

TOWN STREET, SANDIACRE DERBYSHIRE.

Report of an Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief

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Town Street (late Church Street) Sandiacre, c. 1900.

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Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was contracted by Three Valleys Housing to conduct an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) at Town Street, Sandiacre, Derbyshire centred on SK47935 36814.
- The site, due for redevelopment, had been developed in the 1960s when a flats complex had been built. The complex was demolished prior to a new housing development.
- Historic mapping from the latter half of the 19th century showed that prior to the 1960s a terrace of dwellings had fronted on to Town Street (at the time Church Street and subsequently renamed) which had been demolished in the mid 20th century.
- The historic mapping also showed that to the rear of the dwellings there were areas of undeveloped land which held the potential to have earlier remains or deposits than the 19th century dwellings.
- Evaluation trenches were sited, with the agreement of the Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council, to evaluate the potential 19th century remains along the Town Street frontage and areas on the historic mapping that indicated no 19th century building to test for the survival of earlier remains.
- Three of the evaluation trenches, Area 03, Area 04 and Area 05 revealed the remains of the interiors of the 19th century dwellings and associated demolition layers.
- The remaining evaluation trenches, Area 01, Area 02 and Area 06 produced evidence of modern rubbish pits but no earlier remains or deposits.
- It had been assumed by all concerned that the ground directly below the foundations of the 1960s flats would have been so disturbed as to have removed any archaeological remains. An examination of these foundations demonstrated that the flats had been constructed on concrete rafts and that therefore disturbance below them could be minimal.
- It was decided in conjunction with the Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council and the clients representatives that a watching brief be maintained on one area where the flats had been built on land that had no buildings shown on the historic mapping

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was contracted by Three Valleys Housing to carry out a programme of trial trenching at Town Street Sandiacre in advance of a proposed development on the site. Figure 1.

1.2 The site, centred on SK 47935 36814, had been developed in the late 1960's. The housing erected at that time was in the process of being demolished prior to re-development.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning permission for the re – development was granted Erewash Borough Council ERE/0812/0046, with an archaeological condition.

2.2 It was agreed with the Development Control Archaeologist that a programme of trial trenching should be carried out prior to any intrusive groundwork associated with the development.

2.3 **Geology: Bedrock:** Nottingham Castle sandstone formation. **Superficial:** River Terrace Deposits, sand and gravel. (BGS).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site, Figure 2, lies immediately to the west of the current line of Town Street, Sandiacre. It is adjacent to the Erewash Canal and a 19th century mill.

3.2 The 1881 OS, Figure 3, shows that there were a number of buildings on the site which were probably housing for the mill workers. Town Street, named as Church Street on the 1885 OS, appears by comparison with the modern OS mapping to have been straightened and realigned slightly to the west.

3.3 Mapping subsequent to 1885 shows that the housing along Town Street was demolished in the latter half of the 20th century before the latest building phase took place in the 1960's. During the 20th century the name of the street was changed from Church Street to Town Street.

3.4 No information was available indicating land usage immediately west of Town Street prior to the 1885 OS.

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 Six evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a wheeled JCB using a bladed ditching bucket. Four of these trenches, Areas 01, 02 05 and 06 were 18m x 1.8m. Two others, Areas (03 and 04) due to constraints of space were 8m x 1.8m.

5.2 Each trench was excavated either to an archaeological horizon or to 1.2m. If a trench was blank at that depth a deeper sondage was excavated in order to assess whether or not an apparently sterile deposit was overlying and archaeological horizon.

5.3 All identifiable layers exposed in the trench sections were given a unique context number e.g. 0001. Any archaeological features, remains or deposits were also given a unique context number.

5.4 Trench sections were recorded by drawing at a scale of 1:20, digital image and black and white 35mm film.

5.5 Where archaeological features were present these were recorded on a trench plan at a scale of 1:20 and photographed using digital imagers and black and white 35mm film.

5.6 All finds were given a unique finds code e.g. AAA and the find spot recorded on the site plan or the relevant section or feature drawing.

