

LAND AT IBSTOCK QUARRY, IBSTOCK, LEICESTERSHIRE:

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quarry Phase 4



For Ibstock Brick LTD

Prepared by: Victoria Owen

Report Number: 128/2018

TPA Project Code: IBQ3

Trent & Peak Archaeology ©
Unit 1, Holly Lane
Chilwell
Nottingham
NG9 4AB
0115 8967400 (Tel.)
tparchaeology.co.uk
trentpeak@yorkat.co.uk



Client Name: Ibstock Brick LTD

Document Title: Ibstock Quarry, Ibstock, Leicestershire: Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief



Document Type: Final

Issue/Version Number: V1

Grid Reference: SK 421 111

TPA Site Code: IBQ3

Report No. 128/2018

Issue Number	V1
Prepared by	Victoria Owen, Project Supervisor
Date	22/08/2018
Revised	V. Owen 24/10/2018
Checked by	Tom Hooley (Assistant Project Manager)
Signed	
Date	22/08/2018
Approved by	Dr. Gareth Davies (Director of Operations)
Signed	
Status	Final

Disclaimer

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited ("YAT") (trading as Trent & Peak Archaeology) YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.



Trent & Peak Archaeology ©
Unit 1, Holly Lane
Chilwell
Nottingham
NG9 4AB
0115 8967400 (Tel.)
tparchaeology.co.uk
trentpeak@yorkat.co.uk

Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Ibstock Brick Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief on topsoil stripping on land adjacent to the current permitted quarry boundary.
- Ibstock Quarry and its environs have been the subject of numerous archaeological interventions in recent years. The latest phase of mitigation comprised an archaeological watching brief conducted by TPA in August/September 2016, which then expanded into a programme of full excavation. Significant archaeological remains relating to Romano-British agricultural management were encountered during the investigations, proving the site's potential for preserved archaeological remains.
- For 2018, topsoil removal was monitored along an approximate 4.45Ha block of land located immediately east of the current permitted quarry boundary in July, 2018.
- Machine excavation revealed a c.0.2-0.3m thick layer of topsoil overlying firm mid brown natural clay. Ceramic field drains ran across the site towards the north of the current site boundary. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.
- Monitoring of the topsoil stripping of this site recovered little in the way of direct archaeological evidence, however it did clarify the nature of the deposit sequence in the area.
- Additional monitoring was conducted during a further topsoil strip in October 2018 on a 2.5ha area to the east of the site (Figure 3). No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed during this additional strip.

Contents

Summary	4
Contents	5
List of Figures	5
List of Plates	5
Acknowledgments	6
1 Introduction	7
2 Topography and Geology	7
3 Historical and Archaeological Background	7
4 Aims and Objectives	8
5 Regional Research Agenda	9
6 Methodology	9
7 Results	10
8 Conclusion	10
9 Bibliography	11
10 Context Register	12
11 Figures	12
12 Plates	16
Appendix 1: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition	19
Appendix 2: OASIS: Data Collection Form	20

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Location Plan. Scale @A4 1:10,000
Figure 2: Site Plan. Scale @A4 1:1000
Figure 3: Plan of Previous Archaeological Work (IBQ2). Scale @A4 1:2000

List of Plates

- Plate 1: Overview of the stripped area
Plate 2: Ceramic field drains uncovered to the north of the PDA.
Plate 3: Modern hedge-line; removed as part of these works.

Acknowledgments

Thanks are extended to Ibstock Brick Ltd for facilitating site access and aiding archaeological works.

This project was managed by Tom Hooley (T&PA) and undertaken in the field by Project Supervisor Carmen Dhalke, and Project Officers Pete Watkin and Kath Bantley.

Illustrations have been compiled by Project Norma Oldfield (Geomatics).

