

114 Belper Road, Derby

Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief



For Mr J. Devaney

Prepared by Dr Neil Hall

Report Number: 123/2018

TPA Project Code: BDD

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Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Mr J. Devaney to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 114 Belper Road, Derby, DE1 3EQ (National Grid Reference SK 34908 37548) (Fig. 1). The work comprised archaeological monitoring and recording during the excavation of a c.0.7m deep trench prior to the construction of a single story rear extension to the aforementioned dwelling as part of Derby City Council Planning Application DER/11/15/01434.
- The site is located within the Strutts Park Roman Fort Conservation Area (designated, 06/11/1991) and within an Archaeological Alert Area as defined by the City of Derby Local Plan (2017), where groundworks had the potential to impact archaeological deposits and features of Romano-British or Medieval date.
- Previous investigations in the Belper Road area have shown that significant Roman deposits can survive close to modern ground surfaces, particularly in gardens or undeveloped areas. Several small scale excavations in adjacent properties south of the PDA have recovered scatter finds including Samian finewares, structural remains and isolated ditched features dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.
- Groundworks revealed only recent landscaping deposits and did not reach a depth sufficient to impact upon any sub-surface archaeological remains. Archaeological remains may survive at the site at depths below that of the current development.
- No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered during the course of this watching brief.

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Acknowledgments

The project was managed by Ed Taylor and the fieldwork undertaken by Laura Binns. The figures were produced by Marius Ilie and Norma Oldfield. Mr J. Devaney is thanked for commissioning the work. The project was overseen by Steve Baker, City and County Archaeologist at Derbyshire County Council.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Mr J. Devaney to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 114 Belper Road, Derby, DE1 3EQ (National Grid Reference SK 34908 37548) (Fig. 1). The work comprised archaeological monitoring and recording during the excavation of a c.0.7m deep trench prior to the construction of a single story rear extension to the aforementioned dwelling as part of Derby City Council Planning Application DER/11/15/01434.
- 1.2 The site is located within the Strutts Park Roman Fort Conservation Area (designated, 06/11/1991) and within an Archaeological Alert Area as defined by the City of Derby Local Plan (2017). Ground works had a high potential of encountering archaeological deposits and features of Romano-British or Medieval date. As a result of this, a condition was attached to planning approval by the Local Authority, which necessitated a program of approved archaeological investigation.
- 1.3 Condition A of planning approval necessitated the submission of an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Collins 2016). The WSI stated that the archaeological 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).

2 Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The site is located approximately 0.25km west of the River Derwent, approximately 70m above Ordnance Datum within the City of Derby. The site is bounded to the south by Belper road, east by Darley Park, and to the north and west by roadways, local amenities and residential development.
- 2.2 The sedimentary bedrock is mapped as Tarporley Siltstone formation, comprising siltstone and mudstone, which formed approximately 242 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period. Superficial deposits of alluvium comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel have also been recorded overlying the mudstone bedrock. These deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS; accessed 2018).
- 2.3 The overlying soils are characterised as slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage (Soilscape; accessed 2018).

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 The Development Area (PDA) is located within an Archaeological Alert Area, as defined by the City of Derby Local Plan (2017), associated with the 1st century Strutt's Park Roman fort and *vicus* (HER 18948). The fort was established in AD 60 and superseded by Little Chester fort at *Derventio* (c.AD 80) on the opposite side of the River Derwent (Burnham and Wachter: 1990).
- 3.1.2 Strutt's Park was designated as a Conservation Area in November 1991 (Derby City Council: 2003). The area was formerly part of the Darley Hall estate until 1766. The land was later purchased by the Gisborne family, who built the Grade I listed St. Helen's House. In 1803 Thomas Gisborne sold the estate to William Strutt, who later sold off much of the land.

3.1.3 Previous investigations in the Belper Road area have shown that significant Roman deposits can survive close to modern ground surfaces, particularly in gardens or undeveloped areas. Several small scale excavations in adjacent properties south of the PDA have recovered scatter finds including Samian finewares, structural remains and isolated ditched features dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. A comprehensive list of these are detailed in the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record DHER.

