



Trent & Peak
ARCHAEOLOGY

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AT 218 MAIN STREET,
HORSLEY WOODHOUSE,
DERBYSHIRE**



The University of
Nottingham

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
218 Main Street, Horsley Woodhouse, Derbyshire**

A report for G&S Construction

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September 2008

Project Code: HWW

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SUMMARY

- An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 218 Main Street, Horsley Woodhouse, Derbyshire by Trent & Peak Archaeology between 29/09/2008 and 30/09/2008 on behalf of G&S Construction.
- The area for development was a small triangular shaped plot of land centred at NGR: SK 3881 4513, situated between a 20th century semi-detached property immediately to the West of the site and a late 19th century semi-detached property to the east.
- Aerial photographs suggest that the projected path of the Roman road Ryknield Street should pass through or near to the proposed development site. However, no evidence of this was observed during the watching brief. This suggests that the line of the road passes through the adjacent property of 216 Main Street.
- The only archaeological feature of note was an undated soak-away of sandstone construction running for several metres across the site.

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1 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SITE DESCRIPTION

This archaeological watching brief was conducted on behalf of G & S Construction by Trent & Peak Archaeology of the University of Nottingham. A planning application had been submitted to Amber Valley District Council (No. AVA/2007/1059) to build a new house and planning permission had been granted on condition that a watching brief was undertaken during the works. The monitoring phase occurred between 29th and 30th September 2008. The work was undertaken by Richard Parker under the general management of Richard Sheppard.

The watching brief was conducted on a small triangular shaped plot of land (centred on national grid reference SK 3881 4513) situated between a row of semi-detached properties on Main Street, Horsley Woodhouse. Significantly, the land for development is situated immediately adjacent to the projected line of the Roman road known as Rykniel Street. This road runs north from “Derventio” (Little Chester, Derbys) to Templeborough in Yorkshire. It was part of a major route way running from Lyme Bay, Dorset up to Hadrian’s Wall. It still exists as a road in the general area of Moor Road south of Horsley Woodhouse and again as a Street from Kilburn northwards. The line between is lost, but it is partially preserved along a lane known as Golden Valley to the south which, when projected north of the A609, it is on the same alignment as the field boundary and the acute angle of the boundary between no 216 Main Street (east of the projected line) and the site adjacent to 218 Main street (west of projected line).

The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the excavation of the foundation trenches for the proposed new development in order to investigate and record any preserved archaeological remains. In particular this watching brief sought to establish whether indeed the Roman road was in the immediate vicinity.

2 METHODOLOGY

Excavation of the foundation trenches was conducted by G & S Construction using a small excavator with a 600mm toothless bucket. Due to the enclosed nature of the site and restricted movement of the digger each trench was dealt with systematically before reaching the optimum depth required. This was achieved by first removing the topsoil, thus allowing the subsoil to be removed in 10cm spits. Sections and features within were then cleaned (time permitting), photographed and drawn to scale.

3 RESULTS

3.1 General Stratigraphy

The general stratigraphy of the site as exposed during the watching brief was relatively straightforward. Topsoil (0001), was a loose dark grey black sandy loam composing of 30% soot/ash material mixed with 20% modern angular road chippings ($\leq 100\text{mm } \varnothing$) and modern ornamental slate/stone chippings. There was a clear distinction between this and the subsoil (0002) which consisted of clean firm orange/brown clayey silt. Directly below this lay (0003) a firm brown/yellow clay which incorporated occasional naturally deposited lenses of rounded pebbles ($\leq 50\text{-}200\text{mm } \varnothing$).

3.2 Archaeological features

3.2.1 Linear feature 0004, 0005, 0006

During the excavation of trenches 03, 04, 05, which run in a N-S direction, a relatively thin sandstone linear feature measuring no more than 200mm in width was noted, running in an E-W direction and terminating in the bulk between trenches 03 and 01. This undated feature can only be described as some sort of soak-away as its V shaped profile with narrow and shallow capacity could do no more than allow a steady trickle to flow.

