

**LAND SOUTH-EAST OF SPONDON WOOD FARM,
OCKBROOK, DERBYSHIRE.**

**A report on the archaeological 'strip and plan'
of the development footprint**

2011

Prepared by L. Platt



Project code: SWF

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SUMMARY

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was contracted by Halsall Lloyd Partnership on behalf of Mr Neil Massie to conduct an archaeological strip and plan on the foot print of a residential development at Spondon wood Farm, Ockbrook, Derbyshire, centred on SK 4166 3677.
- The excavation of the building foot print was monitored and test pits were excavated along the line of a proposed service trench .
- A deposit of made ground was identified extending across the footprint of the development. This directly overlay a layer of archaeologically sterile clay, interpreted as the natural formation.
- Conversation with the owner of the development plot, Mr Neil Massie, confirmed that the area had been previously disturbed for use as a dump for modern agricultural and domestic waste and debris. The disturbance probably accounts for the absence of top-soil over most of the evaluated area with only vestigial remains of it in Area 02 and possibly in Area 01. This significantly reduces the likelihood of the development area containing an intact archaeological resource.
- The development comprises the construction of a dwelling on a concrete raft (Mr Neil Massie, owner, pers com.). The foundation raft is to be inserted above the made ground, thereby nullifying any remaining risk of impacting on any archaeological resource. The line of the main service trench has also been evaluated and suggests that the archaeological implications of the remaining intrusive aspects of the development are likely to be very low.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning consent (ERE/0710/0058) was granted for the construction of a dwelling on land near Spondon Wood Farm, Ockbrook, subject to a number of conditions including a requirement for agreement of an archaeological programme of works. The Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER) consulted as part of the planning process, was noted to contain a number of entries from the locality of the proposed development (see below Section 2.1). As a result the development area was identified as a possible 'heritage asset, *sensu* PPS5, with archaeological significance in the form of potential below ground archaeology of Roman and/or medieval date' (Baker 2010). The development was therefore identified as having a potential impact on a heritage asset and therefore meriting mitigation through archaeological attendance and monitoring, consistent with the principal of preservation by record

1.2 Trent & Peak Archaeology was contracted by Halsall Lloyd Partnership on behalf of Mr Neil Massie, to carry out an archaeological strip and plan exercise, on the foot print of the residential development at Spondon Wood Farm, Ockbrook, Derbyshire, SK 4166 3677 (centred).

1.3 Archaeological monitoring of the ground works was carried out on the 28/3/11.

1.4 The site is immediately to the south-east of existing modern agricultural buildings (a cattle shed). There was no visible indication to suggest that there had previously been structures on the site of the proposed development.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 *Previous Archaeological Evidence:*

The planning requirement for an archaeological programme of works (see above, Section 1.1), was based on the proposed developments proximity to a number of site entries in the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (Baker 2010). These included a plough-soil scatter of Roman and medieval pottery identified during field walking in 1997-8 (HER 18738), and the discovery of medieval and Roman pottery from neighbouring fields to the south and west of the proposed development site (HER18739; HER 23833).

3. SITE GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Mercia mudstone (solid), Thrussington Till (drift) (BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 125).

3.2 The site is within the limits of an existing farm yard adjacent to a number of cattle sheds. The ground is level and is bordered to the west by Spondon Wood. The land rises gently to the north-west of the site and falls away to the south and east in the direction of Ockbrook township.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The 'brief' issued by the Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council, set out the requirement for archaeological supervision of a strip, plan and record exercise. However, it was noted that should the site strip not reach a depth at which it is possible to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains, then further archaeological monitoring of further excavations (foundations, services etc) would be required (Baker 2010).

4.2 There was no top-soil and the uppermost layer, 0007, consisting of mid brown to yellowish brown clay with concrete, brick fragments, charcoal flecks and mortar, to a depth of 300mm was removed from the entire development footprint under close archaeological supervision (Area 03; Figure 2). The resultant surface was scrutinised for the presence of archaeological finds, features or deposits of significance. Observations indicated the presence of 'made ground' with the potential to obscure features or deposits of archaeological significance (Section 5). Three trial pits were cut to establish the depth of this deposit (0001) and clarify the archaeological implications of the remaining intrusive aspects of the development (Areas 01, 02 and 04 Figure 2).