3.2 **Potential for Archaeological Remains to be Impacted by the Groundworks**

3.2.1 The PDA covers an approximate 100m² area, with groundworks comprising a single trench c.7.6m in length, 1m in width, and 0.9m in depth for the foundations of a single story extension.

3.2.2 Given the site location within Archaeological Alert Area, and the proximity to previously identified Roman features, the potential for archaeological remains to be impacted is deemed high. It is possible that any open cut trenching may impact archaeological features and deposits relating to the Roman occupation of the area.

4 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

4.1 The relationship between developments of this nature and their impact upon the historic environment are dealt with by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012; now superseded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government *Updated NPPF* 2018), and NPPF Planning Practice Guide *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2014).

4.2 In addition to national legislation and policy, Derby City Council also established Archaeological Alert Areas (AAA). These are locally designated areas and are considered by Policy E21 of the *City of Derby Local Plan Review* (Derby City Council 2006; Approved 2016). There is a local policy requirement, where intrusive construction work will occur within AAAs, that these areas should be subject to archaeological mitigation, as (following the principles of the NPPF) desk-based assessment alone will not be sufficient to inform a detailed understanding of the significance of, and potential for, sub-surface remains in these areas.

4.3 The fieldwork was governed by the content of these aforementioned policy documents, in addition to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists relevant Standards and Guidance.

5 Objectives and Regional Research Questions

5.1 The aims and objectives of the fieldwork were in accordance with the WSI produced by TPA (Collins 2016).

5.2 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to identify the presence of any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the development, and to achieve an appropriate level of *preservation by record*. Where practical within the constraints of the watching brief and development, this included an assessment of the overall extent, date and state of preservation.

5.3 Any archaeological remains encountered during the archaeological watching brief presented an opportunity to address research questions as set out in the East Midlands Heritage Research Agenda (Knight *et al.* 2012)

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/Main>

Specific research questions that are relevant to the current scheme of work include:

Romano-British (AD 43-c.410)
<i>5.3 Growth of Urban Centres</i>
1. What spurred the foundation of extramural settlements (vici) next to early forts, and how was the development of vici and forts related?
5. How and why did the urban landscape change late Roman period, and what roles may fortifications have played in this period?

6 Methodology

- 6.1 The programme of archaeological mitigation comprised continuous archaeological monitoring of intrusive groundworks relating to the extension with the potential to impact on features and layers of archaeological significance.
- 6.2 The intrusive ground works comprised the excavation of a trench prior to the insertion of wall foundations.
- 6.3 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken, and all exposed surfaces were inspected, by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and recorded where appropriate. All contexts were assigned 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 are represented following TPA drawing conventions 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 taken with a DSLR at 7megapixel minimum resolution. Written records were maintained as stated in the TPA recording manual.
- 6.4 All excavation and recording was carried out in line with ClfA guidelines and standard archaeological practice.
- 6.5 A full methodology can be found in section 3 of the WSI (Collins 2016).

7 Results (*Plates 1-7; Figures 2-3*)

- 7.1 Groundworks comprised the excavation of a small trial hole c.12m x 6m, against the southern wall of the house that fronts Belper Road, to establish the depth of the current building foundations, which were identified at a depth of 0.8m. A single trench was then excavated to the rear of the property for the foundations of a single story extension (figure 2). The trench was extended to the west across an additional 2.5m² area.
- 7.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during the course of this watching brief. Geological substratum was not identified during groundworks.
- 7.3 Abutting the rear facing wall of the house, subsoil (0002) had largely been removed for the construction of the extant building. In places where subsoil survived, it was sealed by a series of modern interleaving demolition or levelling layers (0003-0015) ranging between 0.1-0.25m in thickness, likely relating to the demolition of the previous building visible on earlier Ordnance Survey mapping c.1913 (NLS; accessed 2018). Excavation in this area exposed the extent and depth of the current building foundations at 0.7m below ground level.

- 7.4 To the north, mid-grey brown clay/silt subsoil (0002), and redeposited dark-grey brown silt/clay topsoil (0007) formed the base of the trench. Redeposited topsoil (0007), confined to the western third of the trench, likely relates to an earlier period of landscaping which was then sealed by topsoil (0001), forming the current ground surface, which increased in thickness from 0.1-0.3m to the north.