4 DISCUSSION

Under normal circumstances due to the limited area of excavation and narrow trenches the likelihood and indeed chances of clearly observing archaeological features would have been difficult on this site. However, the clarity of the stratigraphy was such that features and especially the make up involving the construction of a Roman road would have been immediately obvious. During the excavation of the foundation trenches and on viewing the trench sections on completion, no features, material or associated finds relating to a Roman road were observed. Projected alignments over long distances by their very nature can never be precise. Undoubtedly the road is in the near vicinity but until further works are undertaken in the area its exact location is uncertain. Only one notable archaeological feature was observed during the watching brief (0004/5/6), a sandstone soak-away. There was no evidence for any previous structures on the site and this feature was probably associated with the nearby 19th/20th century building; in the absence of any associated finds its date remains uncertain. Though no evidence of the Roman road was noted, the watching brief has proved that the road's alignment lies outside the property and that there is a high likelihood that the road is situated to the east of the boundary between 216 and 218 Main street. Although hearsay, this would concur with information given by the owners of

number 216, who were given to believe by previous owners that the road ran beneath their property.

5 REFERENCE

Myers, A, 2006. 'Brief for a conditioned archaeological watching brief at 218 Main Street, Horsley Woodhouse.' Derbyshire County Council.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the team from G & S Construction for their hospitality and assistance on site and to Richard Sheppard for his guidance on the project.

