

Castle Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief



For Quill International Group Ltd

Prepared by Camilla Collins

Report Number: 016/2018

TPA Project Code: CLM

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Summary

- This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at Castle Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire (National Grid Reference SK389252). The work was carried out between October 2017 and January 2018 by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) on behalf of Quill International Group Ltd prior to the construction of an extension to industrial premises.
- The development site lies on the eastern edge of the medieval core of Melbourne, a heritage asset, and within 12m of the boundary of Melbourne Castle, a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 23336).
- The archaeological watching brief presented an opportunity to observe features, deposits and artefacts associated with Melbourne Castle and the town of Melbourne which may assist with developing a more in depth knowledge of these heritage assets. In particular, it provided the opportunity to test current knowledge of the boundaries of the castle, and possibly gain further information about the ancillary buildings and defences of the castle's outer perimeter should those boundaries lie further north than currently believed. It also provided the potential to shed light on prehistoric settlement in the area.
- A single archaeological feature was identified during the scheme of works, box-drain [0008]. This feature is likely to be 17th-18th century in date with some of its constituting material being possibly reused from an earlier construction.
- No evidence of medieval remains associated with the historic core of the town or Melbourne Castle were encountered, indicating that the boundaries of the castle and its ancillary structures did not extend this far north.

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Acknowledgments

The project was managed by Gareth Davies, and the watching brief was undertaken by Camilla Collins, Laura Binns and Tina Roushannafas. Quill International Group Ltd. is thanked for commissioning the work. The project was monitored by Steve Baker, County Archaeologist at Derbyshire County Council.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at Castle Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire (National Grid Reference SK389252) (Figure 1). The work was carried out between October 2017 and January 2018 by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) on behalf of Quill International Group Ltd prior to the construction of an extension to industrial premises.
- 1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted by TPA and approved by Steve Baker, County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council. The WSI stated that the watching brief be carried out in accordance with appropriate professional standards, as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 1.3 The overall study has employed the methodology developed by TPA for use on similar projects in the region. These follow guidelines presented in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) which replaces conservation planning document *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS 5 2010).
- 1.4 The TPA site code is CLM.

2 Site Background

- 2.1 The development site lies on the eastern edge of the medieval core of Melbourne, a heritage asset, and within 12m of the boundary of Melbourne Castle, a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 23336).
- 2.2 The proposed development work comprises an extension to industrial premises at Unit 9, Castle Lane Industrial Estate. The site is bounded to the north and east by industrial units, and to the south and west by sparse woodland.

3 Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The overlying soils are slowly permeable, seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils (www.landis.org.uk/soilscales).
- 3.2 The 1:50,000 British Geological Mapping shows the site to be situated on a bedrock of Morridge Formation – Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 320 to 329 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. This is indicative of a local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 3.3 There are no recorded superficial deposits across any of the site.

4 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Melbourne is a small market town, first recorded in Domesday Book as a royal manor. The parish church dates from approximately 1120. The existing royal manor house was partially fortified in the early 14th century. By the early 17th century this had fallen into disrepair and was demolished. The town flourished as a market town during the 18th century, when much of the current building stock in its centre was constructed (some from stones taken from the ruins of the castle). During the 19th century the town became a centre for framework knitting, footwear manufacture and market gardening.
- 4.2 Melbourne Castle is well-documented both as a royal manor and as a fortified manor. Royal visits are known from the 12th and 13th centuries, and it played a significant role in English political history during the 14th century when it passes into the hands of the dukes of Lancaster. The castle passed into royal hands again on the accession of Henry Bolingbroke to the throne as Henry IV in 1399. In the early 15th century the Duke of Bourbon, captured at the battle of Agincourt, was held prisoner at Melbourne Castle for 19 years. Although fortified manors were generally the residences of lesser nobility and richer merchants, Melbourne is significant in its strong association with royalty and powerful aristocracy for much of the medieval period.
- 4.3 Excavations carried out in and around the castle demonstrated that well-preserved medieval remains survive throughout the scheduled area, despite later buildings having been constructed across the site. These have been combined with extensive documentary evidence to provide a partial layout of the castle and a picture of its development over time. However, the layout of the castle is not fully understood.
- 4.4 Excavations on Castle Street in 1973 revealed evidence for Neolithic settlement in the area, in the form of a pit containing an axehead and a sherd of pottery. This lay approximately 45m from the current development site.