8 Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered during the course of this watching brief.
- 8.2 Groundworks did not reach a depth sufficient to impact upon any below ground archaeological remains at the site. Archaeological remains may survive at the site at depths below that of the current development.

9 Bibliography

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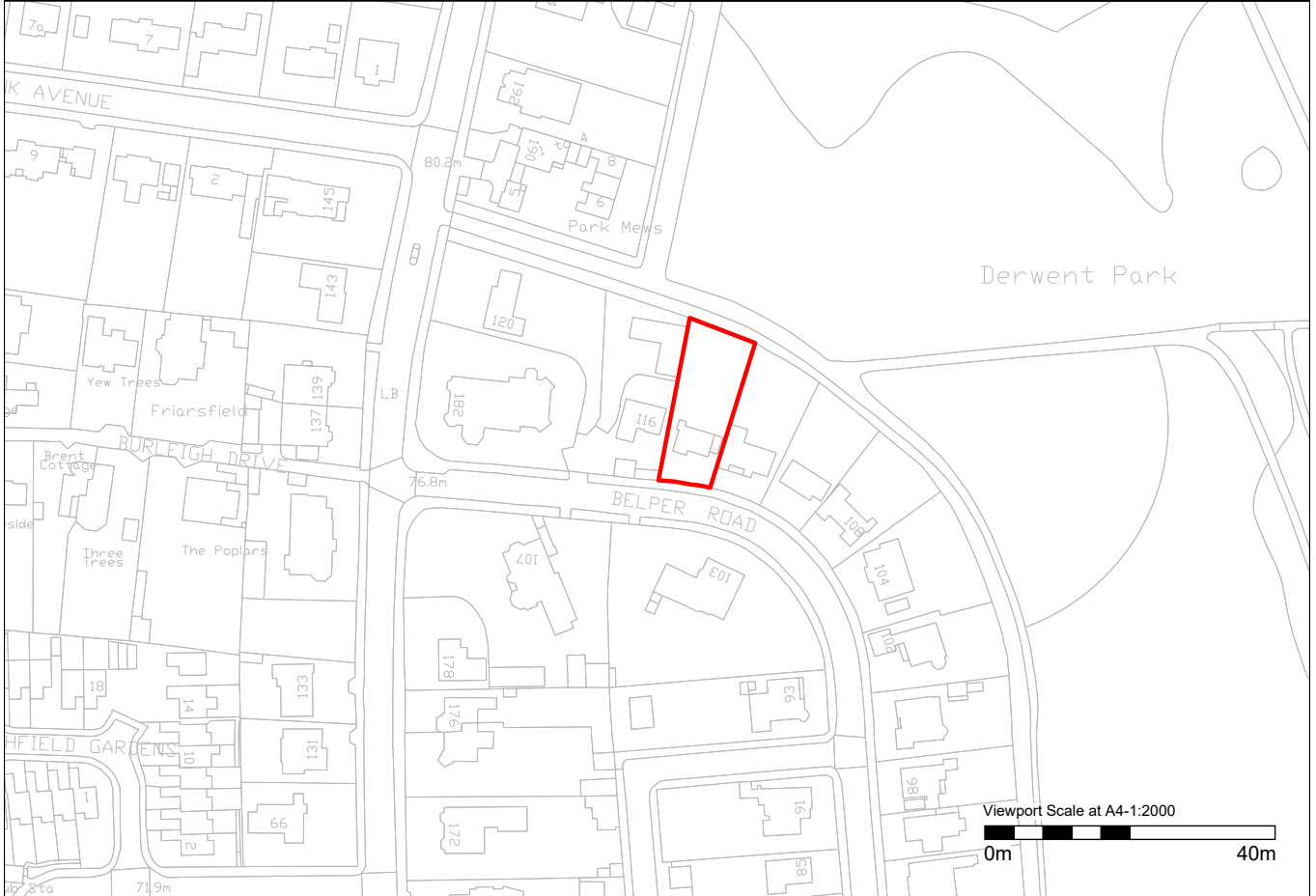
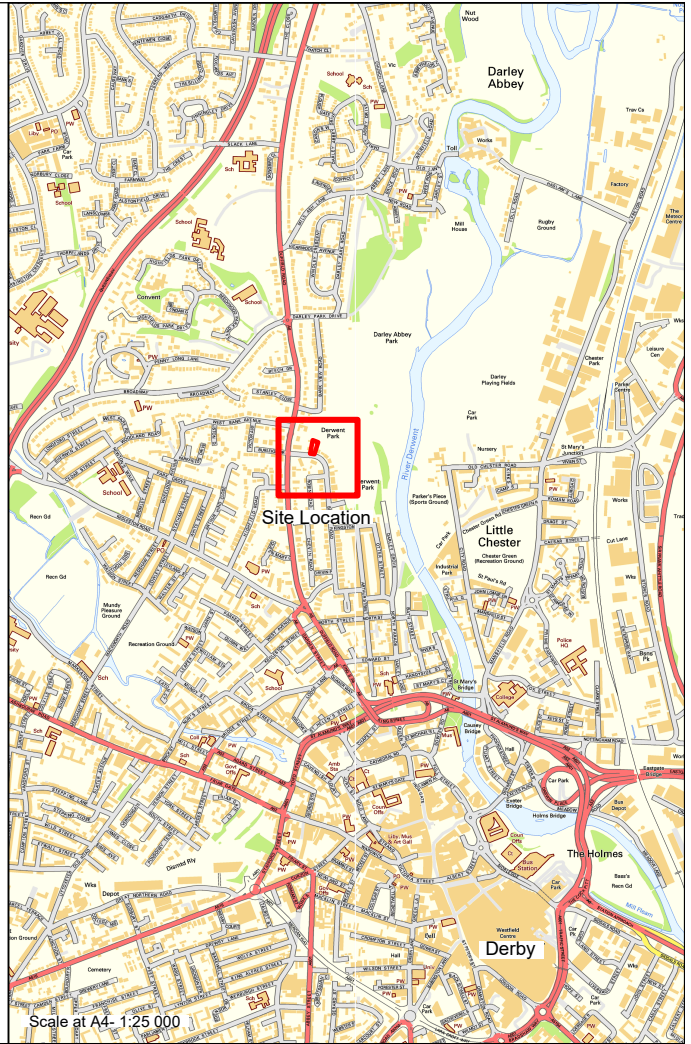
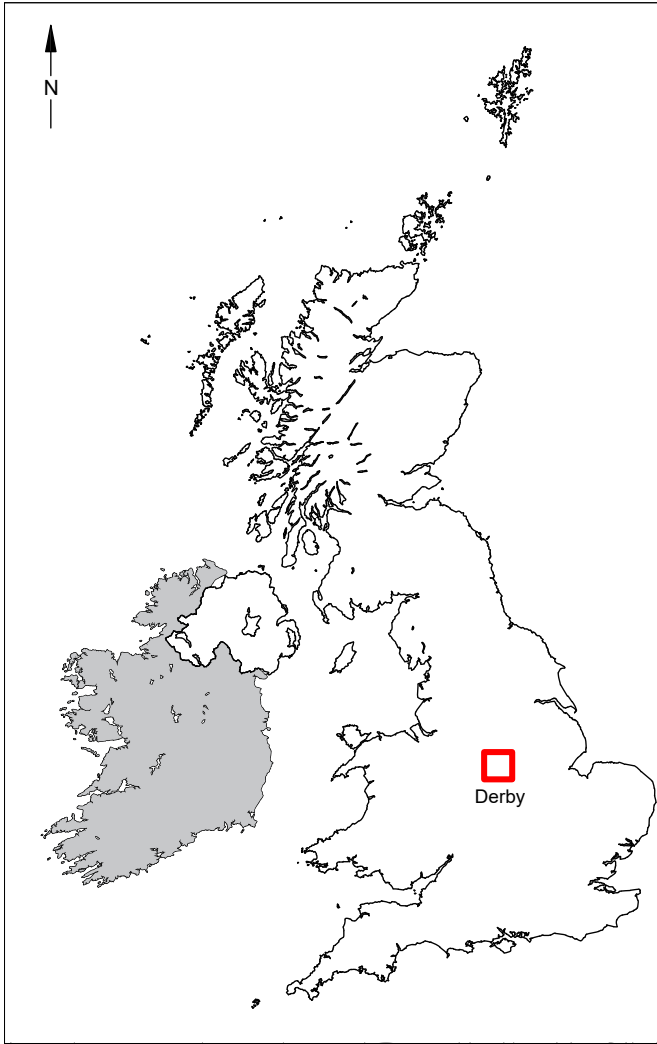
Knight, D., Vyner, and B., Allen, C. 2012. *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*. Nottingham Archaeological Monographs 6, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust: Derbyshire.