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Ibstock Brick Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief on topsoil stripping on land adjacent to the current permitted quarry boundary.
- 1.2 Ibstock Quarry and its environs has been the subject of numerous archaeological interventions in recent years. The latest phase of mitigation comprised an archaeological watching brief conducted by TPA in August/September 2016, which then expanded into a programme of full excavation. Significant archaeological remains relating to Romano-British agricultural management were encountered during the investigations, proving the site's potential for preserved archaeological remains. Ibstock Brick Ltd propose undertaking further works on land at their quarry to the east of Ibstock along Leicester Road, B591. The site is located at NGR SK 42152 11209 (Figure 1). Consultation had suggested that the proposed works had the potential to impact upon cultural heritage assets and/or buried archaeological remains.
- 1.3 A full description of the archaeological background of Ibstock Quarry was compiled by JSAC (1997). Local sites of archaeological significance were identified as being a Roman settlement located 1km north-west of the site and a possible Roman road and pottery scatter within the current quarry area. An area of colluvium at the base of the stream valley was noted and it was suggested that this could potentially seal archaeological deposits. A geophysical survey carried out by GSB Prospection identified possible pits and linear anomalies (Shiel 1997).

2 Topography and Geology

- 2.1 Ibstock Quarry is situated to the east of Ibstock on the B591 Leicester Road. The area is surrounded by previously quarried land and arable fields. Consequently, Ibstock has lost much of its natural topography due to man-made ground levelling and development, with only minor topographic expressions present throughout.
- 2.2 The proposed quarry extension lies on a relatively even plateau which gradually rises from 146-148m AOD to the north and south to create a shallow peak towards the centre at approximately 149m AOD.
- 2.3 The underlying geology is comprised of clay, siltstone, mudstone and sandstone with superficial deposits of Diamicton, mid-Pleistocene glaciofluvial and alluvial deposits. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 2.4 The overlying soils are described as slightly acidic, loamy soils with impeded drainage. (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/#>).

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Ibstock Quarry and its environs have been the subject of numerous desk-based and archaeological ground investigations in recent years. A number of these projects have produced negative results.
- 3.2 A trial trench excavation was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit in 2001, which failed to find any significant archaeological features and only recovered residual Iron Age pottery.
- 3.3 Subsequent to this, further works were undertaken as part of a planned stream diversion in 2003 by Northamptonshire Archaeology, who excavated a series of trial trenches which uncovered

two undated ditches and a medieval/post-medieval furrow (Lewis 2004). Further work in 2003 consisted of a watching brief carried out during the installation of a new Haul Road at the quarry. No significant archaeological features were observed at this location, although a residual fragment of Roman pottery and a flint flake were recovered (Griffin 2003).

- 3.4 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during a 2004 watching brief on a stream culvert excavation undertaken again by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Westgarth 2004).
- 3.5 In September 2011, Northamptonshire Archaeology returned to the Ibstock Quarry site to conduct a watching brief on the soil strip of the Phase 2 extension, which uncovered the remains of a 20th century colliery building which had been demolished by c.1960. No other significant archaeological finds or features were found associated with the Phase 2 quarry extension programme (Wolfram-Murray 2011).
- 3.6 In September 2014, T&PA was commissioned to carry out a watching brief on soil stripping at the northern extent of the Phase 3 quarry extension. No archaeological remains were encountered (Winfer 2014).
- 3.7 Further investigations were carried out by T&PA in September 2015 at Ravenstone Road, Ibstock, preceding the construction of a new pipe route and balancing pond. Mitigation at Ravenstone Road encountered extensive evidence of late 3rd and 4th century Roman agricultural or animal management enclosures as well as a Roman kiln which proved to be a site of pottery production for Derbyshire Ware (Poole 2017).
- 3.8 In September 2016, a watching brief during topsoil stripping at the Phase 3 quarry extension was undertaken by T&PA. The watching brief identified potentially significant archaeological features of Romano-British date (Owen and Malone 2017).
- 3.9 Following these findings, a further programme of archaeological excavation was required by the LCC. This was carried out in October/November 2016 by TPA. The excavation revealed a series of rectilinear features which may have served as stock management enclosures and field boundaries. These features yielded 1st and 2nd century Roman and Romano-British pottery. Three fire pits were also identified, initially thought to relate to the same phase of activity at the site, but were subsequently C14-dated to the early post-medieval period (Owen and Malone 2017).

