

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

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**A Second Evaluation at  
The Former 'Prestige' Site,  
City Road, Derby**

by  
Iain Ferris and L.R. Jones

For further information please contact:  
Simon Buteux (Manager), Peter Leach or Iain Ferris (Assistant Directors)  
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
The University of Birmingham  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham B15 2TT  
Tel: 021 414 5513  
Fax: 021 414 5516

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## Introduction

In March 1993 Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit was commissioned by G.F. Tomlinson Building Limited to carry out a second archaeological evaluation at the former 'Prestige' factory site, City Road, Derby (NGR SK 353371). The evaluation was designed to assess the archaeological implications of a proposed housing development. The northern boundary of the site is 300m south of the Roman fort at Little Chester (SAM 147) and a 4th century building (SAM 105) stood 160m north of the site. The Roman road Rykniel Street also passed close to the site. These factors indicated the possibility of Romano-British settlement within the development area, with the further possibility of the presence of waterfront activity along the nearby River Derwent. This stage of the evaluation was concerned with the northern half of the factory site only, the southern half having been evaluated and reported on in February 1993 (Jones 1993).

## Method

Six 2m x 2m trenches, numbered 7-12 (trench numbers 1-6 were assigned in the earlier phase of evaluation), were positioned to allow further interpolation of deposit depths across the site. The concrete factory floor and modern overburden were removed by machine and surfaces and sections cleared by hand. The maximum depth of excavation was 1.20m, a depth below the potential level of major ground disturbances in the proposed housing scheme.

## The Evaluation

No deposits, features or finds of any significance were found in any of the trenches, and therefore only modern deposit depths will be given here. The site archive contains full listings of site levels above Ordnance Datum.

## Trench 7

Removal of modern make-up (7000) was halted at a depth of 0.30m due to evidence of extensive and deep disturbance here connected to the insertion of a large, 0.60m diameter, cast iron pipe.

## Trench 8

A depth of 1.20m of soft dark brown loam (8000), possibly derived from the levelling operations ahead of the factory building, was seen to overlie a more compact silty deposit (8001), perhaps of alluvial origin. See also Trenches 9, 10, 11, 12.

## Trench 9

A depth of 1.10m of soft dark brown loam (9000), as in Trench 8, overlay a more compact silt (9001). See also Trenches 10, 11 and 12.

## Trench 10

Modern brick rubble (10000), the backfill of a cellar, was removed to a 0.05m thick concrete floor at a depth of 0.90m which, in turn, overlay a compact silt (10001) identical to 8001 in Trench 8 and 9001 in Trench 9. See also Trenches 11 and 12.

## Trench 11

A depth of 1.0m of levelled modern rubble (11000) overlay a compact silt (11001) as encountered also in Trenches 8, 9 and 10 and 12.

## Trench 12

A depth of 1.0m of soft dark brown loam (12000) overlay a compact silt (12001) as in Trench 8. See also Trenches 8-11.

## Discussion and Implications

As in the Phase 1 evaluation, no archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

The same story of levelling of flood defences and building-up of the site was revealed, with again deep, probably 19th century, cellaring being encountered in one area.

There would again appear to be no archaeological implications for the Phase 2 scheme if the same foundation scheme as for Phase 1 is adopted (i.e. rafted foundations no

deeper than 1.0m, re-use of existing factory piles, and sinking of narrow-gauge piles at wide intervals).

