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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Field Investigation
on the site of the former
North Derbyshire Tertiary College,
Rectory Road,
Clowne,
Derbyshire**

NGR: SK 49350 75526

Andrew Hyam



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NGR: SK 49350 75526

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For: Bellway Homes East Midlands Limited

Approved by:

Signed: ...



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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on the site of the former North Derbyshire Tertiary College, Rectory Road, Clowne, Derbyshire by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in September 2012. Planning permission has been granted for residential development with associated landscaping. Due to the location within an area of archaeological interest, the Derbyshire County Council, Development Control Archaeologist, as advisor to the planning authority, has requested that a programme of investigation by trial trenching take place to identify and locate any archaeological remains that may be affected by the development.

Nine 20m long by 1.8m wide trenches were excavated across the proposed development site, most targeting areas outside the footprint of demolished buildings which recently occupied the site. The central areas of the site had been heavily disturbed since the late 19th century although small areas of undisturbed natural substrata were noted along the northern and southern boundaries. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within any of the trenches.

1. Introduction

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012) this document forms the report for an archaeological field investigation (evaluation) on the site of the former North Derbyshire Tertiary College, Rectory Road, Clowne, Derbyshire, NGR: SK 49350 75526. Under planning application number BOL/06/00692/FULMAJ it is intended that the site will be used for a residential development. When considering the planning application the Senior Development Control Archaeologist at Derbyshire County Council (DCC), as advisor to the planning authority and Bolsover District Council, recommended the requirement for an archaeological field investigation to take place due to the site's location within an area of archaeological interest. The work has been commissioned by Bellway Homes East Midlands Limited and addressed the requirements of the *Brief for a Conditioned Programme of Archaeological Fieldwork. North Derbyshire Tertiary College, Rectory Road, Clowne, Derbyshire* (DCC 2007) and followed the *ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work at North Derbyshire Tertiary College, Rectory Road, Clowne, Derbyshire* (ULAS 2010; hereinafter WSI) approved by DCC.

2. Background

Clowne lies midway between Chesterfield to the south-west and Worksop to the north-east. The proposed development site lies in the centre of the village on the south

side of the railway which divides the settlement on an east to west axis (Fig. 1). The development site is roughly rectangular and lies at the bottom of a shallow valley with the ground rising towards the northern and southern borders (Figs. 2, 3 and 4). Rectory Road runs along the northern and eastern boundaries of the site, Church Street forms its southern boundary and a number of other properties run along the western side. Although not very clear it would appear that both Rectory Road and Church Street are present on the First Series 1840 Ordnance Survey map (Sheet 82). The culverted Millswood Brook runs from west to east across the centre of the site although this is not visible above ground. As noted in the WSI the site has until recently been occupied by a number of buildings belonging to the North Derbyshire Tertiary College, most of which have now been demolished leaving a number of large spoil heaps across the site (Fig. 5). Before the construction of the Tertiary College buildings the site underwent a gradual process of development culminating into three separate and distinct schools and a cinema.

It would appear that the construction of the Tertiary College buildings involved a significant amount of landscaping to create a large flat central area to the site leaving a narrow raised border of land along Rectory Road and Church Street. Evidence of this can be seen in an exposed cliff face of limestone bedrock seen in the south-east corner of the site (Fig. 6). This suggests that at this point, at least, the ground has been reduced in height by over 2m.

Geotechnical surveys indicate that the underlying geology consists of limestone fragments probably belonging to the Cadeby Formation.



Figure 1. Clowne location

Site highlighted in red. North to top of map

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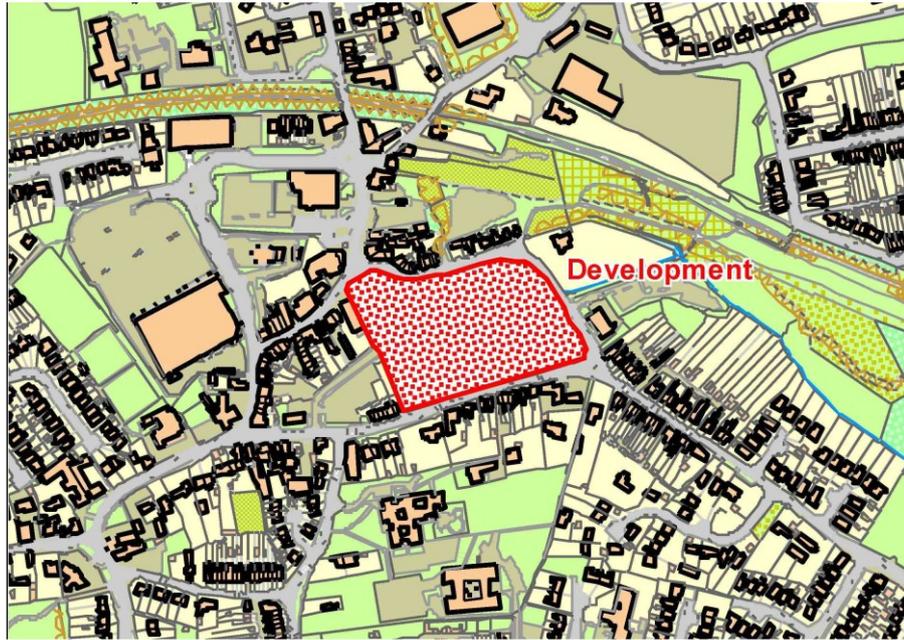


