Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the former Bristol Street Motors, Alfreton Road, Derby, Derbyshire (SK 356 376)

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1. Summary

An Archaeological evaluation was carried on land at the former Bristol Street Motors, Alfreton Road, Derby, Derbyshire (SK 356 376) for ten days between 29th March and 17th April 2007. This work was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of residential dwellings. This work was undertaken on behalf of George Wimpey Ltd. by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services. Six evaluation trenches were excavated which revealed undated boundary ditches, probable medieval furrows and plough-soils, the remains of the 19th-century railway embankment and a flood deposit of 1965, in the north of the site. The south of the site not only revealed medieval boundary ditches and furrows but also evidence for Roman occupation from a mid first-century ditch (possibly pre-fort), post holes, and features containing charcoal and daub from disused timber structures. An abundance of 2nd century pottery through to pottery from the 3rd and possibly 4th centuries residually within the medieval plough-soil, indicating the longevity of occupation in the immediate area was also recovered. The site archive will be held at Derby City Museum, accession number DBYMU 2006-432.

2. Introduction

2.1 This report provides details of the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at the former Bristol Street Motors site, Alfreton Road, Chester Green, Derby (SK 356 376) (Fig.1). The work was undertaken on behalf of George Wimpey Ltd. by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

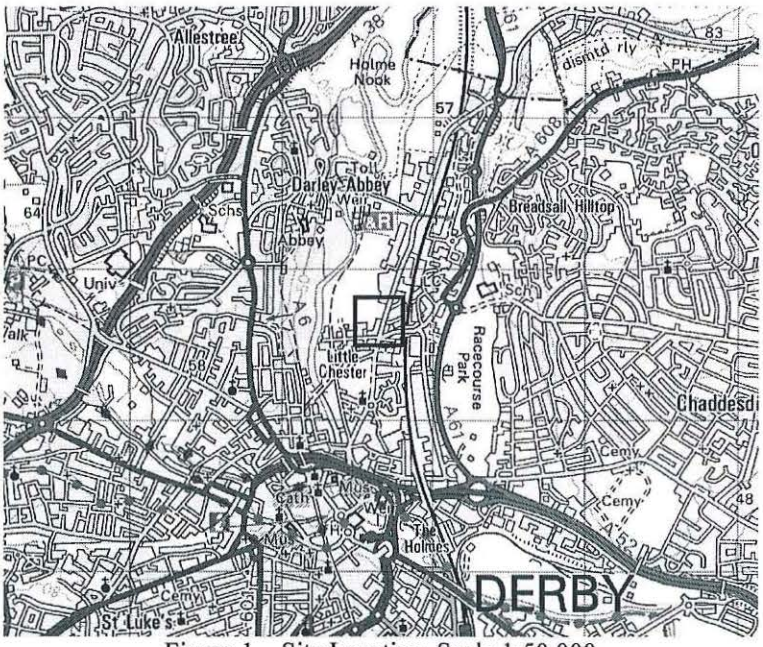

Figure 1 – Site Location. Scale 1:50,000

2.2 George Wimpey Ltd. propose to redevelop the site, amounting to 0.8574ha, to residential use. The Development Control Archaeologist for Derby City Council, in his capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, requested that a preliminary archaeological assessment of the site area be carried out. The assessment was to be undertaken in two stages, the first an archaeological desk-based assessment, which was previously carried out by ULAS (Bocock, 2006), and a second stage of archaeological trial trench evaluation following the results of the desk-based assessment.

2.3 The desk-based assessment concluded that the site lies in an area of considerable archaeological interest, particularly for the Roman period. Three archaeological sites have been identified within the development area; the Great Northern Railway (99013), a Roman Vicus (18907, 18949) and a Roman road (32054). The area has potential to contain buried archaeological deposits relating to various Roman activities. There is no evidence for prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon/medieval activity on the site, which lies outside the historic medieval core of the town of Derby and is likely to have been given over to agriculture during this period. The degree of preservation of any potential archaeology is unknown, although there are areas where archaeological remains may be relatively well preserved beneath the present ground surface, particularly in the south-west section of the site. The proposed development area therefore has moderate potential for containing archaeological remains of Roman and post-medieval date and lower for remains of earlier and later periods (Bocock, 2006).

3. Site Background

3.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 125 indicates that the site lies on Alluvial deposits. The site lies at a height of *c.*47.8m O.D. and the land is fairly flat.

3.2 The development area consists of *c.*0.8574ha within which is proposed a number of residential buildings. The site currently consists of a number of single-storey buildings of the former Bristol Street Motors, with areas of tarmac hard standing. Close to the street frontage, there was formerly a petrol filling station and it is understood that the tanks are still in situ (Fig.2).

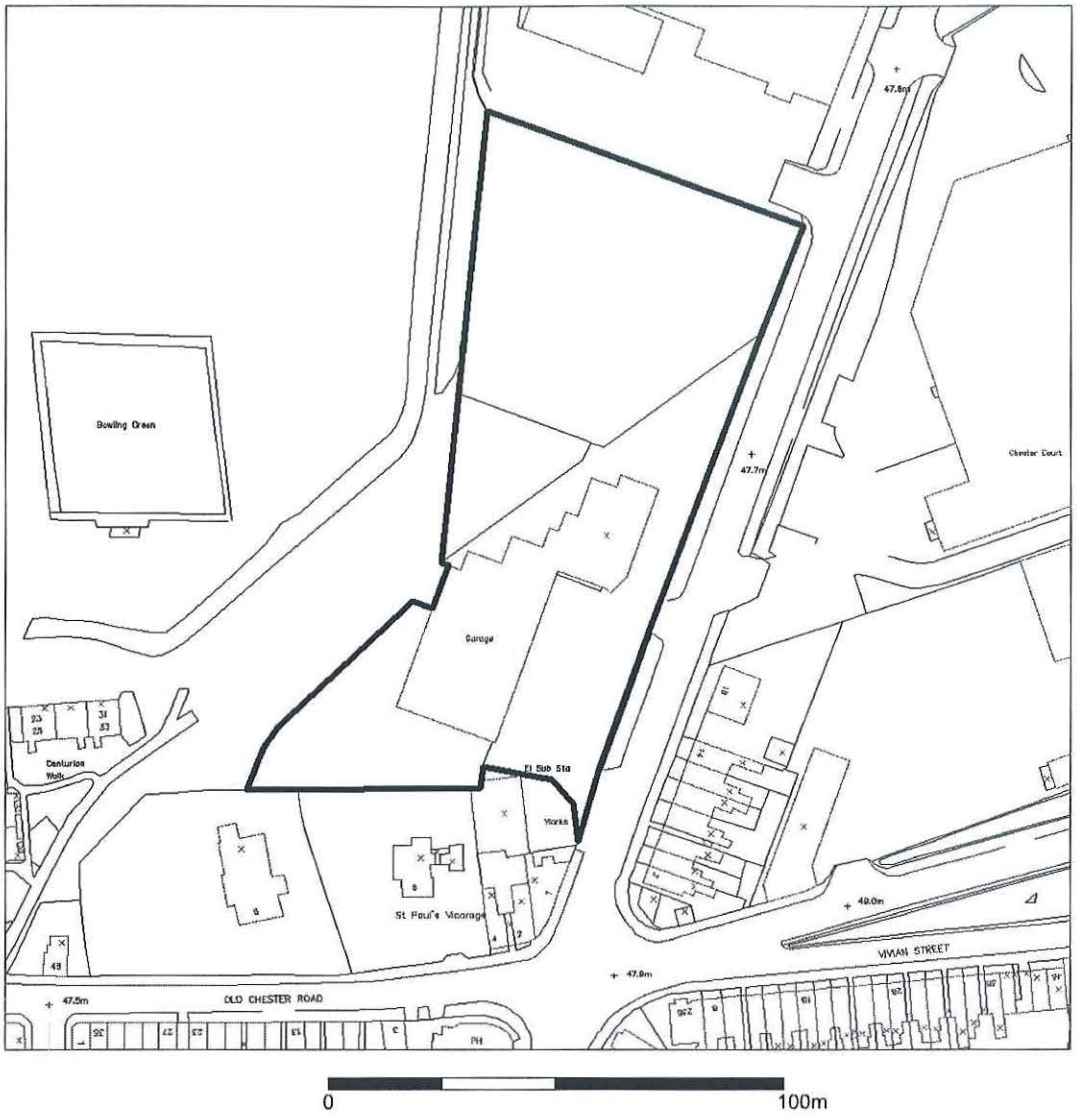

Figure 2 – Site Location showing site boundary and current buildings.

4. Methodology

4.1 All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their relevant *Standard and Guidance.*

4.2 The main objectives of the evaluation were:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To assess the potential impact upon buried archaeological deposits from the proposed development.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

4.3 The Derby City Development Control Archaeologist had requested that the site will be subject to trial trenching to provide a 5% sample of the area (8574sq.m) (Buckley, 2006). This would have comprised nine 30m by 1.6m trenches totalling 441sq.m located to provide an even spread across the whole area, avoiding standing buildings and known areas of disturbance, such as petrol tanks on the frontage. However, due to the area covered by the buildings, petrol tanks, the placement of the current live services (gas, electricity, water and culvert) and current bore holes, only a 3.14% sample was possible giving an area of 269sq.m (Fig.3).

