

Underground Cable Route, The Silk Mill, Sowter Road, Derby: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

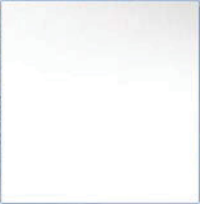
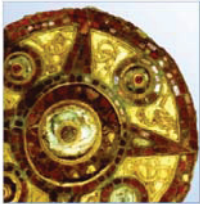
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Underground Cable Route, The Silk Mill, Sowter Road, Derby: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Western Power Distribution
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Feeder Road
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National Grid Reference (NGR): SK 3534 3663

AOC Project No: 31084

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

Between 9th October 2012 and 25th March 2013 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief at The Silk Mill, Sowter Road, Derby ((NGR) SK 3534 3663), on behalf of Western Power Distribution. The work comprised the monitoring of a single trial pit and the excavation of a cable route.

This report comprises the results of the watching brief. The geological horizon remained fairly consistent across the whole of the site, comprising of yellow and orange clayey sand and gravels, overlain by 19th-20th century made ground, levelling aggregate and tarmac. One trench showed evidence of an alluvial deposit. Several brick structures were recorded dating to 16th-17th century and 19th-20th century, which provides evidence of post-medieval industrial activity.

Publication of the watching brief findings will be carried out through a short summary of the fieldwork submitted to the local fieldwork roundup. An OASIS form has also been completed and an electronic copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The site archive will be prepared in accordance with local and national guidance and will be deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report documents the results of the archaeological watching brief during excavations of an underground cable route at The Silk Mill, Sowter Road, Derby (Figures 1).
- 1.2 The site is located on the River Derwent off Sowter Road, close to Derby town centre. The site is centred on national grid reference (NGR) SK 3534 3663.
- 1.3 The main development comprised the construction of a cable route. The cable route runs from Silk Mill Lane (south of The Silk Mill) in a westerly direction along Full Street (Figure 2). A single utility trial pit was excavated during the site works to establish the presence and route of a current service.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is the Derby City Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Steve Baker, Archaeological Officer at Derbyshire County Council.
- 2.2 The Silk Mill is part of the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site and also a designated Archaeological Alert Area. As such a programme of archaeological works was recommended by Steve Baker.
- 2.3 The works involved the construction of a cable route (Figure 2) around the western side of the building before crossing the river and heading southeast. Monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of a single trial pit and a cable trench measuring 3.00m wide by 1.00m-1.30m deep.
- 2.4 The first phase of works was the writing of a desk-based assessment (AOC 2011) which recommended a programme of archaeological monitoring on the groundworks.
- 2.5 A written scheme of investigation (AOC 2012) was prepared as a method statement for the archaeological works, which was approved by the monitor, Steve Baker, Archaeological Officer at Derbyshire County Council.
- 2.6 This report summarises the results of the watching brief on excavations of the underground cable route.

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The desk based assessment (AOC 2011) states that the natural bedrock is of the Mercia Mudstone Group, this is probably overlain by alluvial and river terrace deposits.
- 3.2 The site lies on the banks of the River Derwent at approximately 46mOD.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following information is taken from the desk-based assessment prepared for the site (AOC 2011).

The Prehistoric Period (Palaeolithic c. 500,000 – 10000 BC; Mesolithic c. 10000 to 4000 BC; Neolithic c. 4000-2200 BC and Bronze Age c. 2200-700 BC) and the Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.1 The area of the cable route has been impacted and developed from at least the early post-medieval period onwards. There is expected to have been a moderate degree of post-prehistoric build-up over this area, resulting from urban development and from natural deposition (e.g. flooding etc.). As a result, it is considered unlikely that prehistoric period activity would be encountered within the depth of the proposed cable trenches.
- 4.2 There is a more substantial degree of evidence for Roman period activity within 500m of the site. Evidence from archaeological investigations suggest that Roman activity was focused around the

Strutt's Park, Little Chester and Racecourse areas of Derby. The earlier evidence relates to an establishment of a fort at Strutt's Park on the west bank of the River Derwent. This was abandoned in favour of a newly established stronghold, known as '*Derventio*', in the Little Chester area on the east bank of the Derwent (Lord 1996).

- 4.3 The Roman road of Rykniel Street passed close to the site and was an important route running roughly north-south through the Midlands, providing access from the Foss Way to settlements at Alcester, Wall, Derby and Templeborough.
- 4.4 Other Roman period settlement activity has been noted at North Street, c. 500m to the north-east of the cable route; in addition to this, a number of findspots relating to Roman period coins are also recorded from within the area surrounding the site.

The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066 – AD 1538)

- 4.5 Early medieval activity has been recorded within the areas of Little Chester, with an early cemetery noted within the area of the former fort. Derby was known to the Anglo-Saxons as '*Northworthy*' and was the capital of the North Mercian Territory.
- 4.6 The exact location of Northworthy is unconfirmed; it has been suggested that it may have been situated on a promontory formed by the Markeaton Brook in the area of St Werburgh's Church, which was founded in the 7th century (Lord 1996). Other early medieval foundations in Derby include St Alkmund's Church, c. 200m to the north-west of the cable route, and All Saints' Church, which was founded soon after St. Alkmund's and is now occupied by Derby Cathedral, c. 100m to the south-west.
- 4.7 The origin of the name Derby derives from '*Deoraby*', the Viking name for the town; although the location of the Viking settlement is not confirmed. '*By*' is the Scandinavian word for town or village (Lord 1996). An alternative interpretation is that Derby is a corruption referring to its situation on the Derwent. The name Derby is first recorded in AD 917 when the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle recalls the town being recaptured by the Saxons and by AD 925 Derby had its own mint with coins bearing the legend '*Deorabi*' (Lord 1996).
- 4.8 Within the vicinity of the site, evidence for early medieval activity has been recorded at Queen Street c. 150m to the west, and Saxo-Norman pottery recovered from Tenant Street c. 300m to the south and King Street, c. 100m to the west / north-west.
- 4.9 Domesday records that Derby was in a period of decline between 1066 and 1086 when the population had fallen from c. 1100 to c. 630 inhabitants and the number of mills had reduced from 14 to 10. Four churches are recorded in Domesday and further religious institutions were established throughout the medieval period, including St Helens Abbey, founded in AD 1137; the Benedictine Nunnery of St Mary de Pratis, established c. AD 1160; St James' Church, Priory Cell and Hospital and the Priory of Dominican Friars, founded at some time prior to AD 1239 and dissolved in AD 1539.
- 4.10 The south-west corner of the proposed cable route is located c. 50m from the presumed extent of the medieval town, which was probably surrounded by a town ditch, as has been noted on the north. This would place the cable route on the periphery of the medieval settlement, although medieval activity has been recorded nearby at King Street and Full Street.
- 4.11 The majority of the medieval town lies within 500m of the site, and the DHER records numerous sites and features, including domestic and industrial activity, the site of wells and the medieval market cross and the various religious sites mentioned above. Approximately 100m to the north of the cable route is St. Mary's Bridge, which replaced earlier medieval river crossings and sat adjacent to St.