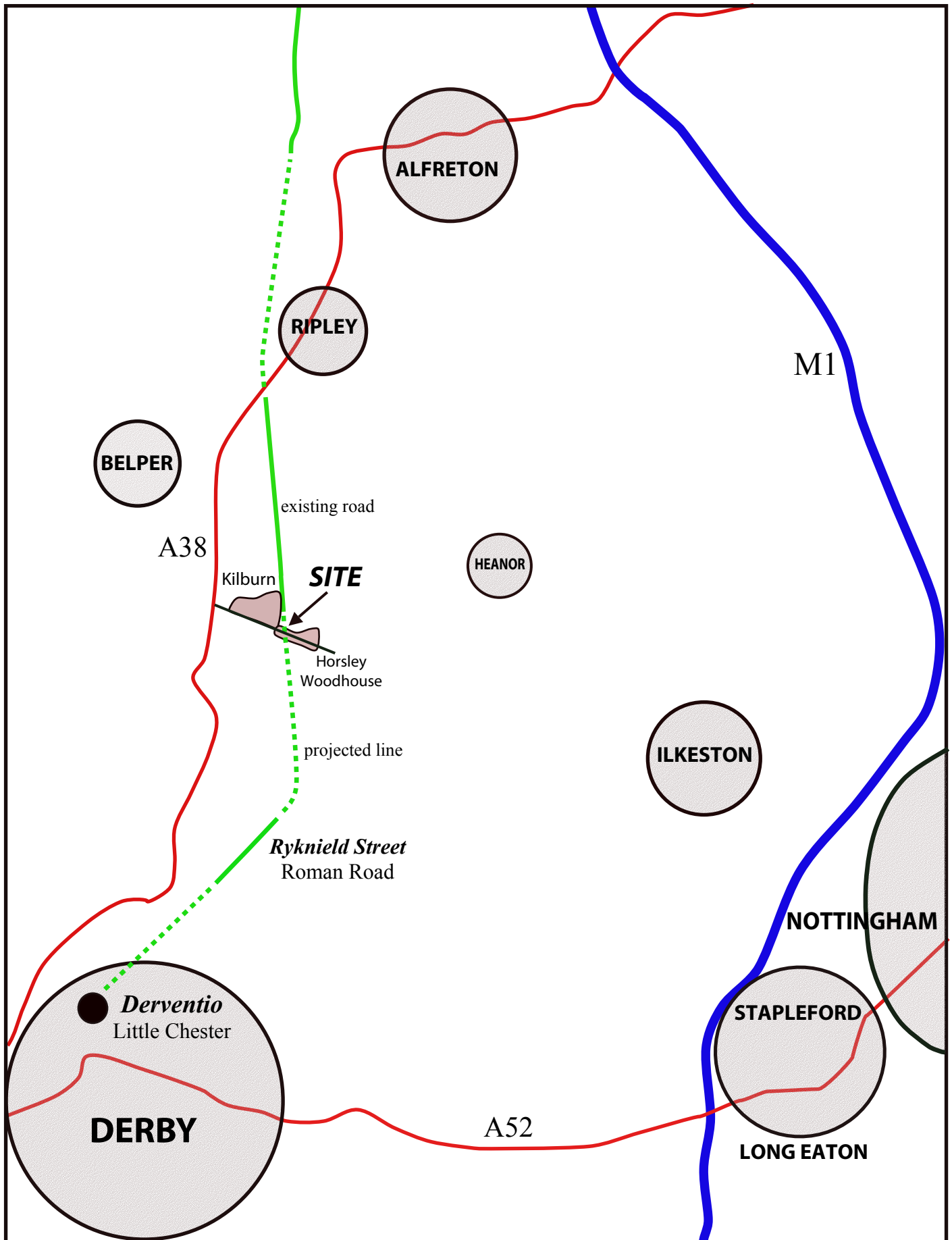


Fig. 1 Location of the site at Horsley Woodhouse, Derbyshire in relation to surrounding towns and the known and projected line of the Roman road, Rykniel Street. Scale 1:100,000.

