with the proposed development may elucidate the features recorded in Area 05 and Area 07.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1 Trent & Peak archaeology was contracted by Derbyshire County Council to carry out a programme of trial trenching at Florence Shipley House, Heanor Derbyshire, SK43508 46503, (Figure 1).

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 The site, (Figure 2), lies at the summit of a south facing scarp slope and is positioned on interbedded sandstones and shale overlying Pennine Middle Coal Measures (BGS, 2012). The current grounds extend down slope for a distance of 30m. The proposed development entails the demolition of the existing building and the extension of the southern boundary of the site for a further 25m.

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The ground to the south of the current buildings appears to have been heavily landscaped probably in the late 19th/early 20th century when a tennis court was laid out.

3.2 The site fronts onto Market Street which is believed to have been the main medieval thoroughfare through Heanor and lies some 70m to the north-west of the historic parish church which contains fabric dating the 14th century.

3.3 The 1881 OS map, Figure 3, shows a well which now lies beneath the current car park. This was not evaluated during the trial trenching. The same map also indicates the presence of coal pits in the general vicinity of the southern extent of the proposed development.

4. OBJECTIVES.

4.1 The objective of the trial trenching was to identify and characterise (date, extent), any archaeological features and deposits that may be impacted by the development. The reported results will inform the decision making process of the planning authority as to the need or otherwise for further archaeological works prior to or during the proposed development and form the basis of the agreement of an appropriate scheme of mitigation.

5. METHODOLOGY.

5.1 The trial trenches were excavated by a tracked mini-digger using a bladed ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

5.2 Trenches were excavated to the level of either an identified archaeological horizon or to undisturbed natural strata.

4.3. Trench sections and plans were recorded by scale drawing at a scale of 1:20 and by digital and black and white (35mm) photographic images.

4.4 All recorded layers and archaeological features were given a unique context number, e.g.0001. Finds were given a unique finds code, e.g. AAA and their location marked on the relevant section drawing or plan.

4.5 A total of seven trenches were opened and recorded. One other proposed trench had been sited above a number of services identified by the client and was therefore not attempted. Seven trenches in all were fully excavated and recorded.

6. RESULTS.

6.1 Area 01. 2m x 2m x 1.25m Contexts: 0001, 0002, 0003, 0004, 0005.

6.1.1 Area 01 was excavated to a total depth of 1.25m. Below the topsoil, 0001, two layers were revealed interspersed with lenses of silt and sandstone (Figure 4a). The stratigraphy probably reflects activity related to the 1960's construction programme. During the course of the excavation asbestos debris was uncovered. This was left 'in situ'.

6.1.2 There were no archaeological features revealed as a result of the excavation. Three pieces of modern glass, AAA, AAB, AAC, were recovered from 0005.

6.1.3 The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded in Area 01:

Context	Thickness	Description
0001	120mm	Top soil, dark grey/brown loam
0002	900mm	Blue/grey clay, extending down south-west edge of trench
0003	500mm	Grey/brown loam mixed with building rubble and cinder ash
0004	200mm	Lens of brown silty loam and sandstone fragments
0005	600mm, observed	Dark grey/brown silty loam mixed with building rubble

6.2 Area 02. 2m x 2m x 1m. Contexts: 0006, 0007

6.2.1 Area 02 was excavated to a total depth of 0.5m. Below the topsoil, 0006, the top of the natural sandstone was revealed (Figure 4b).

6.2.2 There were no archaeological features revealed as a result of the excavation and no artefacts recovered.

6.2.3 The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded in Area 02:

Context	Thickness	Description
0006	200mm	Topsoil, dark grey loam
0007	300mm, observed	Sandstone, weathered layer overlaying solid sandstone

6.3 Area 03. 2m x 2m x 1.2m. Contexts:0008, 0009, 0010, 0011

6.3.1 Area 03 was excavated to a total depth of 1.2m Below the topsoil (0008), two layers, 0009, 0010 were recorded above the top of the natural sandstone, 0011 (Figure 5a)

6.3.2 No archaeological features were revealed as a result of the excavation of Area 03 and no artefacts recovered.

6.3.3 The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded in Area 03.

Context	Thickness	Description
0008	300mm	Topsoil, dark grey loam
0009	500mm (max)	Mid brown silty loam
0010	500mm (max)	Sandstone fragments mixed with dark grey cinder ash
0011	200mm, observed	Grey clay mixed with weathered sandstone

6.4 Area 04. 2m x 2m x 1.2m. *Contexts:0012, 0013, 0014, 0015*

6.4.1 Area 04 was excavated to a total depth of 1.2m. Below the topsoil (0014) two layers were recorded, 0013 and 0014. 0013 at the western edge of the trench abuts 0014. Below these layers the natural sandstone was observed (Figure 5b).

6.4.2 No archaeological features were revealed as a result of the excavation of Area 04 and no artefacts uncovered.

6.4.3 The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded in Area 04:

Context	Thickness	Description
0012	400mm	Topsoil, dark grey/brown loam mixed with cinder ash
0013	700mm	Grey clay mixed with cinder ash
0014	800mm, observed	Mid brown silty loam mixed with sandstone, top of natural formation
0015	200mm	Natural sandstone

6.5 Area 05. 2m x 2m x 1.1m. *Contexts, 0016, 0017, 0018, 0019, 0020, 0021*

6.5.1 Area 05 was excavated to a total depth of 1.1m. Two layers (0017, 0018) were recorded between the topsoil (0016) and the natural sandstone formation (0019). A potential linear feature (0020) was identified running north-west/south-east along the north-east edge of Area 05 (Figure 6). The feature (0020), comprised a possible ditch or gully c.0.10m deep, although its precise character and extent remain unclear as a full profile could not be recovered within the limits of the trial pit. A further feature, comprising a small pit or post hole (0021) was also recorded, cut into the base/surface of the ditch (Figure 6). The linear and pit may have formed contemporary elements of a possible boundary feature/structure or two distinct phases of activity. No finds were associated with either of the two features and they currently remain undated.

6.5.2 Pottery and glass sherds were recovered from layer 0018 which have been provisionally dated to the late 19th century.

