

**The White House Wall, Darley Abbey Park,  
Derby, Derbyshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



The new wall construction, looking south.

**ARS Ltd Report 2013/100**

November 2013

OASIS ID: archaeo15 – 163793

**Compiled By:**

Kate Mapplethorpe  
Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
Angel House  
Portland Square  
Bakewell  
Derbyshire  
DE45 1HB

[admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com](mailto:admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)

[www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com](http://www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com)

**Checked By:**

Chris Scott MIFA

Tel: 01629 814540

Fax: 01629 814657



**White House Wall, Darley Abbey Park, Derby, Derbyshire.**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**ARS Ltd Report 2013/100**

**Archaeological Research Services Ltd**

---

**Contents**

Executive Summary .....	4
1 Introduction.....	5
2 Aims and Objectives .....	5
3 Methodology.....	7
4 Result .....	9
5 Conclusion .....	9
6 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright .....	12
7 Statement of Indemnity .....	12
8 Archive Deposition .....	12
9 Publication .....	12
10 Acknowledgements.....	12
11 References .....	14
APPENDIX I: SPECIFICATIONS .....	15
APPENDIX II: OASIS RECORD.....	22

© ARS Ltd 2013

## **List of Figures**

Figure 1	Site location.....	6
Figure 2	Site plan.....	8
Figure 3	Trench 1 looking south.....	9
Figure 4	Trench 2 looking south.....	10
Figure 5	Trench 3 looking south.....	10
Figure 6	Trench 4 looking south.....	11
Figure 7	Trench 5 looking south.....	11

### ***Executive Summary***

*In November 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by J & K Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at White House Wall, Darley Abbey Park, Derby, Derbyshire. The scheme of works related to the replacing of the retaining wall at The White House, 2 New Road, Darley Abbey Park, Derby.*

*The archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation of five trenches approximately 1m by 0.5m in size abutting the new wall construction, which had been built upon the foundations of the previous wall. Below the topsoil layer two deposits of made ground were discovered, probably relating to the levelling of the garden of the White House and resulting construction of the retaining wall.*

*The natural substratum was encountered at approximately 1.5m below ground level. No archaeologically significant finds, features or buried land surfaces were found.*

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Location and Scope of Work**

1.1.1 In November 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by J & K Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The White House, 2 New Road, Darley Abbey Park, Derby. The scheme of works related to replacing the retaining wall at the rear of the property that marks the boundary between the garden and Darley Park due to the instability of the existing wall. Groundworks were confined to five trenches 1m by 0.5m in size abutting a c.35 metre length of wall immediately south-west of The White House, which are to be the foundations for five supporting piers. The original wall foundation is to be reused, meaning that no other excavation will be undertaken along the entire length of the wall. The site is centred at NGR SK 35075 38305.

### **1.2 Geology**

1.2.1 The solid geology of the site consists of Siltstone, Mudstone and Sandstone of the Tarporley Siltstone Formation. No superficial geology has been recorded at the site (British Geological Survey 2013).

### **1.3 Background**

1.3.1 The site consists of a retaining wall located on the north-western edge of Darley Abbey Park. The wall is associated with The White House, a Grade II Listed Building and had become unstable, leaning towards the west. An emergency pier had been recently constructed in order to provide stability until the wall could be repaired, located at the site of Trench 1 (see Figure 2). This was removed and rebuilt during the course of the new construction.

1.3.2 Darley Park (DHER No. 32300) was created out of land formerly owned by the Augustinian abbey in 1778 and became a public park in 1929. The White House (DHER No. 32683) is a Grade II listed building that was built between 1708 and 1811 and was probably constructed on the site of an earlier medieval building. There are known to be several stone-built cellars beneath the house. For this reason, and due to the presence of the abbey close by, it was determined that a watching brief should be undertaken to observe the groundworks.

## **2 Aims and Objectives**

2.1 Listed Building Consent has been granted for the works on condition that a Written Scheme of Investigation and subsequent archaeological monitoring of the groundwork was undertaken and approved in writing by Steve Baker, Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

2.2 The objective of the watching brief was to ensure that any archaeological features encountered during the ground works in the specified area were recorded and interpreted.