5. RESULTS

5.1 *Area 01*. A trial pit was machine excavated on the line of the proposed service trench. No top-soil was present, instead the uppermost layer (0001) comprised 'made ground' rich in modern debris (including concrete, brick, glass and pottery). This layer extending to a depth of 500mm was removed under archaeological supervision. This exposed an underlying natural deposit (0002) of bright yellowish orange clay with lenses of light grey clay and a maximum thickness of 220mm. Below this was a further layer of natural clay, 0003, mid greyish brown with lenses of yellowish orange and grey clay with an observed depth of 220mm extending below the base of the trial pit (See Figures 2 and 3 and Plate 1).

5.2 *Area 02*. A trial pit was machine excavated on the line of the proposed service trench. A layer of top-soil (0004) 180mm thick, was removed to reveal a deposit of brown silty clay loam (0005). The latter represented 'made ground' containing concrete, brick and charcoal and correlates with comparable layers recorded in Area 01 (0001), Area 03 (0007) and Area 04 (0009). Below this was a further layer, 0006, of bright yellowish orange clay with lenses of grey clay similar to 0002 to an observed thickness of 400mm similar to 0003. (See Figure 4 and plate 2).

5.3 *Area 03*. A layer of 'made ground' (0007) containing substantial amounts of modern debris (concrete, brick, glass etc.) was removed from the building foot print (1,760m²) to a depth of 300mm. A trial pit (Area 04) was cut into the north-west edge of Area 03 to test for underlying archaeological deposits. This is reported below.

5.4 *Area 04*, trial trench on north-west edge of Area 03. This was excavated to a depth of 220mm and revealed two layers 0008 and 0009. 0008, 100mm thick consisted of a yellowish orange silty loam with lenses of grey clay. This overlay 0009, 110mm thick made up of dark grey ash in which were modern pottery sherds. A further sondage was hand dug extending to the base of Area 04 and this revealed a layer of natural bright orange clay with grey clay lenses, 0010, to an observed depth of 200mm. (See Figure 5).

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the ground-works.