Figure 2. Development site
South Derbyshire District Council. Brief for a Conditioned Programme of Archaeological Field Investigation.



Figure 3. General view of site looking south-west



Figure 4. General view of site looking north

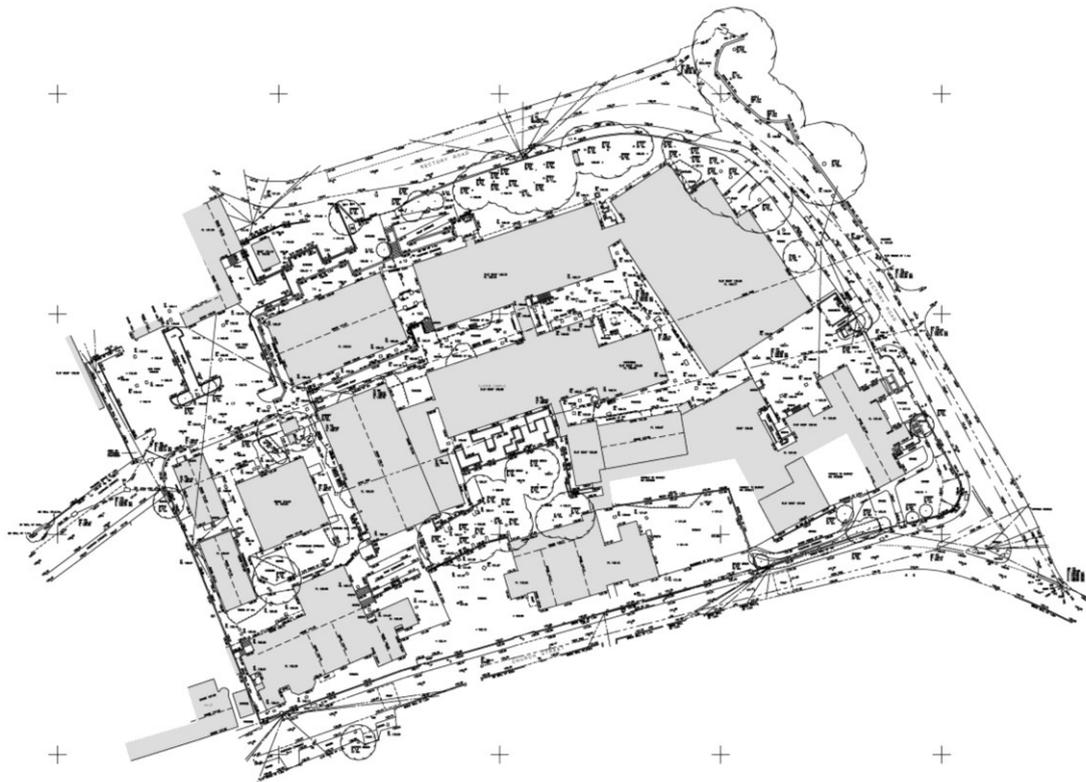


Figure 5. Location of Tertiary College buildings before demolition
Bellway Homes East Midlands Ltd drawing number 12274-R1



Figure 6. Evidence of reduced ground level in south-east corner of the site.
Looking south. 2m scale

3. Objectives

As identified in the WSI for archaeological work the main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that can demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

Nine 20m long by 1.8m wide trenches were proposed and located to target areas which may not have been disturbed by modern building work and services. Due to the presence of the culverted brook and apparently live sewers and drains some of the trenches had to be moved slightly from that specified in the WSI (Fig. 7).

Topsoil or modern overburden was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All spoil heaps were inspected for unstratified archaeological material. All trenches were intended to be excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or the natural substratum in the absence of any archaeological deposits. However in some cases (see below) the loose nature of the overburden and made ground made the trench edges dangerous and the presence of adjacent sewers or concrete foundations prevented stepping or sloping the edges.