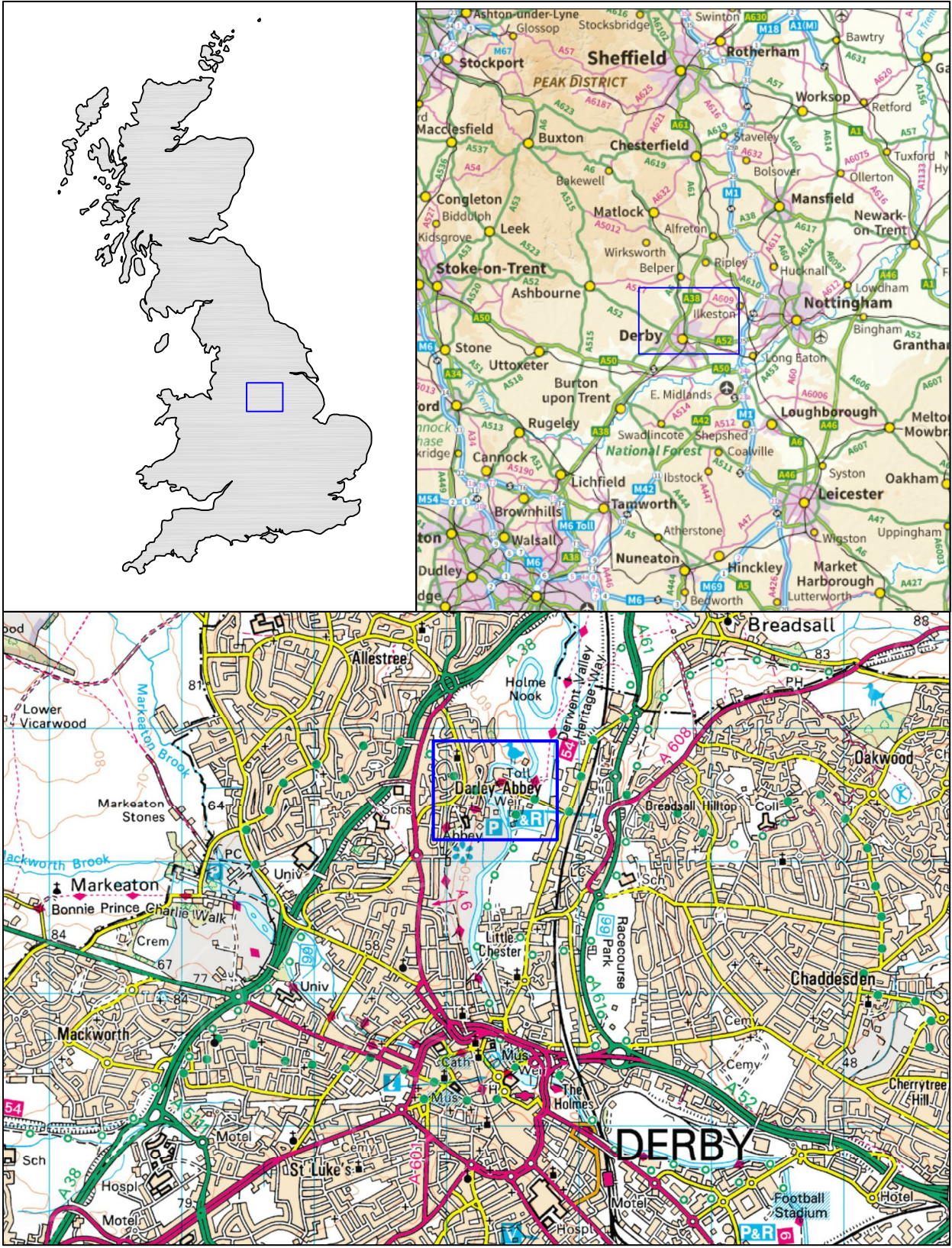


Figure 1: Site location

### **3 Methodology**

3.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) and *Code of Conduct* (2012). The records followed standard conventions set by the Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS) (2002).

3.2 All relevant ground works were undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket or by hand once any overlying concrete and stone had been removed. Archaeological monitoring did not entail excavation beyond the total areas exposed by the development works. Arrangements were made to avoid any tracking of machinery across recently stripped areas until the areas were checked and cleared by a representative of Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd).

3.3 ARS Ltd provided a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times during all ground works on the site to undertake the watching brief. The on-site archaeologist was given the opportunity to stop site work in order to investigate potential archaeological features and adequate time was allowed for recording such features.