6.5.3 The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded in Area 05:

Context	Thickness	Description
0016	200mm	Topsoil, dark grey/brown
0017	200mm	Sandstone and clay
0018	500mm	Dark brown silty loam
0019	350mm, observed	Sandstone, part of natural formation
0020	100mm	Mid brown silty loam, fill of linear feature
0021	120mm	Grey clay mixed with sandstone chippings, fill of post hole cut into 0020
0032	only surface exposed	Sandstone bedrock

6.6 Area 06. 2m x 2m x 1.20m. *Contexts: 0022, 0023, 0024, 0025*

6.6.1 Area 06 was excavated to a total depth of 1.2m. Below topsoil (0022), two layers of apparently natural subsoil (0023, 0024) were recorded overlying the rockhead (0025) (Figure 7a).

6.6.2 None of the layers below the topsoil showed any signs of disturbance or anthropogenic activity. No archaeological features were revealed as a result of the excavation and no artefacts uncovered.

6.6.3 The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded in Area 06:

<i>Context</i>	<i>Thickness</i>	<i>Description</i>
0022	200mm	Topsoil, dark grey loam with ash and coal inclusions
0023	600mm	Grey sandy silt gravel
0024	300mm	Yellowclay with degraded sandstone
0025	120mm observed	Sandstone, part of natural formation

6.7 Area 07. 2m x 2m x 2m. Contexts: 0026, 0027, 0028, 0029, 0030, 0031

6.7.1 Area 07 was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m. Below topsoil, 0026 five layers, 0027, 0028, 0029, 0030 and 0031 were recorded (Figure 7b)

6.7.2 The basal layer exposed by the excavation, 0031, comprised a heavy grey clay mixed with ash and coal fragments. Within the constraints of the trial trenching it was not possible to expose the full depth of this deposit and its precise character and extent remain unclear.

6.7.3 A preliminary interpretation of 0031 is that it may relate to small-scale coal extraction activity (see Section 7).

6.7.4 The observed sequence of deposits within Area 07 is at variance with that recorded within Area 06, in particular 0028 (yellow clay with degraded sandstone tabular inclusions), overlies 0029, a mid brown silty loam that closely resembles the subsoil, 0027. This may suggest disruption to the stratigraphic order, consistent with small scale coal extraction activities, i.e. 'outcropping'.

6.7.4 The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded in Area 07:

<i>Context</i>	<i>Thickness</i>	<i>Description</i>
0026	200mm	Topsoil, dark grey loam
0027	500mm	Mid brown silty loam
0028	200mm	Yellow clay and degraded sandstone
0029	200mm	Mid brown silty loam
0030	500mm	Yellow clay and degraded sandstone
0031	400mm observed	Grey clay mixed with ash and coal

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Whilst the majority of the excavated trial trenches, reveal no archaeological remains or artefacts and a high level of disturbance, a small number, notably on the north side of the current building, suggest some surviving archaeological potential within the development area.

7.2 Trial pits positioned at the front of the current building, Areas 01 and 02, produced modern building rubble consistent with construction activity in the 1960's. In Area 01 the topsoil lay directly over the bed rock with no intervening layers present, arguably suggesting that eastern edge of the scarp slope has been subject to a level of re-working probably in the 1960's.

7.3 At the rear of the current building Area 03 and Area 04 were sited on ground that appears to have been heavily landscaped in the recent past and this may also have removed any archaeological remains or deposits.

7.4 Area 05, positioned c.18m to the north of the current building, contained a potential linear feature and an associated post hole. Both were undated, and appear to underlie a levelling deposit (0017) associated with the creation of a tennis court.

7.5 Areas 06 and 07 were positioned on waste ground towards the northern edge of the proposed development area, well removed from the current building and surface evidence of landscaping. Area 06 revealed an apparently undisturbed sequence of up to c.900mm of subsoils overlying the rockhead. In contrast, Area 07, positioned c.20m to the east revealed a very different sequence with the basal layer (0031) containing ash and coal fragments. Whilst interpretation must be constrained by the limits of the trial pit, it can be noted that the 1881 OS records coal pits, presumably surface workings where the coal measures have outcropped, in the near vicinity. Although there is no record on the 1881 OS of a coal pit at the precise location of Area 07, smaller scale activity may have pre/post-dated the OS mapping or indeed have gone wholly unrecorded.

7.6 An historical and social context for such 'out cropping' is presented by the period immediately following the General Strike when locked out miners resorted to getting coal on their own account. Such activity, on a substantial scale, is recorded in nearby locations such as Ripley and Church Greasley (Derbyshire), Trowell, Mansfield and Kirkby (Notts.), and Coalville and Whitwick (Leics.), (Wyncoll P, 1976.). Doubtless such activity was common throughout the Midlands coalfields at that period.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1. Evaluation revealed a clear patterning in the recorded stratigraphic sequence and level of archaeological potential. Unsurprisingly those trenches in close proximity to the current building (both to the south and north) revealed evidence of substantial disturbance and truncation, consistent with little or no surviving archaeological potential. In contrast the results of three areas (05, 06 and 07) at slightly greater remove from the existing structure, and all on the north side) indicated an increased level of archaeological potential. Area 05 contained undated potential features, whilst towards the northern edge of the development zone Area 06 revealed an apparently undisturbed sedimentary sequence, whilst Area 07 yielded evidence suggestive of possible localised coal extraction, perhaps in the form of historic 'out cropping'.

Acknowledgments

The fieldwork was carried out by Richard Parker and David Taylor and was managed by Laurence Platt.

References:

BGS, 2012, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology>

Wyncoll P, 1976, in 1926. *The General Strike*, Ed Jeffrey Skelley, Lawrence & Wishart.