5 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The objectives of the fieldwork were in accordance with the WSI produced by TPA on behalf of Quill International Group Ltd and approved by Steve Baker, County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.
- 5.2 The general objective of the fieldwork can be summarised as the monitoring of all intrusive groundworks associated with the redevelopment in order to identify, investigate and record any sub-surface archaeological deposits or features that may be impacted by the scheme of works, in order to ensure preservation by record.
- 5.3 The archaeological watching brief also presented an opportunity to observe features, deposits and artefacts associated with Melbourne Castle and the town of Melbourne which may assist with developing a more in depth knowledge of these heritage assets. In particular, it provided the opportunity to test current knowledge of the boundaries of the castle, and possibly gain further information about the ancillary buildings and defences of the castle's outer perimeter should those boundaries lie further north than currently believed. It also provided the potential to shed light on prehistoric settlement in the area.

- 5.4 Any buried archaeological remains identified offered an opportunity to address the research priorities of the region as highlighted in the East Midlands Updated Research Agenda and Strategy (Knight, Vynert and Allen 2012). Of particular note are:

7.4.1 Castles, Military Sites and Country Houses: *How can studies of the region's buildings contribute to an understanding of castle origins, and can we identify local typologies of castles and country houses?*

7.4.5 Castles, Military Sites and Country Houses: *What local resources were used for building and maintenance and what was the environmental context and economic impact of these buildings?*

- 5.5 All excavation and recording was carried out in line with CIfA guidelines and standard archaeological practice.

6 Methodology

- 6.1 All work was undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists in accordance with accepted archaeological practice and the *Standard & Guidance* produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).
- 6.2 The archaeological work comprised:
1. **Stage 1:** Reduction in the existing ground level to a depth of approximately 49.250m AOD.
 2. **Stage 2:** The excavation of footing trenches for the extension to the industrial unit.
- 6.3 All intrusive groundworks with the potential to impact on features and deposits of archaeological significance were carried out under constant archaeological supervision.
- 6.4 All machine excavation was conducted using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 6.5 All exposed surfaces were inspected by a suitably qualified archaeologist and any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and recorded where appropriate. All contexts were given an individual context number. Plans and sections of all contexts including features were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20/1:50, and showed at least context numbers, all colour and textural changes and principal slopes represented as hachures. Digital photographs of each context were taken, together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations: digital colour images were DSLR at 7 megapixel minimum resolution. Written records were maintained as laid down in TPA recording manual.
- 6.6 A full methodology can be found in the WSI.

7 Results

7.1 Stage 1 (Plates 1-2; Figures 2-5)

- 7.1.1 A large bank extending along the southern boundary of the development site was first removed. The excavation revealed that the bank was man-made and likely dated to the 1970s. Below a thin layer of redeposited topsoil (0001), deposit (0002) was encountered, which comprised a mixture of redeposited topsoil, subsoil, demolition rubble and made ground. The bank was likely to be contemporary with the construction phase of Castle Lane Industrial Estate and was probably formed of layers and deposits removed from the surrounding area at this time. Consequently, no features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.
- 7.1.2 The existing ground level was reduced across the site to approximately 49.250m AOD, comprising the removal of (in stratigraphical order from latest to earliest) concrete hardstanding, made ground underlay, topsoil (0003) and subsoil (0006). The natural substratum (0007) was revealed beneath the subsoil at a maximum depth of 1.99m below the former ground level.
- 7.1.3 A curvilinear box-drain [0008] was encountered towards the south-western corner of site. It was aligned roughly north-west to south-east and was built of sandstone blocks measuring between 0.34x0.3x0.3m and 0.15x0.05x0.05m. Some of the stonework was dressed and featured linear scored decoration perhaps indicating that the material had been reused. A similar box-drain was found in Nottinghamshire at Abbey Street, Lenton, indicating a date of 17th to 18th century if the two are indeed broadly contemporary.
- 7.1.4 No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