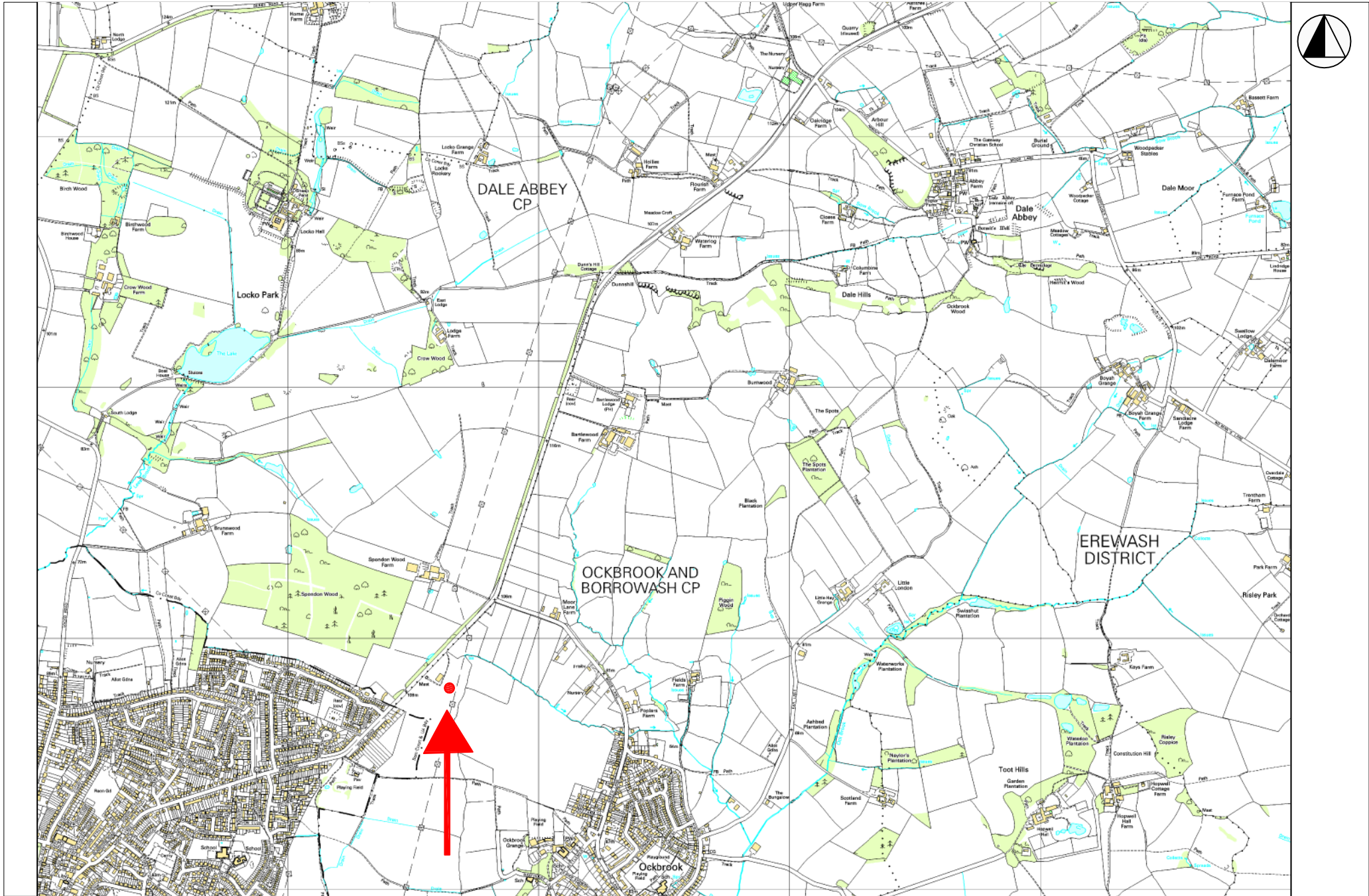
6.2 A deposit of made ground was identified extending across the footprint of the development. This was demonstrated to extend to a depth of between 400 and 500mm and directly overlay a layer of archaeologically sterile clay, interpreted as the natural formation.

6.3 Conversation with the owner of the development plot, Mr Neil Massie, confirmed that the area had been previously disturbed for use as a dump for modern agricultural and domestic waste and debris. The disturbance probably accounts for the absence of top-soil over most of the evaluated area with only vestigial remains in Area 02 and possibly in Area 01. This significantly reduces the likelihood of the development area containing an intact archaeological resource.

6.4 The development comprises the construction of a dwelling on a concrete raft (Mr Neil Massie, owner, pers com.). The foundation raft is to be inserted above the made ground, thereby nullifying any remaining risk of impacting on any archaeological resource. The line of the main service trench has also been evaluated and suggests that the archaeological implications of the remaining intrusive aspects of the development are likely to be very low.