Mary's Bridge Chapel from the 13th / 14th century onwards. The bridge is designated as a Scheduled Monument.

The Post Medieval (AD 1538 – AD 1900) and Modern (AD 1900 – Present) Periods

- 4.12 The town of Derby continued to develop and expand through the post-medieval period and by the early 18th century the town was well established, being described in 1725 by Daniel Defoe as 'a town of gentry rather than trade, yet it is populous, well built, has five parishes, a large market, a fine town house and very handsome streets' (Lord 1996, 31).
- 4.13 At this time, documentary sources record a town with corn mills, cloth mills, saw mills a thriving cloth industry and a number of malt-houses. The majority of the entries lie within the vicinity of the site on the DHER are of post-medieval date and large amount comprise industrial features.
- 4.14 The most notable of these mills is the Old Silk Mill, which lies adjacent to the cable route on the east. The Old Silk Mill was the first industrialised silk-mill to be erected in England and was built by Thomas Lombe in 1721. The mill was extremely successful and turned Derby into one of the most prominent silk towns in the country.
- 4.15 By 1777 there were at least eight silk mills in the town and twelve by 1789 with further factories recorded which were associated with the silk industries; such as turning silk into ribbons. It is thought that during the 18th century at least 18% of the town's population was associated with the silk industry (Lord 1996, 33). The Old Silk Mill is part of a long ribbon of historic mill complexes, stretching from the Old Silk Mill in Derby to Matlock Bath some 15 miles to the north. This area is designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, with the area surrounding it falling within its buffer zone.
- 4.16 The DHER records numerous examples of 16th, 17th and 18th century activity within the area of the site. All of these relate to domestic, commercial and industrial practices.
- 4.17 The route of a 17th century water supply system, which crosses from east to west across present day Sowter Road and along the western part of the proposed cable route. This conduit also passes close to the area of 18th century milling activity at the south-east terminus of the proposed cable route, as well as Lombe's Mill adjacent the cable route on the east.
- 4.18 The 17th century water supply system was created by George Sorocold, who was granted a 99-year lease in March 1692. the Lease stated: "*the mill commonly called Gunpowder Mill near St Michael's Mills and two sluices adjoining and the Little Byflatt, whereon that mill stands, with free liberty to erect a water-house, a water-wheel and other engines, laying pipes for conveying water into the streets, lanes and passages within the Borough ... the said George to begin work within three months next ensuing and to lay the pipes through the King's Streete, Irongate, Market Place, Rotten Row and the Corne Market inn Derby and soe to the Gaole Bridge ... within three years then next following*". (Craven 2007). A 1713 description states that " *...on the nearer side (of St Michael's Mills, south of Bridge Chapel) stands a water engine invented by Mr Sorocold, with great art, which, at the same time with a wheel, throws up water to a cistern joining to St Michael's Church, from thence conducted in pipes and supplies all parts of the town at an easy rate*' (Williamson 1954).
- 4.19 By early 19th century, the town had expanded considerably. In 1801 the population of the borough was given as 13,145, rising to 15,719 in 1811 and up to 27,190 in 1831 (Lord 1996, 63). The railway was introduced to Derby in 1838 and brought a fresh impetus for trade and industrial development. This industrial development is recorded with a number of industries noted from documentary and cartographic sources, including marble and spar works, iron foundries, gas works, printing works, cement and plaster works, timber yards and saw mills, ironworks, boiler works, colour works, tanneries, dye works and several mills.

- 4.20 Within the specific vicinity of the proposed cable route, 18th century features include the site of a boiler works off Sowter Road (area of the directional drill entry pit) and the Phoenix Iron Foundry on the eastern bank of the River (in the area of the directional drill exit pit). The Iron Foundry is first shown on the 1852 mapping and was established in c. 1836. The only other late 19th century feature within close proximity to the cable trench is a cast-iron electric column on Full Street.
- 4.21 The majority of these industries continued into the early 20th century, but began dying out soon after. Within the vicinity of the site, the DHER recorded several modern features of note, the most significant in relation to the cable trench being the electrical light works, situated on either side of Silk Mill Lane. The development of the area of the cable trench during the 19th and 20th centuries is shown on the available Ordnance Survey mapping (AOC 2011).