#### **Acknowledgements**

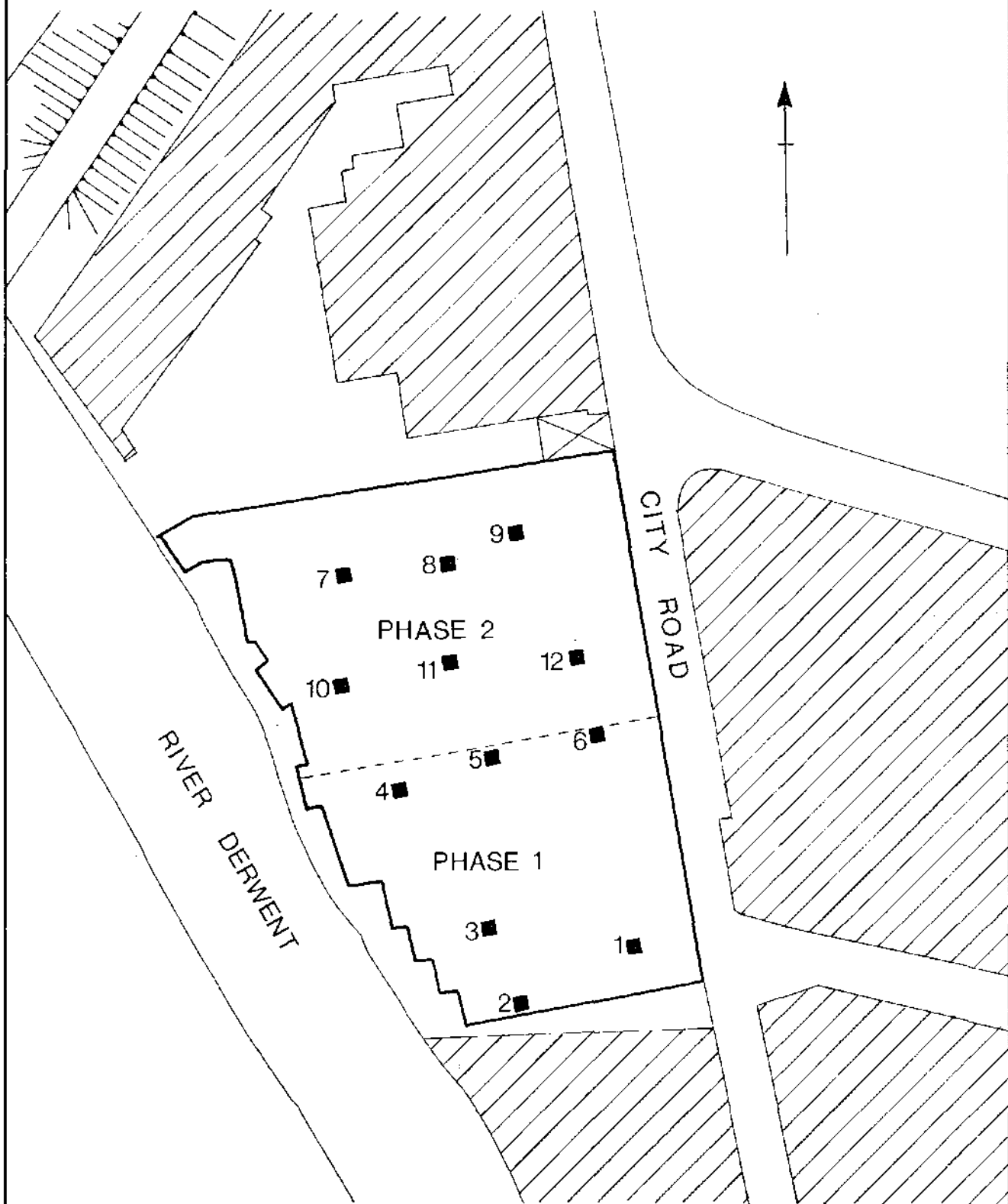
The work was carried out by Laurence Jones and Bob Burrows and monitored by Iain Ferris. The illustration is by Nigel Dodds.

#### **Reference**

Jones, L.