3.4 A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained during the watching brief plus all significant archaeological remains were recorded and/or retrieved. All excavations were recorded in accordance with normal principles of archaeological evaluation upon pro forma context sheets. All significant architectural features were photographed (with scale) *in situ* and their location recorded on a plan of the site.

3.5 A plan of the excavated areas was maintained, features noted and section lines recorded. All drawings were carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts were recorded using a single context recording system. The site archive includes plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets or their electronic equivalent. Where archaeological features were present then the locations and height AOD of the features were accurately fixed, surveying in either the planning baselines or the features themselves.

3.6 ARS Ltd ensured that heavy plant or machinery was not operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains had been recorded. Contractors and plant operators were notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeologist on site.

3.7 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations was adhered to at all times.

3.8 The representative from ARS Ltd inspected and monitored all upcast spoil from the site investigations.

Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
Angel House  
Portland Square  
Bakewell  
Derbyshire  
DE45 1HB

Site Code: DAWH 13  
Date: 08/11/2013  
Drawn by: KM  
Scale: 1:250 at A3

Figure 2: Site plan

Key:

— Location of Trenches for piers

— Location of retaining wall

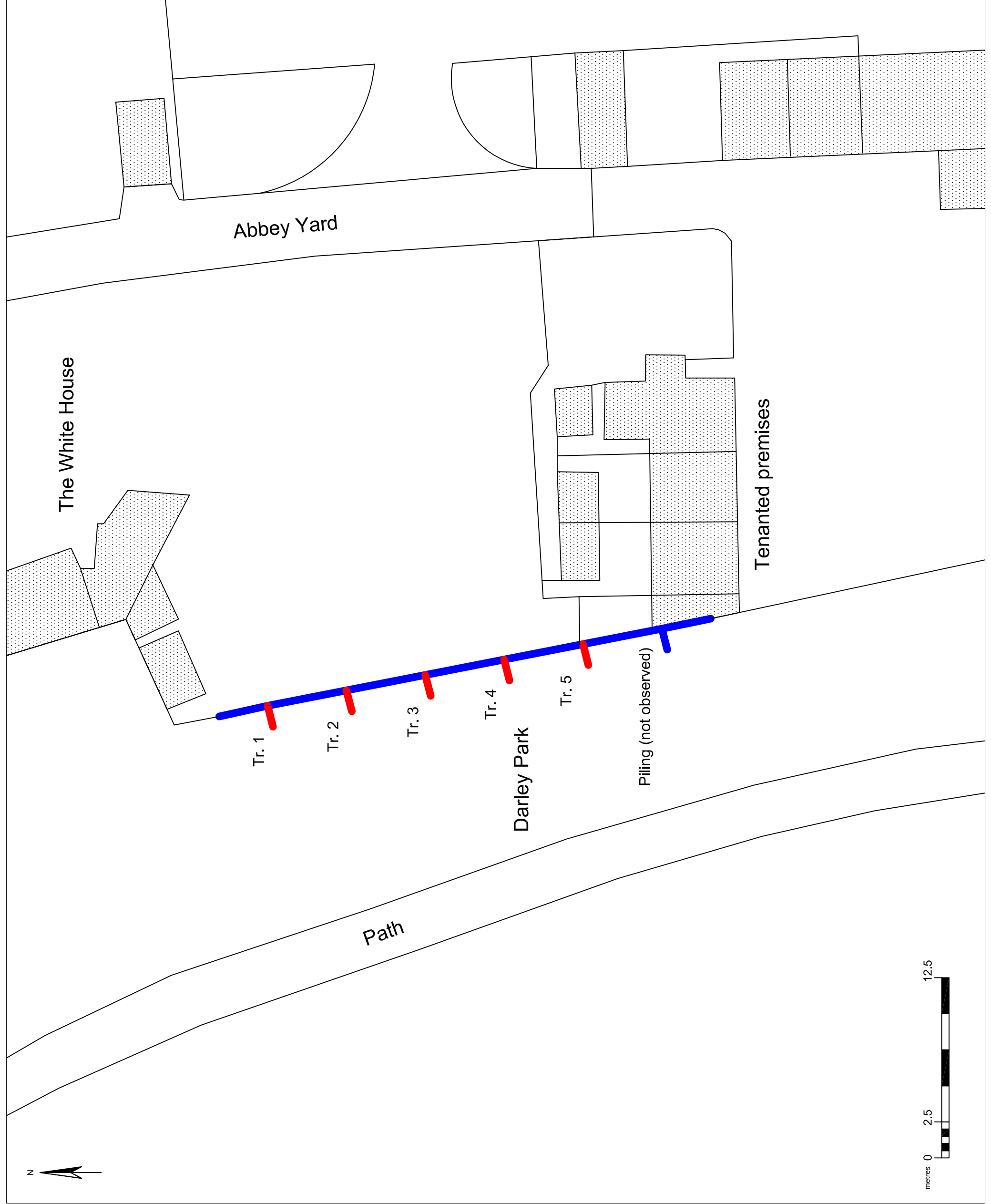
▨ Buildings

Notes:

Copyright/Licensing:

This drawing  
© A.R.S. Ltd

Ordnance Survey data if applicable  
© Crown Copyright, all rights reserved  
reproduced with permission. Licence  
No. 100045420





## 4 Results

4.1 A topsoil deposit (001) consisting of a thin layer of dark brown humic clayish soil was present across the site, varying in depth but averaging approximately 0.3m.

4.2 The topsoil was situated directly above a thin layer of redeposited clay (002) in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 only, which consisted of a mid orangey-brown sandy clay approximately 0.4m deep. The horizon between the two deposits was greatly disturbed by root action, which continued into the lower deposits. Below (002) in Trenches 1-3 and below the topsoil in Trenches 4 and 5 was (003), a deposit consisting of a mixture of natural clay, topsoil, subsoil and modern construction debris. This deposit was mainly comprised of sandy clay with a small proportion of organic material resulting from the intrusion of roots from surrounding trees and was a mottled reddish orange in colour, becoming darker towards the north. It varied in depth but averaged around 1.5m, getting shallower towards the south. It contained fragments of modern brick, 20<sup>th</sup> century and Victorian pottery sherds, fragments of modern drainage pipes and several broken animal bones. The deposit appeared to be made ground deposited during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

4.3 The natural clay substratum (004) was encountered at approximately 1.65m in Trench 1, rising to 1.5m in Trench 5. This was composed of a mid pinkish red clay which was slightly mottled but contained minimal inclusions.



Figure 3: Trench 1 looking south. Scale = 1m.



Figure 4: Trench 2 looking south. Scale = 1m



Figure 5: Trench 3 looking south. Scale = 1m



Figure 6: Trench 4 looking south. Scale = 1m



Figure 7: Trench 5 looking south. Scale = 1m.

## **5 Conclusion**

5.1 No archaeologically significant finds, features or buried land surfaces were found during the watching brief. It is likely that both the redeposited clay and the made ground present across the site are the result of the levelling of the White House garden on the eastern side of the wall followed by the construction of the retaining wall.

5.2 As the excavations for the piers were confined to five small trenches visibility of the pre-made ground surface was limited and, therefore, it is yet possible that archaeological features may be present within the surface of the natural substratum in the area of Darley Park.

## **6 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright**

6.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

6.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

## **7 Statement of Indemnity**

7.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

## **8 Archive Deposition**

8.1 A digital and paper archive will be prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data and is intended to be deposited at Derby Museum and Art Gallery (accession number DBYMU 2013.83) by February 2014.

## **9 Publication**

9.1 A summary of the project, with selected drawings, illustrations and photographs, will be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication.

## **10 Acknowledgements**

10.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with the archaeological project, especially Mark Thornewill of J & K Developments Ltd, Anthony Clarke of Curtins, Robert Aspey of Derby City Council and Steve Baker, Development Control

Archaeologist of Derbyshire County Council for monitoring and providing advice throughout the project.

## 11 References

British Geological Survey 2013. *Geology of Britain Viewer* [online]. Available at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html?src=topNav> [Accessed 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013].

Derbyshire County Council 2013. *Historic Environment Record: Darley Abbey* [online]. Available at: [Accessed 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013].

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2012. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS). 2002. *Site Manual*. London, Museum of London.

## **APPENDIX I: SPECIFICATIONS**

**White House Wall, Darley Abbey Park, Derby,  
Derbyshire**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological  
Watching Brief**



## **1 Introduction**

1.1 This scheme of works relates to replacing the retaining wall at The White House, 2 New Road, Darley Abbey Park, Derby (Figure 1). Ground works during the course of this work is confined to a c.35 metre length of wall immediately south-west of The White House (SK 35075 38305).

1.2 Listed Building Consent has been granted for the works on condition that a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring of the groundwork is submitted to and approved in writing by Steve Baker, Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation details the programme of work to be undertaken during an archaeological watching brief at the site.