Appendix 1. Summary Context List

Context	Area	Description
0001	01	Topsoil, dark grey/brown loam
0002	01	Blue/grey clay
0003	01	Grey/brown loam mixed with building rubble
0004	01	Lens of brown silty loam with sandstone fragments
0005	01	Dark grey/brown silty loam mixed with building rubble
0006	02	Topsoil, dark grey/brown loam
0007	02	Sandstone, bedrock
0008	03	Topsoil, dark grey/brown loam
0009	03	Mid brown silty loam
0010	03	Sandstone fragments mixed with cinder ash
0011	03	Grey clay mixed with weathered sandstone
0012	04	Topsoil, grey/brown loam mixed with cinder ash
0013	04	Grey clay mixed with cinder ash
0014	04	Mid brown silty loam mixed with degraded sandstone
0015	04	Sandstone, bedrock
0016	05	Topsoil, dark grey/brown loam
0017	05	Sandstone, degraded, mixed with brown clay
0018	05	Dark brown silty loam
0019	05	Sandstone, bedrock
0020	05	Mid brown silty loam, fill of linear feature
0021	05	Grey clay mixed with sandstone chippings, fill of post hole
0022	06	Topsoil, dark grey loam with ash and coal inclusions
0023	06	Grey sandy silt and gravel
0024	06	Yellow clay with degraded sandstone
0025	06	Sandstone, bedrock
0026	07	Topsoil, dark grey loam
0027	07	Mid brown silty loam
0028	07	Yellow clay and degraded sandstone
0029	07	Mid brown silty loam
0030	07	Yellow clay and degraded sandstone
0031	07	Grey clay mixed with coal and ash
0032	05	Sandstone, bedrock

Appendix 2. Summary finds list

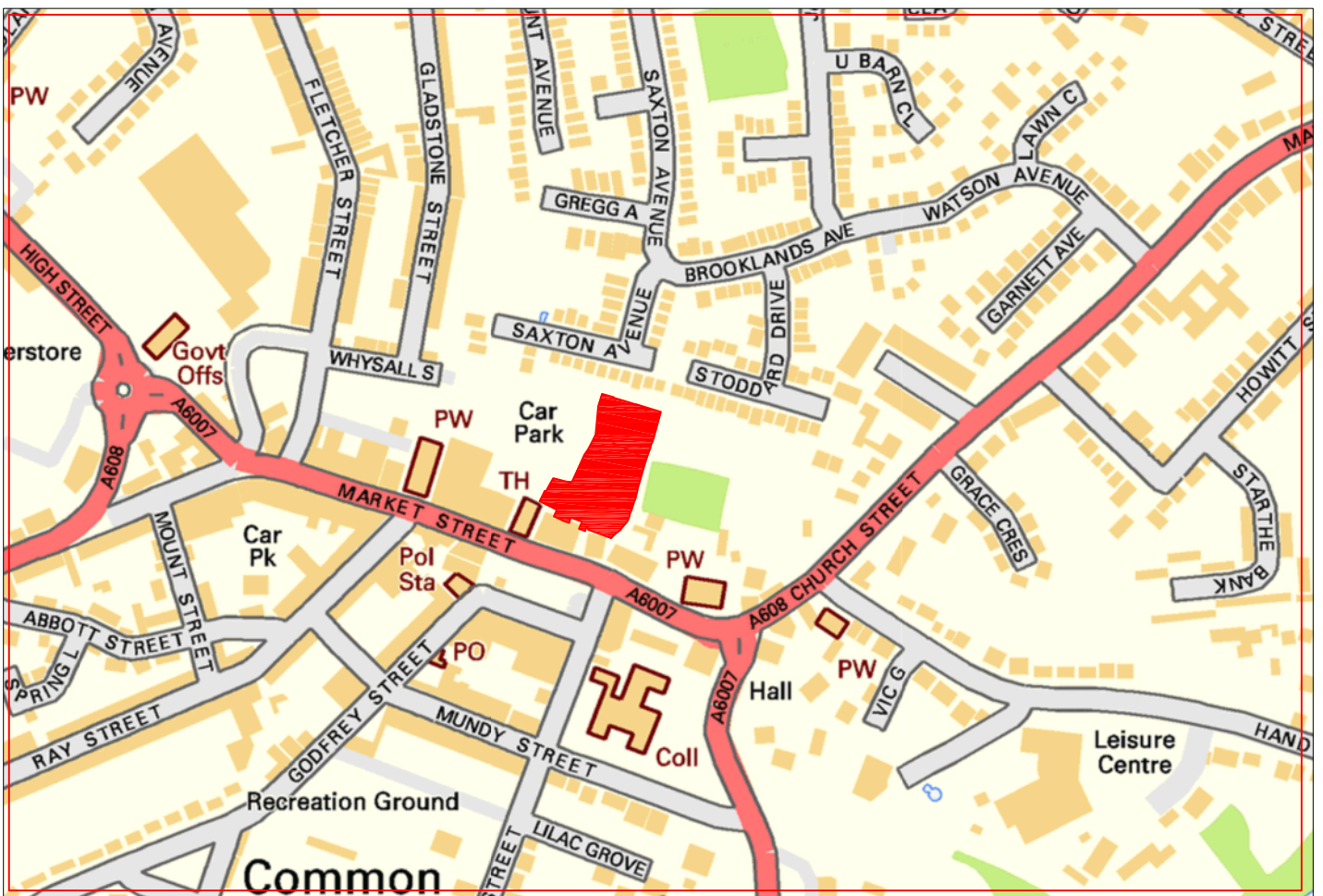
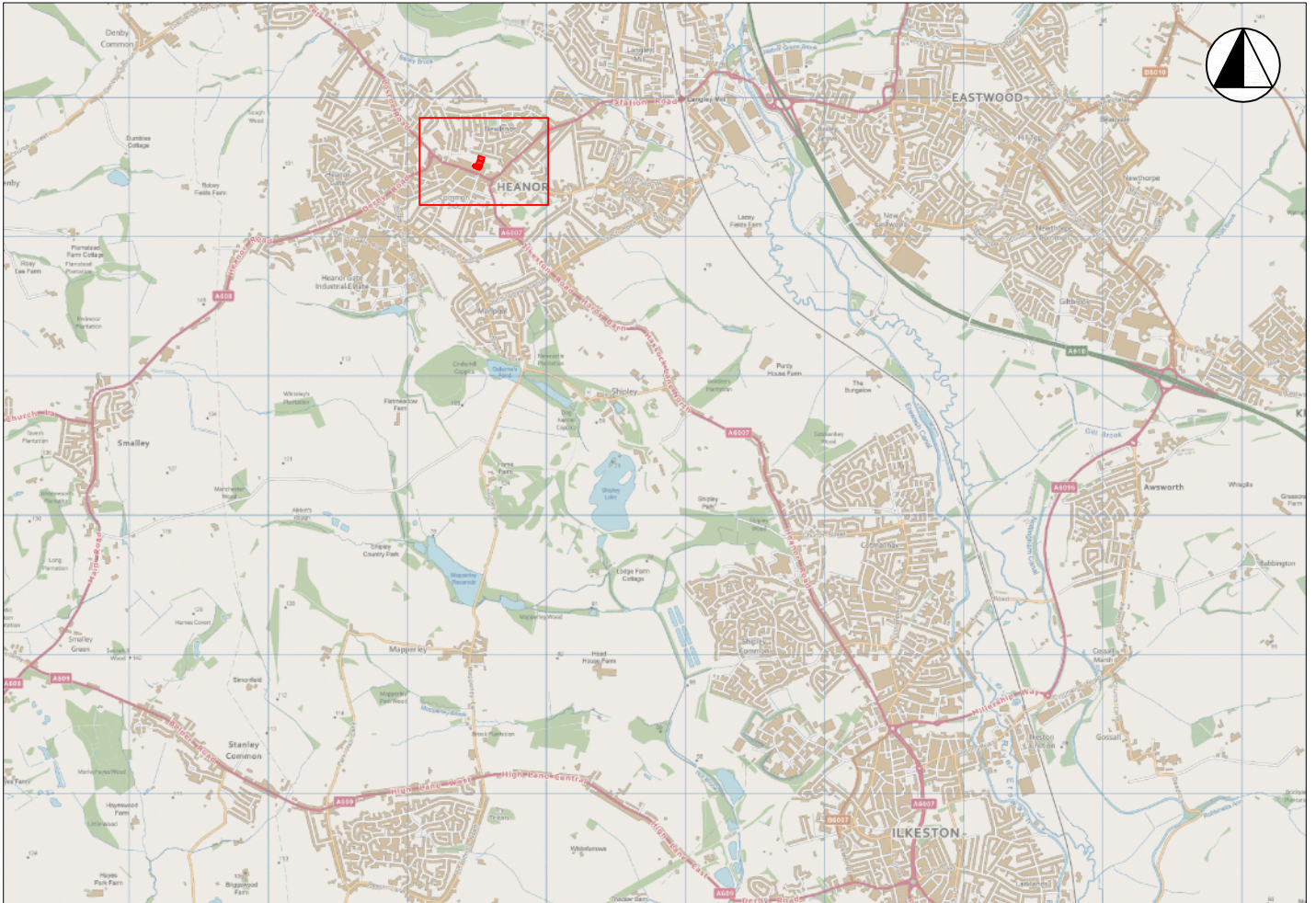
Finds Code	Area	Context	Material
AAA	01	0005	Glass, part of bottle, 19 th /20 th century
AAB	01	0005	Glass, part of bottle, 19 th /20 th century
AAC	01	0005	Glass, part of bottle, 19 th /20 th century
AAD	05	0018	Pottery, rim sherd, 19 th /20 th century
AAE	05	0018	Pottery, rim sherd, 19 th /20 th century
AAF	05	0018	Pottery, body sherd, 19 th /20 th century
AAG	05	0018	Glass 19 th /20 th century
AAH	05	0018	Pottery, body sherd, 19 th /20 th century
AAI	05	0018	Pottery, body sherd, 19 th /20 th century
AAJ	05	0018	Pottery, body sherd, 19 th /20 th century