1993 An Archaeological Evaluation at the former 'Prestige' Factory Site, City Road, Derby (Phase 1). B.U.F.A.U. Report No.241

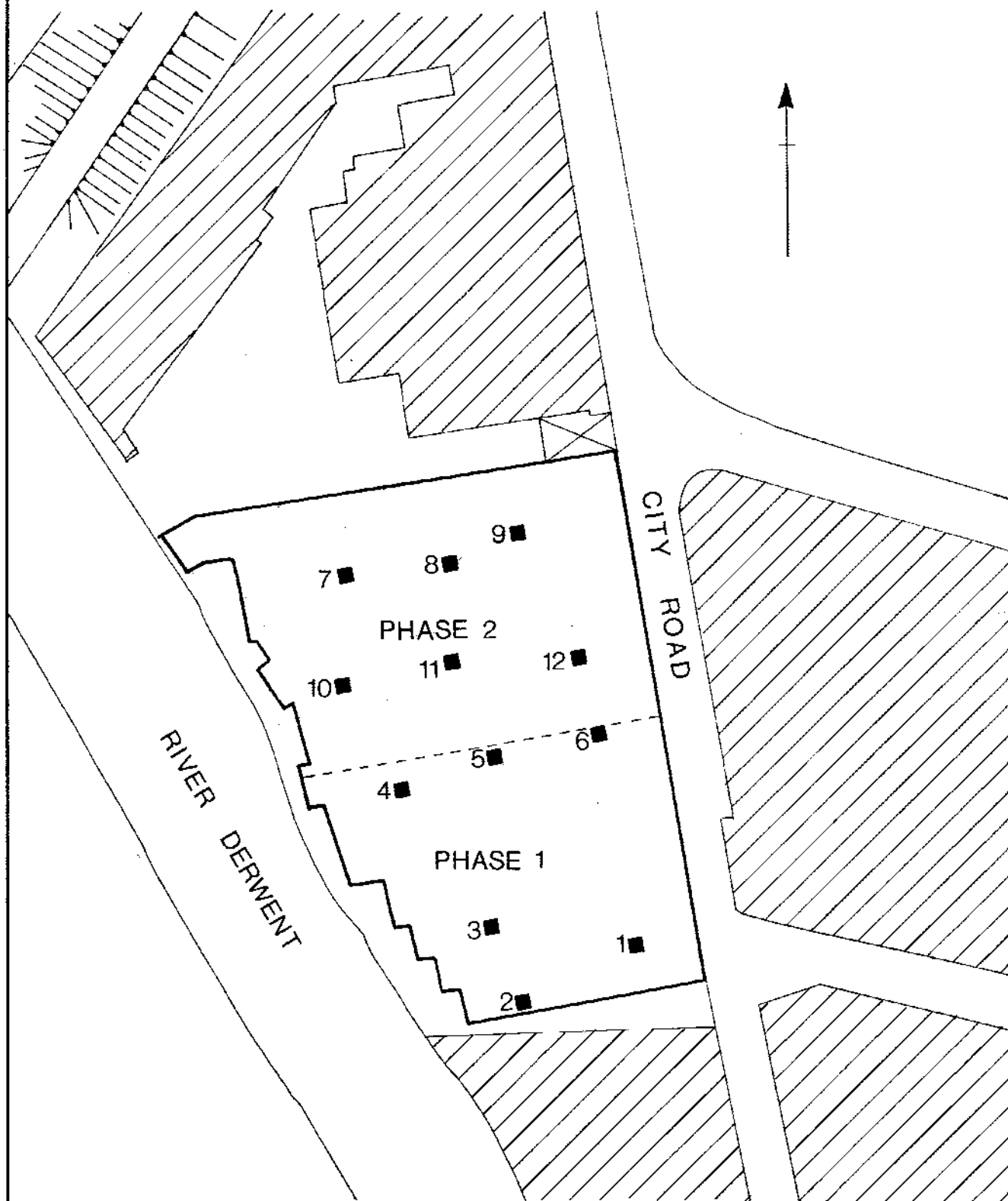
# LOCATION OF TRENCHES



0 50m

1 ■ ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCHES

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0 50m

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