1.4 The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that any heritage assets encountered during the works in the specified area are recorded and understood.

## **2 Background**

2.1 The site is a retaining masonry wall on the north-western edge of Darley Abbey Park. The wall is associated with The White House, a Grade II Listed Building.



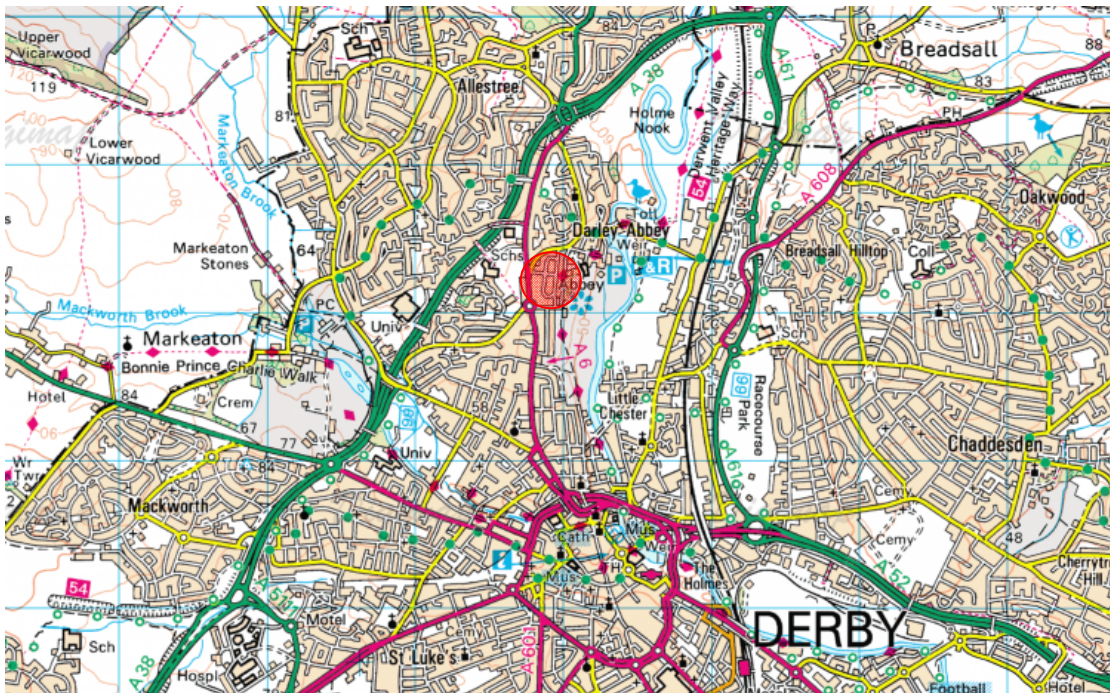


Figure 2. Location of site (highlighted in red)

(Ordnance Survey Data © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence No. 100045420)

### 3 Objectives

3.1 The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that any archaeological features encountered during the ground works in the specified area are recorded and interpreted.

### 4 Fieldwork methodology

#### 4.1 Watching brief

4.1.1 All relevant ground works will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket or by hand once any overlying concrete and stone has been removed. Archaeological monitoring will not entail excavation beyond the total areas exposed by the development works. Arrangement will be made to avoid any tracking of machinery across recently stripped areas until the areas have been checked and cleared by a representative of Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd). If significant archaeological features are identified, the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, will be notified and a decision taken as to the best method of proceeding.

4.1.2 ARS Ltd will provide a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times during any ground works on the site to undertake a watching brief. The on-site archaeologist will be given the opportunity to stop site work in order to investigate potential archaeological features and adequate time will be allowed for recording any such features.

4.1.3 A written, drawn and photographic record will be maintained during the watching brief plus all significant archaeological remains will be recorded and/or retrieved. All excavations will be recorded in accordance with normal principles of archaeological evaluation upon pro forma context sheets. All significant architectural features will be photographed (with scale) *in situ* and their location recorded on a plan of the site.

4.1.4 Where archaeological features and/or deposits are identified during the watching brief, then a sufficient quantity of the said features will be investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed. All features thus investigated will be recorded in plan and section and significant archaeological finds recovered will be retained for analysis. Any archaeological features identified will be photographed and drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10. The stratigraphy, where relevant and apparent, will be recorded.

