

IVYGROVE DEVELOPMENTS

EGGLESTON BROTHERS LTD

ALFRETON ROAD

DERBY

DERBYSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

AUGUST 2016



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IVYGROVE DEVELOPMENTS

Eggleston Brothers Ltd, Alfreton Road, Derby, Derbyshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
TOPOGRAPHIC AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



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Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Site Plan



SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) was commissioned by the client, Ivygrove Developments, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Eggleston Brothers Ltd, Alfreton Road, Derby, Derbyshire DE21 4AY, (NGR: SK 358 379). The watching brief was required as a fulfilment of a condition of planning consent and was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in response to advice given by Steve Baker, Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, acting as the archaeological planning advisor on behalf of Derby City Council.

The excavation of a foundation trench for a 10m x 6.6m extension was monitored. No finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered. The development will have little or no impact on any archaeological features or evidence.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks the client Ivygrove Developments for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, WAA thank Steve Baker, Development Control Archaeologist, at Derbyshire County Council for his assistance.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Nicholas Blount and the staff of Ivygrove Developments for their help during this project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Chris Timmins who also wrote the report. The project was managed by Jon Webster and the report edited by Dr Emma Tetlow.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

- 1.1.1 In July 2016 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) undertook an archaeological watching brief at Eggleston Brothers Ltd, Alfreton Road, Derby DE21 4AY, (NGR: SK 358 379). It was commissioned by the client who intends to construct a 10m x 6.6m extension for which planning consent has been granted by Derby City Council (planning reference: DER/03/16/00314).
- 1.1.2 The grant of planning permission by Derbyshire County Council, dated 13th June 2016, stated that,
 - A) No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological work has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include a statement of significance and research objectives; and;
 - 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;
 - 2. The programme of post investigation assessment;
 - 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;
 - 4. Provision to be made for the publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;
 - 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation;
 - 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisations to undertake the works as set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation;
 - B) No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition A.
 - C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition A and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.



- 1.1.3 This planning condition was in line with advice provided to Derby City Council by Steve Baker, Development Control Archaeologist, in an email accepted on 17th May 2016.
- 1.1.4 The proposed development had the potential to contain Romano-British archaeology (Derbyshire HER 32523), the heritage significance of which may have been affected by the development.
- 1.1.5 A watching brief is defined as a programme of 'monitoring and investigation carried out during a non-archaeological activity within a specified area of land or development where construction operations may disturb or destroy archaeological remains' (CIFA 2014a).

1.2 **Project Documentation**

- 1.2.1 The project conforms to advice provided by the archaeological planning advisor, Steve Baker, Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, Derbyshire County Council, in an Email dated 22nd June 2016. A WSI (WAA 2016a) was then produced to provide a specific methodology based on the advice for a programme of archaeological mitigation implemented via a watching brief. This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site and the results of this watching brief.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

- 2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014a), and in accordance with the WAA fieldwork manual (2015a).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014a) and the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b).

2.2 **Documentary Research**

2.2.1 No desk-based assessment was prepared specifically for this phase of works at the site. An area to the north of this location was subject to evaluation by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in 2016 (WAA 2016b), this will be discussed in greater detail in section 3.2.

2.3 The Watching Brief

- 2.3.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of all intrusive works associated with the construction of a two storey extension, this comprised the excavation of 0.6m wide, 0.8m deep foundation trench with a total length of 23.2m.
- 2.3.2 The general aims of these investigations were:
 - to allow the monitoring archaeologist to signal that an archaeological find has been made before it is destroyed
 - to provide the opportunity for appropriate resource allocation if the archaeological find cannot be dealt with under the watching brief remit
 - to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site
 - to determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance
 - determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from past industrial practices and building activities.
 - investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the areas to be disturbed by the current development



- to determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from the proposed development
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.
- inform upon the East Midlands Research Agenda for the Roman period, in particular vici development, growth alongside major roads and artefact production, exchange and consumption.
- 2.3.3 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to maximise the chance for identification of archaeological remains should they be present. All intrusive groundworks were monitored under close supervision by a suitably trained archaeologist. No archaeological remains were noted.
- 2.3.4 No artefacts were observed or recovered.
- 2.3.5 No environmental samples were taken.
- 2.3.6 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with Derby Museum, accession number DBYMU2015-84, with copies of the report sent to the Derbyshire HER, available upon request. The project archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA-16, CP11627, ARD-C.
- 2.3.7 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WAA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-258570.