6. RESULTS

6.1 **Area 01**, Contexts: 0007, 0008, 0009, 0010, 0011, 0012, 0013, 0014.

6.1.1 Area 01, orientated east west, 18.5mx x 1.8m was excavated to a depth of 1m with deeper sondages at the eastern and western extent, (Figure 3, Plate 1 and Plate2).

6.1.2 The following stratigraphy was recorded in the trench section:-

<u>Context</u>	<u>Thickness</u>	<u>Description</u>
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0007	400mm	Dark brown silty clay, topsoil
0008	100mm	Dark brownish black clinker ash
0009	100mm	Mid/dark grey silty clay
0010	100mm	Black/grey clinker ash
0011	800mm	Orange/brown silty clay
0012	200mm	Yellow/brown silty clay with gravel inclusions
0013	150mm	Yellow/brown silty clay with gravel inclusions
0014	50mm observed	Mid/dark grey silty clay.

6.1.3 The upper layer of top soil, (0007), is probably relatively recent and connected with landscaping of the area following the building of the flats complex in the 1960's. The layers immediately below the topsoil, the two deposits of clinker ash,(0008 and 0010), may be associated with demolition prior to the 1960's development although the deposits themselves may have originated in domestic contexts that could be dated to the 19th century houses evidenced on the 1885 OS.

6.1.4 There were no finds present in Area 01 and no cut features.

6.2 **Area 02**, Contexts: 0015, 0016, 0017, 0018, 0019, 0020, 0021, 0022, 0023, 0024.

6.2.1 Area 02 orientated north-west/south-east; 18.5m x 1.8m was excavated to a depth of 1.10m with a deeper sondage at the north-west extent, (Figure 4, Plate 3).

6.2.2 The following stratigraphy was recorded in the trench section:-

<u>Context</u>	<u>Thickness</u>	<u>Description</u>
0015	800mm	Dark brown sandy silt loam, topsoil
0016	250mm	Dark brown sandy silt with brick rubble
0017	50mm	Mortar and building rubble
0018	100mm	Mid reddish brown clay
0019	250mm observed	Yellow sand and gravel
0020	600mm	Small pit filled with red clay and green clay with angular stone inclusions
0021	700mm	Small pit filled with glass refuse and red and green clay
0022	270mm	Reddish brown clay
0023	390mm	Rubble hardcore, demolition layer
0024	400mm	Grey/brown clay with rounded stones

6.2.3 Below the topsoil, (0015), were layers of demolition rubble, (0016, 0017, 0023), whose origin is either from the demolition of the 19th century houses or from surplus material left over from the 1960's development. It is likely that both are present but it was not possible to assign the layers to a particular episode.

6.2.4 Two small pits, (0020 and 0021) were observed in the south-west facing section of Area 02. They were not present in the opposite, north-east facing section. The glass refuse in 0021 dates from around the early 20th century and is interpreted as domestic refuse related to the 19th century housing that had stood on the site. The other pit, (0020), was filled with two layers of clay but contained no datable material.

6.2.5 There were no further features of archaeological interest present in Area 02.

6.3 **Area 03**, Contexts: 0049, 0050, 0051, 0052, 0053, 0054, 0055, 0056, 0057, 0058, 0059.

6.3.1 Area 03, orientated north /south, 8.5m x 1.8m was excavated to a depth of 1.3m. (Figure 5, Plate 4 and Plate 5)

6.3.2 The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded in the trench section:-

<u>Context</u>	<u>Thickness</u>	<u>Description</u>
0049		Brick fire place in base of trench
0050	300mm	Mid brown sandy silt loam, topsoil
0051	100mm	Yellow sand
0052	600mm	Grey brown sandy silt loam with charcoal flecks
0053	600mm	Dark grey silty clay with brick fragments
0054	250mm	Orange /brown silty clay with charcoal flecks
0055	800mm	Dark grey silty clay with charcoal flecks
0056	1000mm	Dark grey silty clay with rubble inclusions
0057	150mm	Back fill of service trench, mixed elements of 0053 and 0054
0058	500mm	Fill of service trench, mixed elements of 0050 and 0052
0059	10mm observed	Yellow sand

6.3.3 The stratigraphy observed in Area 03 comprised layers of demolition rubble and disturbed redeposited habitation deposits. The rubble and the disturbed habitation deposits almost certainly arise from the demolition of the 19th century street frontages and the subsequent redevelopment in the 1960's. The Area was crossed by television cables and service trenches which can be dated to the late 20th century, the excavation of which has contributed to the disturbed nature of the stratigraphy.