7.2 Stage 2 (Plates 3-4; Figure 2)

- 7.2.1 Trenches for the extension building footings measuring 0.5m in width and up to 0.4m in depth were excavated. The sandstone bedrock (0009) was located below the natural substratum (0007), at a depth of approximately 48.5m AOD. No archaeological features or deposits were present.

8 Archive Statement

- 8.1 Due to the negative findings of the archaeological watching brief, no museum deposition will be required. A copy of this report will be deposited at the Derbyshire HER (including one bound copy and one in PDF/A format on a separate disc).

9 Conclusion

- 9.1 A single archaeological feature was identified during the scheme of works, box-drain [0008]. This feature is likely to be 17th-18th century in date with some of its constituting material being possibly reused from an earlier construction.
- 9.2 No evidence of medieval remains associated with the historic core of the town or Melbourne Castle were encountered, indicating that the boundaries of the castle and its ancillary structures did not extend this far north.

10 Bibliography

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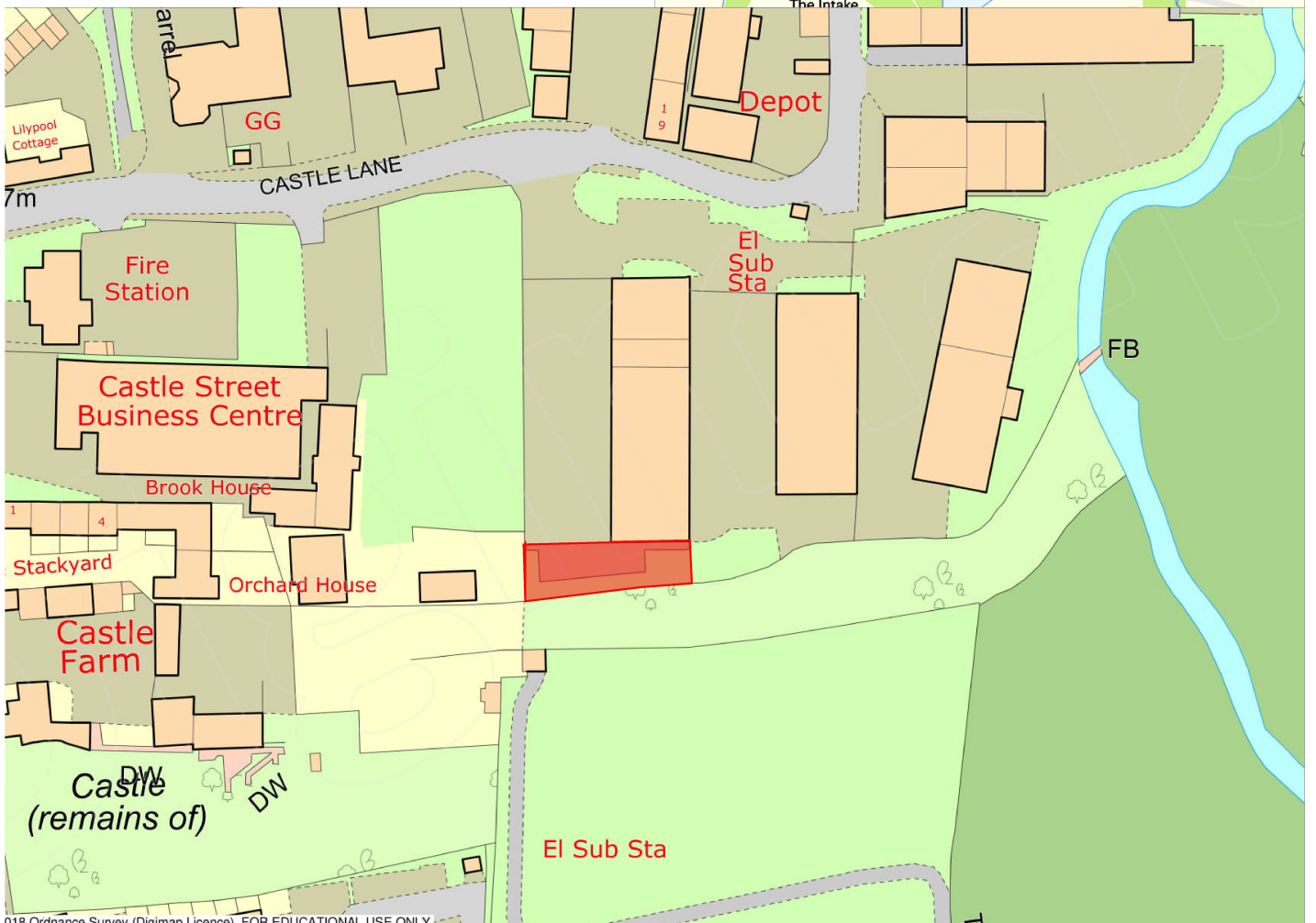
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Figures

