



Duffield Castle, Duffield, Derbyshire – Archaeological Watching Brief Report

National Trust

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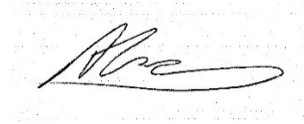
Ecus Ltd

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Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	V
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND.....	1
1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
1.3 HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASELINE	1
2. METHODOLOGY	3
2.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	3
2.2 EXCAVATION AND RECORDING METHODOLOGY	3
3. RESULTS	4
3.1 INTRODUCTION	4
3.2 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY	4
3.3 BENCH INSTALLATION	4
4. CONCLUSION.....	9
4.1 DISCUSSION	9
4.2 ARCHIVE	9
5. REFERENCES	10
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	11
APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM	12
FIGURES.....	13
Table 1: Context Descriptions.....	11
Plate 1: Location of pits for sign installation prior to excavation	5
Plate 2: Pit 1 following excavation.....	5
Plate 3: Pit 2 following excavation.....	6
Plate 4: Sign installation pits following excavation.....	6
Plate 5: Location of bench before installation of stone slab base	7
Plate 6: Working shot of stone slab being manoeuvred into place	7
Plate 7: Stone slab base in position	8

Executive Summary

Ecus Ltd was commissioned by the National Trust and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to carry out archaeological monitoring during (watching brief) remedial works at Duffield Castle Duffield Castle, Duffield, Derbyshire centred on National Grid Reference 434347, 344058.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the installation of a new information sign and bench within the scheduled area of the twelfth century tower keep castle, including the sites of an eleventh century motte and bailey castle, an Anglian cemetery and a Romano-British settlement (NHLE: 1015109). The Site was also within the buffer zone of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The archaeological works were designed to comply with the conditions outlined within the Scheduled Monument Consent (Historic England Ref: S00196630) for the works.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the Site between 20th November 2018 and 18th March 2019.

The archaeological monitoring did not identify any archaeological features or structures of heritage significance with the Scheduled Monument, and no artefacts were recovered during the groundworks. It is considered that the position of the two pits for the installation of the sign and the lack of groundworks required for the installation of the bench has avoided disturbing significant archaeological remains. The identified site stratigraphy within the two pits is considered indicative of their position away from the crest of the castle motte.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Ecus Ltd was commissioned by the National Trust and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to carry out archaeological monitoring (watching brief) during remedial works at Duffield Castle Duffield Castle, Duffield, Derbyshire (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference 434347, 344058 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the installation of a new information sign and bench within the scheduled area of the twelfth century tower keep castle, including sites of an eleventh century motte and bailey castle, an Anglian cemetery and a Romano-British settlement (NHLE: 1015109). The Site was also within the buffer zone of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The archaeological works were designed to comply with the conditions outlined within the Scheduled Monument Consent (Historic England Ref: S00196630) for the works.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the Site between 20th November 2018 and 18th March 2019. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (ClfA 2014).

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site was located to the north of the historic core of the town of Duffield, Derbyshire and positioned on an area of high ground overlooking the confluence of the rivers Derwent and Ecclesbourne (Figure 1). The Site was bounded to the east by the A6 (Milford Road), and to the north, west and south by housing largely dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- 1.2.2 The Site sat in a prominent position within the landscape between the River Derwent and River Ecclesbourne at a height of approximately 77 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The land slopes sharply away from the centre of the Site down towards the rivers and a height of approximately 63 m aOD. The underlying geology of the Site was mapped as mudstone and siltstone of the Marsden Formation with no recorded superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2019).

1.3 Historic and Archaeological Baseline

- 1.3.1 The Site comprises a portion of the Scheduled twelfth century tower keep castle, including sites of an eleventh century motte and bailey castle, an Anglian cemetery and a Romano-British settlement (NHLE: 1015109) under the management of the National Trust.
- 1.3.2 The Site has been subject to a series of archaeological investigations since the earliest known archaeological excavations at Duffield Castle in 1886 (Cox 1887), with further excavations undertaken in 1931 and 1957. More recently, a series of small-scale excavations and non-intrusive surveys have also been undertaken. The results of these archaeological investigations and the historical background of the Site has recently been synthesised into a reappraisal of Duffield Castle (Jessop 2015).
- 1.3.3 The earliest archaeological evidence identified within the Site comprises a substantial amount of Romano-British pottery recovered during the initial nineteenth century excavations, subsequent archaeological work and as chance finds within the gardens of the surrounding houses. The majority of the pottery is of Derbyshire Ware and dates to the third century AD. No archaeological features have been definitively dated to the Romano-British period and it is possible that the pottery represents residual Romano-British finds rather than a settlement within the Site.