6.3.4 In the base of Area 03 the partial remains of a fireplace, (0049), were recorded. This has been interpreted as belonging to the 19th century housing on the frontage of Town Street and had been left in situ when the rest of the buildings were demolished. The remaining structure was brick built, a single course in width and two courses high. Three sides of what had probably been a rectangular structure were visible in the base of the trench, its fourth side probably beyond the limit of the excavation. The surviving part of the fire place, (0049), was probably at floor level but no remains of a floor were present in the base of the trench.

6.4 **Area 04**, Contexts:- 0026, 0027, 0028, 0029, 0030, 0031, 0032, 0033, 0034, 0035, 0036, 0037, 0038, 0039, 0040.

6.4.1 Area 04, orientated north south, 8m x 1.8m was excavated to a depth of 1.3m. (Figure 6, Plate 6 and Plate 7).

The following stratigraphy was recorded in the trench section:-

<u>Context</u>	<u>Thickness</u>	<u>Description</u>
0026	100mm	Dark brown silty loam, topsoil
0027	300mm	Mid grey sandy silt loam
0028	300mm	Dark brown/grey silty clay
0029	150mm	Light yellow sand
0030	200mm	Charcoal in matrix of ashy silt
0031	200mm	Reddish brown silty clay
0032	500mm	Yellow brown clay with charcoal flecks
0033	400mm	Yellow sand with occasional small rounded pebbles
0034	200mm	Brick rubble
0035	400mm	Mid brown clay with charcoal flecks
0036		Cut for hearth, 0040/0041
0037		Cut for drain pipe trench
0037a	950mm	Mid brown silty clay
0038		Cut for rubbish pit

0038a	700mm	Mid brown clay and sand with brick fragments
0039	140mm	Black ash and soot with small pieces of burnt bone, hearth residue
0040	140mm	Brick surround for hearth
0041		Base of hearth, bricks in black ashy mortar

6.4.2 Topsoil, (0026), and subsoil, (0027), were removed to reveal a series of layers that reflect the demolition of the 19th century houses and the development that took place in the 1960's. The top soil and the sub soil were probably laid down in the 1960s as part of the development.

6.4.3 Layers below the top and sub soil, (0029, 0030, 0031, 0032, 0033, 0034) have been interpreted as re deposited and are made up of demolition layers which incorporate material that had probably built up during occupation, (0030, 0032, 0034) and then disturbed and redeposited during the 1960s building work.

6.4.5 In the base of the trench the brick surround of a hearth, (0040), was recorded. A central portion of this was excavated to reveal a brick base, (0041). bonded with a black ashy mortar. This has been interpreted as being part of one of the 19th century houses that fronted on to Town Street.

6.5 **Area 05**, Contexts: 0001, 0002, 0003, 0004, 0005, 0006.

6.5.1 Area 06, orientated north/south, 22m x 1.8m was excavated to a depth of 1.10m with a deeper sondage at its southern extent, (Figure 7, Plate 8).

The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded in the trench section:

<i>Context</i>	<i>Thickness</i>	<i>Description</i>
0001	450mm	Black/brown silty loam, top soil
0002	150mm	Orange/brown silty loam
0003	500mm	Brown/black ashy silt with brick rubble
0004	100mm	Yellow/grey loosely compacted sand
0005	150mm	Light brown /grey sand with brick and tile rubble
0006	410mm, observed	White/grey aggregate covering modern service.