APPENDIX 3 Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

<i>Field Records</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Watching brief record sheets	Record of visit and work carried out	2
Drawing record sheets	List of drawings made on site	1
Photographic record sheets	List of photographs taken on site	1
Context records sheets	Record of contexts recorded on site	31
Site drawings on perma traces sheets	Site plan @1:200	0
	Section drawings @1:20 on A3 permatrace	3
	@1:20 on A4 permatrace	0
Photographs:- Digital B&W (with negatives)	All views	54
	Recorded sections	27
Finds	Ceramic 19 th /29 th century.	6
	Glass, bottles	3
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the watching brief.	1

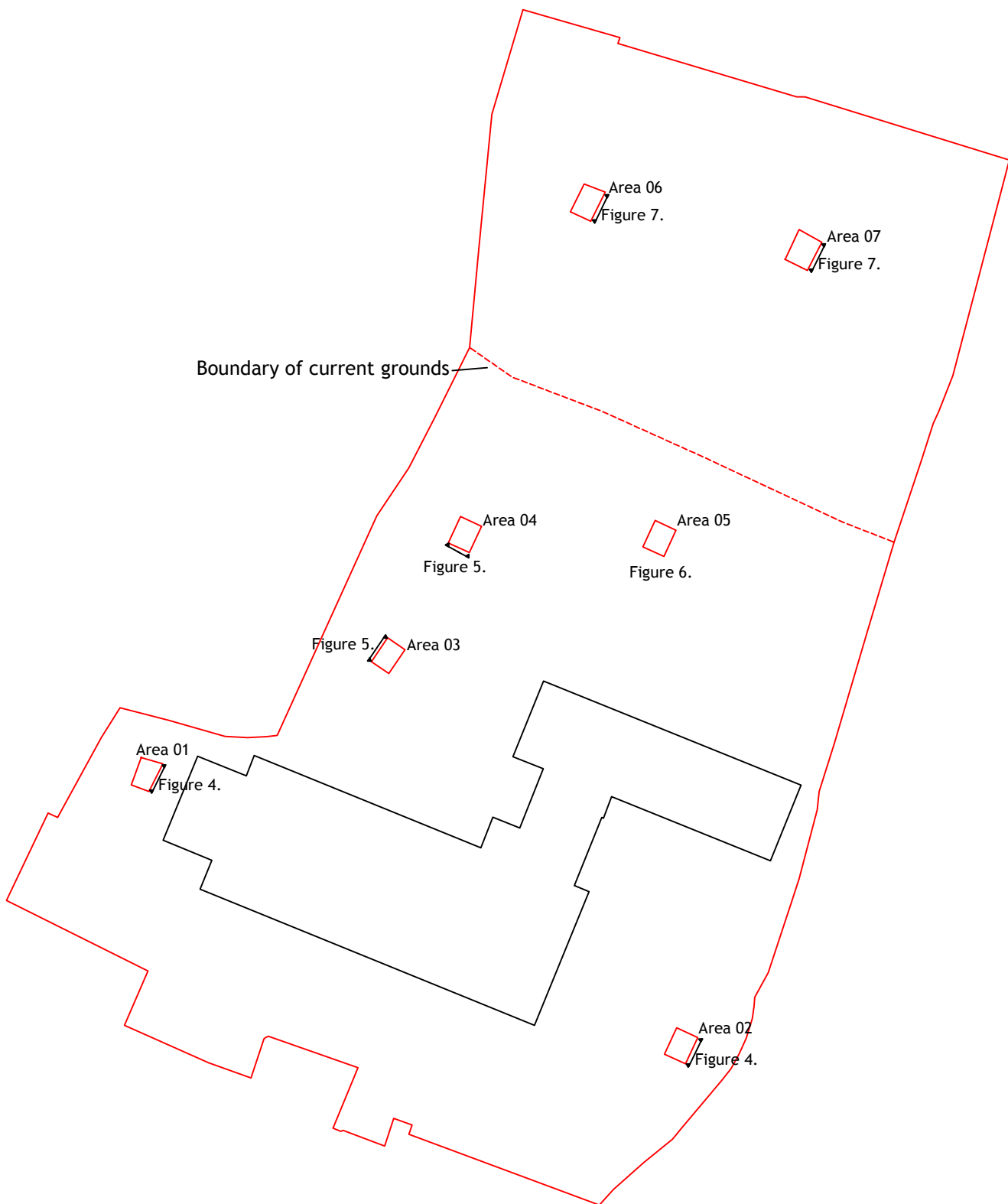
Archive Deposition.