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were to be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

Each trench was recorded on a standard ULAS pro-forma trench recording sheet noting soil depths and descriptions. One longitudinal face and the base of each trench was recorded in this way. Sections of any excavated archaeological features were to be drawn at an appropriate scale. Any drawn sections of archaeological features would also be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed bench mark. Trench locations were recorded and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A photographic record of the investigations was prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Colour digital and black and white 35mm photographs were taken throughout the evaluation. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

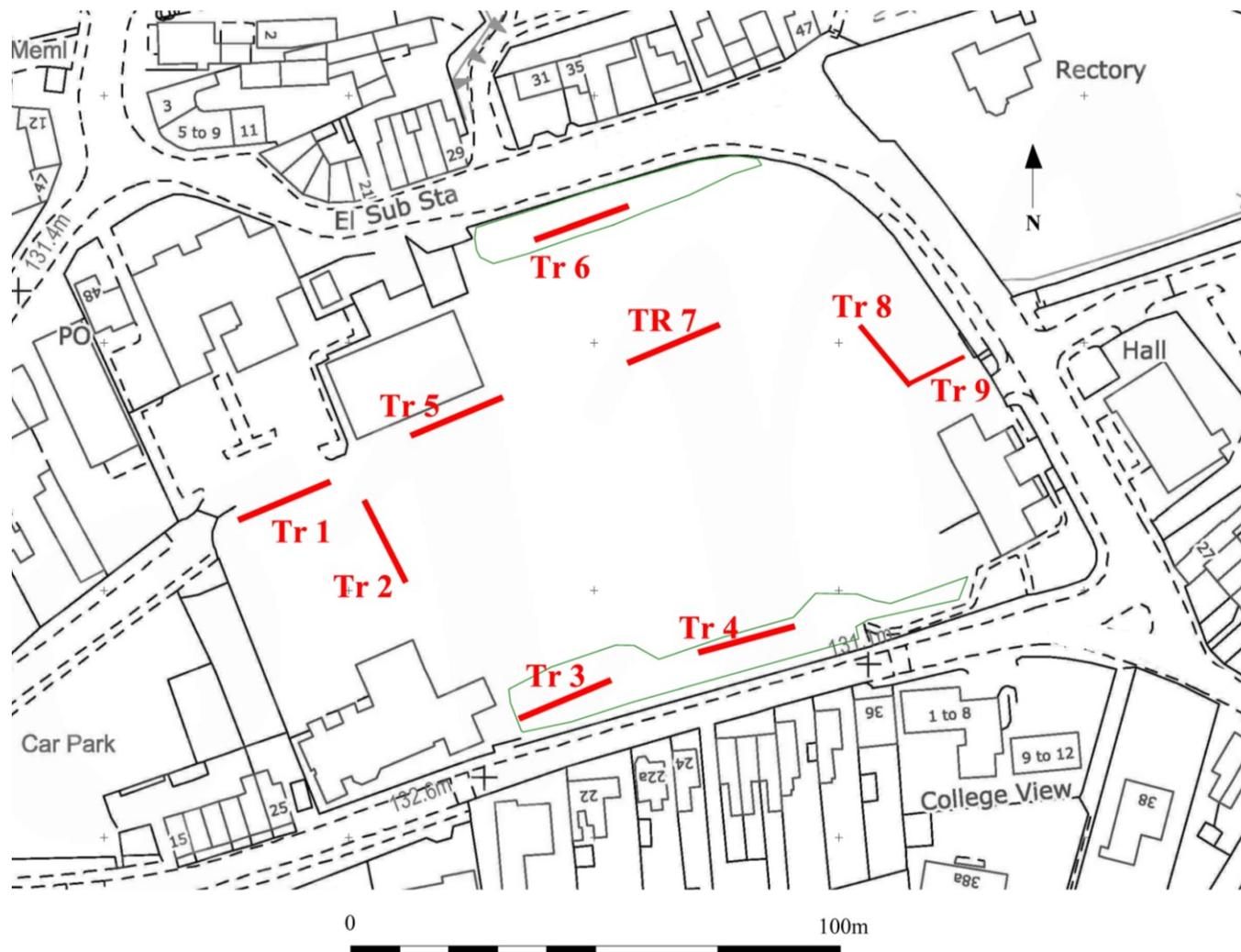


Figure 7. Trench locations
The green lines indicate where there is a possibility of surviving undisturbed natural substrata.

5. Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the north-west corner of the site to the south of one of the original school buildings. The trench had a maximum depth of 1.7m with numerous layers of modern building rubble down to, and including, the base of the trench. Later 20th century building materials and rubbish layers were located lying on top of late 19th or early 20th century coal ash, building material and rubbish deposits including a number of bottles (Fig. 8). One bottle bore the trademark of Henry Powell of Clumber Street, Mansfield and appears to date to around 1915. The trench edges were extremely loose and were collapsing during excavation and subsequent recording. Stepping or sloping the sides of the trench was not an option due to the proximity of a parallel foul sewer. The natural substratum was not reached and the trench was immediately backfilled following recording. No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.



Figure 8. Trench 1
Looking west. 1m scale

Trench 2

Trench 2 was placed at a right angle to the eastern end of Trench 1 and had a maximum depth of 1.6m. Modern (mid/late 20th century) building rubble and loose limestone mill waste was observed from the current ground level down to and beyond the base of the trench (Fig. 9). An adjacent parallel sewer and a demolished building again prevented stepping or sloping the sides.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.



Figure 9. Trench 2
Looking north. 2m scale

Trench 3

This trench was one of two placed alongside Church Street at the highest part of the proposed development site. The ground level can be seen to rise to the south following the natural slope of the land. A mid greyish brown silty loam topsoil extended from present ground level down to the top of the natural substratum without any apparent subsoil division being present for most of the trench length. Only a thin skim of mid orange brown clayish silty sand subsoil measuring approximately 10-15mm in depth was present at the eastern end. The natural substratum consisted of a yellowish cream coloured limestone which was undisturbed by any archaeological activity (Fig. 10). The trench had a maximum depth of 0.56m. A modern area of intrusion disturbed part of the west end of the trench.

No archaeological features or deposits were seen in this trench.



Figure 10. Trench 3
Looking east. 2m scale

Trench 4

Trench 4 was placed on the same area of higher ground as Trench 3 with similar results although a thin layer of subsoil survived to a maximum depth of 30mm across most of this trench. An undisturbed limestone natural substratum was exposed along the whole of the trench base after removal of the subsoil (Fig. 11). The trench had a maximum depth of 0.92m

No archaeological features or deposits were observed in this trench.



Figure 11. Trench 4
Looking east. 2m scale

Trench 5

This trench was placed between the foundations of a demolished building to the north and a probable drain or live culvert to the south. Highly compacted building rubble was present from the current ground level and concrete foundations were encountered at a shallow depth making it impossible to excavate the trench any deeper than 0.89m at its maximum depth (Fig. 12). The natural substratum was not reached in the trench base.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.



Figure 12. Trench 5
Looking west. 2m scale

Trench 6

Trench 6 was excavated along the northern boundary of the site parallel to Rectory Road. The ground at this point slopes down quite sharply from the road towards a large spoil heap filling most of this area. After removal of the undergrowth up to 1m of loose and disturbed made ground and topsoil were removed to reveal a layer of dark brownish grey silty-sand topsoil between 0.2m and 0.25m thick. Beneath this was a layer of mid orange brown clayish silty sand subsoil which was very similar to that seen in Trenches 3 and 4. The subsoil layer varied in thickness from 0.1m to 0.2m. Removal of the subsoil revealed an undisturbed, but fairly fragmentary, yellowish cream coloured limestone natural substratum (Fig. 13).

No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.



Figure 13. Trench 6
Looking east. 2m scale

Trench 7

Trench 7 was placed close to the centre of the site whilst avoiding the footprints of the demolished buildings. The ground was heavily disturbed and compacted layers of building rubble and debris were present down to a maximum depth of 1.4m below current ground level with no indication of the natural substratum. At one point towards the eastern end of the trench a solid concrete base was encountered which prevented excavation below 0.55m. Ground water conditions around this trench meant that the base showed signs of filling with water so it was backfilled immediately after recording.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.



Figure 14. Trench 7
Looking west. 2m scale

Trench 8

Due to a number of sewer pipes or culverts running across the proposed location of Trench 8 it was decided to move it to the east to avoid potential damage. This however did mean that the trench had to be placed within the footprint of a flat roofed building. As with Trench 7 a significant quantity of disturbed building rubble was present which extended down to the base of the trench and also between a number of L-shaped brick foundations running along the centre of the trench. The bricks appeared to be of late 20th century origin. The proximity of the sewer pipes again meant that stepping the trench was not possible and a maximum depth of 1.2m was reached. The natural substratum was not visible at this depth.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.