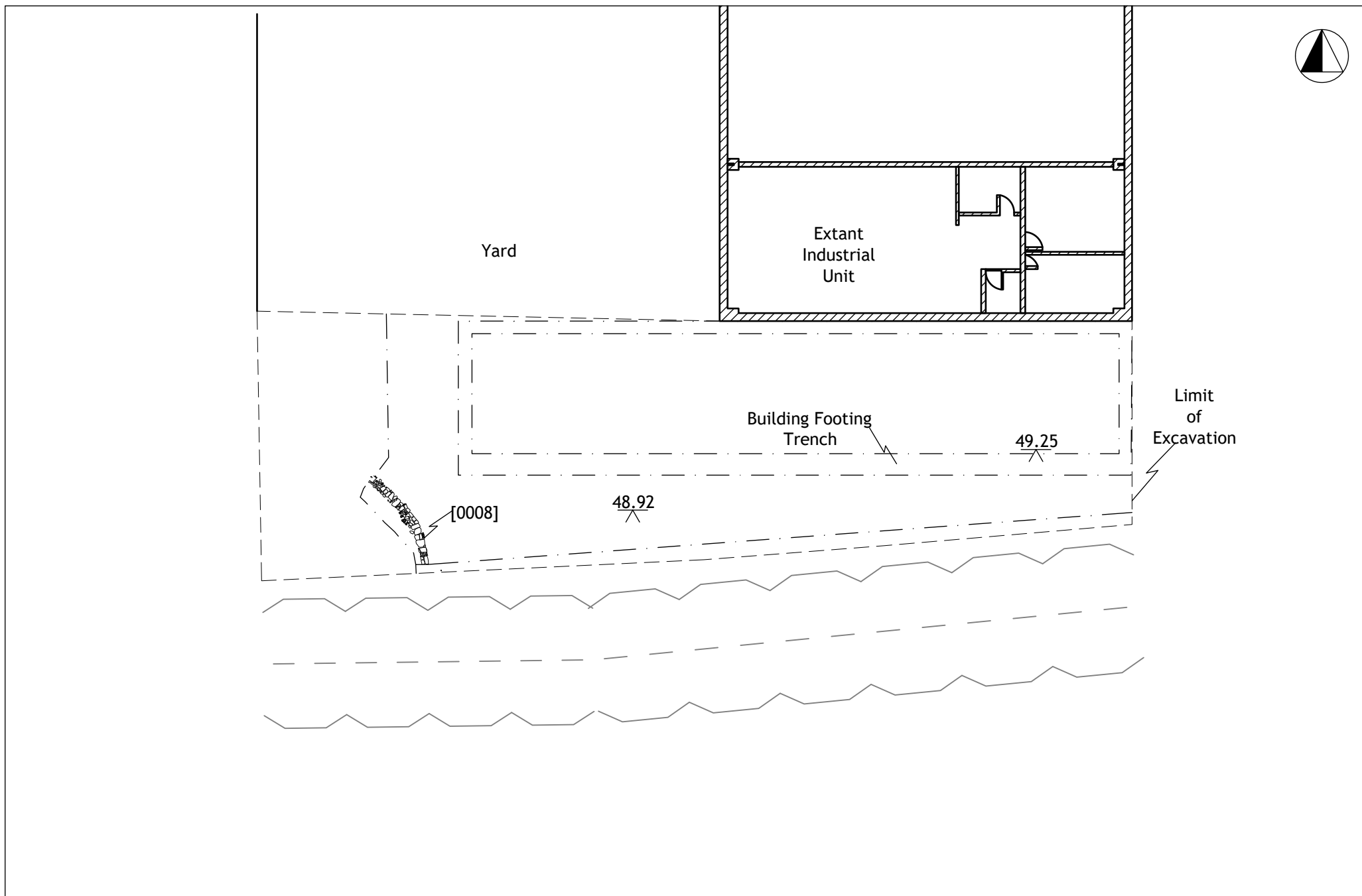