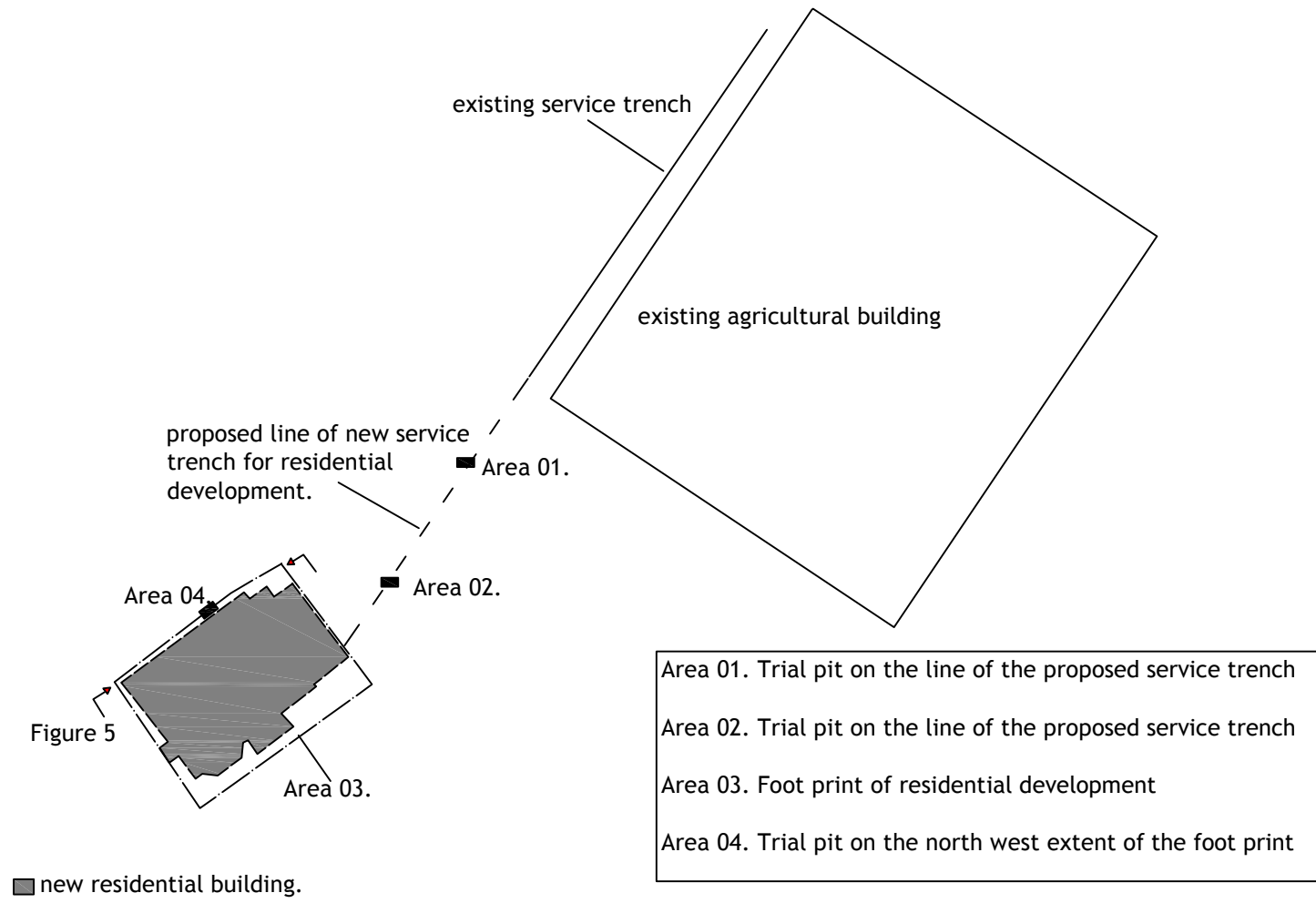
References

Baker, S. 2010 *Specification for Archaeological Work: Land south-east of Spondon Wood Farm, Dale Road, Ockbrook, ERE/0710/0058*. (DCC for Erewash Borough Council; 8th October 2010).



SWF: Spondon Wood Farm Watching brief.
 Figure 1. Location of proposed development area 400m SE of Spondon Wood Farm
 Scale 1:20,000 at A4 DW 13/04/2011

(Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618).



S N
 105.856m OD
 0001

0002

0003

0001- mid brown silty loam with concrete and brick, mortar and glass and modern pottery.
 0002- bright yellowish orange clay with lenses of light grey clay - natural.
 0003- mid greyish brown clay with lenses of yellowish orange and grey clay - natural.

Figure 3. West facing section of Area 01.

