

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND
ADJACENT TO 1 ST.MARY'S STREET, ILKESTON,
DERBYSHIRE.**

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Fig. 1: Site location in relation to Stroud's map (2001) of the historic core of Ilkeston

Fig. 2: Results

Summary

- **Background.** This watching brief was carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit on behalf of Hodgkinson Builders (Midlands) Ltd. Its scope was agreed with the curatorial archaeologist acting on behalf of Derbyshire County Council. Information on the development site and the proposed works has been supplied by Paul Gaughan Building Consultants.
- **Project design and site location.** The development site lies in St. Mary's Street, Ilkeston, Derbyshire.
- **Archaeological context.** The development site is located within the historic core of Ilkeston.
- **Methodology.** Seven trenches were excavated, then inspected by the archaeologist, photographed and representative sections drawn.
- **Results.** The site contained post-medieval material only, exceeding 1.30m in the southern part of the site.

1 Background

This watching brief was carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit on behalf of Hodgkinson Builders (Midlands) Ltd.

Its scope was agreed with the curatorial archaeologist acting on behalf of Derbyshire County Council.

Information on the development site and the proposed works has been supplied by Paul Gaughan Building Consultants.

2 Project design and site location

The development site is on land adjacent to No 1 St. Mary's Street, Ilkeston, Derbyshire (Fig. 1), at National Grid Reference SK 465 418.

The current proposal is to build three new dwellings on the site, which was occupied until recently by a garage.

Ilkeston lies on a hilltop overlooking the Erewash valley, some 13km west of Nottingham and 16km north-east of Derby, and is situated on the Middle Coal Measures of the East Midlands Coalfield (Geological Survey Sheet 125).

3 Archaeological context

The site (Fig. 1) is located within the historic core of the town of Ilkeston, as identified by Gill Stroud (Stroud, 2001).

From the medieval period until the Industrial Revolution Ilkeston was no more than a large village with an occasional market, but thereafter the improved communications facilitated the intensive exploitation of Ilkeston's mineral resources. Besides coal and iron stone, the proximity of Nottingham's textile markets allowed the town to develop its own hosiery and lace industry (Atha and Garton, 2002, 4).

No previous archaeological work had been undertaken in St. Mary's Street prior to this watching brief. However the site's location within the historic core of the town, and in close proximity to the medieval church of St. Mary's, suggested that archaeological deposits may have been present.

4 Methodology

During the watching brief seven trenches were machine excavated using a mini-digger with a toothless bucket. The trenches were on average 0.75m wide and 1.15m deep. On 5th and 7th July 2004, all seven trenches were inspected by the archaeologist, photographed and representative sections drawn. Fig. 2 shows the total area excavated.

5 Results

Two different stratigraphic sequences were found on the site (Fig. 2). The first covered the majority of the area and consisted of post-medieval material to a depth of between 0.15m and 0.40m above pale yellow sandstone. This stone layer was probably a natural sandstone deposit found within the Middle Coal Measures (Geological Survey Sheet 125).

The second occupied the southern part of the area, where post-medieval material was above a layer of mixed grey to grey-brown clay that contained modern brick, mortar fragments and glass. The base of this post-medieval, redeposited layer was not established; at 1.30m it exceeded the depth of the trench. The lack of a perceived buried soil suggests that, in this area, the subsoil had been scraped off to an unknown depth prior to deposition of the post-medieval material.

6 Published and unpublished works consulted

Stroud, J., 2001 *Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Extensive Urban Survey Draft Archaeological Assessment Report*

Ather, M. and Garton D., 2002 *An Evaluation at Rutland Mills, Ilkeston, Derbyshire: Interim Report*

Geological Survey of Great Britain, Solid and Drift 1:50,000, Sheet 125.

7 Archive

The archive of field records comprises three drawings at scale 1:20. 01 and 02 (dated 05/07/2004) show the east-facing section of trench 01, and 03 shows the north-facing section of trench 03 (dated 07/07/2004). Digital images of the watching-brief were lost regrettably due to technical failure.

