

Staff Car Park, Derby City General Hospital, Northmead Drive, Derby

An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

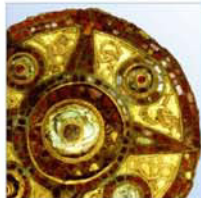
Planning Application Number: DER/11/08/01675/PRI

National Grid Reference Number: SK 3252 3542

AOC Project no: 30377

Site Code: 2008-341

Date: April 2009



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Group

ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Staff Car Park, Derby City General Hospital, Northmead Drive, Derby

An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Derby City General Hospital
Capital Projects Dept
Education Centre,. Level 4
Utttoxeter Road
Derby
DE22 3NE

National Grid Reference (NGR): SK 3252 3542

AOC Project No: 30377

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Date of Watching Brief: 19th January – 21st April 2009

Date of Report: April 2009

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

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Date: April 2009

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on a programme of ground reduction works for the installation of a staff car park at Derby City General Hospital, Northmead Drive, Derby from January to April 2009. Ground reduction was monitored across the site and soil investigation test pits were monitored in the central part of the site. All archaeological work was carried out by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Derby City General Hospital.

No archaeological features were revealed. Much of the site had been heavily truncated by recent activity; a sequence of ploughsoil overlying natural clay was present in undisturbed areas.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a report on an Archaeological Watching Brief undertaken on the enabling works for the Staff Car Park, Derby City General Hospital, Northmead Drive, Derby (Figure 1). The work was undertaken on behalf of Derby City General Hospital.
- 1.2 The site is located off Northmead Drive, Derby. The site is bounded by the current hospital staff car park to the south, waste ground to the west, undisturbed grassland to the north and commercial properties to the east. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 3252 3542. It measured approximately 2.1 hectares in size and is roughly triangular in shape (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The development comprises the enabling works and associated soil investigations for the construction of a new car park.

2. Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority was Derby City Council. Archaeological advice to the council was provided by Derbyshire County Council's Development Control Archaeologist, Steve Baker.
- 2.2 In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990) and the recommendations of Steve Baker, an archaeological investigation was carried out as a condition of planning consent (Planning Reference No. DER/11/08/01675/PRI). The condition stated:

"No development shall take place within the site until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This scheme shall include on-site work, and off-site work such as the analysis, publication, and archiving of the results. All works shall be carried out and completed as approved, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority."

- 2.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared as the first part of the condition for the proposed archaeological work (AOC 2009).
- 2.4 The site did not contain any Listed Buildings or Scheduled Monuments and did not lie within any Area of Archaeological Importance.
- 2.5 The development comprises the enabling works and associated soil investigations for the construction of a new car park and nursery.
- 2.6 This report details the results of the Archaeological Watching Brief.

3. Geology & Topography

- 3.1 The site lay upon solid geology of Edwalton Formation which forms part of the Triassic Mudstone Group. The site was relatively flat and lay approximately 80mOD.

4. Archaeological & Historical Background

Prehistoric (Before c.AD 43)

- 4.1 While the SMR does not record any prehistoric features or finds within 500m of the site, Derby is relatively rich in prehistoric remains. A Bronze Age cremation cemetery lies 2.4km south of the site and was excavated in 2003; an alignment of prehistoric pits was also excavated at this site. It has

been argued that the Bronze Age cremations followed the line of a prehistoric trackway which later became Rykneld Street (Vinnels 2006) which runs just to the south of the site.

- 4.2 A Bronze Age battleaxe was found in a garden off Burton Road, around 1.1km south of the site.

Roman (c.AD 43 – 410)

- 4.3 A great deal of Roman activity has been recorded around Derby. A fort was established near Strutts Park, west of the River Derwent, between AD 52 and AD 57. By the mid 70's AD this fort was replaced by a timber fort at Little Chester, located around 3km northeast of the site. This fort known as *Derventio* was subsequently abandoned before being re-occupied in the 2nd century. A bath house, an ironworking site and a cemetery have also been found around the fort.
- 4.4 Approximately 800m south of the site is Rykneld Street (also known as Icknield Street) which runs from Bourton on the Water in Gloucestershire to Templeborough in South Yorkshire. The exact course of this road is not known until it gets to Little Chester. Features associated with the road include construction pits, drainage and boundary ditches. Roman coins and pottery have also been found within 1 km of the site.