4.4 Topsoil/modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by JCB 3C and subsequently a 360 tracked machine using a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to a width of 1.6m, 1.8m and 2.0m where appropriate.

4.5 Trenches were examined by appropriate hand cleaning. Any archaeological deposits or significant natural deposits were planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans have been tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

4.6 Sections were drawn as appropriate, including records of at least one longitudinal face of each trench.

4.7 Trench locations were recorded using an electronic distance measurer (EDM) and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

5. Results

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 Details

Length of Trench	17m
Area of Trench	42.4sq.m
Surface Level (m OD)	*c*.47.9
Base of Trench (m OD)	*c*.46.2

Trench one was located in the north-east of the site and orientated north-east by south-west (Fig.3).

Once through the tarmac and hard standing of *c*.0.4m, the presumed remnants of the railway embankment were encountered. This consisted of a red clay matrix with medium to very large irregular sandstone blocks *c*.0.4m thick. This was seen from the eastern end of the trench through to 12.3m on the northern side and 14.7m on the southern side. To the west of this was a reinforced retaining wall on the same orientation, presumably associated with the embankment and defining its western edge. Below this was a mid greenish-brown alluvial silty-clay, *c*.0.9m thick, which once removed, revealed a clean light yellow-brown clay alluvium with frequent manganese deposits.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered from this trench, other than the presence of the Railway embankment.

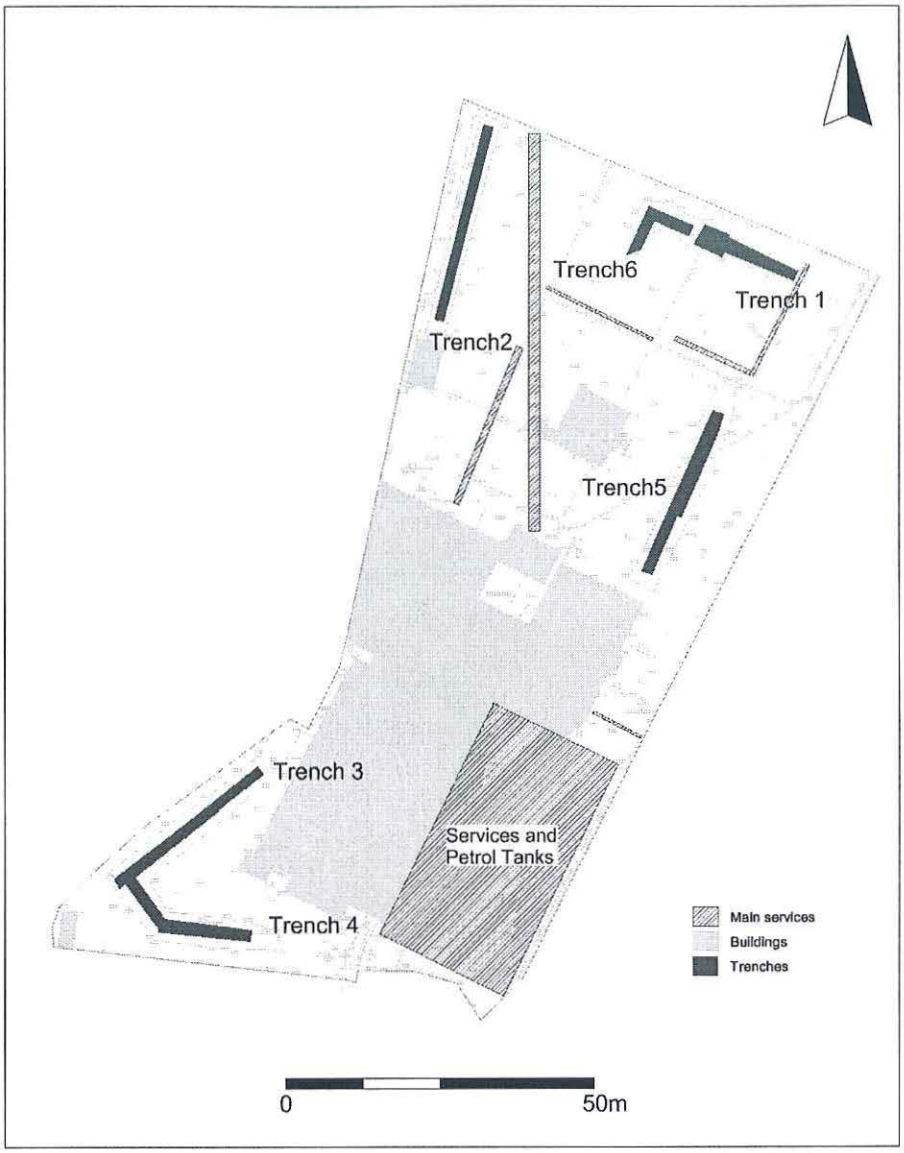

Figure 3 – Trench locations as seen around the existing buildings and services.
(background site map courtesy of Nick Downes, Tower Surveys Ltd).

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 Details

Length of Trench	33m
Area of Trench	49sq.m
Surface Level (m OD)	*c*.47.7
Base of Trench (m OD)	*c*.46.02

Trench two was located in the north-west of the site running parallel with the site boundary, orientated north-east by south-west (Fig.3).

Once the overburden of *c*.0.7m depth was removed, a uniform band of greenish-grey alluvium was reached of *c*.0.1m thickness (also encountered in trenches five and six and presumed to be the flood deposit from 1965). Below this was a series of early 20th century pits throughout the trench of *c*.3-4m diameter which contained ceramics, bottles (glass) and metalwork. These were *c*.0.3-0.5m in depth. Below this, a dark grey alluvium was encountered of 0.14m thickness, and revealed a cultivated (ploughed) alluvium (1) which consisted of a dark greenish-brown firm silty-clay with rare small rounded stone, very rare small ceramic building material (CBM) fragments, occasional charcoal and frequent manganese. This deposit was *c*.0.37m thick.

The southern edge of an undated gulley was located in the very northern baulk of the trench [3] (Fig.4), orientated north-east to south-west, which contained a mid greenish-brown silty clay with rare rounded stone and frequent charcoal flecks (2). Only 0.2-0.4m was seen and the gulley ran the width of the trench (1.6m).

Below this was a natural light yellow-brown clay alluvium with frequent manganese. No artefacts were recovered from the trench.

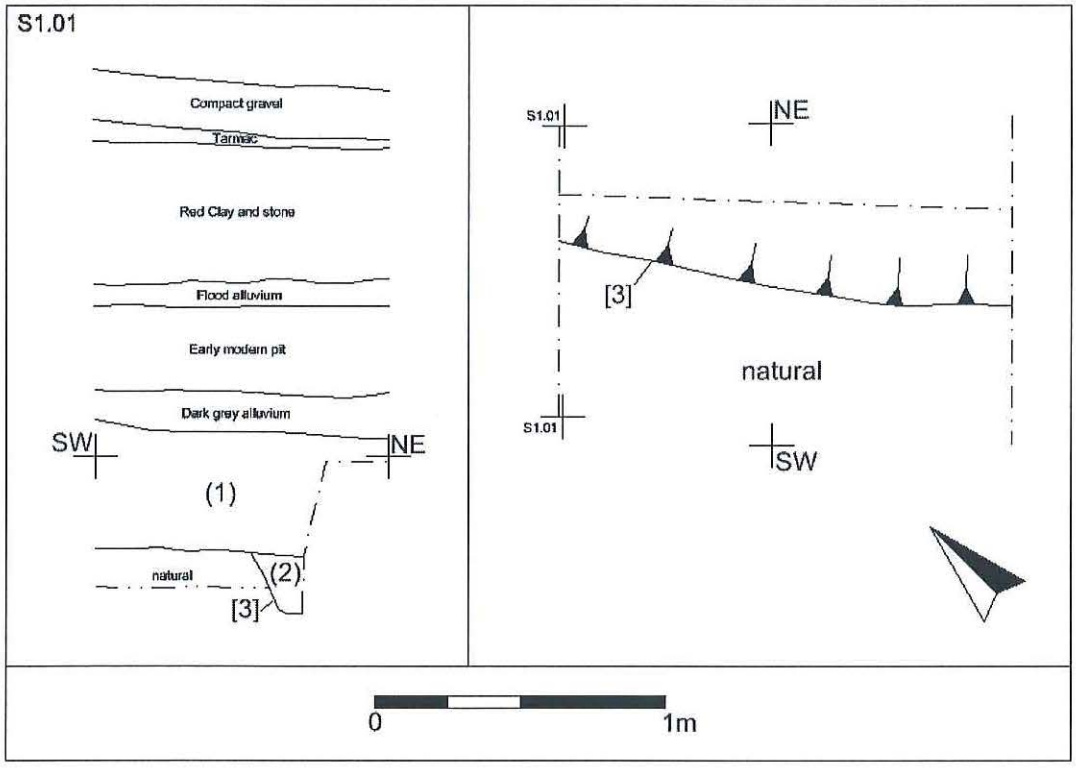

Figure 4 – Trench two showing undated boundary/drainage gulley [3].