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were defined as being.
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable Steve Baker, archaeology advisor to Derby City Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 5.2 The specific aims of the archaeological watching brief were defined as being:
- Was there any evidence for post medieval remains on the site, specifically any remains relating to the silk works and the iron foundry on the eastern side of the river?
 - How do the remains relate to the industrial activity known in the area?
- 5.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 Methodology

- 6.1 The watching brief was carried out between 9th October 2012 and 25th March 2013 and was focussed on observing the excavation of a single trial pit and cable route (Figure 2).
- 6.2 The fieldwork comprised the monitoring of a single trial pit, recorded as Trench 1 and the excavation of a new cable trench. The single trial pit measured 3.8m x 2.8m x 1.2m deep, which was the stepped to an inner measurement of 2.0m x 2.0m x 1.3m. The pit was excavated to establish the location of a current utility. During the second phase, a new utility trench was excavated to replace the original service. This measured c.90.0m x 1.10m-3.0m and extended west along Full Street from the substation.
- 6.3 Fieldwork procedures followed the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (MoL 1994).
- 6.4 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- Derby City Council – CDLPR (2006).
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines) (EH 1992).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998b).
- English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2011).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 2008a).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2008b).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
- Museum of London – Archaeological Site Manual (Third Edition) (MoL 1994).
- RESCUE & ICON – First Aid for Finds (RESCUE & ICON 2001).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).

6.5 A unique site code for the project (**DBYMU: 2011.90**) was assigned by Derby Museum and Art Gallery prior to commencement of works and was used as the site identifier for all records.

6.6 The watching brief was undertaken by Tara Fidler, Project Supervisor, Catherine Edwards, Project Officer and Steve Collison, Project Supervisor, under the overall direction of Melissa Melikian, Operations Director. The work was monitored by Steve Baker, Archaeological Officer at Derbyshire County Council.

7 Results

7.1 Trench 1

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
0.00m	(16)	Tarmac.
0.10m	(17)	Aggregate. Levelling layer.
1.00m	(18)	Tarmac.
1.10-2.10m	(19)	Dark brown sandy silt. Made ground.

7.1.1 The single trial pit, recorded as Trench 1, was excavated to establish the location of the electrical cable, which was recorded at a depth of 2.1m below ground level (BGL). The lowest deposit identified was a made ground comprising dark brown sandy silt with ceramic building material (CBM) and mortar fragments (19). The thickness was recorded between 1.1m and 2.1m BGL.

7.1.2 The made ground was overlain by an earlier tarmac surface (18) at a depth between 1.0m and 1.1m BGL. This was overlain by aggregate (17) at a depth of 0.1m to 1.0m BGL and then the tarmac road surface (16).

7.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
0.00m	(1)	Tarmac.
0.08m	(2)	Aggregate and brick rubble. Levelling layer.
0.28m	(3)	Grey brown silts with ceramics. Made ground.
1.08m	(4)	Blue grey sandy clay. Alluvial?
1.38-1.48m	(5)	Yellow orange sandy clay with gravel. Natural.

- 7.2.1 The trench measured approximately 20.00m long by 1.10m wide and was excavated at the most eastern end of Cathedral Road running east onto the corner of Full Street (Figure 2).
- 7.2.2 The earliest deposit recorded was a natural deposit (5) comprising of yellow and orange sandy clay with gravel, at a depth of 1.38m BGL. This was overlain by a blue and grey gritty sandy clay, which is likely to have been an alluvial deposit (4), measuring 0.30m in thickness.
- 7.2.3 Cutting into (4) was a series of red brick walls. The earliest walls were recorded as (7) and (8) and were located on a north-east south-west alignment. The walls comprised of identical red bricks, two courses thick dated to 16th or 17th century. Both brick samples measured 53mm thick and 115mm wide and between 241mm and 235mm long. Wall (7) measured to a depth of 0.45m consisting of four brick courses, whilst wall (8) measured to a depth of approximately 0.60m.
- 7.2.4 Further east was another 16th-17th century brick wall (11) with a return, which may represent the corner of a previous structure or boundary wall. The bricks overlaid a stone slab which served as its footing. The north-east south-west section measured 1.40m by 0.50m and the north-west south-east section measured 1.20m by 0.50m, at a recorded thickness of 0.90m.



Plate 1 – 16th-17th century wall (11)

- 7.2.5 At the western end of the trench, was a 19th-20th century brick culvert (6), consisting of two red brick coursed walls overlain by stone slabs on a brick base. It measured 2.30m long by 0.50m wide and 0.40-0.45m deep.
- 7.2.6 Made ground (3) was recorded covering the trench. It is unclear whether any of the walls were cut into the made ground or whether the made ground was deposited around the walls, as no wall cuts were observed. The deposit consisted of grey brown silts with clay, plus fragments of 19th-20th century brick, concrete, glass, animal bone and stone. Three large masonry fragments, loose within the deposit, were observed to have tool marks and deliberate cuts. It is feasible that the stone was reused from a building demolition for stabilising the ground.
- 7.2.7 Cutting into the made ground at the east end of the trench was large post-medieval pit [10]. The pit was observed but not fully excavated, due to the limit of excavation depth for the cable route. It measured >1.50m wide and >1.00m deep and was truncated by the gas main. The fill (9) comprised of loose grey and yellow silt with ash, coal, brick and worked stone inclusions
- 7.2.8 Overlying the trench was a bedding layer (2) of loose brick rubble and aggregate, at a thickness of 0.20m, and tarmac (1), at a thickness of 0.08m.

7.3 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
0.00m	(12)	Tarmac.
0.08m	(13)	Aggregate and brown clay. Made ground.
0.58-1.58m	(14)	Yellow orange silty clay and sand. Natural.

- 7.3.1 Trench 3 was located at the western end of Full Street and measured 4.20m by 1.30m (Figure 2).
- 7.3.2 The earliest deposit was a natural (14) comprising of loose yellow and orange silty clay and sand. It was measured at a depth of 0.58m BGL. Cut into the natural (14) was a brick structure (15), possibly the remains of a cellar. It comprised of one long wall aligned northeast – southwest, measuring 4.20m long. Two returning walls were located on the south side aligned northwest – southeast, measuring 1.30m long. A brick floor was evident within the walls and was covered with demolished brick rubble. The 16th-17th century red bricks appear contemporary with those in wall (11)
- 7.3.3 Overlaying the trench was made ground (13) comprising of loose brick and aggregate with brown and light brown silty clay, measured at a thickness of 0.50m.
- 7.3.4 The trench was overlain by tarmac (12) at a thickness of 0.08m.