Anglo-Saxon (c.AD 410 – 1066)

- 4.5 During the Saxon period Derby was part of Mercia. After the Treaty of Alfred and Guthrum, from AD 878-890, it became one of the five Burghs of the Danelaw and part of Danish Mercia. Derby was subsequently restored to Saxon hands under Edward the Elder (AD 899-924)
- 4.6 Saxon Derby was located in the area of the modern city centre with an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery situated near Little Chester. Little activity has been noted close to the site.

Medieval (c.AD 1066 – 1485)

- 4.7 The centre of Saxon activity continued to be the focus of medieval activity in Derby. The nearby settlement of Littleover, 0.2km south of the site, is mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Parva Ulfra*.
- 4.8 Very little medieval activity is recorded in the vicinity of the site; St Leonard Leper Hospital was located 2.4km east of the site, founded in 1171 by Henry II. A priory of Benedictine nuns, known as King's Mead or de Pratis Priory was located on Nuns Street 2.2km northeast of the site, this priory was founded in 1160 and was destroyed in the reformation in 1536.

Post-Medieval (c.AD 1485 - Modern)

- 4.9 Derby expanded greatly in the Post-Medieval period, mainly due to the cloth industry in the 16th and 17th centuries, while the porcelain industry became extremely prosperous in the 18th and 19th centuries. The River Derwent was the major method of transporting goods for much of this period. Many textile mills and early factories are situated close to the River in the World Heritage site known as Derwent Valley Mills (Vinnels 2006).
- 4.10 Cartographic evidence suggests that the site was undeveloped in the late 19th century and remained undeveloped until very recently. Derby City General Hospital itself can be seen on the 1938 Ordnance Survey Map and is surrounded by fields with a separate infirmary immediately east of the application site.

5. Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the 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 the archaeology advisor to Derby City Council to make an informed decision on the status of the condition on the planning permission, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.

5.2 The specific aims of the Watching Brief were:

- To determine the presence of any remains of Prehistoric date.
- To determine the presence of any remains of Roman date, specifically relating to Rykneld Street.

5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6. Methodology

6.1 The archaeological programme of work comprised a series of watching briefs on all ground reduction works within the area of the site. (Figure 2). The areas and works observed were:

- Topsoil Stripping
- Excavation of soil investigation test pits

6.2 All machining during the watching brief was carried out using a 13 ton 360° tracked excavator with a ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor.

6.3 A unique side code **2008-341** was obtained for the project, and used for all fieldwork

6.4 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 3rd edition 1994).

6.5 All of the work was carried out in line with:

- Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, *Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork* (English Heritage June 1998)
- IFA *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA October 1994)

6.6 A continuous unique numbering system was employed.

- 6.7 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.

7. Results

7.1 Ground Reduction

- 7.1.1 The ground across the site was reduced to the natural clay; much of the western part of the site (Figure 2) was heavily truncated due to previous construction. Most of the eastern part of the site was also truncated as a car park and construction site occupied the area until recently.
- 7.1.2 The central area of the site was undisturbed; however no archaeological remains were encountered when the area was stripped.



The Central Area of the Site.

7.2 Soil Investigation Test Pits



Test Pit 1 Section.

- 7.2.1 Five test pits were monitored, these were located in the central grassy area of the site (Figure 3), all test pits were dug down to the natural clay.
- 7.2.2 All five of the test pits showed the same stratigraphic sequence of natural brownish red firm sandy clay with occasional flint inclusions (102), (202), (302), (402), (502), overlain by dark greyish brown clay-silt plough soil (101), (201), (301), (401), (501) 0.30m thick (Figure 4).
- 7.2.3 No archaeological remains were observed during these works.

7.3 Finds

- 7.3.1 No finds were retrieved from the site and no environmental samples were taken.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The watching brief did not identify any archaeological remains on the site. It should be noted that the results of the watching brief are biased by the level of recent truncation on site; the lack of remains cannot be seen as indicative of a lack of archaeological activity in the area.