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 Details

Length of Trench	29.5m
Area of Trench	52.2sq.m
Surface Level (m OD)	*c*.48
Base of Trench (m OD)	*c*.46.05

Trench three was located in the south-west of the site (forming a 'T'-shaped trench with trench four) and orientated north-east by south-west (Fig.3 and 5, Plate 1).

Plate 1 – Trench three, looking south-west.

Once the modern overburden was removed to a depth of *c.*1.2m, a mid green grey-brown compact clayey silt with rare charcoal, CBM and small to medium rounded stone (4) was encountered for *c.*0.23m. Below this was a light-mid yellow-brown friable clayey silt with rare CBM, charcoal flecks and small rounded stone (5) *c.*0.24m deep and contained one sherd of pottery of a post-medieval date, and two residual sherds of 13th- to 14th-century medieval pottery. Below this was a mid-dark grey-brown friable-compact clayey-silt with occasional small rounded and angular stone, rare CBM and charcoal (6). This layer was 0.2-0.33m thick and contained pottery of a medieval date. However, this layer also yielded a large quantity of variably abraded small sherds of Roman pottery from the 2nd to 3rd possibly 4th centuries and a probable glass bead (Sf1) which, although unstratified, is likely to be from this layer. This layer would also dip over gulley features and filled probable furrows [11] [27] and [33].

Below this were five probable pits. Pit [15] was 1.07m north-west by south-east and extended under the baulk and circular in shape (Fig.5 and 6, Plate 2). 1.9m was visible north-east by south-west. It was 0.36m deep and consisted of a mid grey-brown compact silty clay with occasional charcoal and CBM/daub flecks and small rounded stone (16) and contained pottery from the late 2nd century. Pit [17] was 2m to the south-west of [15], 1.7m south-east to north-west (extending under the baulk) and 2.6m north-east to south-west. It was *c.*0.3m deep, irregular in shape and consisted of an identical fill (18) to (16), and contained pottery from the mid-2nd to early 3rd century. A small counter made from re-used Samian ware was also recovered from context (18) (Sf4).

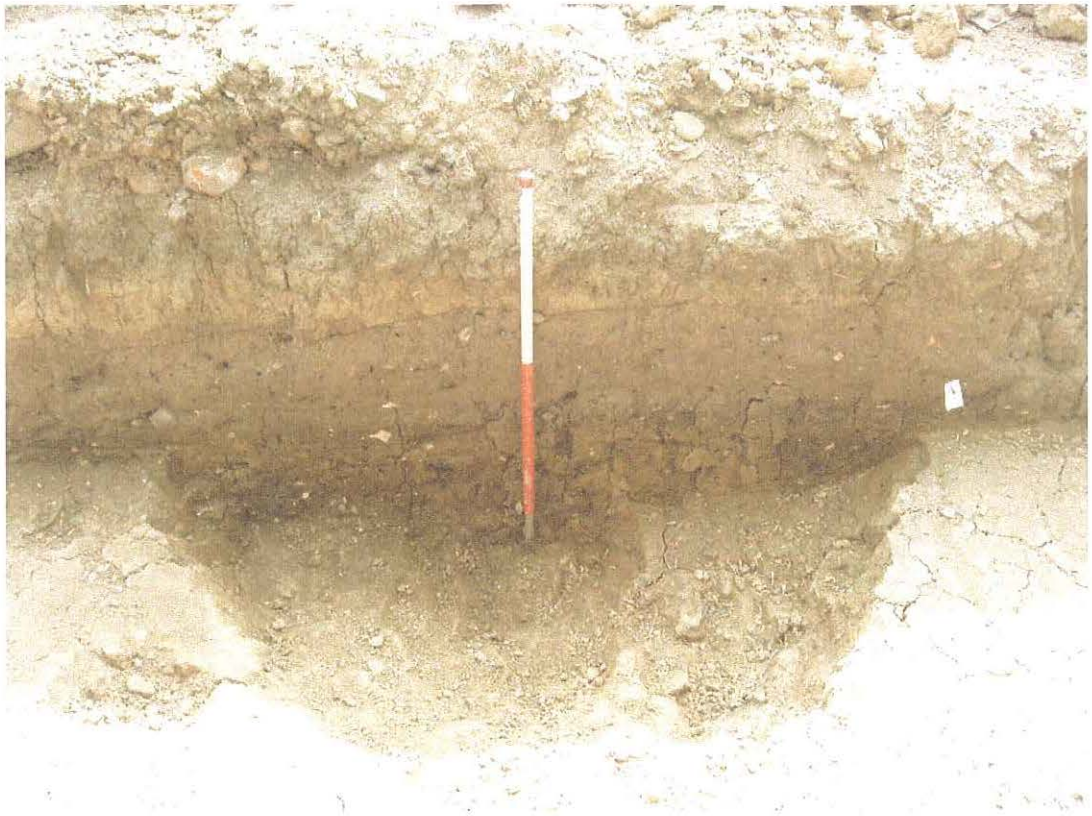

Plate 2 – Pit [15] in trench three, looking south-east.

Pit [29] is the same as pit [37] in trench four and will be described there as only the edge was only observed for 0.05m by 0.4m.

Possible pits [23] and [25] were truncated by pits [15] and [17] respectively and both consisted of a mid orange grey-brown compact silty clay with rare small rounded stone, and very rare charcoal and CBM flecks (24) and (26) respectively. They were not excavated.

A ditch [9] was located in the north of the trench orientated north-south, and was 1.66m wide and 0.39m deep (Figs.5 and 6). It consisted of a mid grey-brown friable-compact silty-clay with occasional small rounded stone, rare charcoal and very rare CBM flecks (10). Initial cleaning of the ditch revealed context (8) to the north-east of context (10), however both were similar and indistinguishable upon excavation and recording in section, and was probably an interface with the natural near the cut edge. The pottery from context (8) and (10) was of 13th- to 14th-century date (with residual 2nd century pottery) and a residual copper-alloy needle (Sf2) of Roman date.

A gulley [19] was located 16m from the north end of the trench orientated north-south, was 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep (Fig. 5 and 6). It consisted of a mid orange grey-brown friable clayey silt with occasional small rounded stone, rare charcoal and very rare CBM flecks and manganese (20) and contained pottery from the mid-late 2nd century and a copper-alloy coin (Sf3) of the mid to late 3rd century.

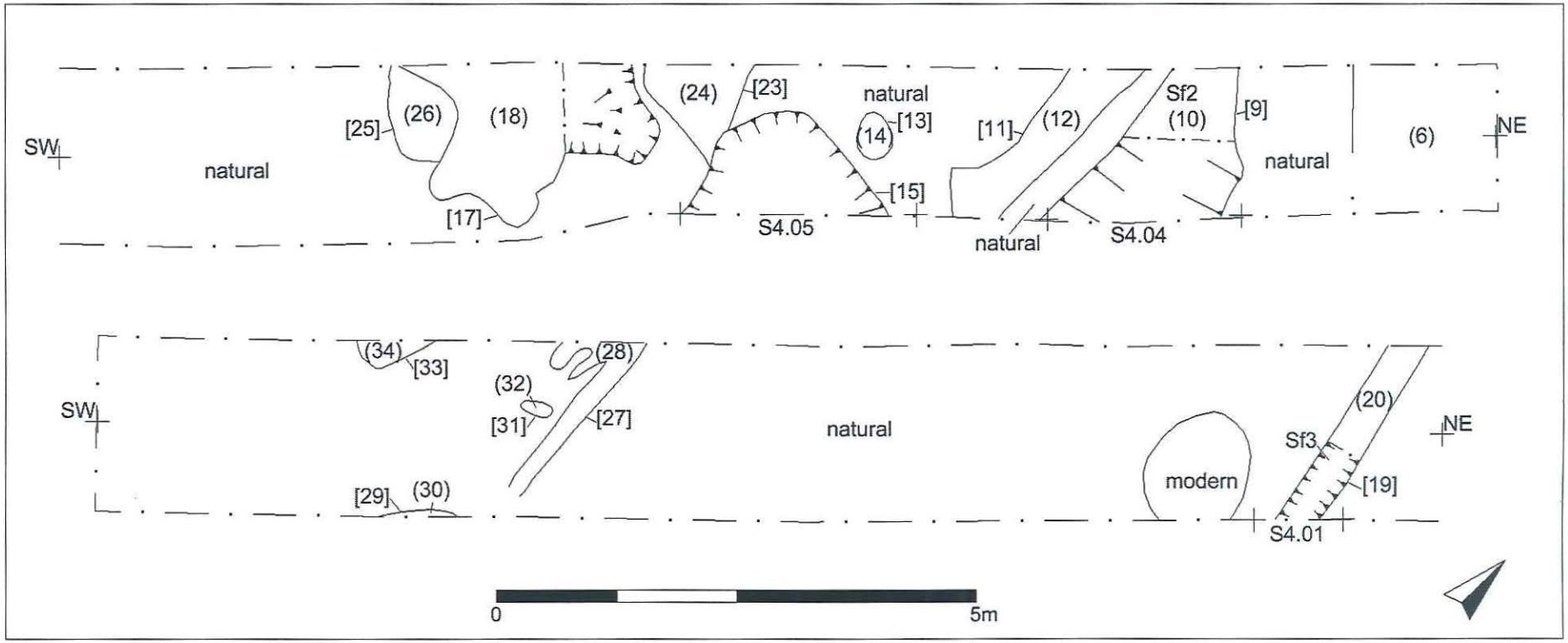

Figure 5 – Trench three showing revealed archaeology, interventions and section locations.