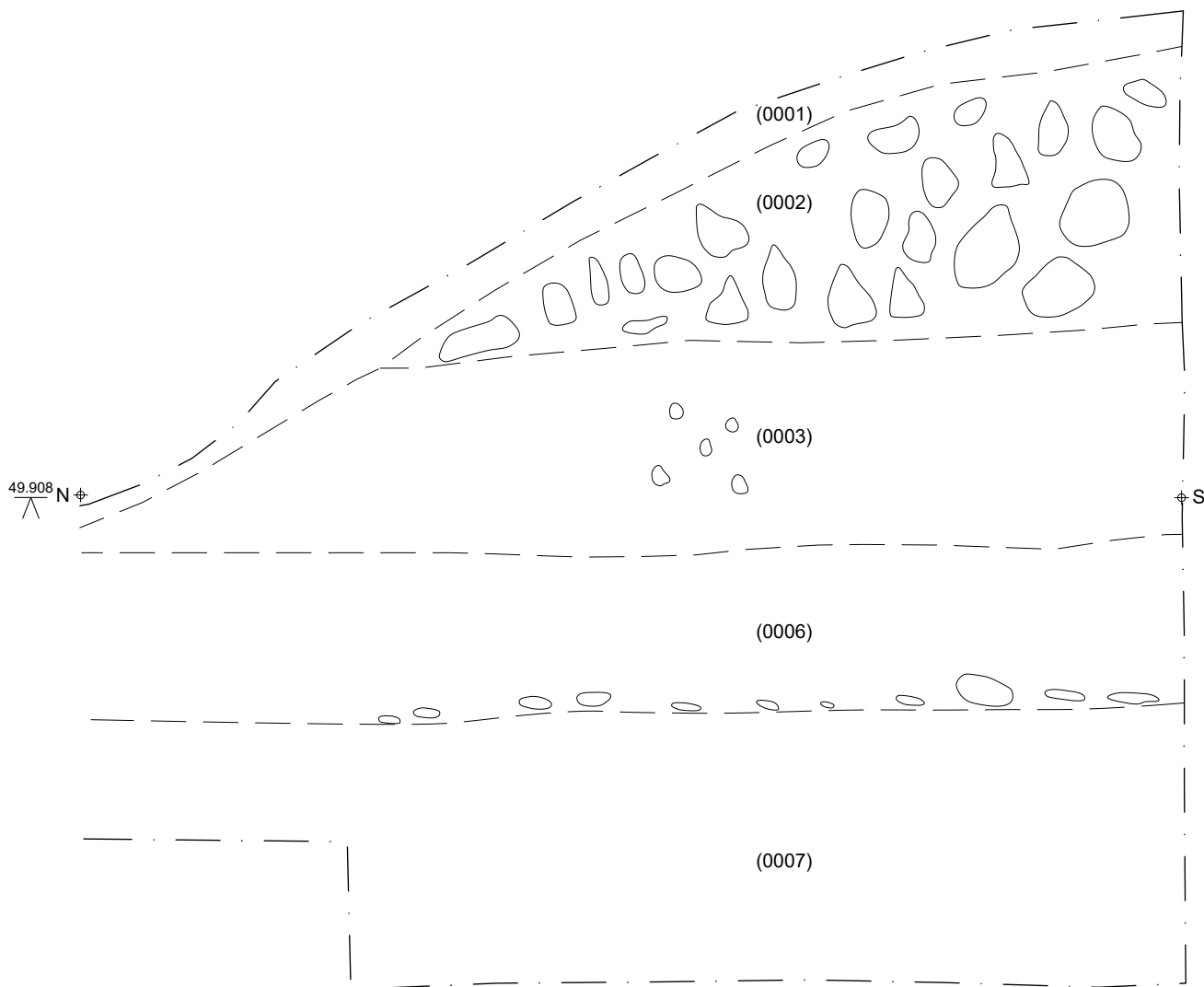