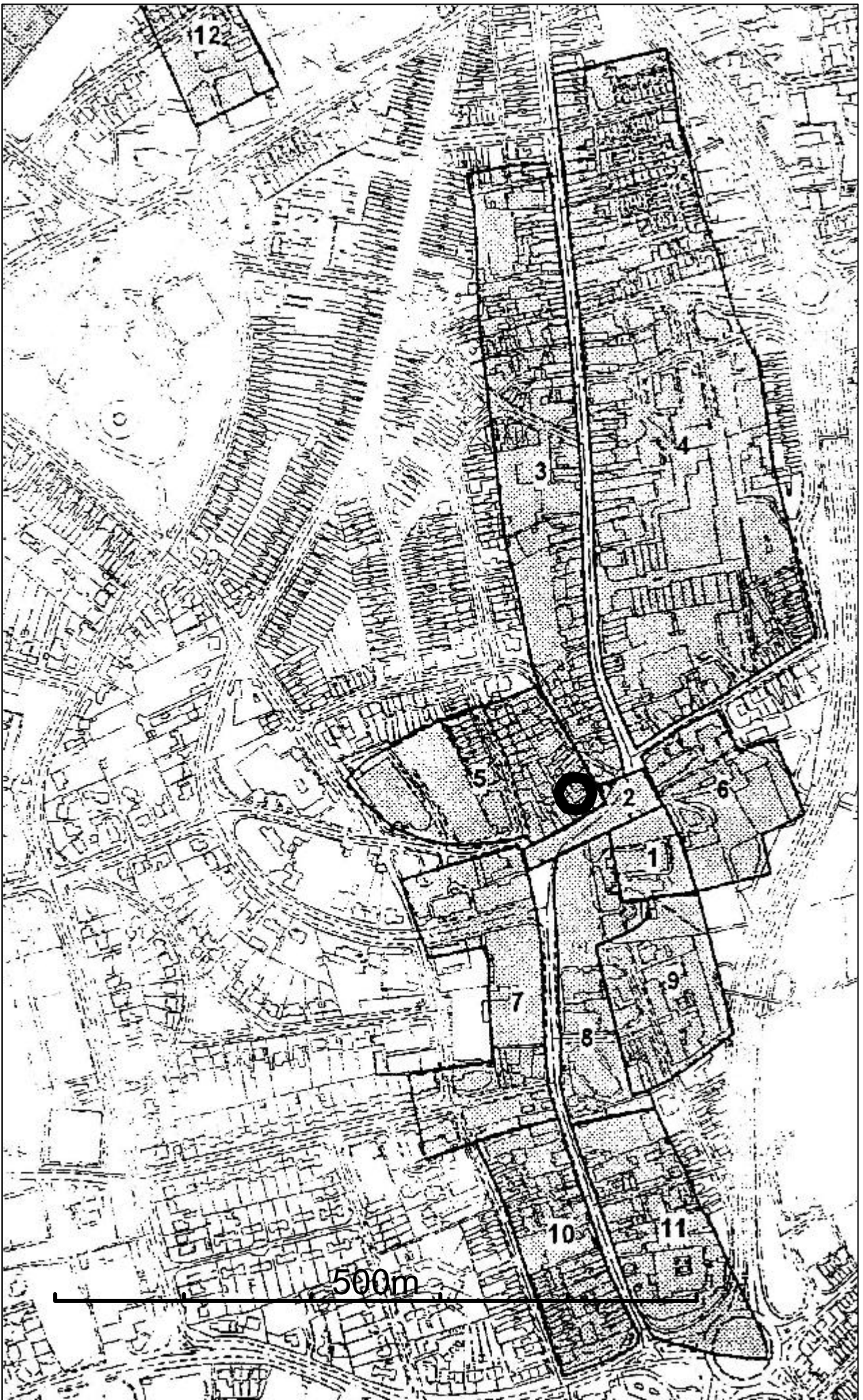


Fig. 1: Site location in relation to Stroud's map (2001) of historic core of Ilkeston