Two possible postholes were observed, [13] was 0.36m by 0.45m and consisted of a mid grey-brown compact silty clay with rare small rounded stone, charcoal and CBM flecks (14). Context [31] was less certain, being only 0.3m by 0.12m and consisted of a mid orange-brown clayey silt with rare small rounded stone and charcoal. Neither was excavated.

The natural substratum again consisted of the light yellow-brown alluvial clay with frequent manganese.

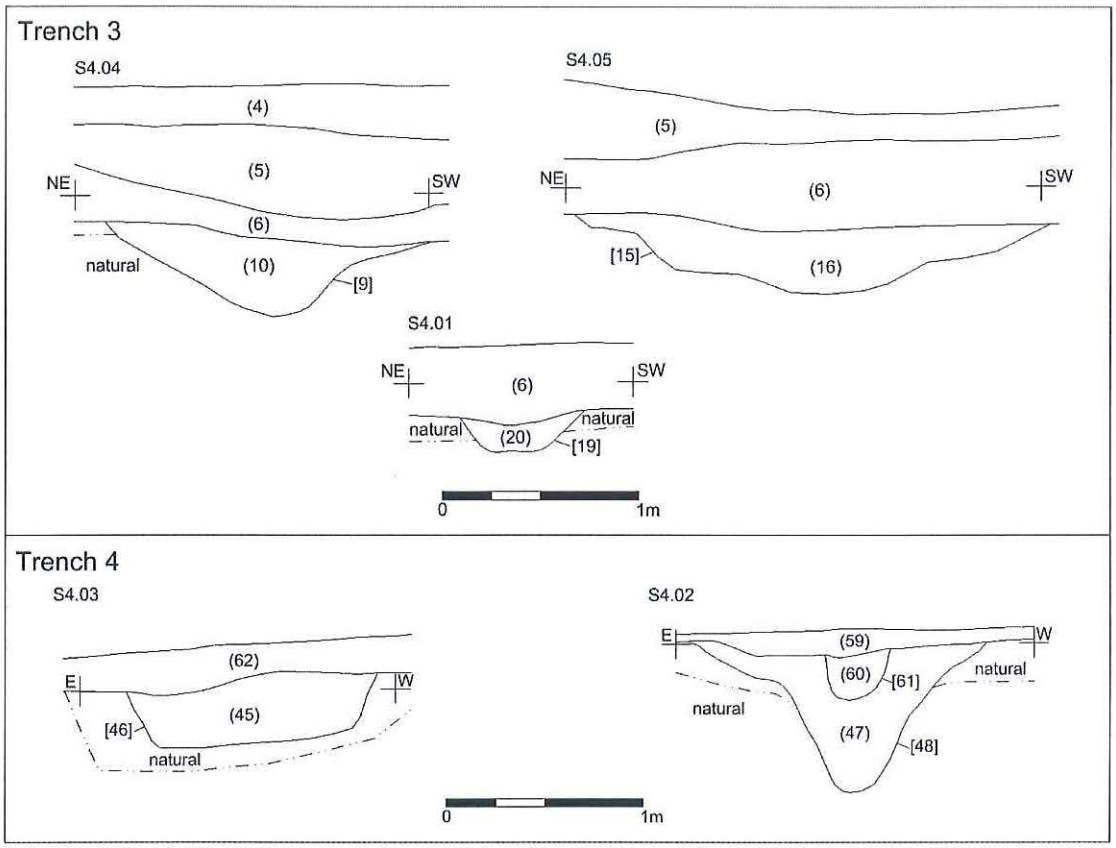

Figure 6 - Sections of features in trenches three and four.

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 Details

Length of Trench	23.2m
Area of Trench	45sq.m
Surface Level (m OD)	*c.*47.7
Base of Trench (m OD)	*c.*45.9

Trench four was located in the very south-west of the site (forming a 'T'-shaped trench with trench three) and orientated north-west to south-east for 9m and then east-west (Fig.3 and 7, Plate 3).

The modern overburden was *c.*1m in depth. This revealed the same three layers, (4), (5) and (6). They were of similar depths except for layers (5) and (6) which were less

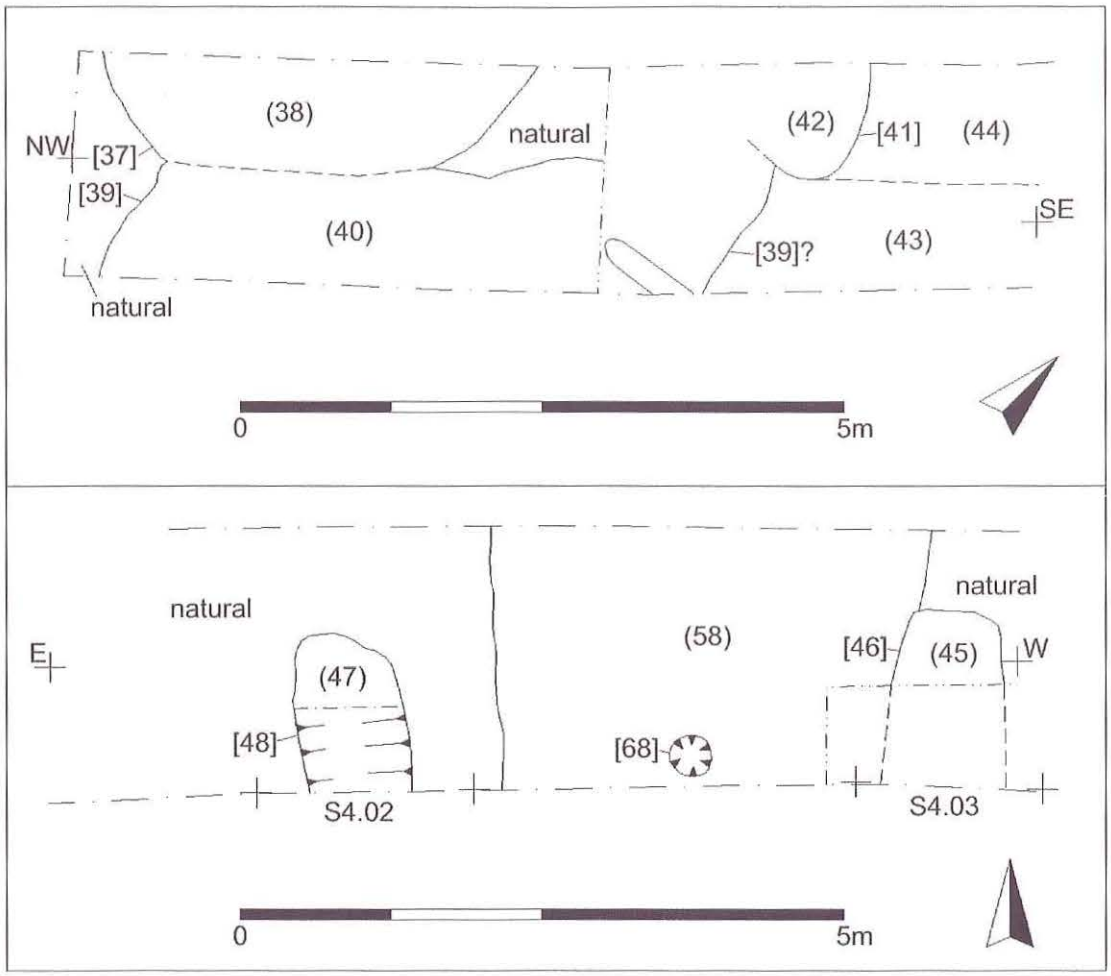

Figure 7 – Trench four showing revealed archaeology, interventions and section locations.

Plate 3 – Trench four, looking north-west.

deep and varied in depth over the archaeology below. One probable furrow was observed.

Feature [41] was observed below layer (6), in the western segment of trench four. Its function and dimensions are essentially unknown. It consisted of a mid-orangey grey-brown friable-compact silty-clay with occasional small rounded stone and charcoal, and rare CBM flecks (42). Its relationship with Pit [39] is uncertain.

Below (6) in the eastern segment of trench four was layer (59) (=(62)), which consisted of a grey-brown compact clayey-silt with frequent small daub/CBM fragments and charcoal flecks, and rare small rounded stone.

Below this layer posthole [61] was observed in section. It was 0.31m east-west and 0.25m deep with near vertical sides and a curved base. It consisted of a mid grey brown compact clayey-silt with frequent charcoal flecks and rare small rounded stone (62).

This posthole truncated ditch [48] (Fig.6 and 7). It had shallow breaks of slope deepening to 80 degree sides with a curved base. It was 1.45m at its widest, though generally 0.8m where it deepens, 0.75m deep and extended into the trench from the south for 1.3m orientated north-south. It consisted of a light-mid greyish-green-brown compact clayey-silt with frequent charcoal and rare small rounded stone (47). It contained pottery dating from the mid 1st century. A piece of iron rich, reduced fired, organic rich clay with plant traces that had been cut was also collected from this context.