The archive is currently held in the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1 Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham. It will be deposited at the Derby Museum and Art Gallery, TPA project code FSH, accession number DBYMU 2012-264. The archive will be deposited by the end of Feb. 2013




 FSH Florence Shipley House
 Figure 1 Site location plan
 Scale at A4 1:50,000 / 1:10,000

(Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618).



Boundary of current grounds

Area 06
Figure 7.

Area 07
Figure 7.

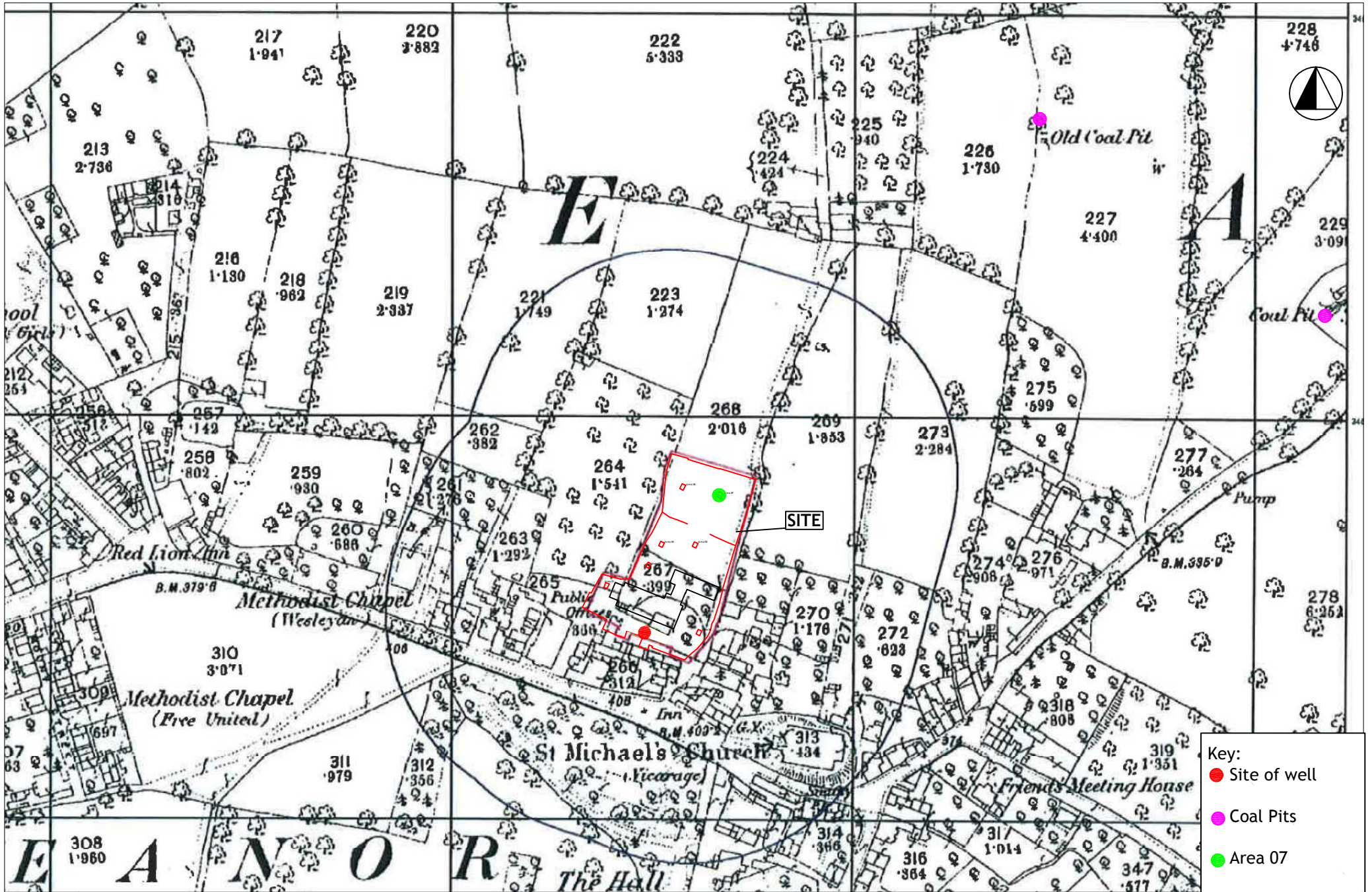
Area 04
Figure 5.

Area 05
Figure 6.

Figure 5. Area 03

Area 01
Figure 4.

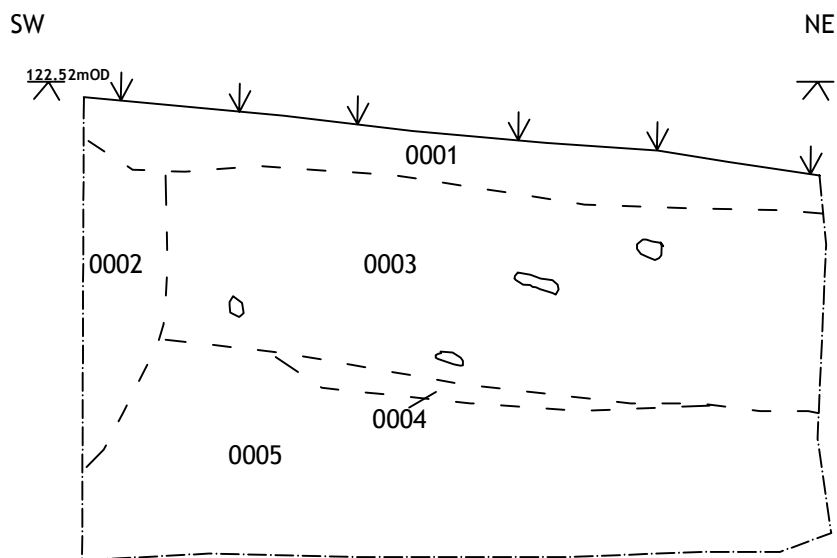
Area 02
Figure 4.