4 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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)

5 Regional Research Agenda

- 5.1 The *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) Interactive Digital Resource* <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/> hosts a digitised version of Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen, C.'s (2012) *East Midlands Heritage and Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*.
- 5.2 Any evidence uncovered by the investigations should be considered with the guidance provided by the framework in mind. If the evidence significantly contributes to a research question raised by the framework, this should be stated in the final report and the website may, at the appropriate time, be used to feed this information back via the interactive commenting facility. This allows for the research framework to develop over time and remain relevant.
- 5.3 The following research questions were of particular significance to this project:

Romano-British (AD 43-c.410)
<i>5.4 Rural Settlement Patterns and Landscapes</i>
3. How did rural settlements relate to each other and to towns and military sites, and how may this have varied regionally and over time?
4. How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundary networks develop over time?

6 Methodology

- 6.1 All ground works with the potential to negatively impact on sub-surface archaeological remains was be subject to continuous archaeological monitoring by a qualified archaeological supervisor. All ground investigations were carried out in accordance with the relevant ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014).
- 6.2 Prior to the commencement of excavation, the development area was scanned with a CAT scanner to locate any services that may not be shown on services plans supplied by the client.
- 6.3 The principal contractor ensured the use of a toothless ditching bucket during machine excavation so that a clean surface could be exposed and the attendant archaeologist could inspect the deposits revealed.
- 6.4 Topsoil was excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision and continued to either the first archaeological horizon or the natural substratum if archaeological remains were not present.
- 6.5 The site boundary and the presence of archaeological features were located using a Leica System 1200 GPS.
- 6.6 All excavations were recorded at an appropriate scale by GPS survey, measured drawing and photography. The features and deposits investigated by hand excavation were recorded on

individual context recording sheets. Sections of excavated features were also recorded (at a scale of 1:20). Spot heights were recorded relative to the Ordinance Datum.

- 6.7 All works were carried out in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Trent & Peak Archaeology (Collins 2018) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2014b).

7 Results

- 7.1 The site lies adjacent to an area of high archaeological potential, in which evidence for rural Romano-British occupational activity was identified (Owen and Malone 2017). Topsoil stripping was undertaken across an approximate 4.45Ha block of land immediately east of the current permitted quarry and previous archaeological works (Figure 2-3).
- 7.2 In October 2018, monitoring was conducted on an additional 2.4ha strip of land to the eastern edge of the site (Figure 3).
- 7.3 Monitored topsoil stripping was sought to ascertain the potential for archaeological finds, features or deposits associated with a possible extension of Romano-British – Post-Medieval activity.
- 7.4 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed during the course of this watching brief.

Stratigraphy

- 7.5 Where identified, stratigraphy across the site comprised superficial deposits of natural brown clay and mudstone (002). This was overlain by a c.0.2-0.3m thick deposit of brownish-grey silt clay cultivated topsoil (001) which was consistent across the site.
- 7.6 Circular ceramic field drains cut (Plate 2) were observed crossing the site oriented approximately north north-west by south south-east within the northern most portion of the site. Less frequently, ceramic field drains were also observed following an east by west alignment.
- 7.7 An extant hedge line dividing plots of land north and south of the PDA was removed as part of these works (Plate 3).

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 Topsoil stripping was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist from Trent & Peak Archaeology. Mid brownish-grey silt clay topsoil was observed up to 0.2-0.3m thick overlying firm mid brown natural clay. Ceramic field drains ran across the site towards the north of the current site boundary. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.
- 8.2 Monitoring of the topsoil stripping of this site recovered little in the way of direct archaeological evidence, however it did clarify the nature of the deposit sequence in the area.