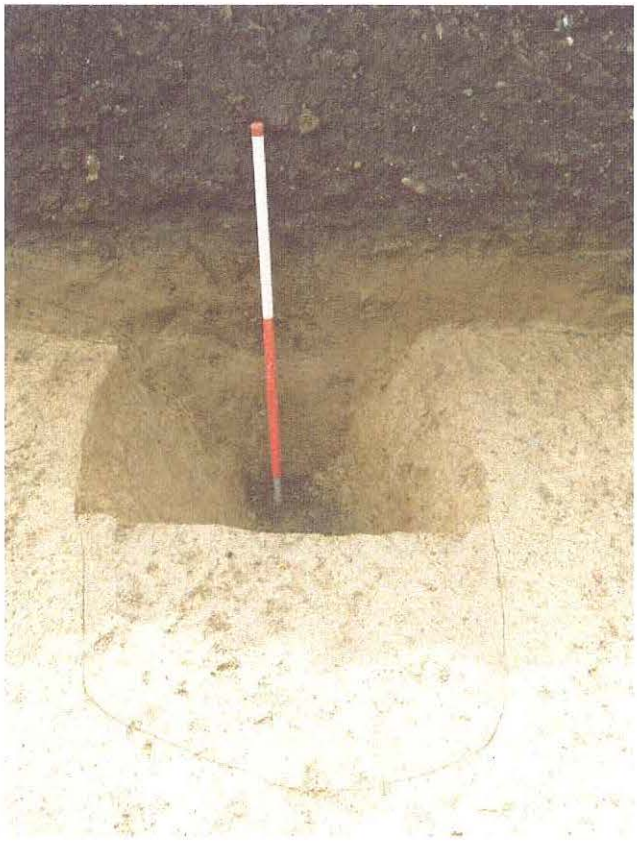

Plate 4 – Ditch [48] in trench four, looking south.

Also below (59 (=62)) was a possible pit or ditch butt-end [46] to the east of these (Fig.6 and 7), and consisted of a light-mid grey friable silty-clay with very frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded stone (45). It was 1.3m wide, 0.36m deep and extended into the trench from the southern edge for 1.5m orientated north-south. It contained pottery from the 2nd century.

Posthole [68] was observed below layer (6), but may have been below layer (59). It was 0.29m in diameter and 0.11m deep. It consisted of a mid grey-brown compact clayey-silt with frequent charcoal flecks and daub/CBM and rare small rounded pebbles (67).

Posthole [68] and feature [46] both truncated layer (58) which was observed in the eastern extent of trench four. It was c.3.7m in length and spanned the trench. It consisted of a light-mid yellowish-brown compact silty-clay with occasional small rounded stone and rare charcoal flecks.

Below (6) in the western extent of trench four, was a layer (43 = 44) which also consisted of a light-mid yellowish-brown compact silty-clay with occasional small rounded stone and rare charcoal. It was the width of the trench and observed for 3.3m, starting 5.3m from the western end of the trench. It contained pottery from the late1st to early 2nd century to the 2nd century.

Layers (58) and (43 = 44) are likely to be the same, and were machined away when features were not present.

In the western extent of trench four, pits [37] and [39] were observed truncating the natural (Fig.7). Pit [39] maybe truncating layer (43). The relationship between these two pits was as uncertain as [39] with [41], they all had identical fills (refer to (42) above). A quantity of animal bone was observed but not collected. One sherd of pottery was retrieved from the surface of (40), pit [39], and was from the late 2nd to possibly 4th century.

5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 Details

Length of Trench	28m
Area of Trench	58.49sq.m
Surface Level (m OD)	*c.*47.85
Base of Trench (m OD)	*c.*46

Trench five was located towards the eastern side of the site and orientated north-east by south-west (Fig.3 and 8).

The modern overburden varied in depth from 1.4m in the south to 0.85m by 15.4m north. From then on, it was c.0.2-0.3m in depth and lay over the eastern edge of the railway embankment.

The embankment was 0.45-0.65m in depth for the remainder of the trench, north, on the western edge of the trench. The embankment was seen at 25.4m from the south on the eastern edge. It was identical in consistency to trench one. Where the embankment

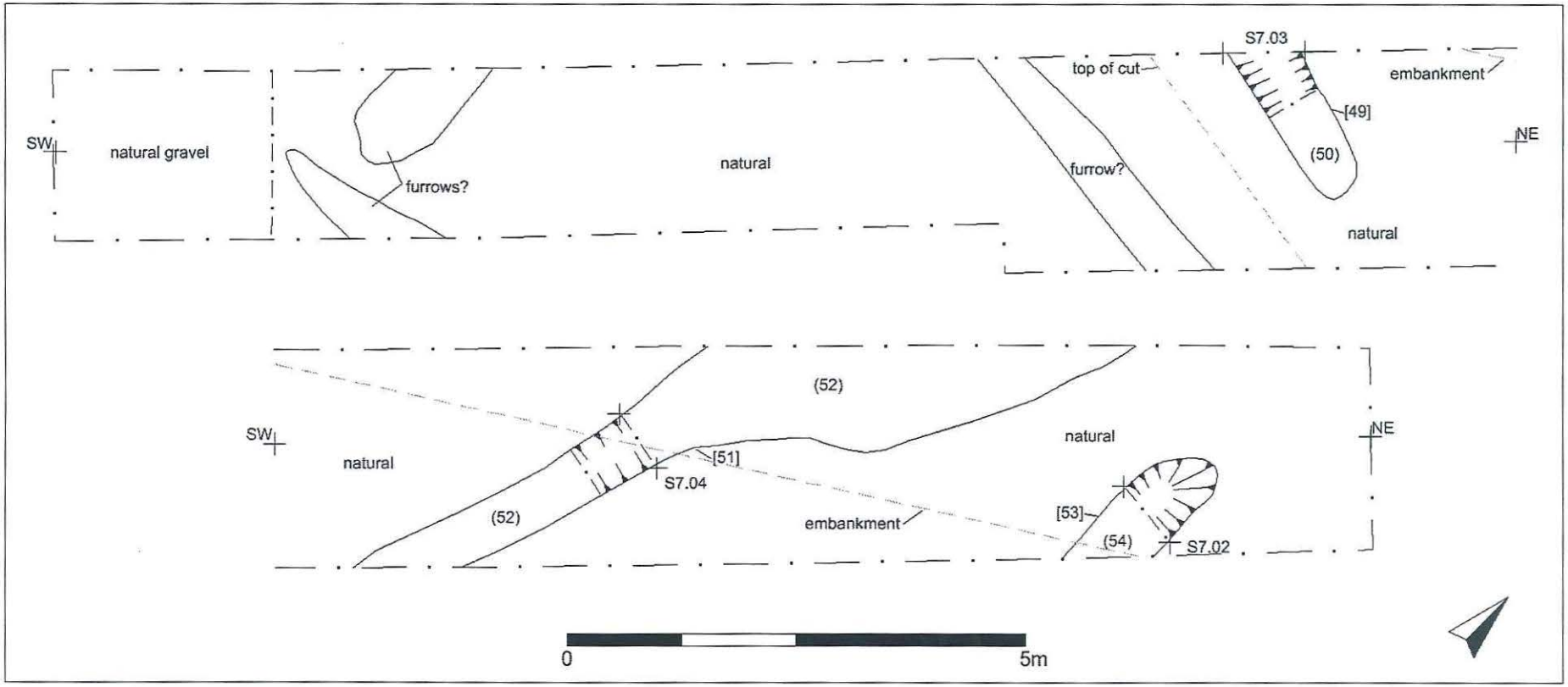

Figure 8 – Trench five showing revealed archaeology, interventions and section locations.

was not present, and the modern overburden was not that deep, a 0.13m thick uniform layer of a mid blue-grey compact silty-clay was observed (57) 0.95m below present. This is the same layer that was present in trenches 2 and 6 (and presumed to be the flood deposit from 1965).

Below this was a concave cut at 12m from the south of the trench on the western side. The bottom of the cut truncated the natural alluvium at 10.6m from the south, also on the western side. At the bottom of this cut, a linear gulley feature was observed on the same alignment (east-west) filled with the same mid green-brown silty clay. However, the cut did not rise to the south and truncated all the way to the south of the trench and beyond. Two other furrow-like features were also observed in the south of the trench filled with the same material. One furrow was on the same alignment and one was north-south, 0.3m to the west. The main cut itself was roughly aligned with the railway embankment.

Below this cut was a mid greenish orangey-brown compact silty-clay alluvium (56) similar in nature to trench two context (1) and the mid brown alluvium in trenches one and six. It contained occasional small rounded stone, rare charcoal and very rare CBM flecks, was *c*.0.5m deep and was present from 12m in the south through to the very north of the trench.

Below this layer was a mid orange-brown compact silty-clay (55) which contained rare small rounded stone and occasional manganese, was 0.11m thick and present from *c*.11m in the south throughout the trench to the north.