7.4 Trench 4 (Figure 4)

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
52.50mOD	0.00m	(100)	Tarmac.
52.40mOD	0.10m	(101)	Tarmac.
52.10mOD	0.30m	(102)	Black sandy gravel and limestone. Levelling layer.
51.60mOD	0.50m	(103)	Orange brown sandy clay. Levelling layer.
50.82-50.66mOD	0.78m-0.96m	(104)	Natural.

- 7.4.1 The trench for the cable route extended approximately 65.00m west, along Full Street, from the trial pit at the substation by The Silk Mill (Figure 2).
- 7.4.2 The earliest deposit recorded was a reddish brown sandy gravel natural (104), at a height of 51.50mOD approximately 25.00m west from the western end of the trench. Overlying the natural was a very firm orangey brown sandy clay, with charcoal and ceramic flecks. This was identified as a levelling layer (103) and measured a thickness of 0.28m. A second levelling deposit (111) was recorded approximately 50m west from the western end of Trench 4, situated on the corner of Sowter Road and Full Street. Deposit (111), recorded at a height of 49.95mOD, was recorded as a firm dark blackish brown sandy silt, with ceramic and charcoal flecks and measured >0.5m in thickness.



Plate 2 – South-facing section (Figure 3)

- 7.4.3 Approximately 9m west from the western end of the Trench 4 and cutting into deposit (103), was a red brick structure [105], which is likely to be a 19th-20th century wall or a column base. Only identified in section, the wall measured 1.76m long by >0.34m deep, with four courses of red brick on end and the top course of stretchers. The wall was aligned northeast to southwest and appeared to have terminated at the western end. The wall was recorded at a height of 51.92mOD.
- 7.4.4 Abutting the eastern side of the wall [105] was bedding layer (107), a dark black sandy silt, with ceramic and charcoal flecks, measuring 0.20m thick. Overlying (107) was [106], a red brick floor surface measuring 1.84m in length and 0.11m in depth and consisting of one course of bricks on their ends, positioned flat. The height of the floor level was recorded at 51.81mOD. It is feasible that this was the interior surface to the structure comprising wall [105].
- 7.4.5 Abutting the east end of floor [106] and (107) was a red brick structure [108], possibly a wall. It measured 2.06m long and >0.34m deep.



Plate 3 – South-facing section of structures [105]-[108]

- 7.4.6 Overlying levelling deposit (111) discussed above was a highly disturbed 19th century cobbled surface [110], comprising of loose black silty sand. It measured 0.14m in thickness but its extent could not be recorded due to heavy truncation of modern services.
- 7.4.7 At the eastern end of the trench, located adjacent of the substation wall and trial pit, 20th century deposits were recorded. These were recorded as demolition layer (115) consisting of firm black silty sand with demolition rubble at a height of 48.3mOD and overlying buried modern concrete (114). The concrete layer is likely to be related to the substation structure. No features or finds of archaeological interest were identified at the eastern end of the trench.
- 7.4.8 Overlying the main body of the trench was a series of later levelling layers and bedding horizons recorded as (102), (109), (112) and (113). Overlying Trench 4 was a course of lower tarmac (101), at a thickness of between 0.1m and 0.2m; and a smooth upper tarmac (100), measuring 0.1m in thickness. The height was recorded as 52.5mOD at the western end of the trench and 49.1m at the eastern end (situated by the substation).

8 Finds

- 8.1 No significant archaeological finds were retained during the watching brief. However, brick samples were taken of walls (7) and (8) in Trench 2. Their dimensions and finishing suggest they date to 16th or 17th century. Brick samples from wall (6) suggest a late 19th or 20th century date. These were assessed and discarded.
- 8.2 Also from Trench 2, a piece of animal bone was recovered from the made ground (3) and was identified as a sheep or goat limb. This was discarded.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 During the course of the watching brief the nature and extent of the archaeological potential was observed. A full sequence of natural deposits and 19th-20th century deposits was recorded across the watching brief area.
- 9.2 Natural deposits were identified in varying locations along the cable route trench, consisting of sandy gravel. The excavation depth of 1.00m-1.30m showed limited horizons of activity prior to the 19th century, therefore, a full stratigraphic sequence was not fully observed along the whole trench.
- 9.3 The trial pit (Trench 1) identified the location of the electrical cable; therefore, the overlying deposits were 20th century in date and showed no archaeological significance. A further trial hole was

excavated to establish the location of the cable entering the building occupying the substation. However, due to the lack of archaeological significance, this was not monitored.

- 9.4 The watching brief identified limited archaeological features, but the earliest phasing of red brick structures appeared dated to 16th-17th century with three independent walls in Trench 2 and one in Trench 3, indicating post-medieval structures.
- 9.5 The brick structure in Trench 3 is on a different alignment to the upstanding buildings on the north side of Full Street. Overlaying the structural remains onto an 1882 map (Figure 5), indicates that the walls/structural remains are likely to be the remains of previous buildings that had aligned the road layout prior to the road being widened. As the map indicates, Cathedral Road (Walkers Lane) and Full Lane were much narrower. In order to widen the roads, an entire row of properties on the northern sides appears to have been cleared. The walls recorded on site may be the remains of those structures.
- 9.6 A 19th-20th century red brick structure, including walls and a floor, in Trench 4 represents associated activity to structures located in the area. It is feasible that it is a 19th century industrial building relating to the building immediately north of Full Street, which is a converted warehouse.
- 9.7 The structure in Trench 4 is likely to have been demolished for the modern road layout. The positioning of the trench provides an extent of the structure as it was only observed in the south facing section. The trench was excavated prior to observation, so its true extent could not be determined. The trench was not excavated at a depth to obtain the full extent of the structure and whether it was overlying any other deposits other than the natural horizon.
- 9.8 The eastern end of Trench 4, adjacent to the substation, provided evidence of the previous power station which was demolished in the 1970s for the current substation.
- 9.9 There was no recorded activity or archaeological finds identified relating to The Silk Mill or the iron foundry.
- 9.10 No further work is recommended.