Key:

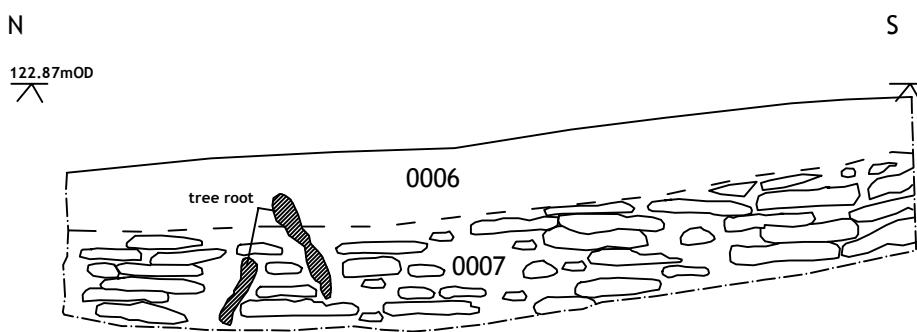
- Site of well
- Coal Pits
- Area 07

tp FSH Figure 3. Extract from 1881 OS annotated with location of well, two coal pits and the site boundary with the location of Area 07. Scale 1:2,500@A4.
 Trent & Peak Map supplied by client (DCC) and reproduced under their licence.



0001 Top soil, dark grey/brown loam.
 0002 Blue/grey clay, dump of modern building material.
 0003 Grey/brown loam mixed with building rubble inc. asbestos.
 0004 Lens of brown silty loam with sandstone fragments.
 0005 dark grey/brown silty loam mixed with building rubble.

Figure 4a. South east facing section of Area 01.



0006 Top soil, Dark grey/brown loam.
 0007 Sandstone blocks in matrix of yellow grey sandy silt.

Figure 4b. East facing section of Area 02.

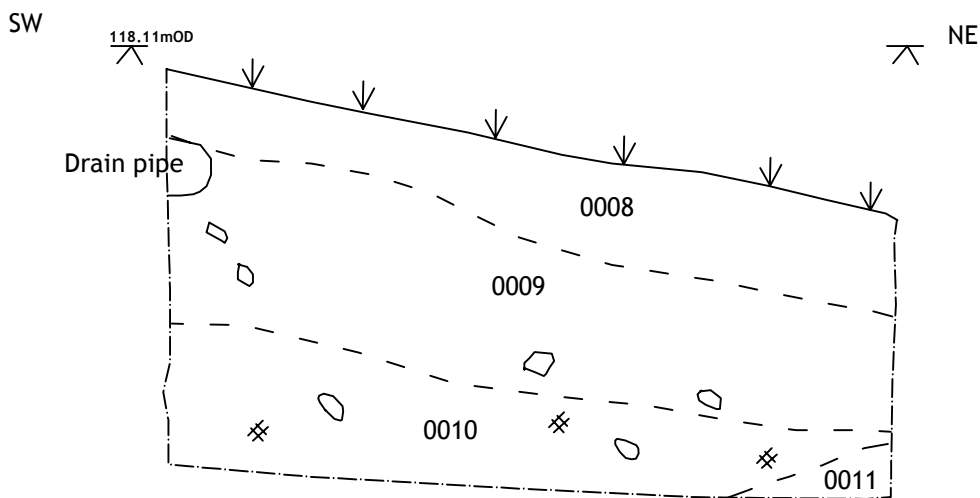


Figure 5a. South east facing section of Area 03

0008	Topsoil, Dark grey/brown loam
0009	Mid brown silty loam
0010	Degraded sandstone in brown sandy silt matrix with ash inclusions
0011	Grey clay and interbedded sandstone