Below this were three undated gulleys (Fig.8 and 9). Gulley [49] was 0.7m wide, orientated east-west and terminated 1.6m into the trench, entering from the western edge. It consisted of a mid-orange-brown, compact silty-clay with frequent manganese, occasional small rounded stone and rare charcoal (50). Gulley [51] was orientated north-south, and between 0.68m and at least 0.9m wide where the trench was less deep. It runs for *c*.8m north-south and was 0.2m deep at its thinnest. It consisted of a mid orange grey-brown compact silty-clay with occasional manganese, iron panning, small rounded stone, rare charcoal and calcium carbonate flecks (52). Gulley [53] also terminated in the trench after entering from the eastern side, orientated north-south and running for *c*.1.8m. The terminus appeared to be truncated and was very shallow. It consisted of a mid orange grey-brown compact silty-clay with occasional small rounded stone and manganese, rare charcoal and very rare CBM flecks and iron panning (54).

The natural alluvium was the same light yellow-brown clay with frequent manganese. A light orangey-yellow gravel was located in the very south of the trench where it was *c*.0.2m below the alluvium.

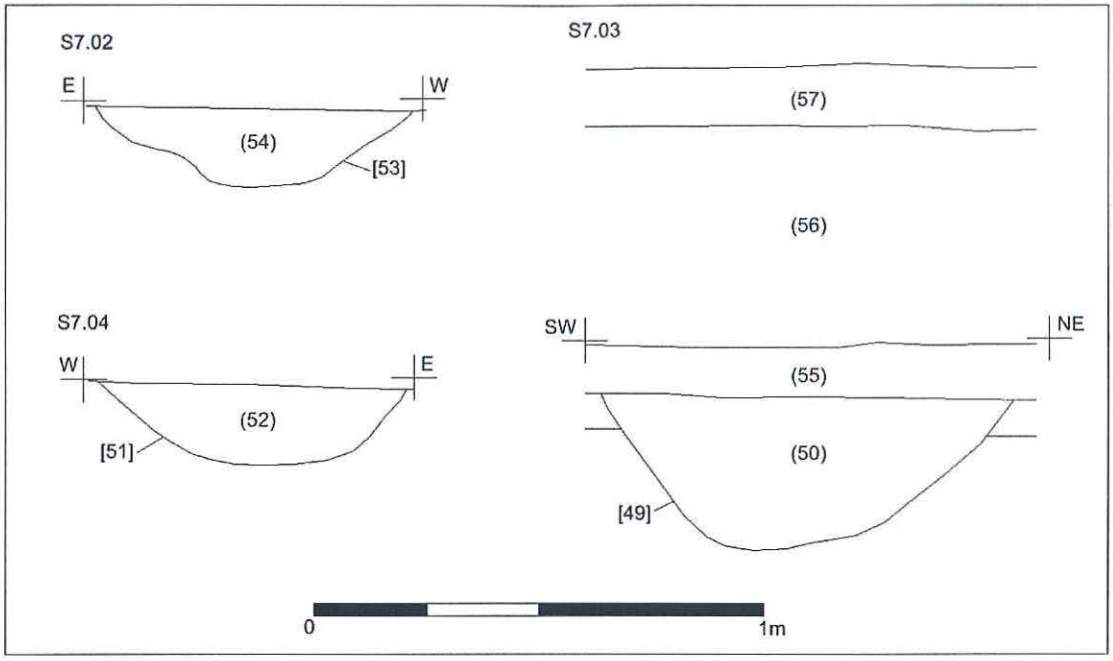

Figure 9 – Sections of features in trench five.

5.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 Details

Length of Trench	14m
Area of Trench	25sq.m
Surface Level (m OD)	*c.*47.7
Base of Trench (m OD)	*c.*45.6-46.25

Trench six was located in the north of the site adjacent to trench one. It was basically an extension of trench one because a reinforced mixed concrete and brick fragment 'wall' was encountered at the western end of the trench, and the JCB was insufficiently powerful to cut through it. As it turned out, neither was the heavier 360 degree tracked machine which replaced the JCB, so a trench was continued on the other side of the 'wall'. The 'wall' was also reached at the southern end of trench six. A water service to the south of this prevented restarting on the other of the 'wall' here. Trench six was 'L' shaped orientated north-west to south-east and turning south, orientated north-east to south-west.

The modern overburden was 1.15m to 1.4m deep south-east to north-west and 1.6m to 1.75m north-east to south-west.

Below this was the same 1965 flood deposit of *c.*0.1m thick which revealed the mid greenish orangey-brown compact silty-clay alluvium (56) (as seen in trench one, two and five). The deposit was 0.5-0.8m thick.

This revealed two undated gulleys [63] and [65] (appearing as one before excavation) in the very north-eastern end of the trench, cutting the lowest alluvium and running through the trench. The relationship was very uncertain as they contained identical

fills, which consisted of a mid grey-brown compact clayey silt with rare small rounded stone and charcoal, (64) and (66). Gulley [63] was at least 0.9m wide and [65] at least 1.4m wide.

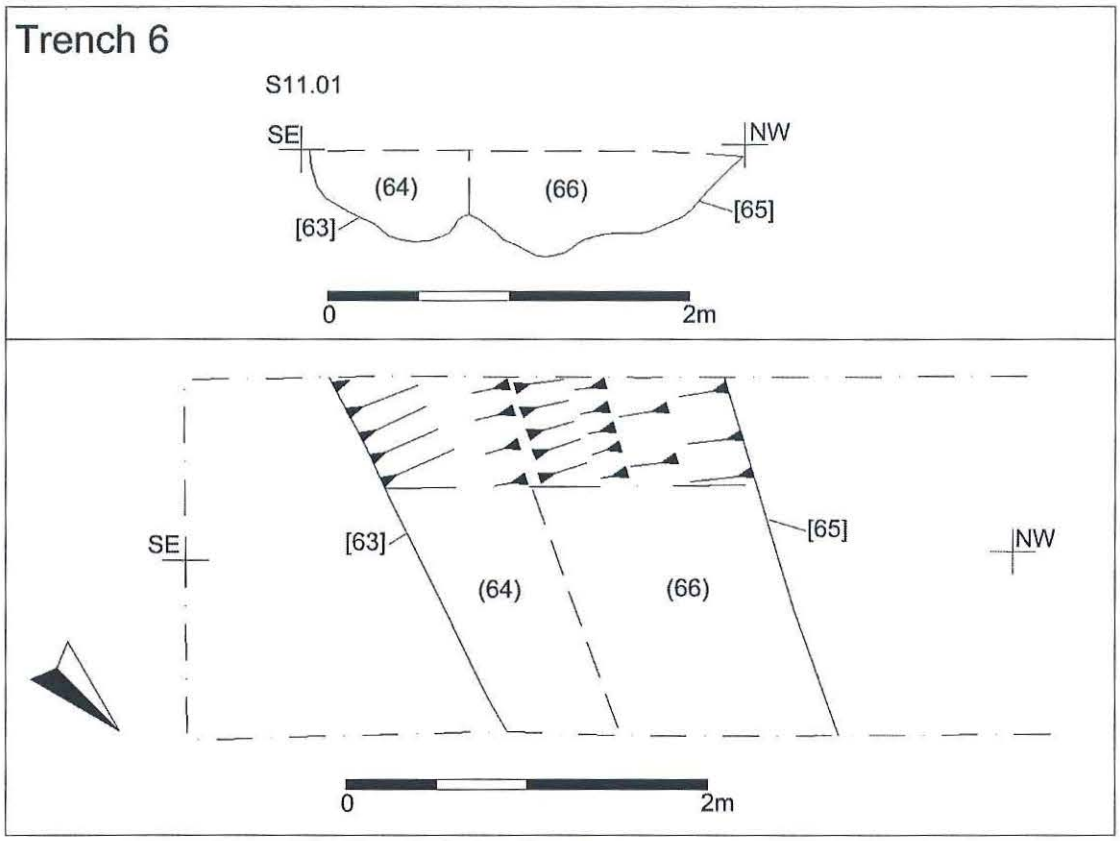

Figure 10 – Trench six showing plan of two gulleys and section.

The southern arm of trench six reached gravel natural, with an irregular-sided linear feature running down the middle of the trench. The grey-blue silty clay fill was indicative of waterlogging. It did not appear very deep either and probably natural in origin.

No artefacts were recovered from the trench.

6. Discussion

6.1 Early Roman

The north-south ditch [48], located in trench four, dated to the mid-1st century, appears to be un-truncated. The pottery group represented here has not been seen before in the Little Chester area (Dool, 1985), but all the material is comparable to transitional fabrics and forms with Late Iron Age antecedents found in Leicestershire and dates to the mid-late 1st century (Pollard 1994). The discovery of such pottery within this feature could date it either to the time of the construction of the fort, previously dated from pottery and coins to AD80, or could be immediately prior to its construction. Alternatively it could indicate the rate at which settlement spread along the roadside heading east from the fort.

Although undated, two postholes were also present in trench four, [68] and [61], the latter being in the top of the filled-in ditch [48]. This would indicate possible occupation here, as the early buildings in the vicinity are known to be of timber construction with wattle and daub. Daub fragments and the quantity of charcoal in later pits would also highlight this possibility, along with the residual Samian tablewares located within the disturbed soils above (6). However, more evidence would be needed to confirm such statements.

6.2 Mid Roman

A boundary or drainage ditch [19] running east-west in the middle of trench three, and dated to the mid-late 2nd century by pottery also contained a coin (Sf3) of probable 3rd century date, may delineate the back of any properties along the road heading east out of the fort.