10 Publication and Archive Deposition

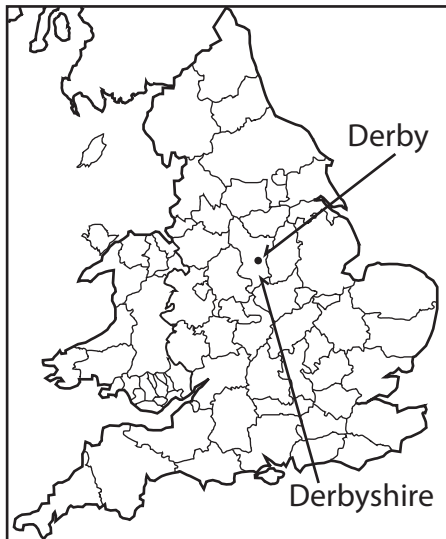
- 10.1 A paper copy of the watching brief report will be issued to Steve Baker, Archaeological Officer at Derbyshire County Council, and the local studies library on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time. A digital copy (pdf) of the report will also be submitted to the Derbyshire HER on a CD with indexed digital copies of all site photography. A summary will also be submitted via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix C).
- 10.2 The site archive will be prepared in accordance with *Procedures for the transfer of archaeological archives* (Museums in Derbyshire 2003). The site archive will comprise all artefacts, environmental samples and written and drawn records. It is to be consolidated after completion of the whole project, with records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record.
- 10.2 The archive will be deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery following discussions with the curator regarding scheduling, within six months of the completion of fieldwork. The Control Archaeologist will be informed upon the final deposition of the archive.

11 Bibliography

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UNDERGROUND CABLE ROUTE, THE SILK MILL, SOWTER ROAD, DERBY:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT



Approximate Site Location
Within England & Wales

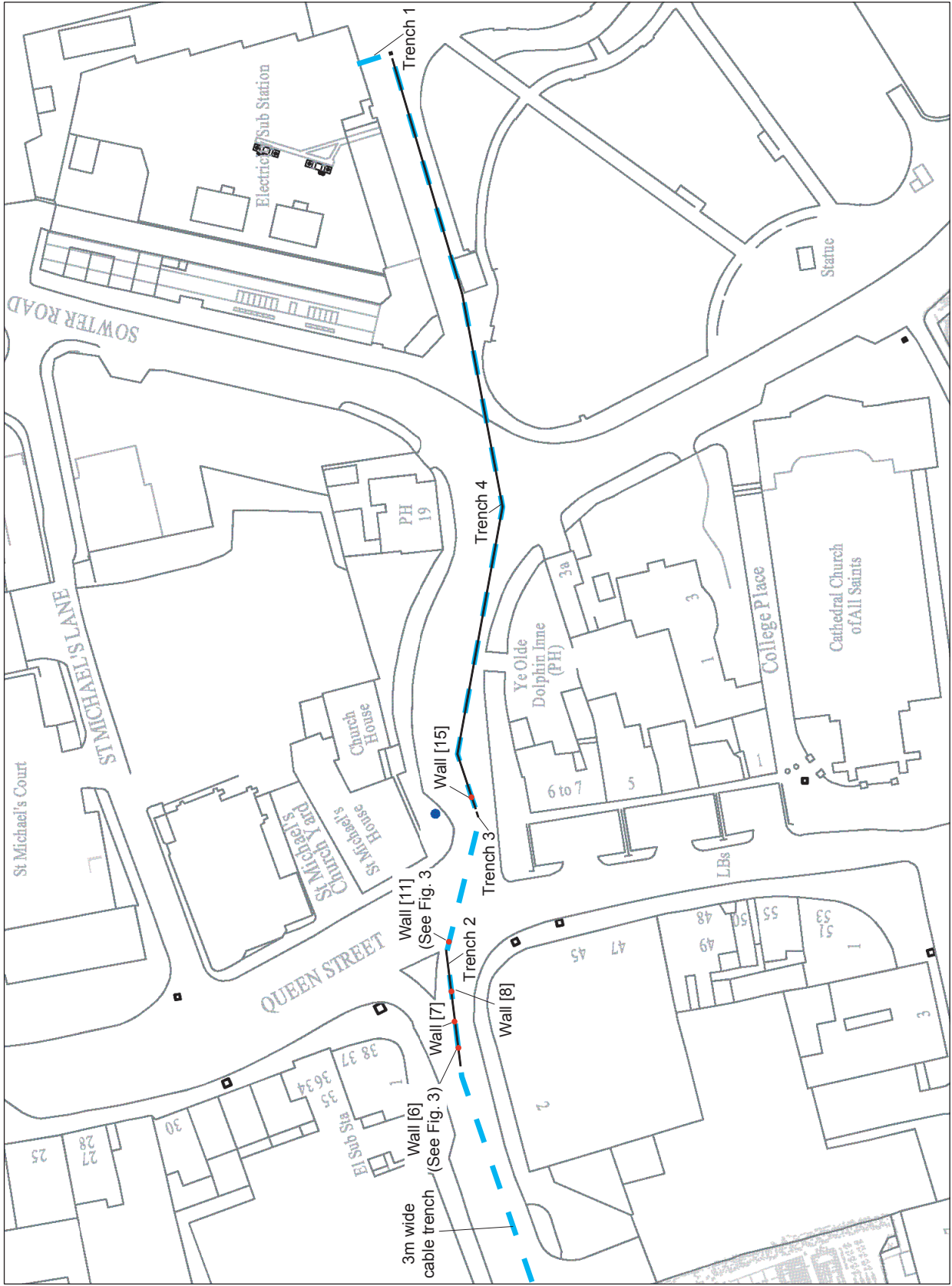


Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2002 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