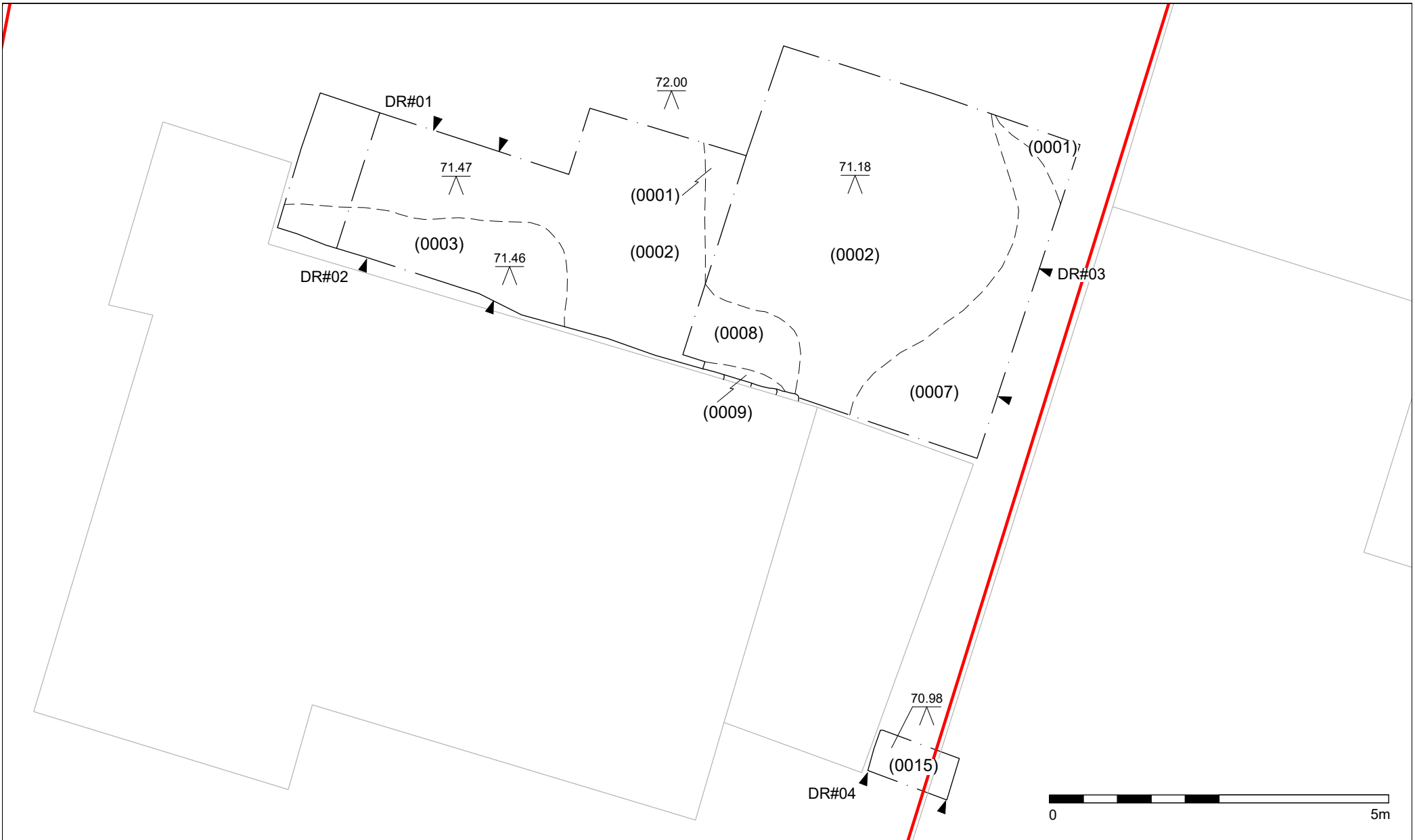
MHCLG 2018. *Updated National Planning Policy Framework*. MHCLG.