- 1.3.4 The excavations in 1886 identified a fragmentary female burial which contained an amber bead, a fragment of a cruciform brooch, and a stone spindle whorl (Cox 1887). The finds indicate a date for the burial of the sixth or seventh century and it has been hypothesised that the later castle had been constructed on an early medieval cemetery. Subsequent excavations have not identified any further archaeological remains dating to the early medieval period.
- 1.3.5 The lordship of Duffield was held by Henry de Ferrers at the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2003), one of over 200 lordships under his control following the Norman Conquest. The original timber castle constructed at the Site is likely to have been built during the late eleventh century, and was held for Henry de Ferrers by his son Engenulph at the time of the latter's death in 1089.
- 1.3.6 The castle remained part of the de Ferrers' family estates through the twelfth century until William de Ferrers supported Henry, the Young King, in his rebellion against his father Henry II in 1173. Duffield Castle was confiscated, along with another de Ferrers castle at Tutbury, Derbyshire. Both of these castles were subsequently demolished.
- 1.3.7 By 1177 William de Ferrers appears to have regained the trust of Henry II and in 1190 joined the third crusade during which he was killed at the Battle of Acre. Duffield Castle is likely to have been rebuilt as a stone castle during this period. The scale of the keep, revealed during the initial excavations at the Site, was on a par with major royal constructions at Dover and Domfront in France.
- 1.3.8 In 1263, Robert de Ferrers sided with Simon de Montfort against Henry III during the Second Barons' War. By 1266 Henry III, and his son Edward, were in the ascendancy following the Battle of Evesham in August 1265 where Simon de Montfort was killed. In May 1266 Robert de Ferrers was defeated and captured at the Battle of Chesterfield and Duffield Castle was again confiscated from the de Ferrers family. The exact date of the demolition of the castle is unknown but may date to the immediate aftermath of de Ferrers defeat at Chesterfield. The castle is likely to have been demolished by the end of the thirteenth century as the manor, forest and advowson of Duffield are mentioned within the possessions of the Earl of Lancaster at his death in 1297 with no mention of the castle.
- 1.3.9 Following the demolition of the castle the Site was in use as an orchard from the early fifteenth century onwards. Stone from the castle was reused in many of the surrounding structures within Duffield including St Alkmund's Church, Duffield Bridge and Duffield Hall. The only major change to the Site occurred during the construction of the Turnpike Road in 1838 which was built approximately 100 m west of the medieval road and involved the removal of the eastern part of the hill on which the castle was situated.
- 1.3.10 The castle site was due to be sold for housing at the end of the nineteenth century but the interest in the findings from the initial archaeological excavations raised enough money to preserve the Site. The Site was given to the National Trust in 1899.

2. Methodology

2.1 Aims and Objectives

2.1.1 The principal aim of the archaeological recording was to mitigate the impact of the proposed works through the identification, recording and assessment of heritage assets; thus achieving 'preservation by record'.

2.1.2 The specific aims of the evaluation were:

- to identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the identified areas of interest;
- to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
- to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the Site works;
- to recover samples from sealed waterlogged contexts for environmental processing; and
- to prepare a comprehensive record and report of archaeological observations during the Site work.

2.1.3 The objectives of the project were:

- to preserve through record any archaeological remains that have the potential to be impacted by the proposed works;
- to identify, record and preserve in situ any structural archaeological remains; and
- to contribute to the understanding of the use and development of the Site.

2.2 Excavation and recording Methodology

2.2.1 The methodology for the archaeological monitoring was outlined within a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Ecus, 2018). All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 'Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs' (CIfA, 2014).

2.2.2 The pits for the installation of the sign were excavated by hand under the supervision of the on-site monitoring archaeologist.

2.2.3 No ground was broken for the installation of the bench. Initially the stone base for the bench was manoeuvred by hand into position before soil was imported to build-up the ground to form a level base.

2.2.4 All stratigraphic deposits encountered were cleaned, investigated and recorded using Ecus' pro forma recording sheets. Digital photographs were taken of the general site conditions, location of the works and of stratigraphic deposits to produce a photographic record of the works.