- 8.2 Where the site was not truncated the stratigraphy showed an undisturbed sequence of natural clay overlain by ploughsoil.
- 8.3 No further work is recommended on the site although the final decision rests with Derby City Council's Development Control Archaeologist, Steve Baker.
- 8.3 The results of the watching brief will be limited to publication via the online ADS OASIS database and a short summary for the local round-up.

9. Bibliography

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT



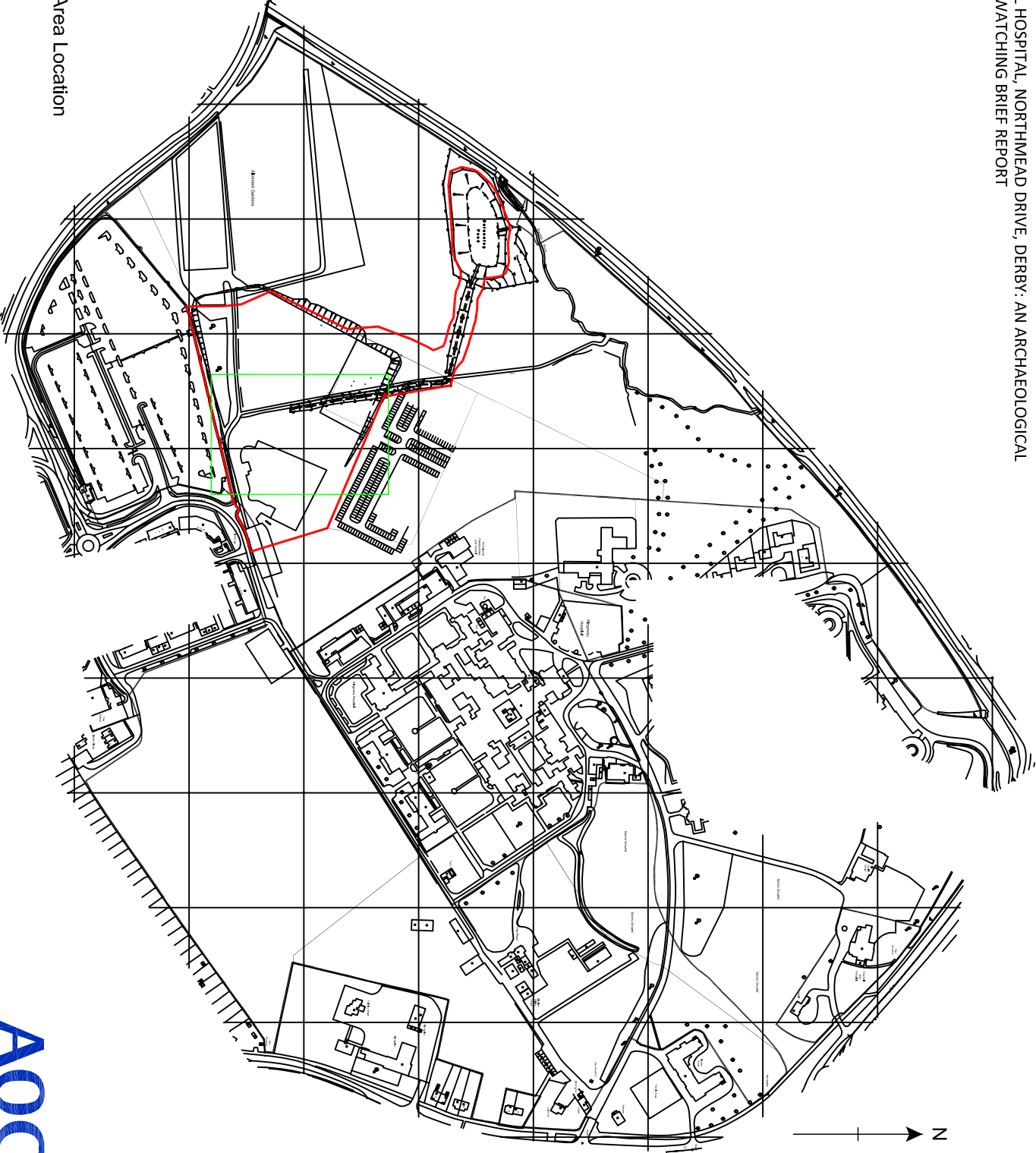
Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2002
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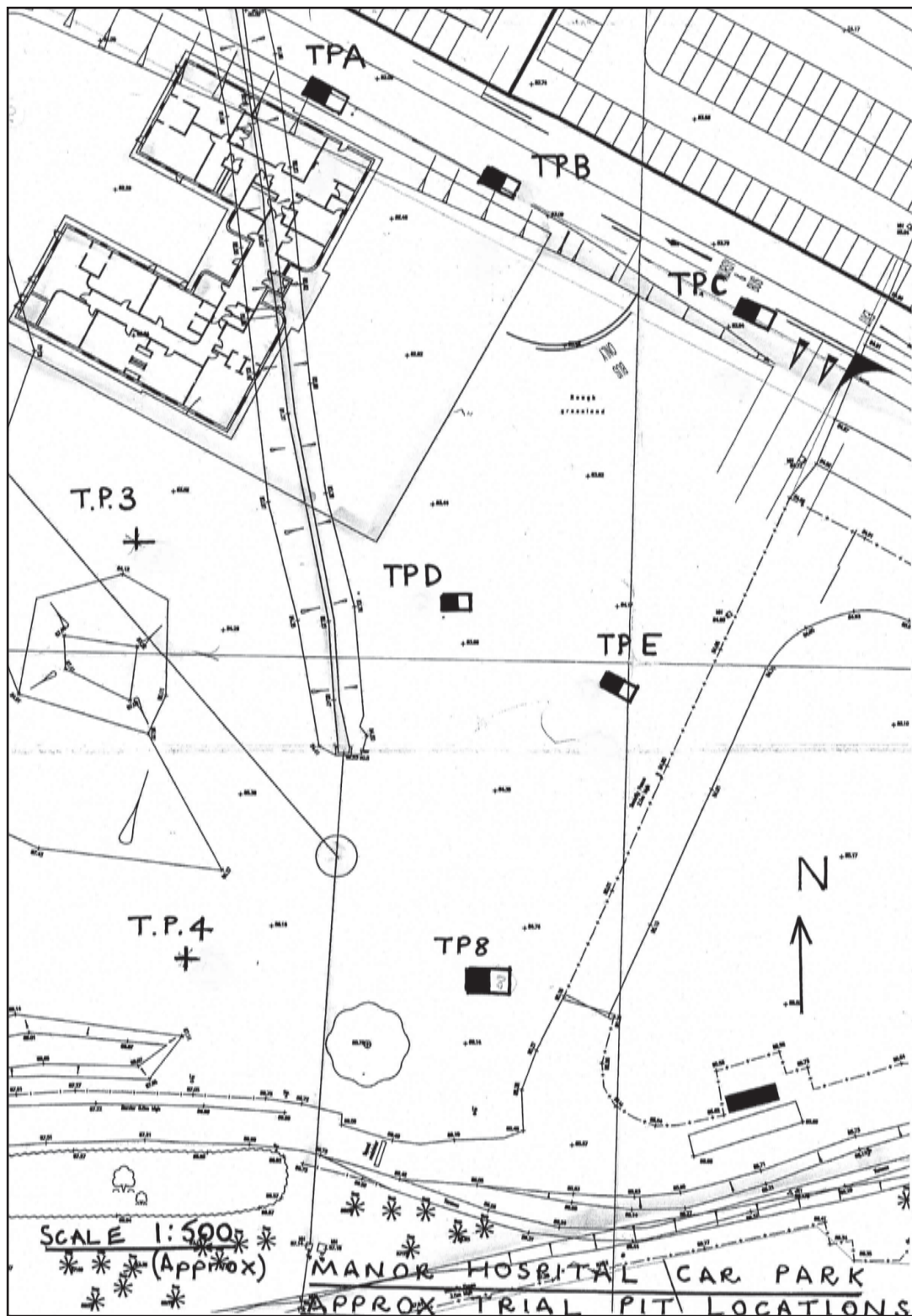
Figure 1: Site Location