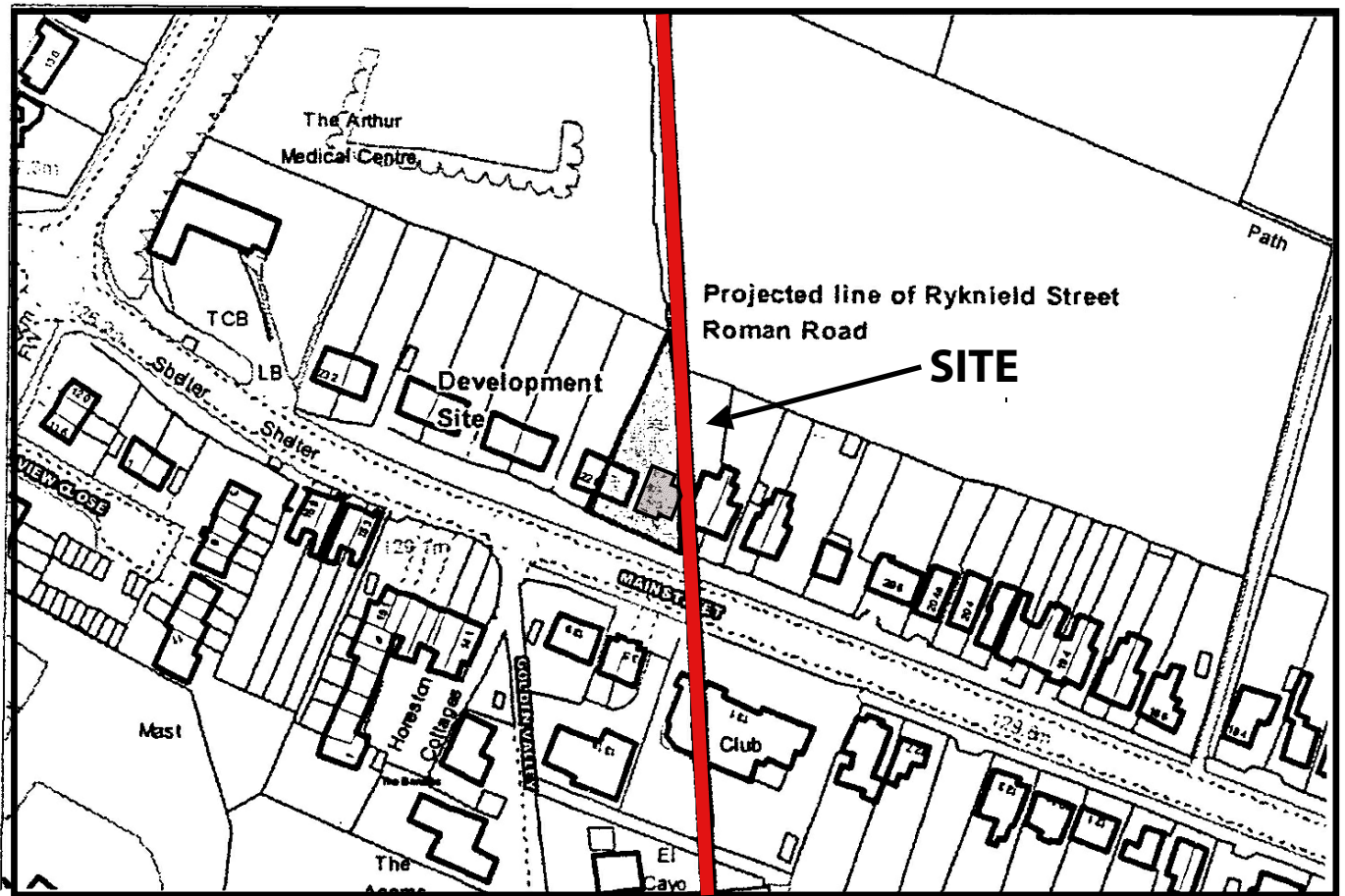


Fig. 2 Site location in Horsley Woodhouse, Derbyshire, showing projected line of the Roman road Ryknield Street (thick line) and the ground-plan of the new housing development (in grey tone). Plan not to any particular scale.