2.2.5 Strategies for the recovery of artefacts, taking of environmental samples and the recovery of human remains were included within the WSI (Ecus 2018). No artefacts were recovered during the monitoring works, no environmental samples were taken and no human remains were encountered.

3. Results

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The following section presents the results of the archaeological monitoring. The context descriptions for recorded archaeological deposits are reproduced in Appendix 1. Where referenced within the text, context numbers are indicated in bold text. The groundworks comprised the excavation of two pits measuring 0.3 m x 0.3 m and 0.65 m deep. The position of the pits excavated during the archaeological monitoring is depicted on Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 No groundworks were required for the installation of the bench.
- 3.1.3 No artefacts were recovered during the archaeological monitoring.

3.2 General Stratigraphy

- 3.2.1 The two pits for the installation of the sign were positioned 1 m apart from each other in the southern portion of the Scheduled area (Plates 1-4). The general stratigraphy identified within the pits were broadly identical. The stratigraphy comprised a 0.12 m thick layer of dark brownish grey topsoil (**100**) overlying a mid-yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (**101**). The base of the subsoil was not identified as the excavation of the pits ceased at 0.65 m below ground level.

3.3 Bench Installation

- 3.3.1 The placing of the stone slab, acting as the base for the proposed bench, was monitored (Plates 5-7). The stone slab was placed on a wheeled trolley and then manoeuvred into position within the Scheduled area. It was anticipated that the installation of the bench may have needed to include some ground levelling work but this was avoided by selecting a broadly level section of ground and then using an imported sterile soil to level the stone slab base prior to the installation of the bench. The position of the bench is illustrated on Figure 2.



Plate 1: Location of pits for sign installation prior to excavation



Plate 2: Pit 1 following excavation



Plate 3: Pit 2 following excavation



Plate 4: Sign installation pits following excavation



Plate 5: Location of bench before installation of stone slab base



Plate 6: Working shot of stone slab being manoeuvred into place



Plate 7: Stone slab base in position

4. Conclusion

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 The archaeological monitoring did not identify any archaeological features or structures associated with the Scheduled Monument, and no artefacts were recovered during the groundworks. It is considered that the position of the two pits for the installation of the sign and the lack of groundworks required for the installation of the bench has avoided disturbing significant archaeological remains. The identified site stratigraphy within the two pits is considered indicative of their position away from the crest of the castle motte.

4.2 Archive

4.2.1 The complete project archive will be prepared and arrangements for the deposition of the archive on completion of the project will be made in accordance with guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990).

4.2.2 The archive is currently held at Ecus' office in Sheffield under the project code 12162, and will be deposited with the National Trust. An OASIS form (OASIS ID: ecusltd1-367808) has been initiated and a copy is included within this report as Appendix 2

5. References

British Geological Survey 2018. Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [accessed 20/09/2019]

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Jessop, O. 2015. Duffield Castle, Duffield, Derbyshire: A reappraisal of Duffield Castle. The Jessop Consultancy Report Ref: TJC2015.04

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Williams, A. and Martin G.H. 2003. Domesday Book: A Complete Translation. London: Penguin

Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

Table 1: Context Descriptions

Context Number	Description	Depth (m)
100	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey	0 – 0.12
101	Subsoil: Mid-yellowish brown silty clay	0.12 – 0.65+

Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

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OASIS ID: ecusltd1-367808

Project details

Project name	Duffield Castle, Duffield
Short description of the project	Ecus Ltd was commissioned by the National Trust and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to carry out archaeological monitoring during remedial works at Duffield Castle Duffield Castle, Duffield, Derbyshire centred on National Grid Reference 434347, 344058. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the installation of a new information sign and bench within the scheduled area of the twelfth century tower keep castle, including sites of an eleventh century motte and bailey castle, an Anglian cemetery and a Romano-British settlement (NHLE: 1015109). The Site was also within the buffer zone of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The archaeological works were designed to comply with the conditions outlined within the Scheduled Monument Consent (Historic England Ref: S00196630) for the works. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the Site between 20th November 2018 and 18th March 2019. The archaeological monitoring did not identify any archaeological features or structures associated with the Scheduled Monument, and no artefacts were recovered during the groundworks. It is considered that the position of the two pits for the installation of the sign and the lack of groundworks required for the installation of the bench has avoided disturbing significant archaeological remains. The identified site stratigraphy within the two pits is considered indicative of their position away from the crest of the castle motte.
Project dates	Start: 20-11-2018 End: 18-03-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	12162 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1015109 - NHLE No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Site status	World Heritage Site
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	MOTTE Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE AMBER VALLEY DUFFIELD Duffield Castle, Duffield