6.5.2 The upper layers recorded in the trench section, (0001, 0002), are probably the result of landscaping at the time of the 1960s development and comprise a top soil and a subsoil. Below this is what has been interpreted as a demolition layer, (0003), arising from the demolition of the 19th century buildings on the Town Street frontage.

6.5.3 IN the sondage at the southern extent of the trench the backfill of a modern service trench was observed. This comprised redeposited elements of the demolition layer, (0004), which overlay a layer of white/grey aggregate, (0005), which acted as a cushion for the pipe beneath it. No cut for the service trench was visible in the section and it is likely that it was put in at the time of the 1960s development and the ground above subsequently built up to provide a level surface surrounding the flats.

6.5.4 There was no surviving structural evidence for the demolished 19th century buildings in Area 05, however the existence of the demolition layers, (0003 and 0004), indicates their presence along the frontage.

6.6 **Area 06**, Contexts: 0042, 0043, 0044, 0045, 0046.

6.6.1 Area 06, orientated north/south, 14.5m x 1.8m was excavated to a depth of 1.2m with a deeper sondage at its southern extent, (Figure 8, Plate 9 and Plate 10).

The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded in the trench section:-

<u>Context</u>	<u>Thickness</u>	<u>Description</u>
0042	300mm	Dark grey/brown silty loam, top soil
0043	700mm	Mid orange/brown clay loam
0044	200mm	Brownish yellow clay loam with small rounded stones
0045	100mm, observed	Yellow sand and gravel
0046		Pit cut into 0043
0046a	150mm	Redeposited elements of 0042 and 0043, Secondary fill of 0046
0046b	400mm	Same as a but with glass and brick fragments. Primary fill of 0046

6.6.2 The stratigraphy recorded in Area 06 was a relatively undisturbed sequence comprising a top soil, (0042), overlying a sub soil, (0043) above two layers of gravelly clay, (0044), and sand and gravel, (0045). The lower two layers correspond to the natural in the area.

6.6.3 A small pit, (0046), was recorded in the trench section which, in its primary fill, had a quantity of glass and brick fragments. These were too degraded to be able to provide a certain date but have been interpreted as modern. It is uncertain whether the pit relates to the demolished 19th century structures or whether it relates to the 19th and 20th century housing to the immediate west of the site

6.7 Area 07, the Well. (Plate 11 and Plate 12).

6.7.1 During top soil stripping a capped well was revealed, 50m to the south west of Area 04. The well had been covered with a sandstone cap but this had been broken and subsequently moved out of position by the machine.

6.7.2 It is probable that the well was associated with the 19th century buildings and in all likelihood on the inside of one of them. There is no well marked on the 1885 OS (1st Edition).

6.7.3 There were no artefacts recovered from the well itself. It was not possible to access the deposits in the base of the well for health and safety reasons. There was no further ground reduction at this location to expose the shaft of the well an enable access to the base from lower down the structure. Once it was recorded by photograph and its location recorded by GPS the well was filled in with concrete and capped prior to the new build commencing.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Six evaluation trenches, (Areas), were excavated and recorded during the demolition phase of the development at Town Street Sandiacre.

7.2 Areas 01 did not produce any archaeological features or deposits. Areas 02 and 06 both had discreet pits evidenced in their sections. These, where it was possible to establish a date, were modern in origin having glass and brick fragments in their fills. It is not possible to establish whether these pits were associated with the 19th century structures on the 1885 OS or the later 20th century housing immediately to the west of the site.

7.3 Areas 03 and 04 both produced structural remains that can be associated with the 19th century street frontage. The remains have been interpreted as hearths or fireplaces. Town Street has been widened and realigned during the middle of the 20th century and it is likely the structural remains exposed and recorded during the evaluation are from the rear portions

of the properties. They are also internal features of the structures and not readily identifiable with the individual properties shown on the 1881 OS.

7.4 Whilst there were no structural remains in Area 06 demolition layers indicated the presence of structures that were probably the 19th century dwellings shown on the 1881 OS.