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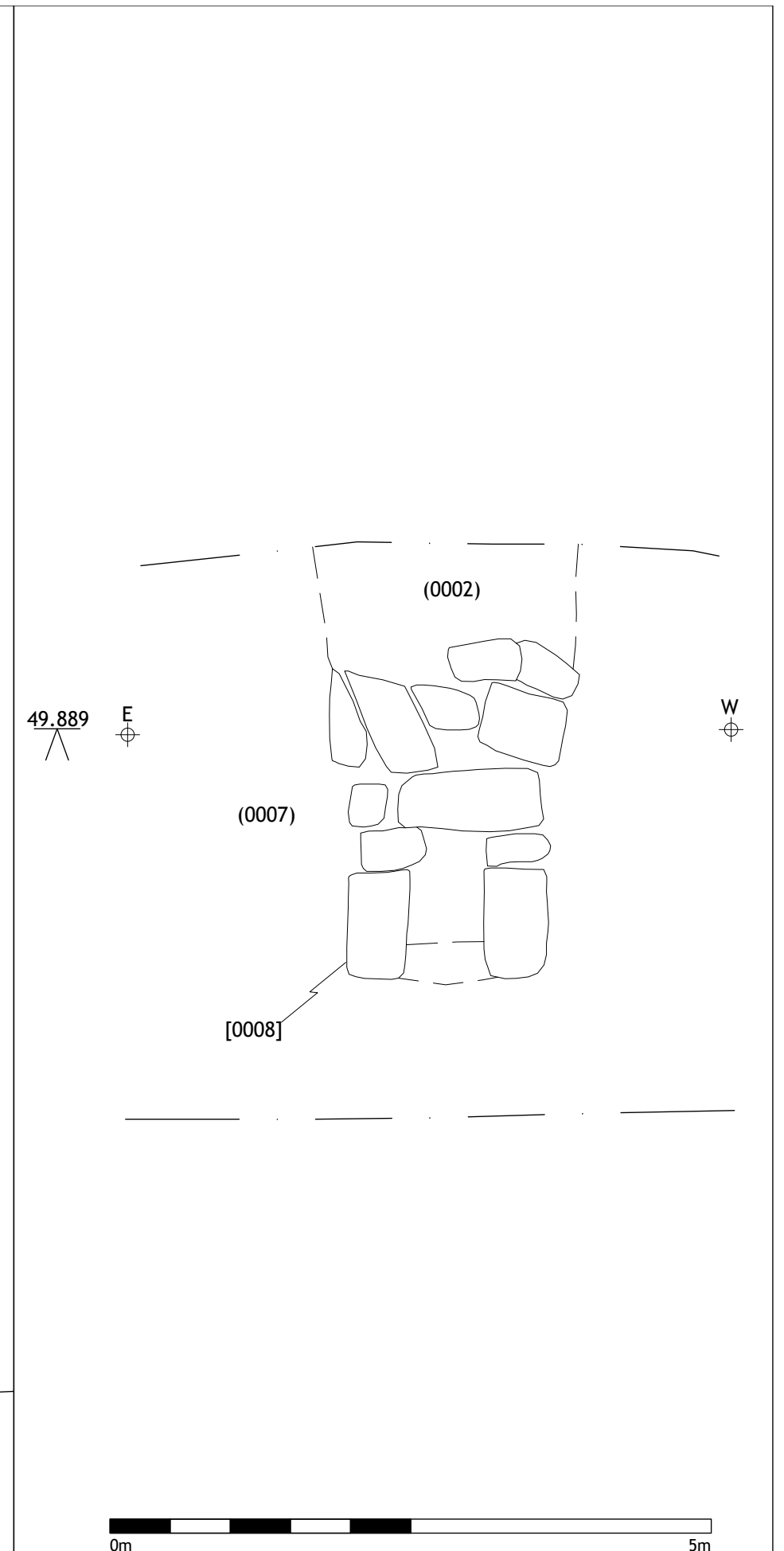