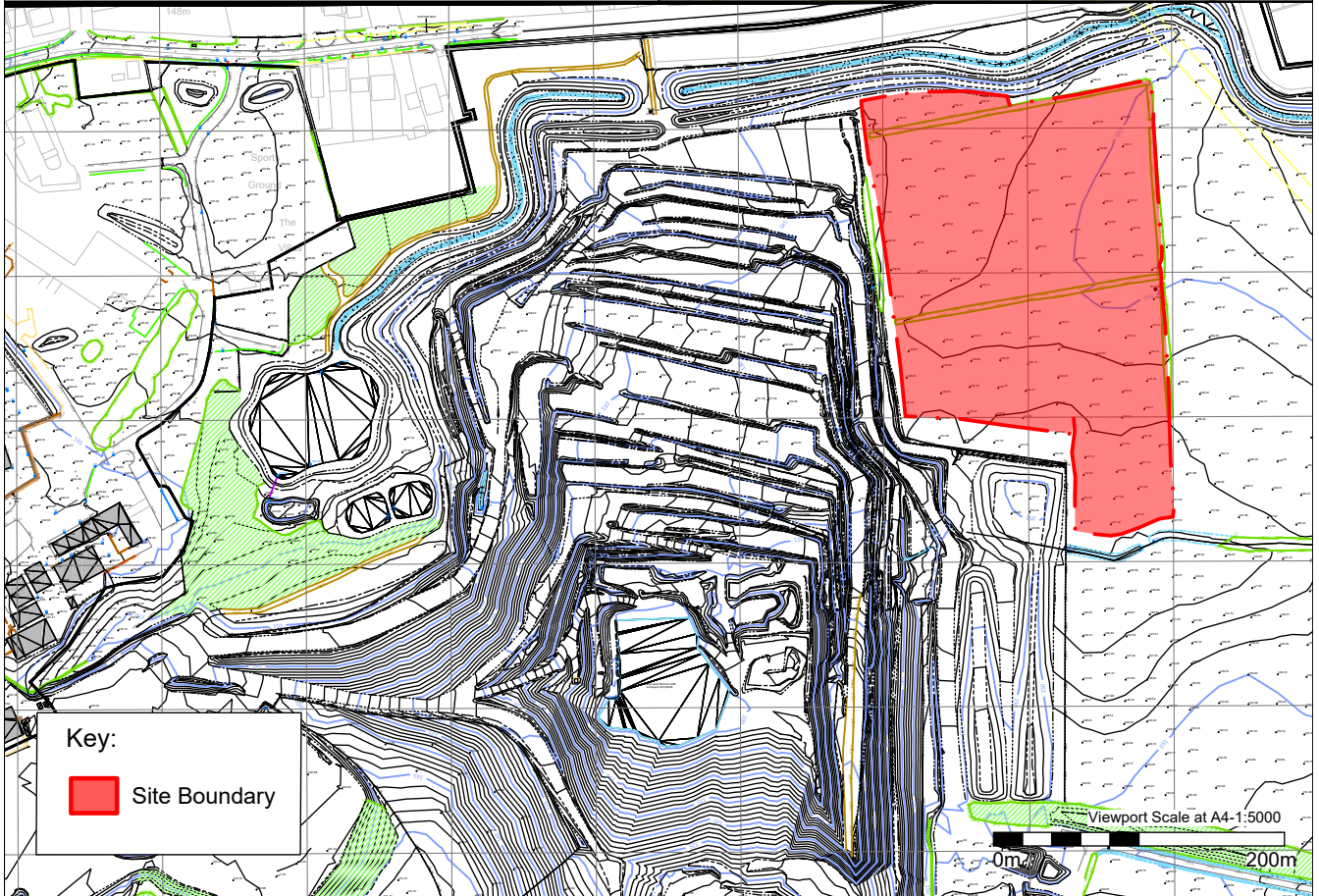
9 Bibliography

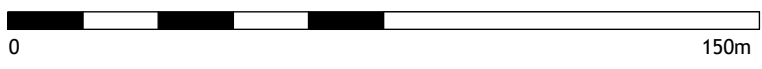
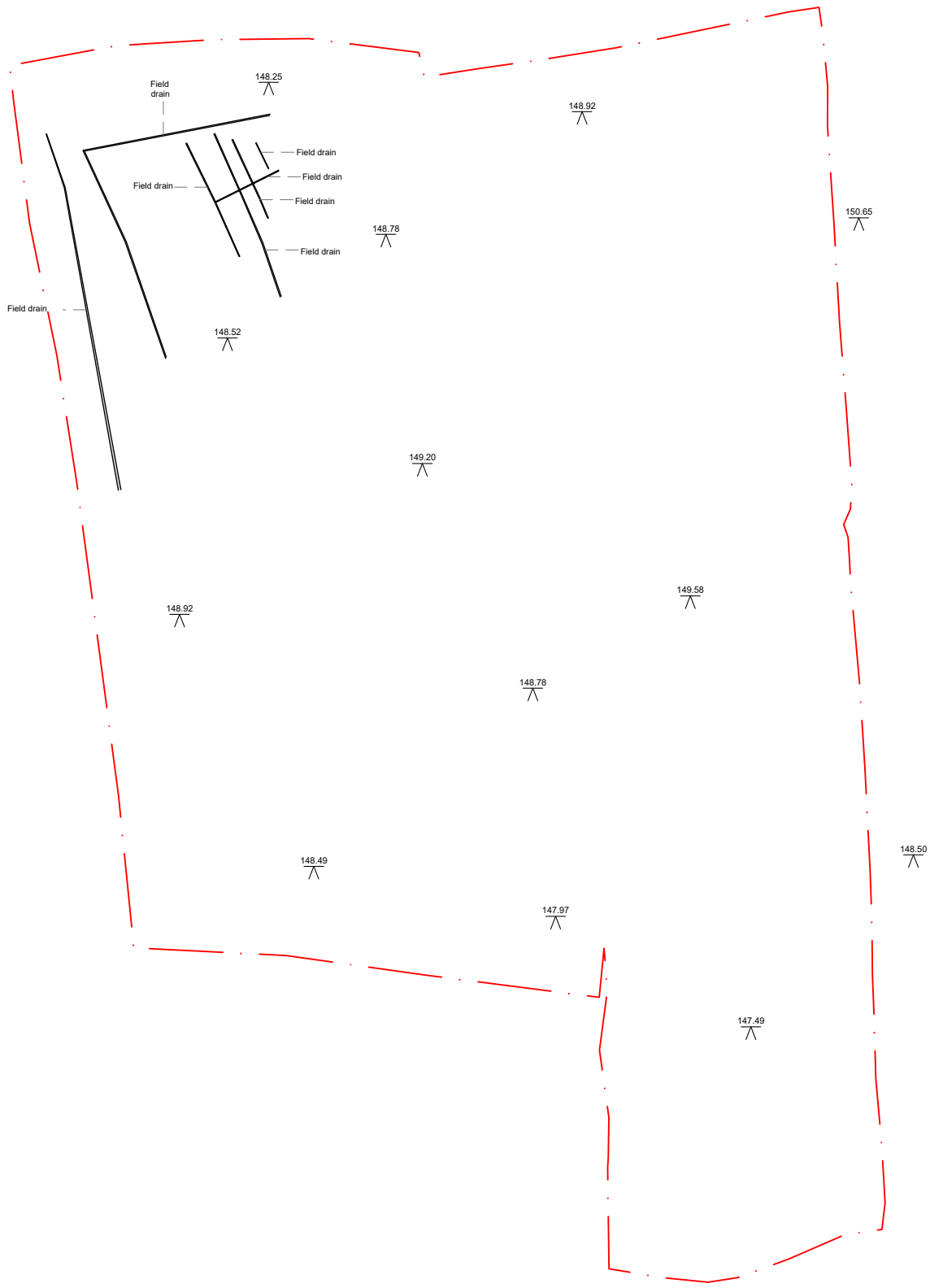
- British Geological Survey 2017. *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Accessible at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. [Accessed 22nd August 2018]
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading.
- Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. *National Planning Framework Policy Framework*. Department for Communities and Local Government; London.
- Griffin, L. 2003. *Archaeological Watching Brief at Ibstock Quarry, Leicestershire*. Northamptonshire Archaeology Unpublished Report.
- Historic England 2015a. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (revised). Historic England (English Heritage).
- Lewis, B. 2004. *Archaeological Evaluation at Ibstock Quarry, Leicestershire*. Northamptonshire Archaeology Unpublished Report.
- North West Leicestershire District Council 2011. *Adopted Local Plan 2011-2031*. Leicestershire: NWLDC
- Owen, V. and Malone, S. 2017. *A report on Archaeological Excavations on Land at Ibstock Quarry, Ibstock, Leicestershire*. TPA Unpublished Report
- Poole, K. 2017. *Report on an Archaeological Strip Map and Sample of the Balancing Pond Area at Ravenstone Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire*. TPA Unpublished Report.
- Westgarth, A. J. 2004. *Ibstock Quarry Stream Diversion Archaeological Watching Brief*. Northamptonshire Archaeology Unpublished Report.
- Wolfram-Murray, Y. 2011. *Archaeological watching brief during soil stripping in Phase 2, Ibstock Quarry, Ibstock, Leicestershire*. Northamptonshire Archaeology Unpublished Report.