7.5 Three trenches, Area 01, Area 02, Area 06, had been placed in areas that showed no structures on the 1881 OS. This was to test for remains and deposits that may have pre dated the latter part of the 19th century. The only features that were present in these trenches were discreet rubbish pits that contained modern material that possibly came from the houses on the frontage of Town Street or from the properties immediately to the west of the site which are a mixture of 19th century and 20th century housing.

7.6 It had been assumed that the construction of the 1960s flats would have removed any surviving remains of earlier activity on the site and consequently no evaluation trenches were sited in these locations. Observation on site during the demolition phase demonstrated that the method of construction (the laying of a concrete raft and building up from it) suggested that there may be preserved remains below the flats. It was decided to conduct a watching brief on one of locations of the flats where the 1881 OS indicates a non built up area. The report of the watching brief is attached to this report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The remains of the rear portions of properties that had fronted on to Town Street in the 19th century were recorded in two trenches (Area 03 and Area 04) along with a well that probably belongs to the same set of buildings.

8.1 Demolition layers were observed in Area 05 which probably are associated with the demolition of the 19th century houses that fronted on to Town Street but no in fact structural remains.

8.2 Modern services were recorded in Area 03, Area 04 and Area 06 which relate to the flats complex that was built in the 1960s.

8.3 No remains or deposits earlier than the late 19th century were present in the evaluation trenches.

Appendix 1 Summary Context List

Context	Area	Description
0001	Area 01	Black/brown silty loam, top soil
0002	Area 05	Orange/brown silty loam
0003	Area 05	Brown/black ashy silt with brick rubble
0004	Area 05	Yellow/grey loosely compacted sand
0005	Area 05	Light brown /grey sand with brick and tile rubble
0006	Area 05	White/grey aggregate covering modern service.
0007	Area 01	Dark brown silty clay, topsoil
0008	Area 01	Dark brownish black clinker ash
0009	Area 01	Mid/dark grey silty clay
0010	Area 01	Black/grey clinker ash
0011	Area 01	Orange/brown silty clay
0012	Area 01	Yellow/brown silty clay with gravel inclusions
0013	Area 01	Yellow/brown silty clay with gravel inclusions
0014	Area 01	Mid/dark grey silty clay.
0015	Area 02	Dark brown sandy silt loam, topsoil
0016	Area 02	Dark brown sandy silt with brick rubble
0017	Area 02	Mortar and building rubble
0018	Area 02	Mid reddish brown clay
0019	Area 02	Yellow sand and gravel
0020	Area 02	Small pit filled with red clay and green clay with angular stone inclusions
0021	Area 02	Small pit filled with glass refuse and red and green clay
0022	Area 02	Reddish brown clay
0023	Area 02	Rubble hardcore, demolition layer
0024	Area 02	Grey/brown clay with rounded stones
0026	Area 04	Dark brown silty loam, topsoil
0027	Area 04	Mid grey sandy silt loam
0028	Area 04	Dark brown/grey silty clay
0029	Area 04	Light yellow sand
0030	Area 04	Charcoal in matrix of ashy silt
0031	Area 04	Reddish brown silty clay
0032	Area 04	Yellow brown clay with charcoal flecks
0033	Area 04	Yellow sand with occasional small rounded pebbles
0034	Area 04	Brick rubble
0035	Area 04	Mid brown clay with charcoal flecks
0036		Cut for hearth, 0040/0041
0037		Cut for drain pipe trench
0037a	Area 04	Mid brown silty clay
0038		Cut for rubbish pit
0038a	Area 04	Mid brown clay and sand with brick fragments
0039	Area 04	Black ash and soot with small pieces of burnt bone, hearth residue
0040	Area 04	Brick surround for hearth
0041		Base of hearth, bricks in black ashy mortar
0042	Area 06	Dark grey/brown silty loam, top soil
0043	Area 06	Mid orange/brown clay loam
0044	Area 06	Brownish yellow clay loam with small rounded stones
0045	Area 06	Yellow sand and gravel
0046		Pit cut into 0043
0046a	Area 06	Redeposited elements of 0042 and 0043,