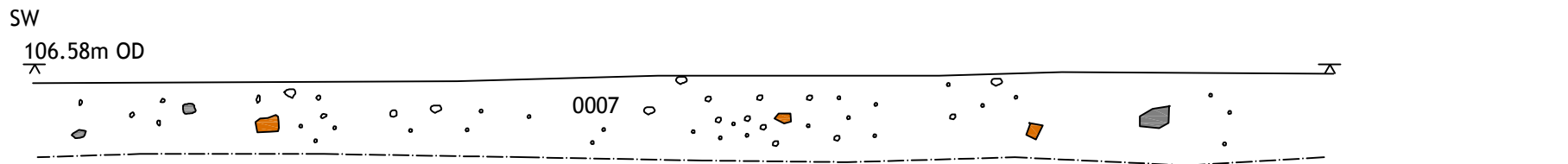
S N
 105,859m OD
 0004

0005

0006

0004 - dark brown silty loam with 11% rounded and angular stones
 0005 - mid brown silty clay loam with concrete and brick and 1% angular stones.
 0006 - bright yellowish orange clay with lenses of grey clay.

Figure 4. West facing section of Area 02.



- key:
- concrete.
 - brick
 - stones/pebbles

0007- mid brown to yellowish brown clay with concrete and brick fragments and charcoal flecks and mortar.

0008- yellowish orange sandy silt loam with grey clay lenses and 2% rounded stones.

0009- dark grey ash with modern pottery sherds.

0010- natural bright orange clay with grey clay lenses.



PLATE 1. Area 01 showing natural clay, 0002 and 0003, below made ground. Looking east.



PLATE 2. Area 02 showing natural clay, 0006, below vestigial top-soil, 0004. Note brick at the base of 0005. Looking east.