10 Context Register

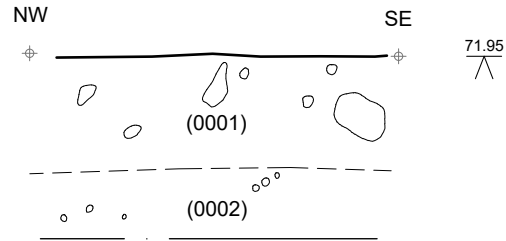
Context	Category	Description	Date
(0001)	Layer	Friable dark brown-grey silt topsoil	Modern
(0002)	Layer	Friable mid-dark brown clay-silt subsoil	Modern
(0003)	Layer	Friable-firm mid orange-brown silt-clay and stones	Modern
(0004)	Layer	Dark grey silt-sand	Modern
(0005)	Layer	Firm clay and demolition rubble backfill	Modern
(0006)	Layer	Ash bedding deposit	Modern
(0007)	Layer	Friable dark grey-brown clay-silt	Modern
(0008)	Layer	Loose stones of all sizes – metallated surface	Modern
(0009)	Layer	Pink clay	Modern
(0010)	Layer	Yellow bedding sand	Modern
(0011)	Layer	Black clay-silt <20% inclusions	Modern
(0012)	Layer	Demolition layer, with gritstone and brick	Modern
(0013)	Layer	Black silt-clay <10% brick fragments	Modern
(0014)	Layer	Mid-dark brown silt-clay	Modern
(0015)	Layer	Redeposited pink clay	Modern

Figures

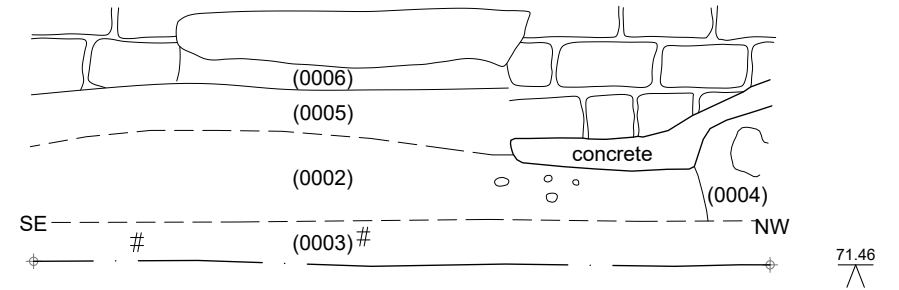




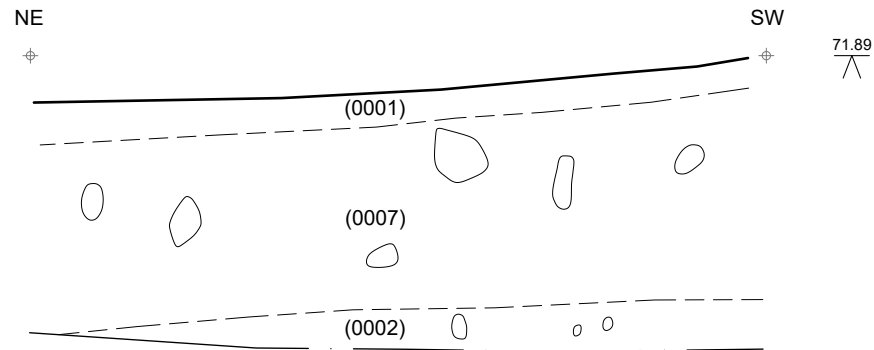
DR#01
Representative South West Facing Section