4.1.5 For brick structures, the record will include details of brick dimensions and type (handmade/machine-made, plain/frogged), mortar (colour, composition, hardness) and the extent of structures (number of courses, thickness in skins).

4.1.6 A plan of the excavated areas will be maintained, features noted and section lines recorded. All drawings will be carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts will be recorded using a single context recording system. The site archive will include plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets or their electronic equivalent. Should archaeological features be present then the locations and height AOD of the features will be accurately fixed, surveying in either the planning baselines or the features themselves.

4.1.7 The watching brief will be undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) and *Code of Conduct* (2012). The records will follow standard conventions set by the Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS) (2002).

4.1.8 In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered, they will initially be left *in-situ* and, if removal is deemed necessary, this will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations.

4.1.9 ARS Ltd will ensure that heavy plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded. Contractors and plant operators will be notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeologist on site.

4.1.10 A risk assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.

4.1.11 Should archaeological remains be encountered for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard, then work on site shall cease and the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist shall be notified immediately. Site works will not re-commence until resources are in place to secure preservation *in situ* or adequate archaeological treatment of the relevant remains.

## **5 Artefact and ecofact collection and recording**

5.1 Artefact collection policy will be concerned with the provision of adequate samples for meeting the objectives of the work. All finds of medieval and earlier date will be collected as a matter of course. Discarded artefactual materials will be described and quantified through assignment to broad categories in the field. Analysis of finds will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists. Retained finds will be cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials, as appropriate, for long term storage (see Archive Deposition below).

5.2 Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. Finds of 'treasure' will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (1996).

5.3 Collection and policies for structural remains and industrial residues have been set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA, 1993). The presence of such materials within a context will be recorded even where comprehensive retention is not considered appropriate.

5.4 The representative from ARS Ltd will inspect and monitor the upcast spoil from the site investigations.

5.5 If significant waterlogged deposits are found, which are judged to be of palaeoenvironmental significance in relation to archaeological deposits, contingency will be set aside to allow for retrieval and assessment of such samples.

## **6 Monitoring arrangements**

6.1 Ideally, at least one week prior notice of the commencement of the ground works will be given to the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.

Steve Baker  
Derbyshire County Council  
Shand House  
Dale Road South  
Matlock  
Derbyshire  
DE4 3RY  
Tel: 01629 539773

6.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

## **7 Report**

7.1 Within two months of the completion of the watching brief, ARS Ltd will produce a report which will include:

- Non-technical summary

- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the project
- Methodology
- A location plan showing all excavated areas and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections.
- An objective summary statement of results
- Conclusions
- Recommendations for the retention or discard of archive material
- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References
- Statement of intent regarding publication
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- A copy of the approved scheme of works (WSI)
- A copy of the OASIS form.

7.2 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

## 8 Archive deposition

8.1 A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by ARS Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by the repository museum which in this case is the Derby City Museum and Art Gallery). The archive will be deposited in line with *Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives: Museums in Derbyshire* (2003), and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report. The accession number for the archive is DBYMU 2013-83. The Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist and Museum Curator will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive. The date for deposition of the archive will be confirmed in the report and the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

8.2 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see above).

8.3 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be supplied to the HER and deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM along that will be attached with the report.

8.4 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).

## **9 Changes to Methodology or Work Programme**

9.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.

## **10 Publication**

10.1 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs, will be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication.

## **11 References**

Derby Museum & Art Gallery. 2003. *Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives: Museums in Derbyshire*. Derby Museum & Art Gallery.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2012. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS). 2002. *Site Manual*. London, Museum of London.

Society of Museum Archaeologists. 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*. London: Society of Museum Archaeologists.

APPENDIX II: 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](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archaeol5-163793**

### Project details

Project name	The White House, Darley Abbey
Project dates	Start: 28-10-2013 End: 07-11-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	DBYMU 2013-83 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	DER/05/12/00568/PRI - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Woodland 6 - Parkland
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE DERBY DERBY The White House, Darley Abbey
Site coordinates	SK 35075 38305 52 -1 52 56 26 N 001 28 40 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Chris Scott

Project supervisor	Kate Mapplethorpe
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	J & K Developments

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Derby Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Archive ID	DBYMU 2013-83
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Derby Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Archive ID	DBYMU 2013-83
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Kate Mapplethorpe (kate@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	8 November 2013

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email [Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012](#)

Cite only: /export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page