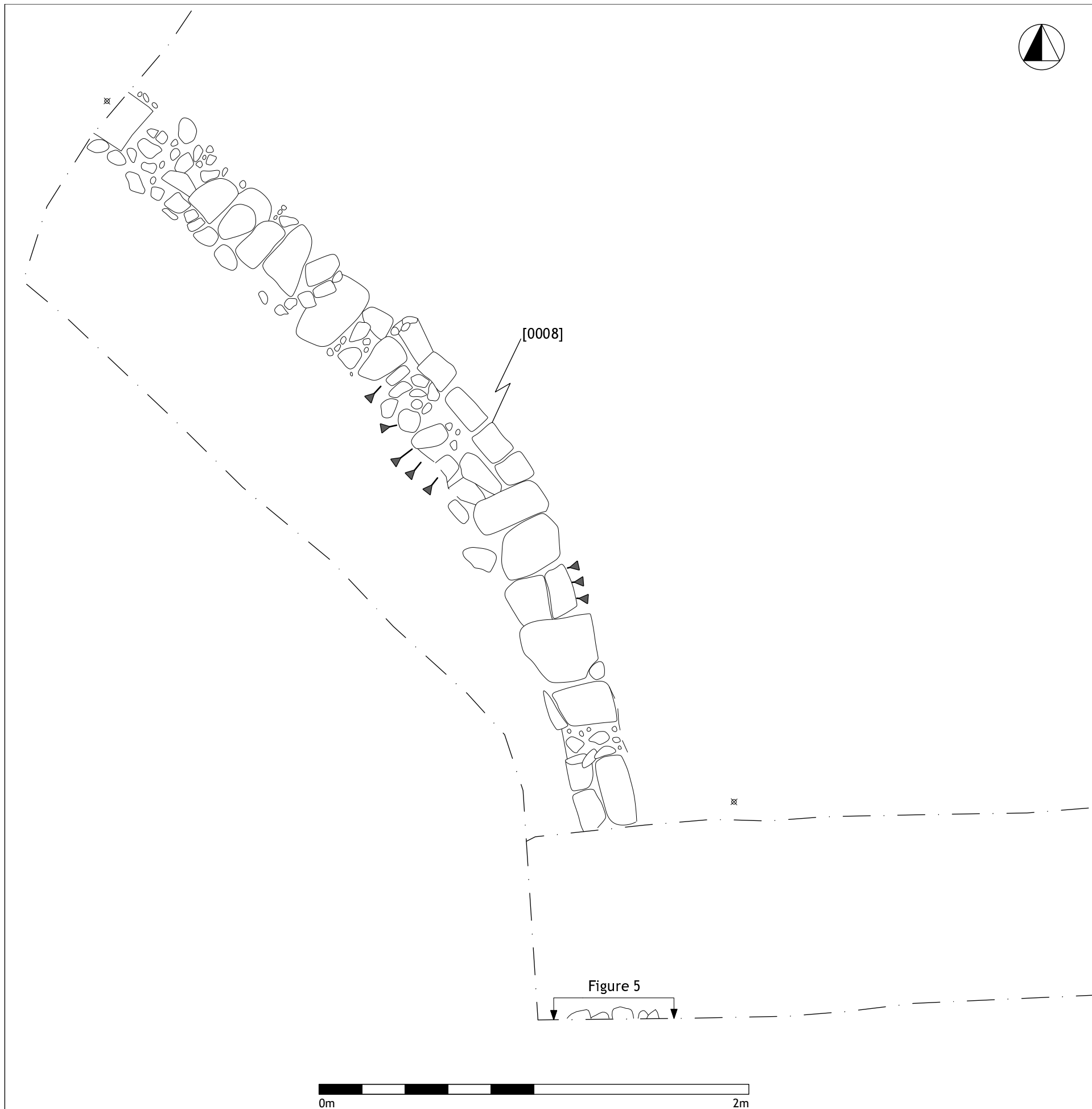