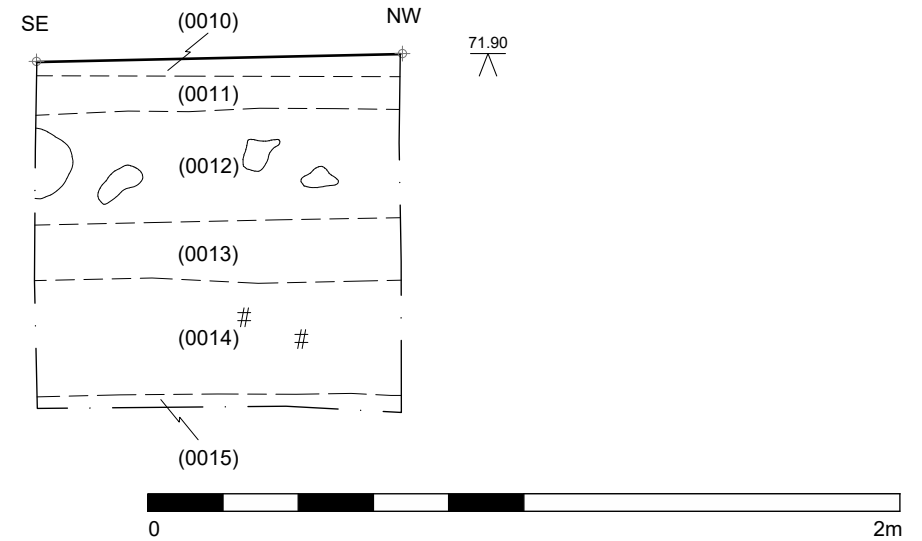
DR#02
Representative North East Facing Section



DR#03
Representative North West Facing Section



DR#04
North East Facing Section Of Cut For Wall Foundation Pad



Plates



Plate 1: Rear of the house; general overview of the site. Looking south.



Plate 2: Excavation of the initial trial hole to find the total depth of foundations. Looking south-west