The 'pits' observed in trench three, [17], [15] and [29], and in trench four, [37], [39], [41] and [46] all had comparable fills which contained quantities of charcoal and small daub flecks or lumps. Although the pottery dates vary slightly between the 'pits', they all agree with a late 2nd and into the 3rd century date. Interestingly, this is obviously after the uprising in AD154 where previous investigations in some areas of *Derventio* (the settlement to the east) have uncovered a layer of ash and charred timbers associated with mid-2nd century pottery (D'Arcy, 2004). If this is associated, it may represent a phase of levelling and possible subsequent rebuilding at a much later date, i.e. into the 3rd century.

The depth of these 'pits' is somewhat intriguing. They were either highly truncated by medieval ploughing, represented by layer (6), or are shallow features with a purpose. Further interpretation here is not possible without referring to the original site reports from the surrounding area.

Layers (62) and (59) above posthole [61] and 'pit' [46] in trench four were also of a similar nature to the fills of the 'pits', again indicating burning and disuse of probable nearby timber structures.

6.3 Medieval

The medieval activity on site was of an agricultural nature. The plough soil (6), appearing in trenches three and four, appears to have truncated the mid-late Roman deposits. A large quantity of residual abraded Roman pottery dating from the early 2nd century, 3rd century and possibly into the 4th century was recovered. However, seven sherds of medieval and two sherds of later medieval pottery were also recovered from this layer. Furrows were located in trenches three and four filled with the same deposit including boundary or drainage ditch [9] which contained pottery dated to the medieval period along with residual Roman pottery and a Roman copper-alloy needle. This was also east-west in alignment.

Furrows were also located in trenches two and five. They also displayed east-west and north-south alignments, possibly indicating that the Roman divisions of the landscape, particularly by the gravel roads, was still influencing the alignments of field boundaries.

Ridge and furrow earthworks were formed by repeated ploughing, using a coulter, share and mouldboard. Although the mouldboard had been in use since prehistoric times, this type of ploughing equipment was common from the 11th century. It required a team of oxen or horses to provide traction. The coulter and share were pulled through the earth and the mouldboard turned the sod to one side. When the team had turned, the process was repeated from the opposite direction, turning the sod so that it abutted the first, forming a ridge. The ridge was thought to aid drainage and also to define the limits of a person's land (Astill, 1988, 70). From the 16th century onwards fields were turned over to permanent pasture, which has lead to the effect of 'fossilising' ridge and furrow in the landscape (Astill 1988, 71). Similar earthworks have also been made by more modern processes, such as 19th-early 20th century steam ploughing; however, these tend to be very straight and exactly parallel with hedge boundaries.

The gullies or truncated ditches observed in trenches two, five and six were all of similar alignments. Although undated, there are likely to be medieval in origin, considering the similarities of the fills with the overlying medieval alluvial flood deposits. Such features would not, and were not, discernable within these soils if they had been re-cut throughout this period. Also, the lack of divisions within these soils as observed in trenches three and four may represent a shift in land-use to pasture during the medieval period.

6.4 Early Post-medieval

Layer (5) in trenches three and four was dated to the post-medieval period by one sherd of pottery. This represents a collection of alluvial deposits through flooding that had built up the ground level. The higher levels of the alluvial deposits in trenches in the north of the site could well be post-medieval in date. Again, divisions not being present in the north of the site may indicate that the land was given over to pasture rather than arable with ploughing.

6.5 Early Modern

Remnants of the Great Northern Railway embankment were located in the north of the site, with the western and eastern limits observed. The western limit was also delineated by a reinforced brick-concrete wall *c.*1.4m in depth. Being on the western side, this may have been to help hold back flood waters from the river to the west.

6.6 Modern

After the early 20th century pitting observed in trench two and post construction of the railway embankment, a uniform flood deposit was observed in trenches one, two, five and six. This is most likely to be from the 1965 flood (Joan D'Arcy, *pers. comm.*). It did not continue under the embankment. It was not present in trenches three or four, presumably due to the modern truncation in the area where a building had been demolished and buried.

7 Conclusion

7.1 The findings at the former Bristol Street Motors were as indicated by the desk-based assessment. There was evidence for Roman settlement, in an indirect form, in the very south-west of the site and medieval agricultural evidence across the whole of the site.

7.2 The early Roman findings are the most significant, with pottery being discovered that had not been seen in the area before within an un-truncated ditch on a north-south alignment, possibly starting at the Roman road to the south. This feature may represent human activity prior to the construction of the fort to the west, or illustrate the speed at which settlement and activity spread along the roadside heading east out of the fort towards the settlement in the east. Two postholes and a number of 'pits' containing traces of charcoal and daub, indicating disuse of timber structures, also suggested occupation in the immediate vicinity.

7.3 It can be stated that the Roman occupation evidence in the south-west of the site probably indicates the northern extent of such roadside settlement. Although a continuation of trenches could not be established through to the middle of the site, due to services, buildings and petrol tanks, trench five indicates this activity has certainly terminated by this point to the north. As observed with trenches three and four, Roman features increased the further south these trenches went.

7.4 Medieval activity in the form of agricultural features was to be expected. However the alignments of furrows and gulleys/ditches, where observed, seemed to indicate they were influenced by Roman divisions of the landscape, particularly by the east-west Roman road to the south.

7.5 The Great Northern Railway embankment and flood deposit of 1965, although less significant, were certainly identifiable features within the site. Also, in the north-west of the site, the use of pits for early 20th century rubbish, rather than a large pit or level layers, was both surprising and intriguing.

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10 Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1 – The finds

10.1.1 Roman Pottery

Romano-British Pottery from Evaluation Excavations at Alfreton Road, Derby DBYMU 2006-432

Elizabeth Johnson

Assemblage Size and Condition

A stratified assemblage of 200 sherds of Roman period pottery weighing 1.639kg was retrieved from excavations carried out as part of an archaeological evaluation. Material was recovered from two trenches as detailed in table 1 below. Most material was recovered from Trench 3 with only 16 sherds from Trench 4. Much of the pottery is abraded and this is reflected in the average sherd weight of 7.7g within Trench 3. A better level of preservation is suggested within Trench 4 with an average sherd weight of 13.7g.

Trench	No of Sherds	% of Assemblage	Weight (g)	% of Assemblage	Average Sherd Weight (g)
Trench 3	184	92.0%	1420	86.6%	7.7
Trench 4	16	8.0%	219	13.4%	13.7
Total	**200**	**100.0%**	**1639**	**100.0%**	**8.2**

Table 1: Composition of stratified assemblage by trench number.

Methodology

The material was classified using the Derby Fabric Series (Leary 2001) with reference to the Leicestershire Fabric Series (Pollard 1994) and National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC) (Tomber & Dore 1998) where necessary. A summary of the fabric series used are given below in table 2.

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
Derby Fabric Series	
AMP	Amphorae
BB1	Black Burnished ware
BSA3	Black sandy ware
CTA1	Oxidised shelly ware
DBY	Derbyshire ware
FLB	White slipped ware
GRA	Fine grey ware

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
GRB1	Grey wares
MH	Mancetter-Hartshill Mortaria
NV1	Nene Valley colour coated ware
OAB1	Oxidised sandy wares
OAC1	"Pre-Derbyshire" ware
TS	Samian ware
FLA	White wares
GRB4	Gritty dark grey ware similar to BB1

NRFRC	
PNK GT	Soft pink grog ware

Leicestershire Fabric Series	
GT	Grog tempered wares (transitional)

Table 2: Summary of fabric series used (Pollard 1994: 112-114; Tomber & Dore 1998: 210; Leary 2001: 96-101)

The material was quantified by sherd count and weight, with vessel forms assigned where diagnostic sherds allowed using published typologies (Howe *et al* 1980; Peacock & Williams 1986; Holbrook & Bidwell 1991; Pollard 1994; Tyres 1996; Webster 1996; Leary 2001). The complete dataset was recorded and analysed within an Excel workbook, which comprises the archive record.

Summary of Major Pottery Fabrics within the Assemblage

Table 3 below details a summary of the major pottery fabrics within the assemblage as a whole. The majority of coarse wares are locally made most likely from the kilns at Little Chester and Derby Racecourse, with Derbyshire ware from the Hazelwood-Holbrook kilns. The Little Chester and Derby Racecourse kilns are associated with the presence of the fort during the late first and second centuries, producing a range of grey, black sandy, oxidised, white wares and even mortaria for a short while (Brassington 1971, 1980; Sparey-Green 2002: 152-154). Although no local mortaria are present, the range of fabrics in this assemblage does reflect the repertoire of these kilns with forms present including beaded, everted and rebated rim jars with rusticated and roulette decoration all indicating a date range from the late first century to around the middle of the second (Pollard 1994: 77-79; Leary 2001: 115-116). One sherd of "pre-Derbyshire" ware associated with the Derby Racecourse kilns and dating to the mid-late second century was recovered from context (16) (Brassington 1980: 33; Leary 2001: 118).