0046b	Area 06	Secondary fill of 0046 Same as a but with glass and brick fragments.
0049	Area 03	Primary fill of 0046 Brick fire place in base of trench
0050	Area 03	Mid brown sandy silt loam, topsoil
0051	Area 03	Yellow sand
0052	Area 03	Grey brown sandy silt loam with charcoal flecks
0053	Area 03	Dark grey silty clay with brick fragments
0054	Area 03	Orange /brown silty clay with charcoal flecks
0055	Area 03	Dark grey silty clay with charcoal flecks
0056	Area 03	Dark grey silty clay with rubble inclusions
0057	Area 03	Back fill of service trench, mixed elements of 0053 and 0054
0058	Area 03	Fill of service trench, mixed elements of 0050 and 0052
0059	Area03	Yellow sand
0060	Area 07	19 th century well and sandstone cap.

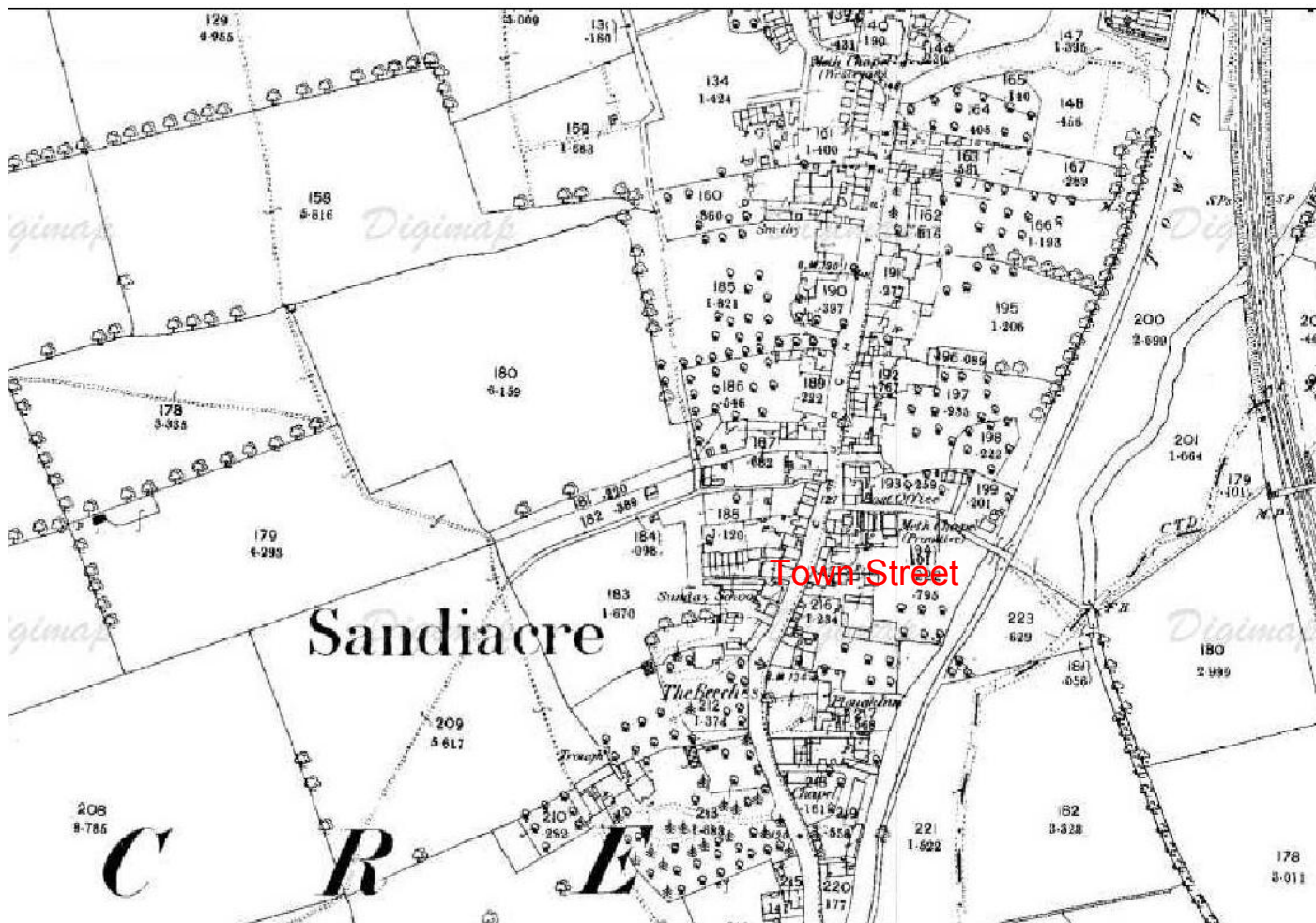


Plate 1. Town Street, Sandiacre from the 1881 OS.