500m 0 2 km

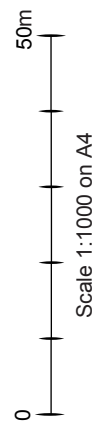
1:50 000

Figure 1: Site Location



NB. Mapping from client's original drawing

Figure 2: Detailed Site / Watching Brief Location



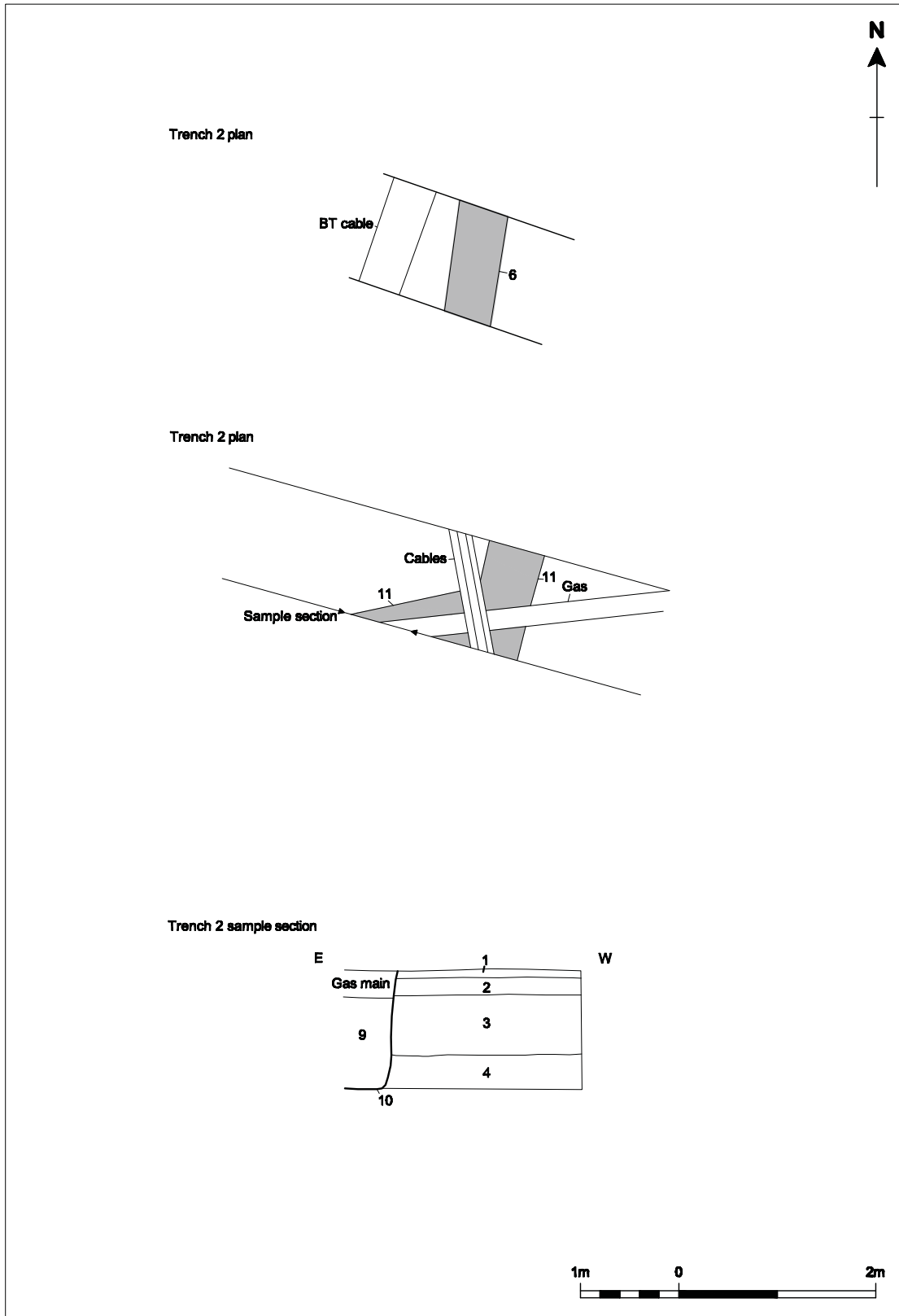


Figure 3: Trench 2 Plan and Sample Section

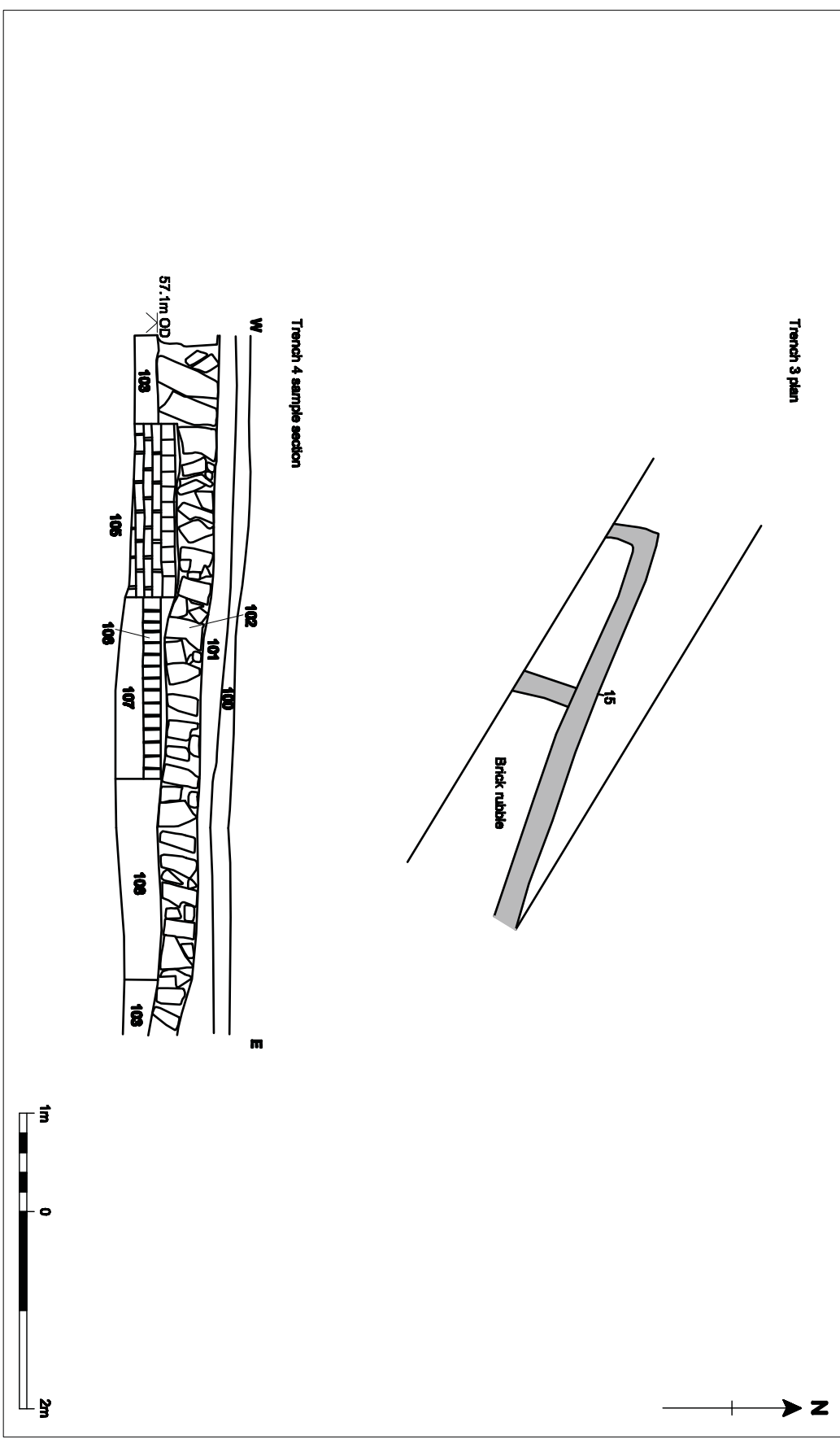
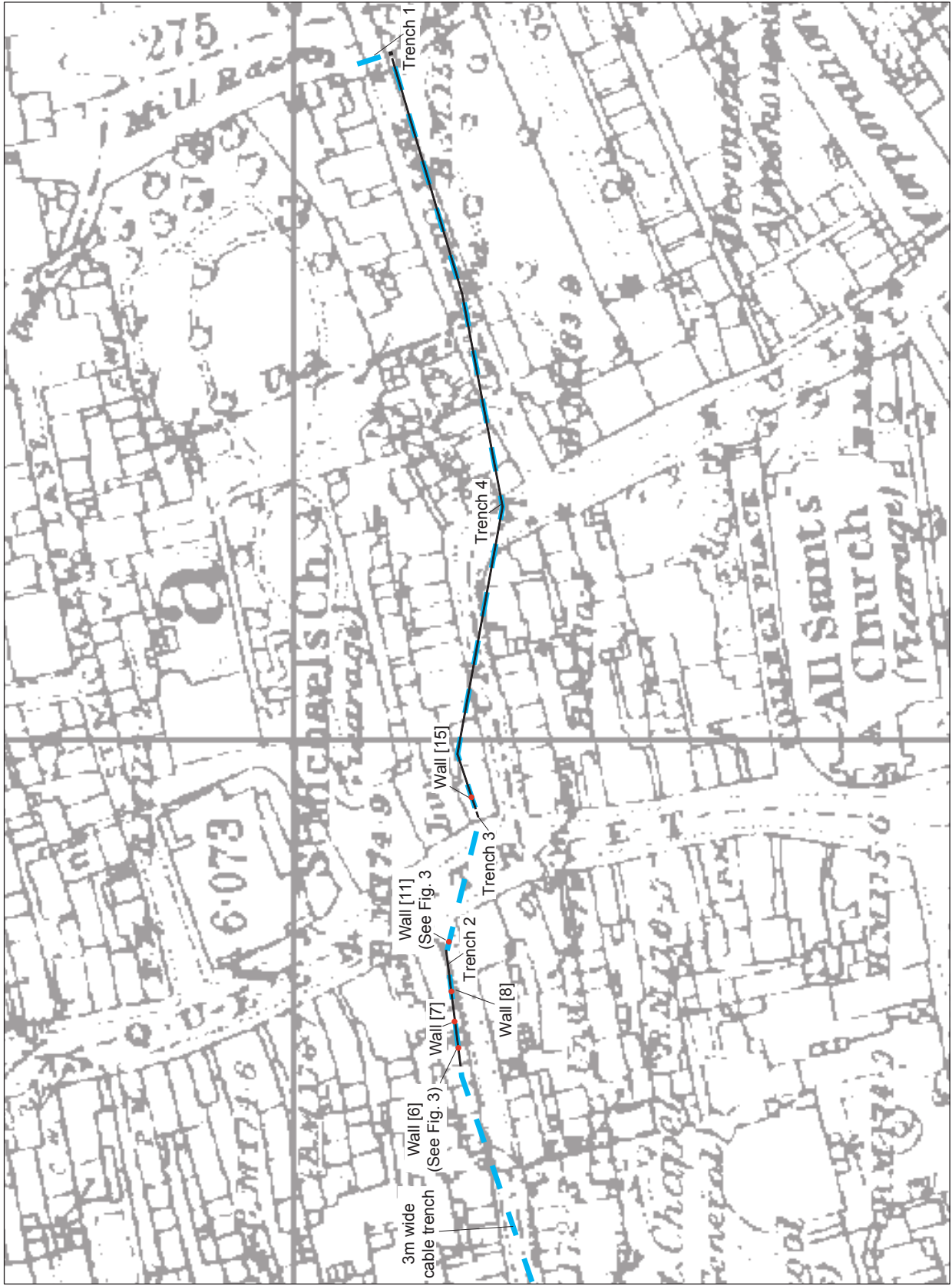