Postcode DE56 4DW
 Study area 0 Hectares
 Site coordinates SK 34349 44053 52.992395556936 -1.488210258861 52 59 32 N 001 29 17 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 63m Max: 77m

Project creators

Name of Organisation ECUS ltd
 Project brief originator National Trust
 Project design originator ECUS ltd
 Project director/manager Alex Cassels
 Project supervisor Alex Cassels
 Type of sponsor/funding body National Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient National Trust
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
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 Paper Contents "none"
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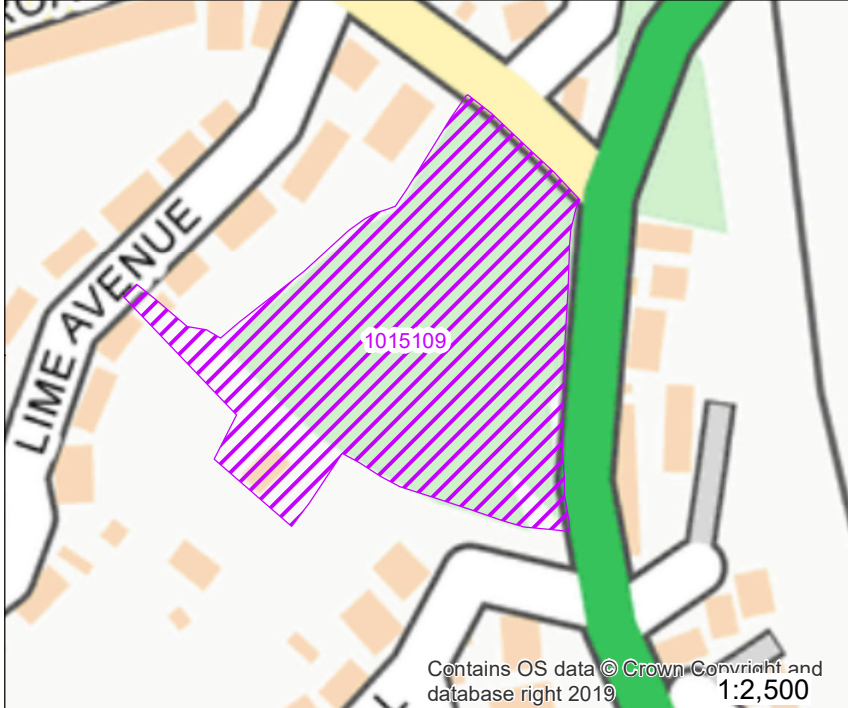
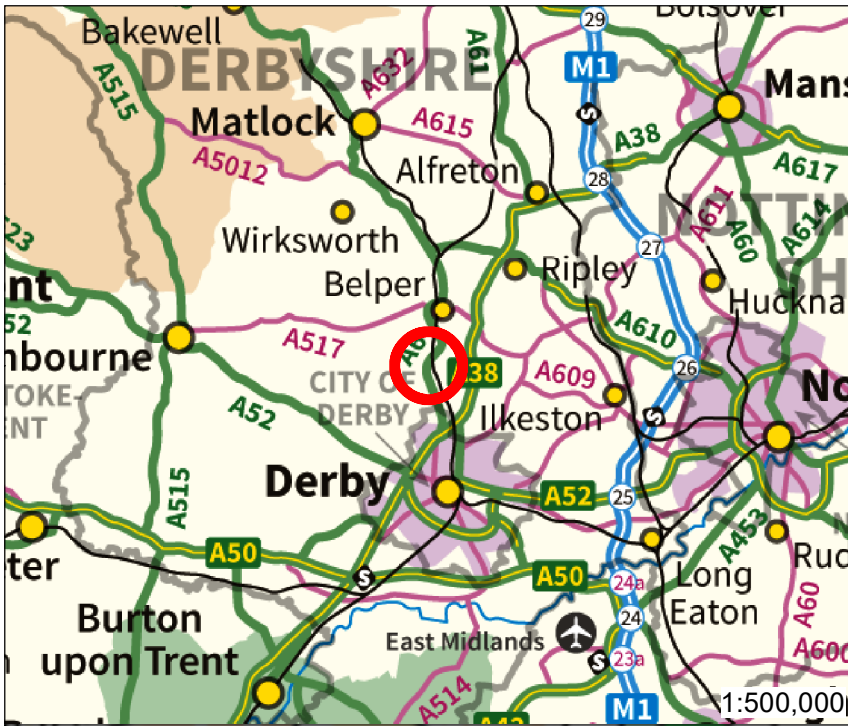
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Figures