CLM
Figure 1
Scale varies

Castle Lane, Melbourn, Derbyshire
Location map with the site highlighted in red
Initials:CC







Plates



Plate 1: Plan view of box-drain [0008], viewed looking south-east



Plate 2: North facing section of box-drain [0008], viewed looking south



Plate 3: General view of site showing the excavation of the building footings, viewed looking west



Plate 4: North facing section of the building footings, viewed looking south

Appendix 1: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: trentpea1-308140

Project details

Project name	Castle Lane, Melbourne: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Quill International Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Castle Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire (National Grid Reference SK389252). The work was undertaken between October 2017 and January 2018 prior to the construction of an extension to industrial premises. The development site lies on the eastern edge of the medieval core of Melbourne, a heritage asset, and within 12m of the boundary of Melbourne Castle, a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 23336). The archaeological watching brief presented an opportunity to observe features, deposits and artefacts associated with Melbourne Castle and the town of Melbourne which may assist with developing a more in depth knowledge of these heritage assets. In particular, it provided the opportunity to test current knowledge of the boundaries of the castle, and possibly gain further information about the ancillary buildings and defences of the castle's outer perimeter should those boundaries lie further north than currently believed. It also provided the potential to shed light on prehistoric settlement in the area. A single archaeological feature was identified during the scheme of works, box-drain [0008]. This feature is likely to be 17th-18th century in date with some of its constituting material being possibly reused from an earlier construction. No evidence of medieval remains associated with the historic core of the town or Melbourne Castle were encountered, indicating that the boundaries of the castle and its ancillary structures did not extend this far north.
Project dates	Start: 10-10-2017 End: 22-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CLM - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	9/2015/0601 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE MELBOURNE Castle Lane, Melbourne, Derbyshire

Postcode	DE73 8SR
Study area	0.01 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 38978 25261 52.823140514589 -1.421498159695 52 49 23 N 001 25 17 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project brief originator	Derbyshire County Council
Project design originator	Paul Flintoft
Project director/manager	Dr. Gareth Davies
Project supervisor	Camilla Collins
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Quill International Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Derbyshire HER
Paper Media available	"Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

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2 February 2018

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