Figure 15. Trenches 8 and 9
Trench 8 in foreground, Trench 9 on left. Looking south-east

Trench 9

To achieve the maximum length possible Trench 9 formed an extension to Trench 8 at a right-angle to the east (Fig. 15). A similar mix of alternate loose and compacted building rubble as was present in Trench 8 was observed although there was no evidence of any brick structures.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.

6. Discussion

Overall it would appear that the site, which sits in a natural valley, has been extremely heavily landscaped and disturbed to create a flat terrace for building in the centre. Late 19th and early 20th century disturbance was noted towards the western end of the site with 20th century disturbance affecting the central and eastern parts. The effect of this is to have left only a narrow strip of apparently undisturbed ground along the northern and southern borders as suggested in Figure 7 and as was observed in Trenches 3, 4 and 6. Along the northern edge of the site this area may be up to 50 metres long but probably no more than 7m wide at its greatest extent. This is providing that the trees and bushes which previously occupied the area have not caused too much disturbance and damage. There was also the suggestion of services (not shown on any service plan map) running into the site towards the eastern end of Trench 6 and that the southern edge of this area might have been reduced slightly to create a slope from the road onto the site. All of these factors will reduce the probability of finding any undisturbed and surviving archaeological features.

The southern area of potentially undamaged natural substratum is very narrow but could be up to 90m in length. It runs along the edge of the site and is tucked between this and a large demolished building. In places this finger of natural may be no more than two or three metres wide but towards the south-west could be up to a maximum of ten or eleven metres. The exposed cliff face, visible in Figure 6, in the south-eastern corner of the site shows that at this point more than two metres of ground had been removed.

Despite such massive areas of ground reduction and disturbance, it is just possible that remnants of street frontage activity may still survive along these narrow edges of the site. As mentioned in the background section of this report both Rectory Road and Church Street both appear to be present on the First Series 1840 Ordnance Survey which may suggest that they are of much earlier and may even relate to the town's medieval origins. However, the three trenches located within the undisturbed areas did not identify any archaeological deposits or features. The trench in the northern area represents around an 8% sample of the potential area whilst the two trenches in the southern area may represent an approximate 9% sample. Therefore this may indicate that it is perhaps unlikely that there is any further potential within the site.

7. Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

9 pro-forma trench recording sheets,

Photographic record sheet combined for black and white 35mm and digital,

Contact sheet for 19 black and white images and associated 35mm negatives,

Contact sheet of 32 digital images,

CD of digital images.

There are no retained finds from this evaluation and the archive will be deposited with the University of Leicester Archaeological Services under Accession Number ULAS_CLO2012.

8. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal within two years of the fieldwork. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project (ID: 196191). OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

9. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

Derbyshire County Council, 2007. *Brief for a Conditioned Programme of Archaeological Fieldwork. North Derbyshire Tertiary College, Rectory Road, Clowne, Derbyshire*

ULAS, 2010 *Design Specification for archaeological work. North Derbyshire Tertiary College, Rectory Road, Clowne, Derbyshire* (ULAS 16.06.2010)

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Appendix 1. Trench details

Trench No	Length (m)	Width (m)	Min Trench Depth (m)	Max Trench Depth (m)	Notes
1	18.2	1.60	1.20	1.70	Made ground to base
2	20.1	1.60	0.80	1.65	Made ground to base
3	20.2	1.60	0.32	0.56	Natural limestone substratum. No archaeology
4	20.8	1.60	0.81	0.92	Natural limestone substratum. No archaeology
5	20.0	1.60	0.50	0.89	Made ground and concrete to base. No archaeology
6	20.0	1.60	1.10	1.25	Natural limestone substratum. No archaeology
7	20.0	1.60	0.55	1.40	Made ground to base. No archaeology
8	20.0	1.60	1.16	1.20	Made ground to base. No archaeology
9	11.0	1.60	0.90	0.95	Made ground to base. No archaeology

Appendix 2. Digital Photographs



IMGP3965.JPG



IMGP3966.JPG



IMGP3967.JPG



IMGP3968.JPG



IMGP3969.JPG



IMGP3970.JPG



IMGP3971.JPG



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Appendix 3. OASIS Information

Project Name	North Derbyshire Tertiary College, Rectory Road, Clowne, Derbyshire
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	P Clay
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	No previous work
Current Land Use	Former college
Development Type	Residential development
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	Ongoing
Site Co ordinates	SK 49350 75526
Start/end dates of field work	25.09.2012 – 26.09.2012
Archive Recipient	Derbyshire Record Office, Matlock
Study Area	Approx 14000m ²

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