10 Context Register

Context	Category	Description	Date
001	Layer	Cultivated topsoil	Modern
002	Layer	Natural brown clay	Undated

11 Figures







12 Plates



Plate 1: Overview of the stripped area



Plate 2: Ceramic field drains uncovered to the north of the stripped area



Plate 3: Modern hedge line; removed as part of these works

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	15
Context register	Register of context numbers and descriptions	1
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	2
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	145
Site drawings	Plan and section of site	0
<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.	2
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.

Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: trentpea1-326527

Project details

Project name	LAND AT IBSTOCK QUARRY, IBSTOCK, LEICESTERSHIRE
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Ibstock Brick Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief on topsoil stripping on land adjacent to the current permitted quarry boundary. Ibstock Quarry and its environs have been the subject of numerous archaeological interventions in recent years. The latest phase of mitigation comprised an archaeological watching brief conducted by TPA in August/September 2016, which then expanded into a programme of full excavation. Significant archaeological remains relating to Romano-British agricultural management were encountered during the investigations, proving the site's potential for preserved archaeological remains. For 2018, topsoil removal was monitored along an approximate 4.45Ha block of land located immediately east of the current permitted quarry boundary in July, 2018. Machine excavation revealed a c.0.2-0.3m thick layer of topsoil overlying firm mid brown natural clay. Ceramic field drains ran across the site towards the north of the current site boundary. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed. Monitoring of the topsoil stripping of this site recovered little in the way of direct archaeological evidence, however it did clarify the nature of the deposit sequence in the area.
Project dates	Start: 09-07-2018 End: 27-07-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	IBQ3 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE IBSTOCK Ibstock Quarry, Ibstock, Leicestershire
Postcode	LE67 1HD
Study area	4.45 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 442157 311212 52.875418505667 -1.342971809179 52 52 31 N 001 20 34 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 146m Max: 149m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project brief originator	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Project design originator	Tom Hooley
Project director/manager	Tom Hooley
Project supervisor	Carmen Dahlke
Project supervisor	Pete Watkin
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","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Ibstock Quarry, Ibstock, Leicestershire: Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Owen, V
Other bibliographic details	Report number: 128/2018
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Trent and Peak Archaeology
Description	Grey literature, PDF
Entered by	Victoria Owen (vowen@yorkat.co.uk)
Entered on	22 August 2018

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)