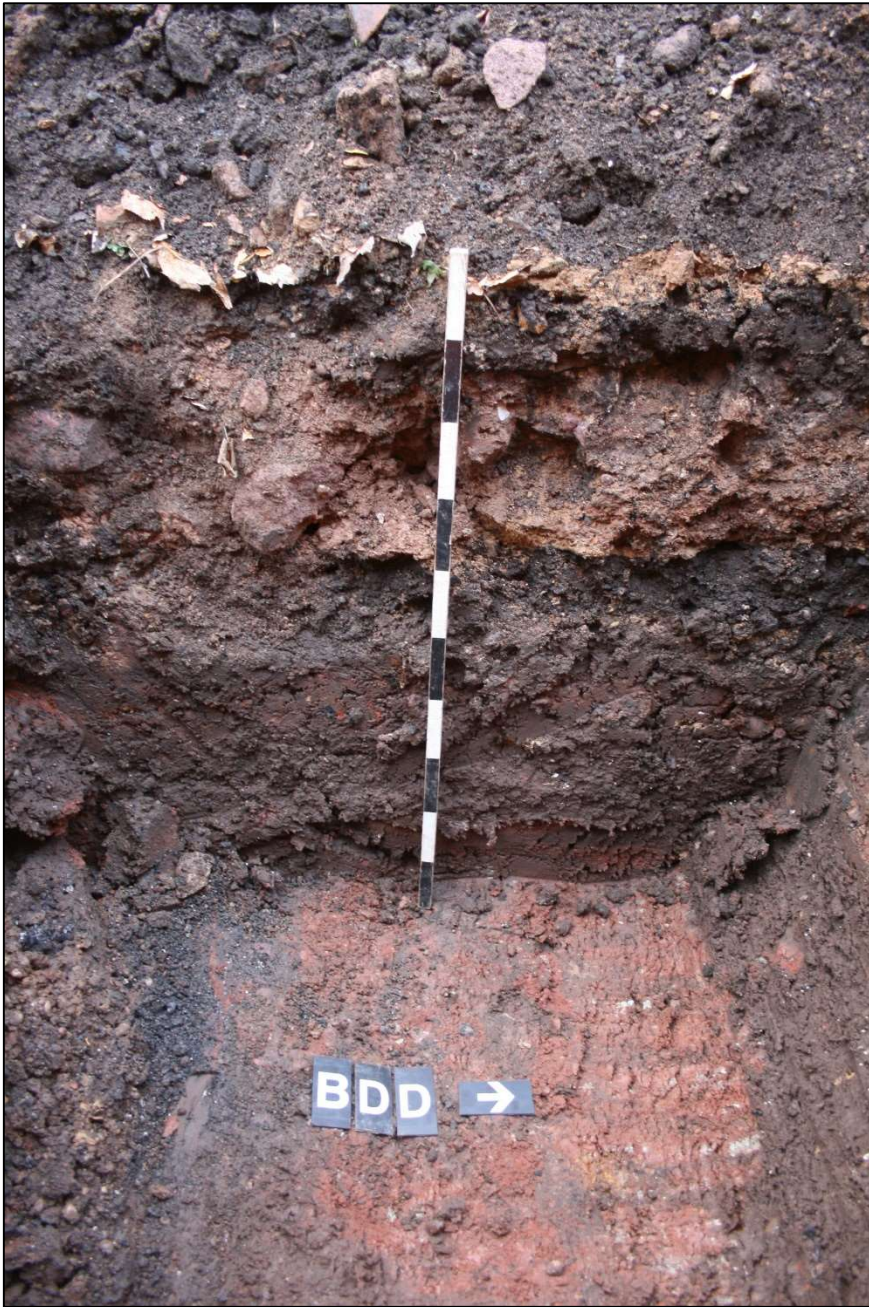


Plate 3: East facing section of trial hole, looking west.



Plate 4: Oblique plan shot of trench prior to extension. Looking south-west



Plate 5: Plan shot of trench prior to extension, looking east.



Plate 6: North facing section of trench showing the depth of foundations; looking south.



Plate 7: Oblique view of trench, east facing section.

Appendix 1: 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	1
Context register	Register of context numbers and descriptions	1
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	3
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	53
Site drawings	Plan and section of site	6
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the watching brief.	1
Find	Description	Number
Nil	Nil	0

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. The paper archive will be deposited with The Derby Museum and Art Gallery within 6 months.

Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: trentpea1-326523

Project details

Project name	114 Belper Road, Derby, DE1 3EQ
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Mr J. Devaney to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 114 Belper Road, Derby, DE1 3EQ (National Grid Reference SK 34908 37548) (Fig. 1). The work comprised archaeological monitoring and recording during the excavation of a c.0.7m deep trench prior to the construction of a single story rear extension to the aforementioned dwelling as part of Derby City Council Planning Application DER/11/15/01434. The site is located within the Strutts Park Roman Fort Conservation Area (designated, 06/11/1991) and within an Archaeological Alert Area as defined by the City of Derby Local Plan (2017), where groundworks had the potential to impact archaeological deposits and features of Romano-British or Medieval date. Previous investigations in the Belper Road area have shown that significant Roman deposits can survive close to modern ground surfaces, particularly in gardens or undeveloped areas. Several small scale excavations in adjacent properties south of the PDA have recovered scatter finds including Samian finewares, structural remains and isolated ditched features dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Groundworks did not reach a depth sufficient to impact upon any sub-surface archaeological remains. Archaeological remains may survive at the site at depths below that of the current development. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered during the course of this watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 10-12-2017 End: 10-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BDD - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status (other)	Archaeological Alert Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE DERBY DERBY 114 Belper Road, Derby, DE1 3EQ
Postcode	DE1 3EQ
Study area	127 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 34908 37548 52.933880093369 -1.48058307056 52 56 01 N 001 28 50 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 2m Max: 2m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology

Project brief originator Trent and Peak Archaeology

Project design originator Edmund Taylor

Project director/manager Edmund Taylor

Project supervisor Laura Binns

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Trent and Peak Archaeology

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Trent and Peak Archaeology

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Photograph","Plan","Report","Unpublished Text"

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