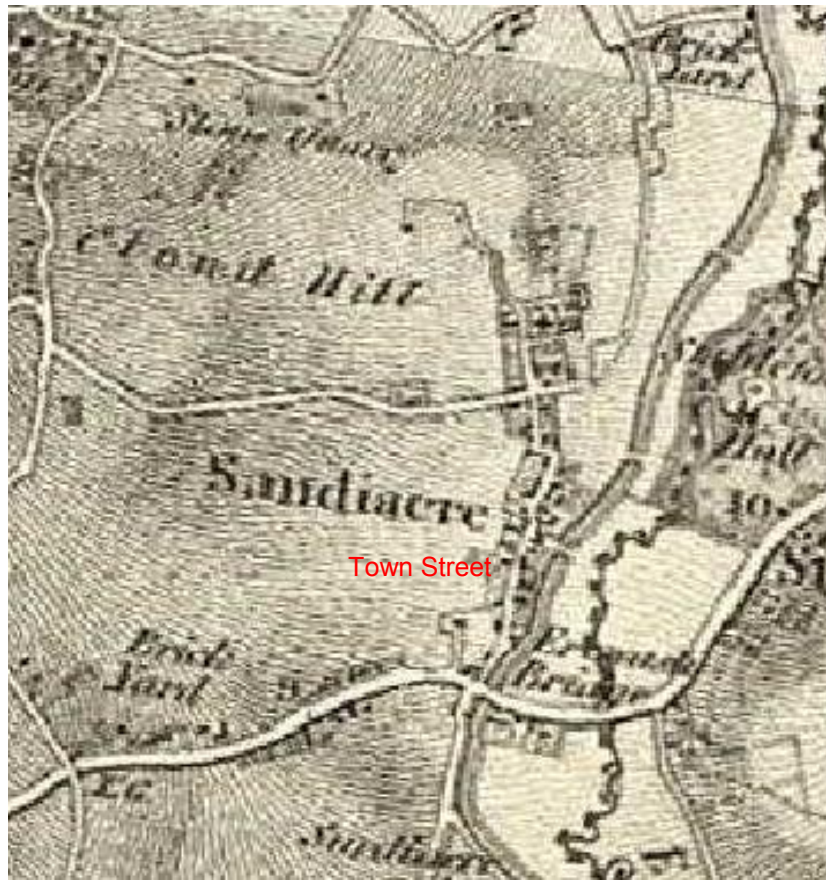


Plate 2. Sandiacre from the OS topographical series, 1869.



Plate 1. Area 01, Looking west.



Plate 2. Representative shot of south facing section. Looking north.



Plate 3. Area 02. Looking north west.



Plate 4. Area 03. Looking north.



Plate 5. Area 03, hearth remains, 0049. Looking east.



Plate 6. Area 04. Looking north.



Plate 7. Area 04, hearth, 0040 and brick base, 0041. Looking south.



Plate 8. Area 05. Looking north.



Plate 9. Area 06, east facing section with pit, 0046. Looking west.



Plate 10. Area 06, east facing section. Looking south west.



Plate 11. Area 07, the well with broken sandstone cap in place. Looking west.



Plate 12. Area 07, the well with cap removed and remains of brick flooring. Looking north.