3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The site is located alongside Alfreton Road, Derby (NGR: SK 358 379). The proposed extension site is a level area at a height of 60m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) bordered by industrial buildings to the south and west, by Alfreton Road to the east and by a wide tarmac pavement to the north. The study area lies on the northern outskirts of Derby, around 1.4km from the city centre.
- 3.1.2 The site is a 70m² rectangular parcel of land previously forming part of a wide pavement alongside Alfreton Road.
- 3.1.3 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as Nottingham Castle sandstone deposited during the Triassic period (246-251 million years ago) which was primarily deposited by rivers. This is overlain by superficial deposits of clay, sand, gravel and silt alluvium deposited up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS 2016). The natural substrate observed during the current phase of works comprised a dark grey-brown clay which appears consistent with the mapped geologies above.

3.2. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1. The site lies within an area rich in archaeological evidence from the Romano-British period. The fort of Little Chester (*Derventio*), which is now a scheduled ancient momument lay 500m to the south west and the associated *vicus* due south, the latter is thought to have been substantial. Previous archaeological excavations in the area have revealed a number of walls and ditches associated with the fort (Brassington, 1996; Stukeley, 1724), and kilns from the *vicus* (Brassington, 1971). A number of burials were discovered in the early 19th century along the course of the Roman Road and in the area of the former racecourse (OA, 2014).
- 3.2.2 More recently, excavations ahead of flood remediation works on the banks of the River Derwent, the defensive ditches to the north east of the scheduled area were investigated by Oxford Archaeology North (2014).
- 3.2.3 It is thought that Ryknield Street ran to the east of the watching brief area, the works by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in February 2016 were designed to investigate this hypothesis. The area to the northwest and west of this site was subject to an



evaluation excavation on the site of the former Draka Cables and Crompton Parkinson works. This evaluation demonstrated that the wider landscape, outwith the existing area of known Romano-British impact, had considerable potential for the preservation of archaeology from this period. Several ditches and a relatively substantial assemblage of Romano-British Pottery and animal bone was recovered from a single trench 100m to the north west.



4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 18th July 2016 and monitored all excavations associated with the construction of a 10m x 6.6m extension. Context numbers are provided, where relevant, in brackets, relating also to a summary table provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 The development groundworks required the excavation of foundation trenches 0.6m wide and 0.8m deep for a total length of 23.2m. The excavations largely consisted of the removal of a 0.2m deep layer of compacted gravel (100) which overlay dark grey silt containing 20th century building debris (101) up to a depth of up to 0.6m. The excavations also exposed a dark grey-brown clay (102) (plate 1) beneath the silt. No archaeological evidence was uncovered by the excavations.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 The foundation trench excavations exposed a modern ground surface and 20th century made ground that overlay a dark clay. No finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered.

4.3 Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling

4.3.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.



5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 **Interpretation**

5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the construction of a 10m x 6.6m extension. No archaeological features were observed during the excavations.

5.3 **Development Impact**

5.3.1 The development will have little, if no impact on any archaeological features which may be buried below the level of intrusive groundworks.



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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Area	Description
100	Deposit	Throughout foundation trench	Light grey compacted gravel. Laid ground consolidation surface
101	Deposit	Throughout foundation trench	Dark grey silt with 20 th Century building debris inclusions. Made ground levelling deposit
102	Deposit	Throughout foundation trench	Dark grey-brown clay. Alluvial deposit



APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1; Clay at base of south side of foundation trench (facing north east)



APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

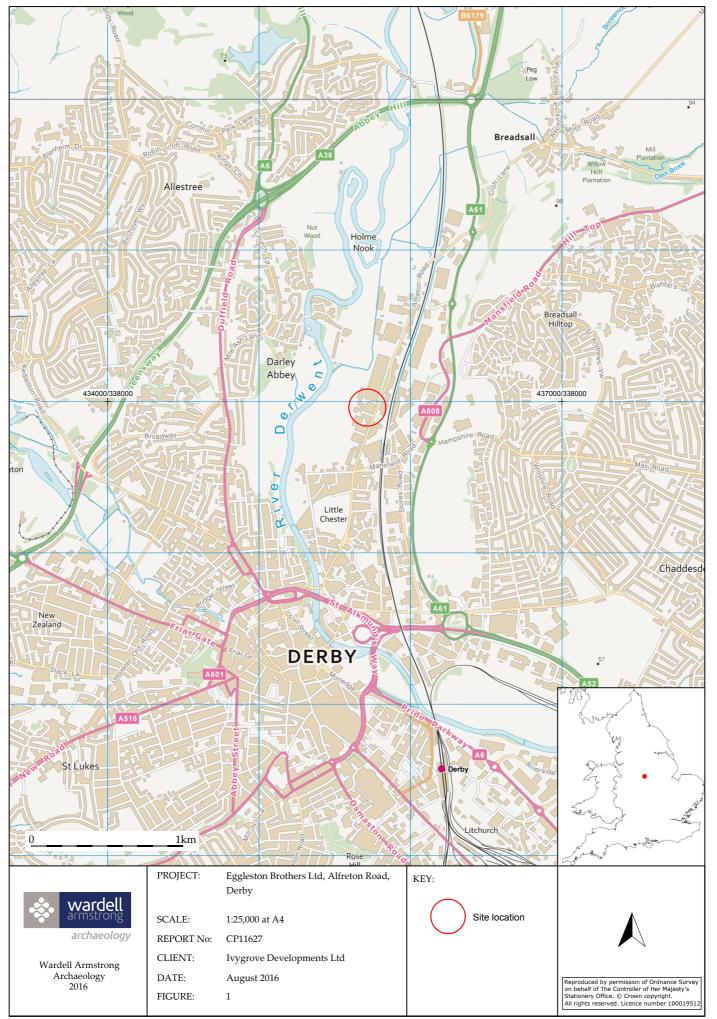


Figure 1: Site location.

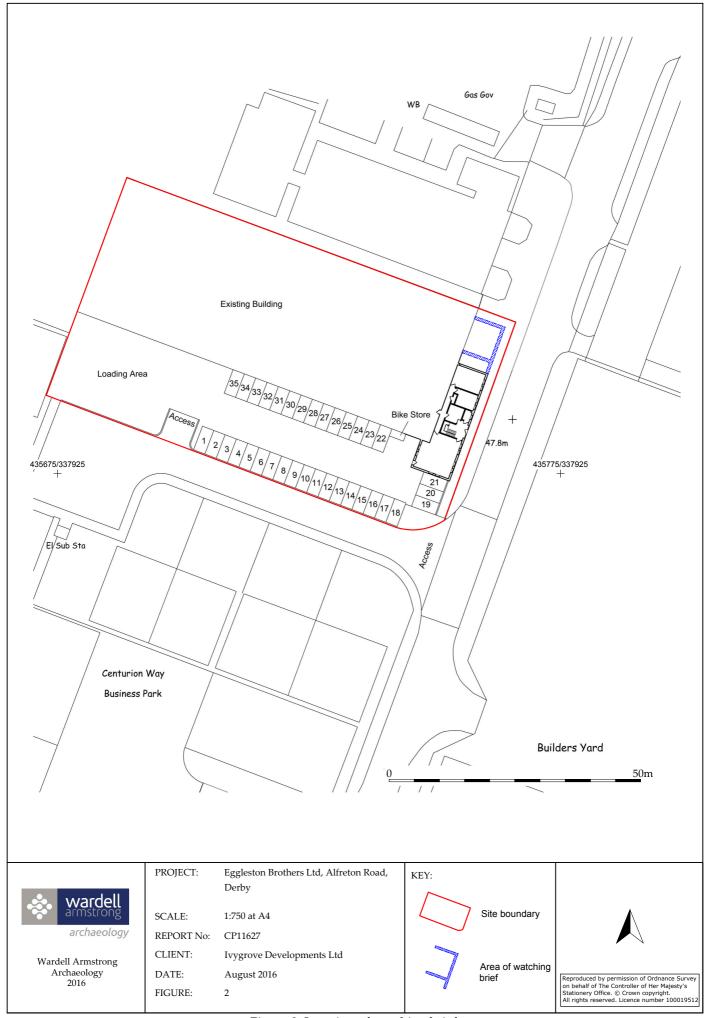


Figure 2: Location of watching brief.

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