- Watching Brief Area
- Approximate Outline of Figure 3

Figure 2: Watching Brief Area Location



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Based on a Plan Provided by the client

Figure 3: Test Pit Location Plan (Not To Scale)

Appendices

Appendix A Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth	Plan No.	Section No.
101	Ploughsoil	2.00m	2.00m	0.30m	1	1
102	Natural	2.00m	2.00m	0.10m	1	1
201	Ploughsoil	2.00m	2.00m	0.35m	2	2
202	Natural	2.00m	2.00m	0.06m	2	2
301	Ploughsoil	2.00m	2.00m	0.28m	3	3
302	Natural	2.00m	2.00m	0.12m	3	3
401	Ploughsoil	2.00m	2.00m	0.35m	4	4
402	Natural	2.00m	2.00m	0.11m	4	4
501	Ploughsoil	2.00m	2.00m	0.27m	5	5
502	Natural	2.00m	2.00m	0.16m	5	5

Appendix B OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: aocarcha1-54373

Project details

Project name Staff Car Park Derby City General Hospital

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was conducted on a programme of ground reduction enabling works for the installation of a staff car park and Nursery at Derby City General Hospital. Ground reduction was monitored across the site and soil investigation test pits were monitored in the central part of the site. No archaeological features were revealed. Much of the site had been heavily truncated, a sequence of ploughsoil overlying natural clay was present in undisturbed areas.

Project dates Start: 19-01-2009 End: 24-04-2009

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 30377 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes 2008-341 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location DERBYSHIRE DERBY DERBY Derby City General Hospital, Northmead Road.

Postcode DE22 3NE

Study area 2.10 Hectares

Site coordinates SK 3252 3542 52.9148993587 -1.516327369270 52 54 53 N 001 30 58 W Point

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire City Council
originator

Project design AOC Archaeology
originator

Project Andy Leonard
director/manager

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Derby City General Hospital
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Derby City Museum and Art Gallery
recipient

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography'
available

Paper Archive Derby City Museum and Art Gallery
recipient

Paper Archive ID 2008-341

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media 'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
available

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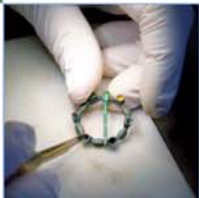
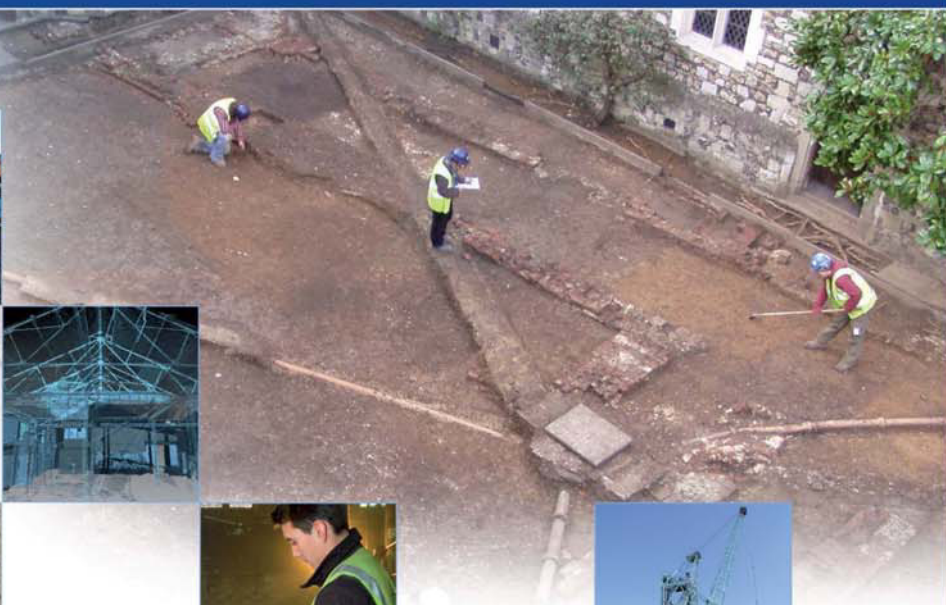
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