 Scheduled Monument

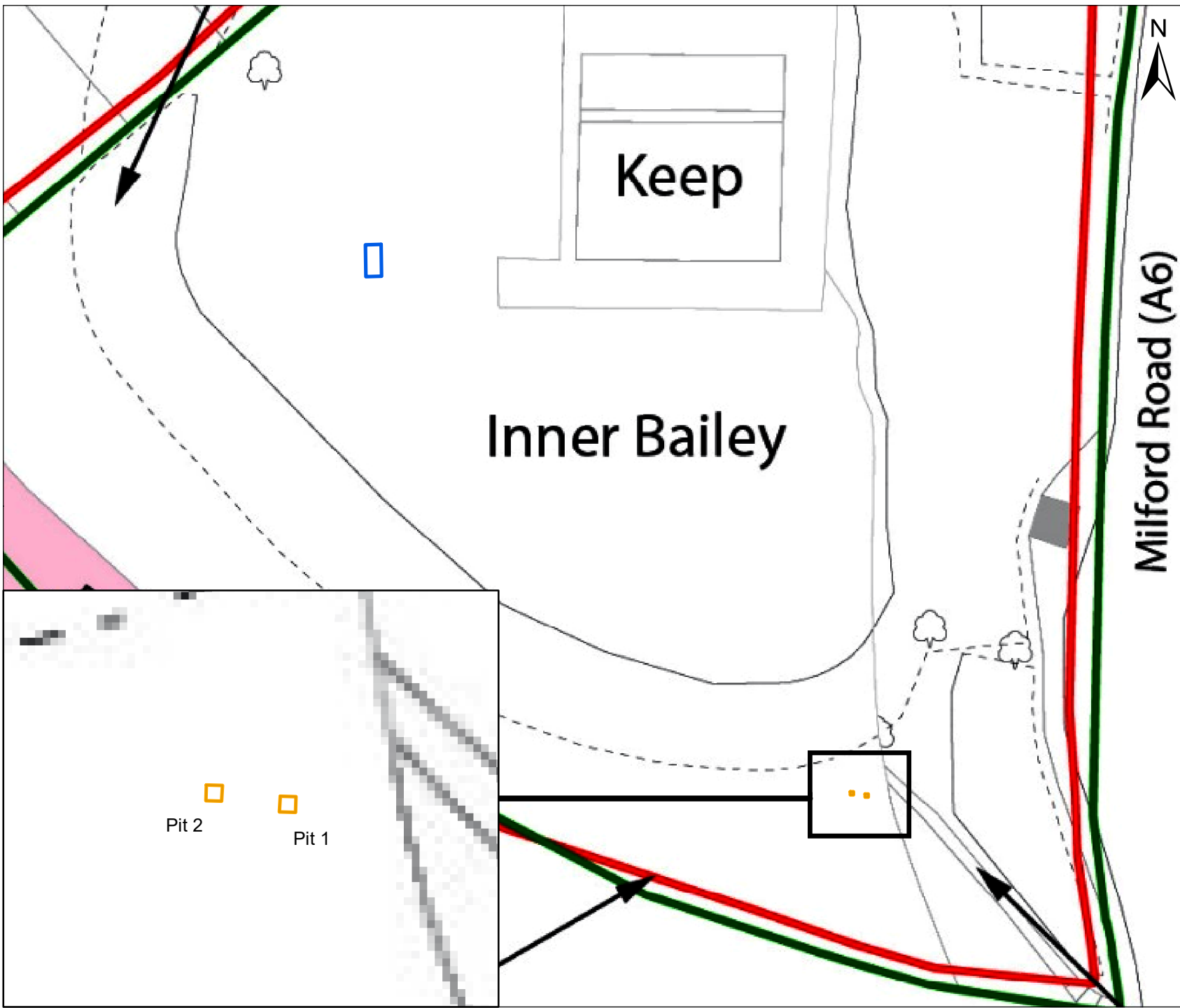


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Figure 1: Site Location

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-  Bench Location
-  Sign Installation Pits



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Figure 2
Bench and sign locations

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