Figure 4: Trench 3 Plan and Trench 4 Sample Section



NB. Mapping from client's original drawing

Figure 5: Structural Remains Overlaid on Ordnance Survey Map of 1882



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context	Description	Length	Width	Depth
1	Tarmac.	20.00m	1.10m	0.08m
2	Levelling layer.	20.00m	1.10m	0.20m
3	Made ground.	20.00m	1.10m	0.80m
4	Alluvial deposit.	20.00m	1.10m	0.30m
5	Natural.	20.00m	1.10m	>0.10m
6	Culvert.	2.30m	0.50m	0.40m-0.45m
7	Wall.			0.45m
8	Wall.			0.60m
9	Pit fill.		>1.50m	>1.00m
10	Pit cut.		>1.50m	>1.00m
11	Wall.	1.40m + 1.20m	0.50m + 0.50m	0.90m
12	Tarmac.	4.20m	1.30m	0.08m
13	Made ground.	4.20m	1.30m	0.50m
14	Natural.	4.20m	1.30m	>1.00m
15	Brick structure.	4.20m	1.30m	0.45
16	Tarmac.	3.80m	2.80m	0.10m
17	Levelling layer.	3.80m	2.80m	0.90m
18	Tarmac.	3.80m	2.80m	1.10m
19	Made ground.	3.80m	2.80m	1.00m
100	Tarmac.	65.00m	3.00m	0.10m
101	Tarmac.	65.00m	3.00m	0.10m-0.20m
102	Levelling layer.	45.00m	3.00m	0.20m-0.40m
103	Levelling layer.	45.00m	3.00m	0.28m
104	Natural.	45.00m	3.00m	>0.34m
105	Wall.	1.76m		>0.34m
106	Floor.	1.84m		0.11m
107	Levelling layer.	1.84m		>0.20m
108	Wall.	2.06m		>0.34m
109	Levelling layer.	12.00m	3.00m	0.20m
110	Disturbed cobbled surface.	12.00m	3.00m	0.14m
111	Levelling layer.	12.00m	3.00m	>0.50m
112	Levelling layer.	3.00m	1.20m	0.10m
113	Levelling layer.	3.00m	1.20m	0.34m
114	Concrete.	3.00m	1.20m	0.15m
115	Demolition layer.	3.00m	1.20m	>0.50m

Appendix B – Finds Assessment

An Assessment of Finds from Silk Mill, Derby

Paul Fitz

AOC Archaeology

Two brick samples were taken from walls (7) and (8).

Both plain, relatively smooth handmade* bricks of a mauve red colour.

Both are 53mm (2¹/₈") thick and 115mm (4¹/₂") wide. One is 241mm (9¹/₂") in length and the other 235mm (9¹/₄"). The dimensions and finishing of the bricks are suggestive of a 16th or 17th century.

* Though heavily coated in a firm ash grey/ white lime mortar with occasional black charcoal flecks some areas are visible

The brick from wall (6) is a fresh orange coloured plain brick with press smoothed finish. It is 121mm (4³/₄") wide x 235mm (9³/₄") length x 65mm (possibly as 2¹/₂") thick. Whilst it is not classic British standard length and width, the freshness and thickness of the brick would suggest late 19th or 20th century.

A piece of sheep/goat limb bone (3), with no visible butchery marks (it has shatter splint damage at one end) weighing 99 grams was collected, as was a flattish, smooth mudstone type pebble (5). The latter was cleaned and studied for areas of wear and/or polishing indicating use as a whetstone/hone stone but nothing was seen to suggest it is merely natural; compressed and smoothed by abrasion in natural sand gravels.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Hammond, M. (1981) *Bricks and Brickmaking*

Appendix C – Oasis Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-109190

Project details

Project name Silk Mill, Sowter Road, Derby

Short description of the project A watching brief was conducted on a single trial pit and new cable trench. 16th-17th century wall and 19th-20th century structures were observed.

Project dates Start: 09-10-2012 End: 25-03-2013

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any project codes associated reference 30148 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference DBYMU:2011-90 - Museum accession ID

Any project codes associated reference 30184 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status World Heritage Site

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type WALLS Post Medieval

Monument type CULVERT Modern

Monument type WALLS Modern

Monument type FLOOR Modern

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type ""Watching Brief""

Project location

Country England

Site location DERBYSHIRE DERBY DERBY The Silk Mill, Sowter Road

Postcode DE1 3AF

Study area 300.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SK 3534 3663 52 -1 52 55 32 N 001 28 27 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 49.00m Max: 53.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project design originator AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Melissa Melikian

Project supervisor Steve Collison

Project supervisor Tara Fidler

Project supervisor Catherine Edwards

Type of developer
 sponsor/funding body

Name of Western Power Distribution
 sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
 Exists?

Digital Archive Derby City Museum and Art Gallery
 recipient

Digital Archive ID DBYMU: 2011.90

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
 available

Paper Archive Derby City Museum and Art Gallery
 recipient

Paper Archive ID DBYMU: 2011.90

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Diary", "Microfilm", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
 available

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Underground Cale Route, The Silk Mill, Sowter Road, Derby: A Written Scheme
 of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hogg, I.

Date 2012

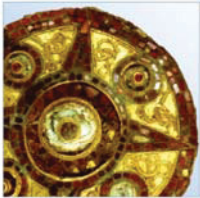
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Entered on 9 April 2013



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