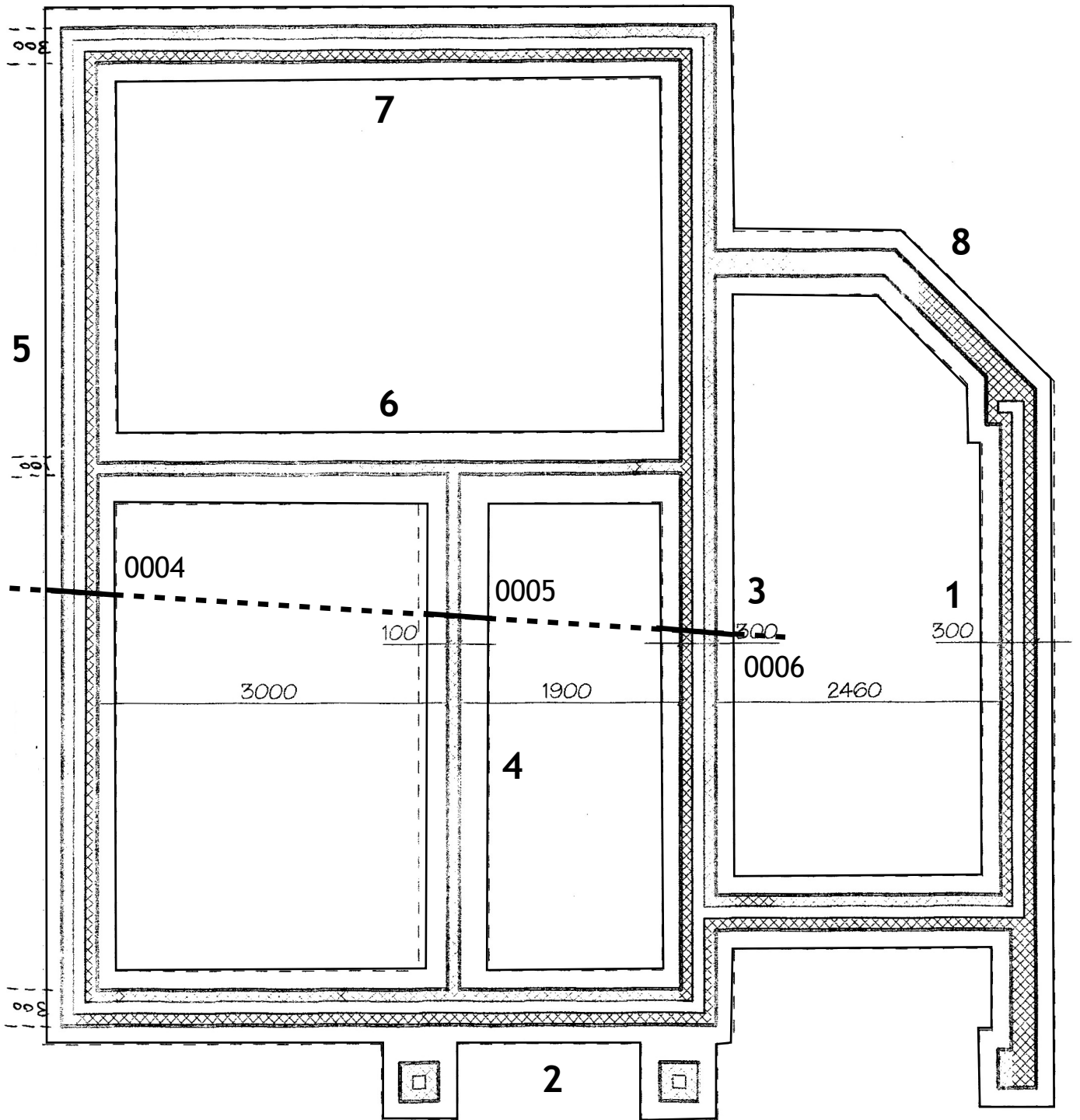


Fig. 3 Ground floor plan of new building at 218 Main Street, Horsley Woodhouse, Derbyshire, showing foundation trenches, numbered 1-8, and projected line of soak-away 0004-06 (dashed line). Plan not to any particular scale.

8 PLATES



Plate 1: View looking across the site in a N-E direction prior to excavation of foundation trenches



Plate 2: View looking across the site in a N-E direction after foundation trenches completed



Plate 3: Soak-away revealed in trench 04 after the removal of topsoil



Plate 4: Full profile of soak-away in section after subsoil excavated



Plate 5: Detail of soak-away in section

APPENDIX

BRIEF FOR A CONDITIONED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SITE NAME: 218 Main Street, Horsley Woodhouse

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: AVA/2004/1505

NGR: SK 38818 4513

ISSUED BY: A. M. Myers (Development Control Archaeologist)

ISSUED TO: Mr S. Marshall-Clarke

DATE: 31st October 2006

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Planning application AVA/2004/1505 has received planning consent to construct a dwelling.

1.2 A condition of the planning consent requires that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the development.

1.3 No archaeological desk-based assessment has been produced.

1.4 This document is a brief for the conditioned archaeological work.

2.0 Background

2.1 The development involves the construction of a single dwelling on land that is immediately adjacent to the projected line of Ryknield Street Roman Road (fig.1).