Key:
 * Ash
 ○ Sandstone fragments

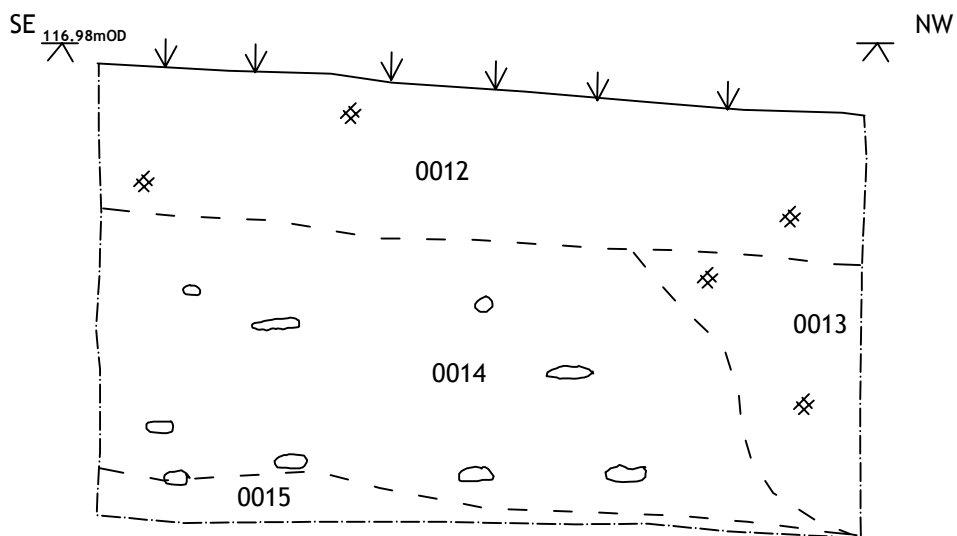
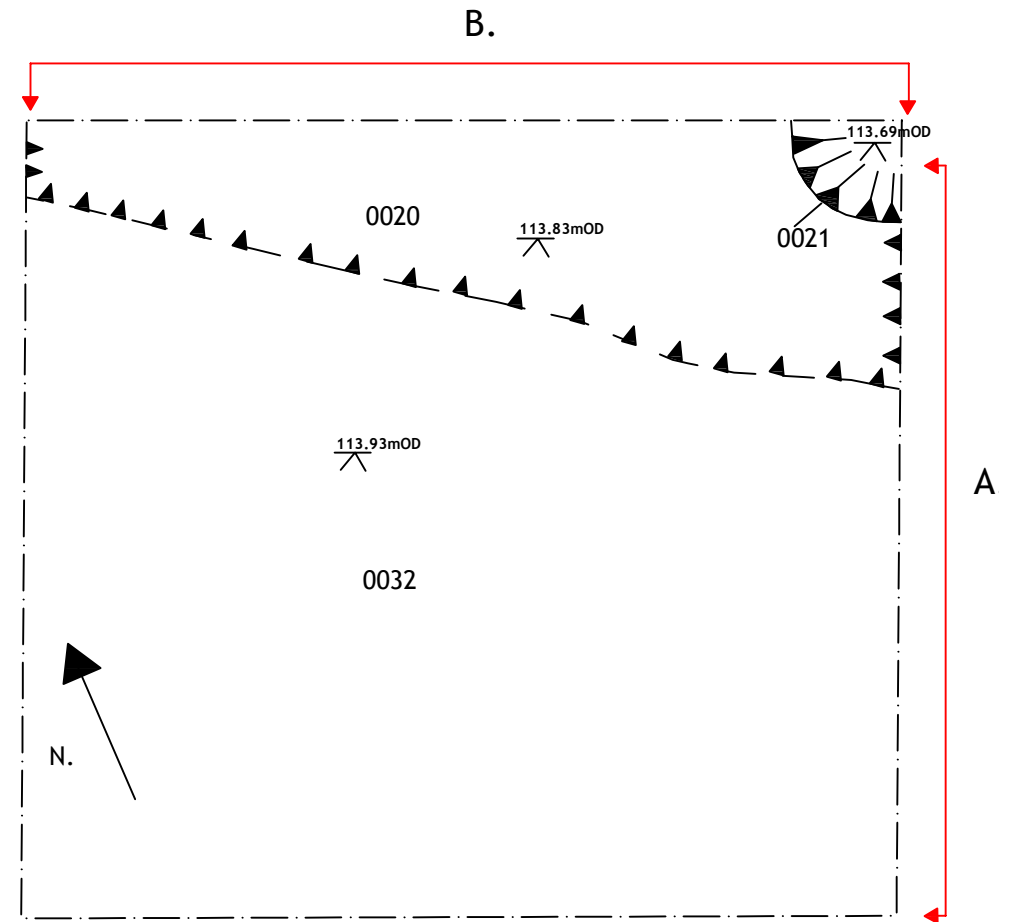
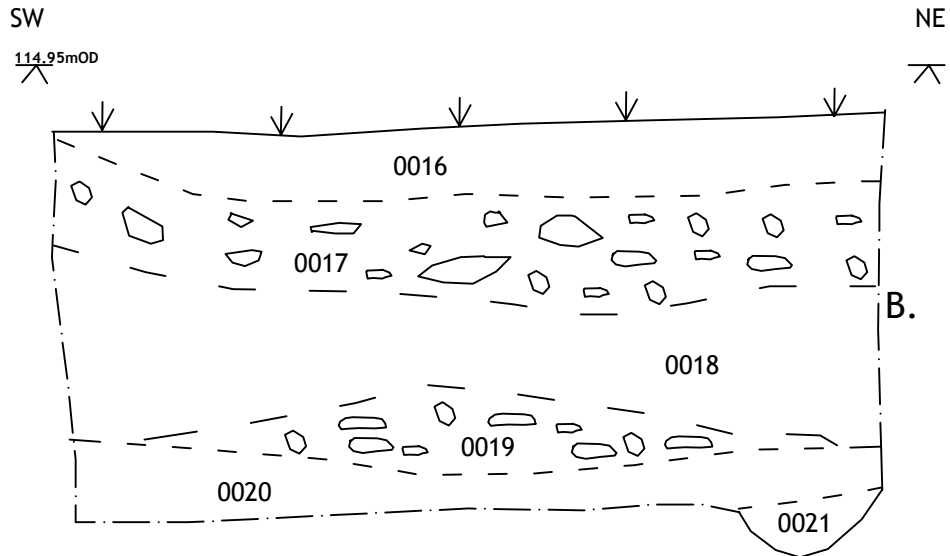
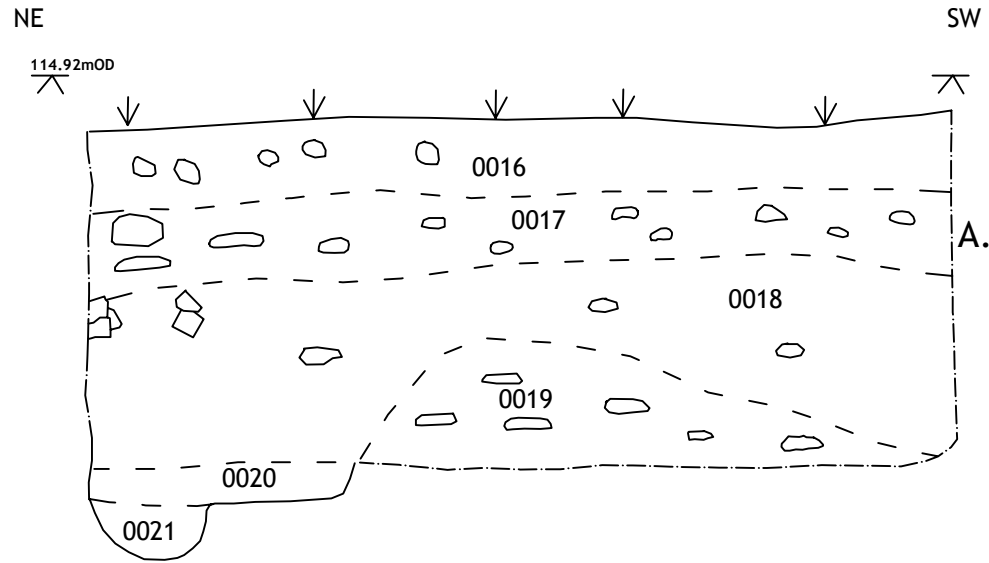


Figure 5b. North east facing section of Area 04

0012	Topsoil, dark grey/brown loam with ash inclusions.
0013	Grey clay mixed with ash.
0014	Mid brown silty loam with degraded sandstone
0015	Sandstone, natural



- 0016 Top soil, mid brown loam
- 0017 Degraded sandstone mixed with brown clay
- 0018 Dark brown silty loam
- 0019 Degraded sandstone, possible upcast from 0020
- 0020 Possible linear, fill: brown silty loam
- 0021 Possible post hole, fill: grey clay with sandstone fragments.
- 0032 Bedrock. sandstone.