Fabric	No of Sherds	% Sherds	Weight (g)	Average Sherd Weight (g)
AMP	2	1.0%	53	26.5
BB1	2	1.0%	13	6.5
BSA3	6	3.0%	45	7.5
CTA1	4	2.0%	59	14.8
DBY	49	24.5%	443	9.0
FLB	3	1.5%	7	2.3
GRA	18	9.0%	48	2.7
GRB1	21	10.5%	116	5.5
GRB4	1	0.5%	3	3.0
GT	7	3.5%	87	12.4
MH	6	3.0%	97	16.2
NV1	8	4.0%	26	3.3
OAB1	27	13.5%	119	4.4
OAC1	1	0.5%	16	16.0
PNK GT	2	1.0%	70	35.0
TS	21	10.5%	217	10.3
FLA	22	11.0%	220	10.0
Total	**200**	**100.0%**	**1639**	**8.2**

Table 3: Major fabric groups present within the assemblage as a whole.

Derbyshire ware dates from the middle of the second century onwards and becomes the dominant coarse ware in Derby. Here, it comprises a quarter of the assemblage as a whole with rim forms including rounded and slightly hooked rims as well as the lid seated/cupped forms that become prevalent from the third century onwards (Tyres 1996: 190-191; Leary 2001: 120; Sparey-Green 2002: 152-154).

Two Black Burnished ware jars, including one with acute lattice decoration were recovered from contexts (14) and (16). These are likely to date to the later second century in Derby (Holbrook & Bidwell 1991: 92-96; Leary 2001: 116). Two sherds of pink grog tempered ware were recovered from context (6). This fabric is produced around the Towcester/Milton Keynes area, with large storage jars becoming a dominant form during the third and fourth centuries. It is thought these vessels were used for the storage and transport of commodities rather than a trade in the jars as items themselves (Booth & Green 1989: 80-82). Few shelly wares were present, these are not thought to be produced in Derby and Northamptonshire has been suggested as a possible source (Birss 1985: 90; R. Leary *pers. comm.*).

A small amount of early coarse wares identified by Ruth Leary as not belonging to the Derby kilns was also recovered. Within Trench 3, three jar sherds classified as GT from the Leicestershire fabric series were recovered from contexts (8) and (10). They are comparable to Todd's "Trent Valley ware" and date from the mid-first to early second century (Todd 1968; R. Leary *pers. comm.*). They are possibly residual here as other pottery from these contexts dates well within the second century. More significantly, within Trench 4, a group of six sherds dating to the mid-first century was recovered from a single context (47) with no later material present. The group comprises an early shelly ware jar with combed decoration, a sandy ware jar with a burnished rim and grog tempered jars. These are all comparable to transitional fabrics and forms with Late Iron Age antecedents found in Leicestershire and date to the mid-late first century (Pollard 1994: 74-76). Material such as this has not been recovered from Little Chester before, with little evidence of occupation before the construction of the fort during the early AD80s (Dool 1985: 25-26).

The specialist wares present in the assemblage comprise mortaria and amphorae. One sherd of Dressel 20 Spanish olive oil amphora was recovered from context (6). These are common on Romano-British sites from the mid-first to the mid-third centuries (Tyres 1996: 87-88; 94-96). The amphora sherd within context (40) appears to be an African lime-poor fabric from Tunisia associated with the *Africana II* amphora. These are generally believed to have contained olive oil or possibly fish products. Production ranges from the late second through to the fourth centuries, though they are more common from the third century onwards (Peacock & Williams 1986: 155-156; Tomber & Dore 1998: 102). Mortaria sherds representing at least five vessels were recovered from contexts (6) and (18). All appeared to be from the Mancetter-Hartshill industry ranging in date from the early second century through to reeded rims of the third and possibly fourth centuries in context (6). The single sherd from context (18) dates from the mid-second to the early-third century.

The fine wares comprise Continental Samian and Romano-British colour-coated wares. The earliest Samian ware is from South Gaul dating to the late first-early second century. The remaining Samian is Central Gaulish, all dating within the second century. The identifiable forms are Drag.27 cups, Drag.18/31 dishes, Drag.29

and Drag.37 decorated bowls indicating a typical range of second century table wares (Webster 1996). A small counter made from re-used Samian ware was recovered from context (18) (small find 4). A single sherd of probably Gaulish white ware, possibly from a beaker and dating to the middle of the first century was recovered from context (22). Pre-Flavian imports have been recovered from Strutt's Park on the opposite side of the river (Dool 1985: 25-26).

All of the colour-coated wares are Nene Valley colour-coated ware beakers dating from the late second century onwards, including one folded form. The sherds are abraded with no rims present to assist identification. It is likely that the beakers present here date from the later second or third centuries as the fabrics are all fine and white (Howe *et al* 1980: 16-25).

Discussion

Overall there is evidence of activity from the mid/late first century through to the third and possibly fourth centuries. The early material from Trench 4 is of particular interest chronologically. It may indicate pre-fort occupation, however it is not unreasonable to suggest it is associated with the origins of the fort in the early Flavian period, with existing transitional wares being used before the kilns at Little Chester became operational. Nothing more can be deduced at this stage from such a small assemblage, however it does raise an interesting avenue for further work.

The majority of the material suggests activity from the late-first century and through the second with local coarse wares and imported Samian ware dominating the fine wares. The latest pottery is the Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria dating to the third and possibly fourth centuries whilst the pink grog tempered ware and *Africana II* amphora are most likely third or possibly fourth century. Some of the Nene Valley colour-coated wares also probably date to the first half of the third century. Most of the later sherds are abraded and are found within context (6) where small amounts of post-Roman material were also recovered suggesting the possibility of a disturbed deposit. The general lack of regional coarse wares, such as Black Burnished ware, may be an indication of the dominance locally of Derbyshire ware from the later second century onwards rather than lack of activity during the third and fourth centuries, as there is a substantial quantity of Derbyshire ware in the assemblage. In this respect a further stage of work should prove useful to try and establish the nature of later Roman activity after the fort had been abandoned or at least the early military presence had declined (Birss & Wheeler 1985: 10-11).

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10.1.2 Medieval Pottery

The medieval and later pottery and miscellaneous finds from an evaluation on land at the former Bristol Street Motors, Alfreton Rd, Derby
D. Sawday

The medieval and early post medieval pottery, fifteen sherds, weighing eighty grams, was examined under a binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to comparative material from Derbyshire in the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999) and to published descriptions of the pottery from the county, (Coppack 1980), (McCarthy and Brooks 1988), (Cumberpatch 2004).

The pottery is wheel thrown and the medieval sherds are all quartz tempered, with varying degrees of coarseness. However, the relatively small size of the sherds and the high degree of abrasion makes the identification of the fabrics somewhat tentative; but typically, all appear to be fairly local in origin. The Pink or Cream Sandy wares in context (5) and (6) probably originate from Burley Hill (Coppack 1980), alternatively some of these sherds and those in Orange Gritty ware in context (8) may be the products of as yet unknown pottery production centres to the south of the county (Cumberpatch 2004, 88). All are thought to date from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Ticknall, some twelve kilometres to the south, is the most likely source of the late medieval Midland Purple and the early post medieval Earthenware in contexts (5) and (6).

All the pottery was abraded and probably the result of the manuring of the fields during the medieval period. A further four sherds also from a medieval context, are unclassified.

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Site/Parish: land at former Bristol St Motors, Alfreton Rd, Derby Accession No/ Doc Ref: BYMU 2006.432/derby3.doc Site Type: former open fields north of town centre	Submitter: J. Tate Identifier: D..Sawday Date of Id: 23.4.07 Method of Recovery: evaluation Material: pottery

Context	Fabric/ware	Sherd	Weight	Comments

		nos.	grams	
5	Pink/Cream Sandy wares	2	9	Abraded body sherds
5	Earthenware	1	23	Early post medieval brown glaze interior
6	Unclassified	4	43	Abraded body sherds – period unknown
6	Orange/Pink Sandy wares	7	31	Medieval, includes an upright, externally thickened, jug rim fragment
6	?Midland Purple	2	10	Later medieval
8	Pink Sandy wares	1	2	Medieval
8	Orange Gritty ware	2	5	Medieval

10.1.3 The small finds

Finds from Littlechester, Derby, DBYMU 2006-432

Nicholas J. Cooper

Roman Bead
Sfno. 1 Context (6)
Complete barrel-shaped or globular bead in opaque milky white glass.
Length: 8mm
Width: 10mm
Width of perforation: 4mm
Such beads date throughout the Roman period and are more usually in blue or green.

Roman needle
Sfno. 2 Context (10)
Complete copper alloy sewing needle of Crummy's Type 3 (1983, 65) with groove above and below a long rectangular eye. Head slightly flattened and flared transversely and tapers smoothly into a continuously tapering shaft of circular section.
Length: 104mm
Width of head: 4mm
This type of needle is widespread across Roman Britain and is not closely datable within the period. Two similar examples came from Causeway Lane, Leicester (Cooper 1999, 265, fig. 128.128 and 9).

Roman Coin
Sfno. 3 Context (20)
Copper alloy
Obverse: trace of bust facing right with radiate crown. Legend illegible
Reverse: illegible
Diameter: 16mm
Dating: *c.* mid-late 3rd century

Low fired clay

Context (47) Cut (48)
Five joining flat fragments forming a straight sided tablet of plano-convex section measuring 80mm x 40mm. The clay is reduced to a dark grey and rich in organic material including carbonised plant traces. Function unknown. Thanks are due to Graham Morgan with help in identifying this material.

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