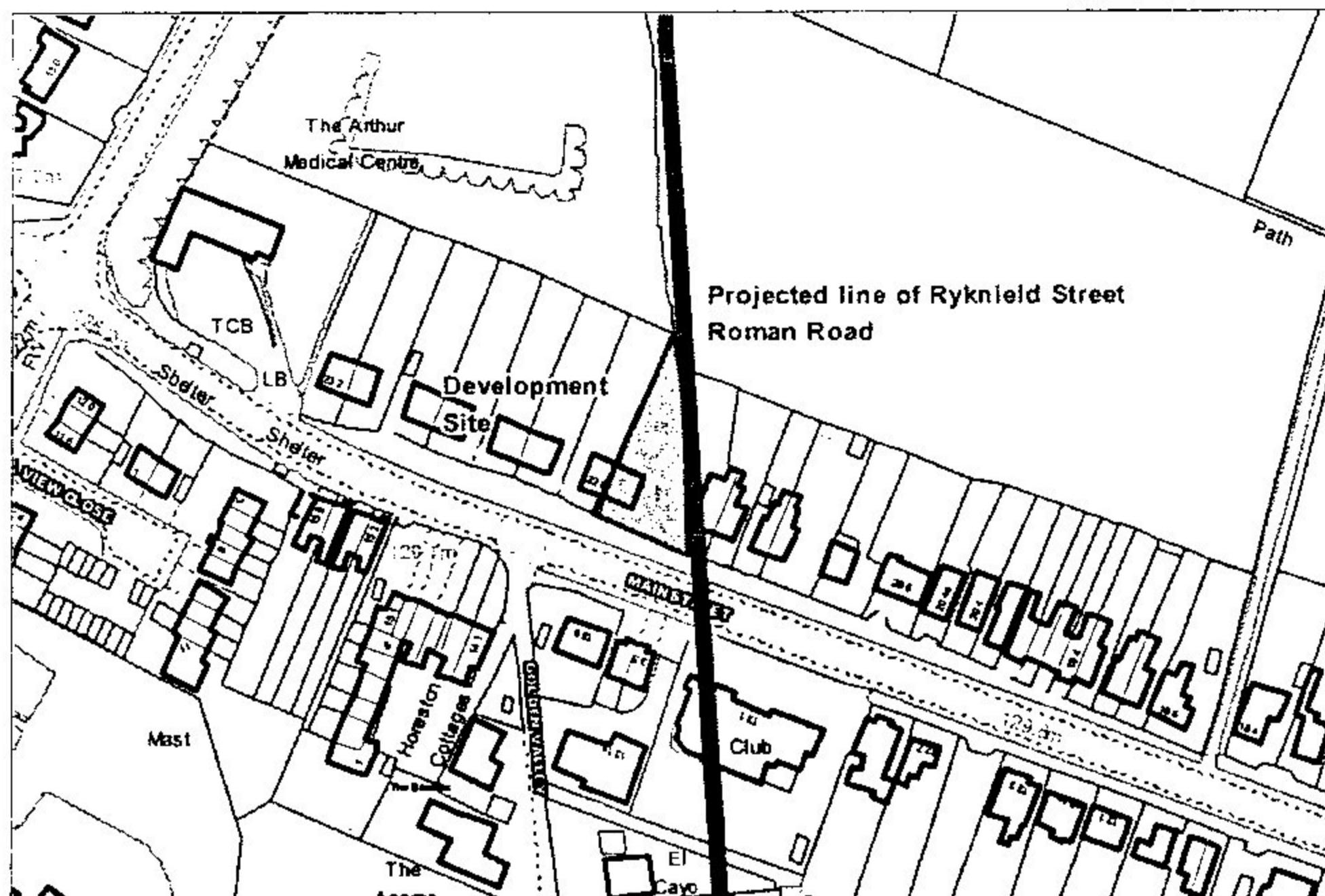


Fig. 1: Location of the development site

2.2 Just over 1km to the north a short stretch of Ryknield Street has been scheduled (DR164). 200m to the south foundation trenches for a new house off Golden Valley exposed part of the make-up material for the Roman road. The line of the road can be seen on aerial photographs today as a cropmark running across the golf course to the south towards Horsley Lodge. Taken

together, these sightings of the Roman road in the immediate area suggest that the projected line will be reasonably accurate and that evidence may be exposed by the proposed development.