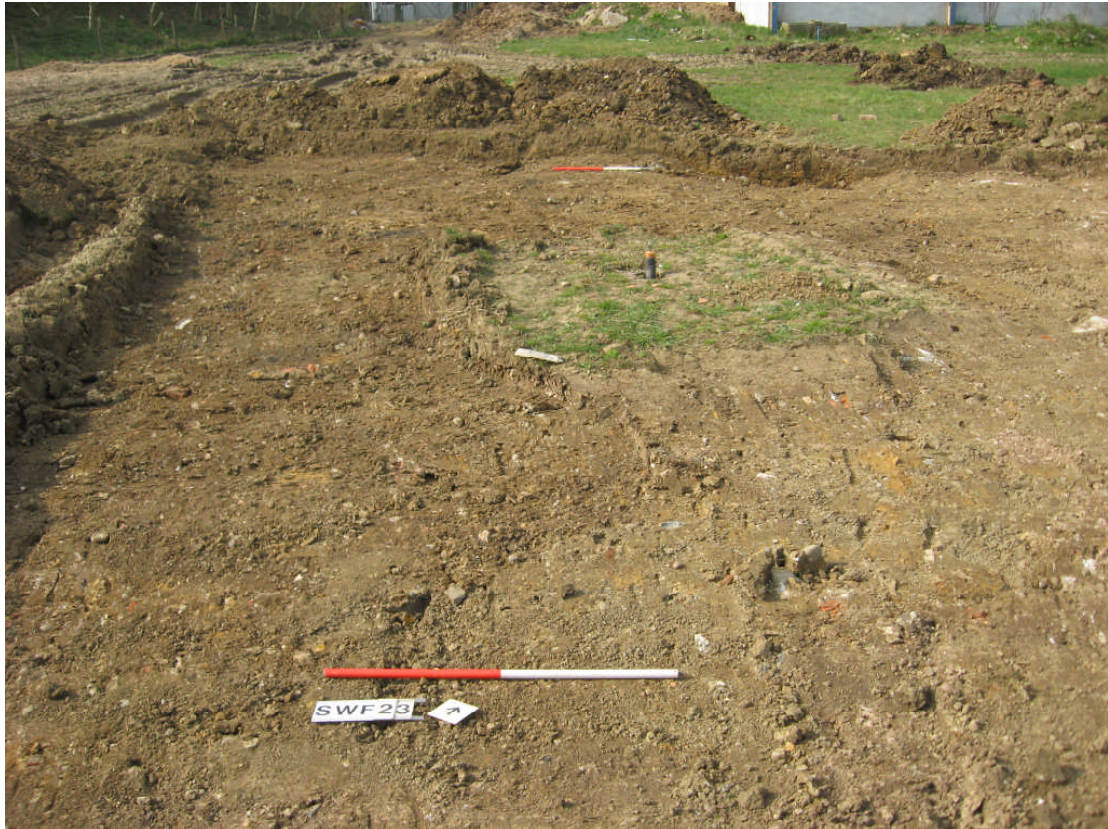


PLATE 3. Stripped surface of Area 03, building foot print showing yellowish brown clay with brick and concrete mixed in with it, 0004,. The grassed area is a gas monitoring pipe which was not disturbed in the course of the watching brief. Looking north-west.



PLATE 4. Area 04, trial trench in base of Area 03. Note the clean yellow clay, 0010, in the hand dug sondage. Looking north.



PLATE 5. Area 03 with existing cattle barns in the background. Looking north-east.

Appendix 1: Summary Context Listing

- 0001 – Area 01. Mid brown silty loam with concrete, brick, mortar, glass and modern pottery.
Maximum thickness 400mm.
- 0002 – Area 01. Bright yellowish orange clay with lenses of light grey clay, natural.
Maximum thickness 200mm.
- 0003 – Area 01. Mid greyish brown clay with lenses of light yellowish orange and light grey clay.
Maximum observed thickness 210mm.
- 0004 – Area 02. Top-soil dark brown silty loam. The only observed top-soil within the evaluated area.
Maximum thickness 200mm.
- 0005 – Area 02. Mid brown silty clay loam with concrete, brick, and charcoal. similar to 0001.
Maximum thickness 200mm.
- 0006 – Area 02. Bright yellowish orange clay with lenses of grey clay, natural.
Maximum observed thickness 400mm.
- 0007 – Area 03. Mid brown to yellowish brown clay with concrete and brick fragments, charcoal and mortar. Maximum thickness 320mm.
- 0008 – Area 04. Yellowish orange sandy silt loam with grey clay lenses.
Maximum thickness 180mm.
- 0009 – Area 04. Dark grey ash with modern pottery.
Maximum thickness 120mm.
- 0010 – Area 04. Bright orange clay with grey clay lenses, natural.
Maximum observed thickness 160mm.

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OASIS ID: trentpea1-98991

Project details

Project name	Land south-east of Spondon Wood Farm, Ockbrook
Short description of the project	Supervised strip of the development footprint, prior to the construction of a four bedroom agricultural workers dwelling.
Project dates	Start: 28-03-2011 End: 31-12-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE EREWASH OCKBROOK AND BORROWASH Land South-East of Spondon Wood Farm, Ockbrook
Study area	60.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 4166 3677 52.9264043767 -1.3802218451 52 55 35 N 001 22 48 W Polygon
Entered by	Howard Jones (howard.jones@nottingham.ac.uk)
Entered on	12 April 2011

OASIS:

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APPENDIX 3 Index of Archive and arrangements for deposition

<i>Field Records</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Watching brief sheet	Record of visit and work carried out	1
Drawing record	List of drawings made on site	1
Photographic record	List of photographs taken on site	1
Context records	Record of contexts recorded on site	10
Site drawings on A3 sheets	Site plan @1:200 Section drawings @1:20 on A3 permatrace	1 3
Photographs:- Digital B&W (with negatives)	All views Recorded sections	16 12
Finds	None	None
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the watching brief.	1

Archive Deposition.

The archive is currently held in the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Lenton House, University of Nottingham. It will be deposited at the Derby Museum and Art Gallery, project code SWF, accession number DBYMU 2010-299. The archive will be deposited by the end of October 2011.