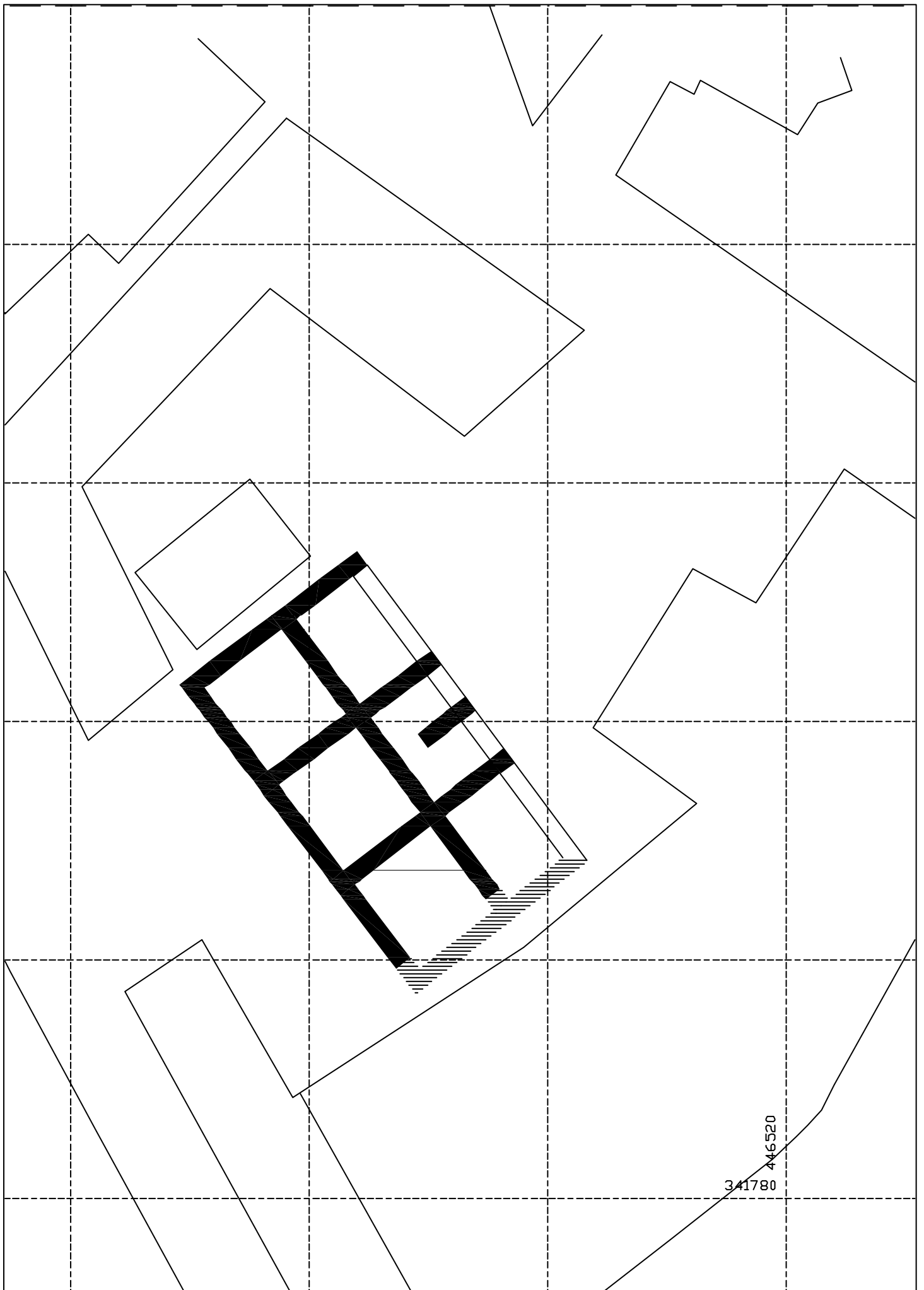


Fig. 2: Results showing a) post-medieval above natural (solid shading); b) post-medieval exceeding 1.3m (hatched); and c) area not excavated (no shading). 10m grid shown.