3.0 Objective

3.1 The watching brief should provide for achieving an appropriate level of *preservation by record* should any archaeological deposits be exposed during the excavation of foundations, service or other trenches connected with the development.

4.0 Programme of Fieldwork

4.1 The appointed archaeological contractor shall maintain a watching brief during all ground works and activity that may cause significant intrusive disturbances to the ground surface and expose buried archaeological features.

4.2. During the watching brief should any potential layers, features, structures or finds be exposed the archaeological contractor should be afforded sufficient time to clean, excavate, sample and record the archaeology. The watching brief will not entail archaeological excavation beyond the areas exposed by the development works.

4.3 All archaeological fieldwork, recording of archaeological features and deposits and post-excavation analysis should be carried out to acceptable archaeological standards. The contractor will be expected to abide by the Code of Practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and to follow the guidance provided in "Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions" (English Heritage 2003).

4.4 The appointed archaeologists should undertake a site risk assessment and operate at all times with due regard to health and safety regulations.

5.0 Monitoring

5.1 During the course of the fieldwork the DCA may undertake monitoring visits.

5.2 Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered the archaeological contractor should contact the DCA and arrange a convenient date and time for a site visit. Your contact will be:

Dr. Andrew Myers,
Development Control Archaeologist,
Derbyshire County Council,
Shand House,
Dale Road South,
Matlock,
Derbyshire DE4 3RY

Andy.myers@derbyshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01629 585146
Mob: 07781 850742
Fax: 01629 585507

6.0 Finds

6.1 Artefact collection policy should be concerned with the provision of adequate samples for meeting the objectives of the work. Discarded artefactual materials should be described and quantified through assignment to broad categories in the field. Analysis of finds will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists. Retained finds should be cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials, as appropriate, for long term storage (see **9.0 Archive Deposition** below).

7.0 Human Remains

7.1 In the event of human remains being encountered site works will cease and the Coroner's office notified. Such remains will remain *in situ* until authorised to continue by the Coroner and a Home Office licence obtained. The Coroner for Derby and South is,

Mr P. G. Ashworth,
St Katherins House,
St. Marys Wharf,
Mansfield Road,
Derby DE1 3TQ
Tel: 01332 294942

7.2 Analysis of any human remains will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists.

8.0 Report

8.1 The preparation of the report should follow the guidelines published by the Institute of Field Archaeology.

8.2 Upon completion of the fieldwork a full report will be produced and copies submitted to the Local Planning Authority, the CA and the Derbyshire SMR.

8.3 The report should include as a minimum,

- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the project
- Methodology
- An objective summary statement of results
- Conclusion
- Supporting illustrations at appropriate scales

- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices, including as a minimum a basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts and structural data.
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References
- Statement of intent regarding publication (see 8.5, 10.1)
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements (see 9.3)
- Copy of this brief

8.4 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts should be supplied to the SMR and deposited with the archive either as colour slides, or as digital images on a CD ROM.

8.5 A short summary report (see notes attached) should be supplied as hard copy and a PDF to the Development Control Archaeologist along with the evaluation report. The appointed archaeological contractor should also provide the Development Control Archaeologist with a written statement on how the project is to be published. *Where no further publication is envisaged then the short report will be published in an annual round-up on Developer Funded Archaeology in Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.*

9.0 Archive Deposition

9.1 Arrangements should be made from the outset of the project for the full and final archive to be deposited in Derby Museum and Art Gallery in accordance with their deposition and archiving standards. Your contact will be:

Jonathan Wallis,
Principal Curator (Collections)
Derby Museums and Art Gallery
Tel: 01332 716657

9.2 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

9.3 Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, must be included as part of the final report.

10.0 Publication

10.1 A summary of the project, with selected drawings, illustrations and photographs, should be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the

project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication (see 8.5). The results of the work should be published at least in summary form in Derbyshire Archaeological Journal. A sheet of instructions for contributors is attached.