NE 112.15mOD

SW

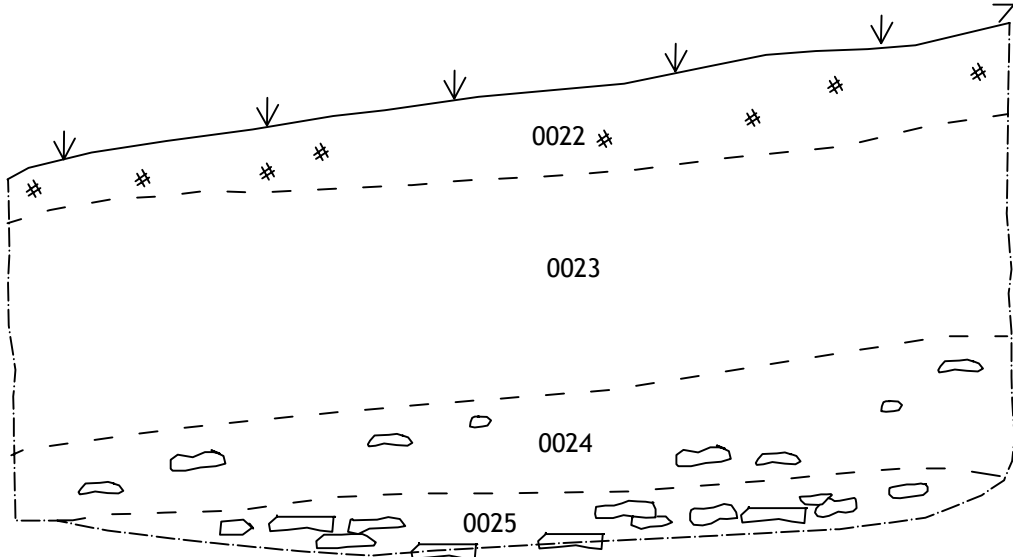


Figure 7a. North west facing section of Area 06.

0022 Topsoil dark grey/brown loam with ash and coal inclusions.
 0023 Grey/brown silty loam
 0024 Yellow clay with degraded sandstone
 0025 Sandstone

Key:
 * Ash and coal
 ◻ Sandstone

NE 111.69mOD

SW

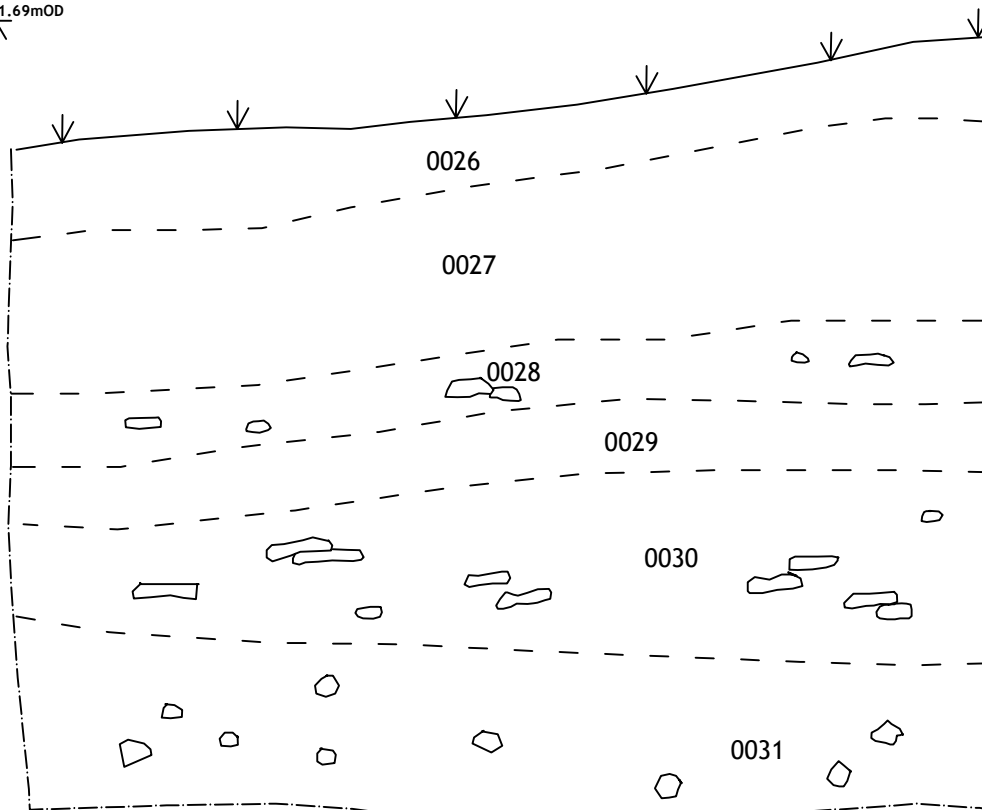


Figure 7b. North west facing section of Area 07.

0026 Topsoil dark grey/brown loam with lumps of degraded sandstone
 0027 Mid brown silty loam
 0028 Yellow clay with degraded sandstone
 0029 Mid brown silty loam
 0030 Yellow clay with degraded sandstone
 0031 Blue/grey clay mixed with coal and ash



Plate 1. Area 01 prior to excavation. Looking south.



Plate 2. Area 02 prior to excavation. Looking north.



Plate 3. Florence Shipley House showing landscaped grounds and tennis court. Looking south.



Plate 4. Tennis court. Looking east.



Plate 5, Area 01 excavated. Looking north-east.



Plate 6. Area 02 excavated. Looking east.



Plate 7. Area 03 excavated. Looking south-east.



Plate 8. Area 04 excavated. Looking north-east.



Plate 9. Area 05 excavated, showing linear 0020. Looking south-east.



Plate 10. Area 07 excavated, showing coal deposit 0031.
Looking south-east