

Dower House, Melbourne, Derbyshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



Excavating the footings for an extension at Dower House,
Melbourne.

ARS Ltd Report 2014/128

November 2014

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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Executive Summary

In October 2014 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by William Kerr to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Dower House, Church Square, Melbourne, Derbyshire. The watching brief monitored groundworks associated with the construction of two extensions to Dower House.

The watching brief did not reveal any significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Although no archaeologically significant features were found during the watching brief, the footings of the outbuildings associated with Dower House were recorded on the north-west side of the building. On the east side of Dower House, finds of building materials show that the house could have originally been roofed with ceramic tiles, which were later replaced with dark grey Welsh slate. The ceramic pavers are identical to those used to floor the room in the north-east side of the building.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

1.1.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by William Kerr to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Dower House, Church Square, Melbourne, Derbyshire as a condition of the listed building planning consent (9/2014/0075/L and 9/2014/0064 respectively). The scheme of works related to the construction of extensions and internal alterations at Dower House, Church Square, Melbourne, Derbyshire (Figure 1). Ground-works for the footings for two extensions focused on the north west and centre of the existing building. The site is located to the west of the church at SK38845 24981.

1.2 Geology

1.2.1 The solid geology of the site consists of Rough Rock Sandstone, with no superficial geology recorded for this area (British Geological Survey 2014).



Figure 1. Location of site (highlighted in red). Ordnance Survey data Copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence No. 100045420).

2 Archaeological Background

2.1 The Dower House is a Grade II Listed building (NHLE: 83077) constructed in 1829, with late 19th century alterations and a 20th century addition. Above the rear window there is a datestone inscribed "I E 1829". The Listed Building Description for Dower House reads as follows:

Dower House Cottage and Attached Outbuildings GV II Cottage with attached outbuildings. C17 with later alterations and mid C19 additions. Rubble stone with flush quoins and red brick addition and outbuildings. Steeply pitched red clay tile roof with brick ridge stack to house, and blue tile roof with dentilled eaves band to outbuildings. Single storey plus attics and three bays, two to north of stone rubble and southern one of red brick. C20 glazed door has leaded 2-light casements to either side and an iron casement window below plain stone lintel to south. Above there are three raking dormers with 2-light horizontal sliding glazing bar sashes that to north with brick infill of earlier window below. Attached to south the mid C19 single storey outbuilding has a segment headed doorcase plus plank door, with single light metal window and three small adjoining glazing bar sashes below a plain stone lintel to south. (Listed Building Description)

2.2 The site is situated within the medieval town of Melbourne, which is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as the Royal Manor of *Mileburne*, meaning 'mill stream'. The old mill pond, known as Melbourne Pool, was landscaped in 1845 as part of the grounds of Melbourne Hall and still remains as a prominent feature of Melbourne's landscape setting. The Parish Church of St. Michael and St. Mary was built c.1125-35 and lies in close proximity to the development site, as does the site of the 14th century Melbourne Castle which replaced an earlier manor house in the same location. The site therefore has the potential to host archaeological remains of at least medieval date.

2.3 The village developed into a Georgian market town associated with the hosiery and silk glove industries. Melbourne Hall, dating from the 17th century, then became the second residence of Queen Victoria's first Prime Minister William Lamb, the 2nd Earl of Melbourne. Dower House dates to this period of development within the town.

2.4 Aims and Objectives

2.4.1 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.

3 Methodology

3.1 All relevant ground-works were undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket on the or by hand within the garden room. Archaeological monitoring did not entail excavation beyond the total areas exposed by the development works.

3.2 ARS Ltd provided a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times during any ground works on the site to undertake a 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 any such features.

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

3.4 A plan of the excavated areas was maintained. All drawings were carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts recorded using a single context recording system.

3.5 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2013) and *Code of Conduct* (2014). The records followed standard conventions set by the Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS) (2002).

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

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

4 Results

4.1 The watching brief was carried out in relation to an extension on the north side of Dower House and the construction of a Garden Room on the east side of Dower House.

4.2 Foundation trenches for the extension to the north elevation of the building were approximately 700-1000mm in depth and were dug with a toothless ditching bucket.

4.3 A dark grey-brown loam (001) containing inclusions of sandstone, brick and tile, with a depth of 150mm, was removed to reveal the natural sub-stratum of yellow and mid-yellow orange sandstone (002) (Figure 4). This deposit (002) was excavated for a further 450-850mm and was soft enough to be easily excavated. There were no finds of archaeological significance within the foundation trenches on the north-west of the property. However the foundation courses of earlier structures, known to have been present on the site, were uncovered. These structures were the former coal store and outhouse for the property (Figures 4- 6)

4.4 Foundation trenches for the construction of a new garden room on the east side of Dower House were dug by hand to a depth of approximately 500-700mm.

4.5 The foundation trenches for the new garden room were located alongside the existing walls of Dower House and revealed the foundation cut for that structure. This was backfilled with a dark grey-brown loam (003) and also contained drainage pipes for Dower House (Figures 7 and 8). The dark grey-brown loam deposit (003) contained fragments of early 19th century (1800s-1840s) ceramic roof tile, floor tile and dark grey roofing slate, likely representing debris left over from the construction of Dower House (Figure 9).

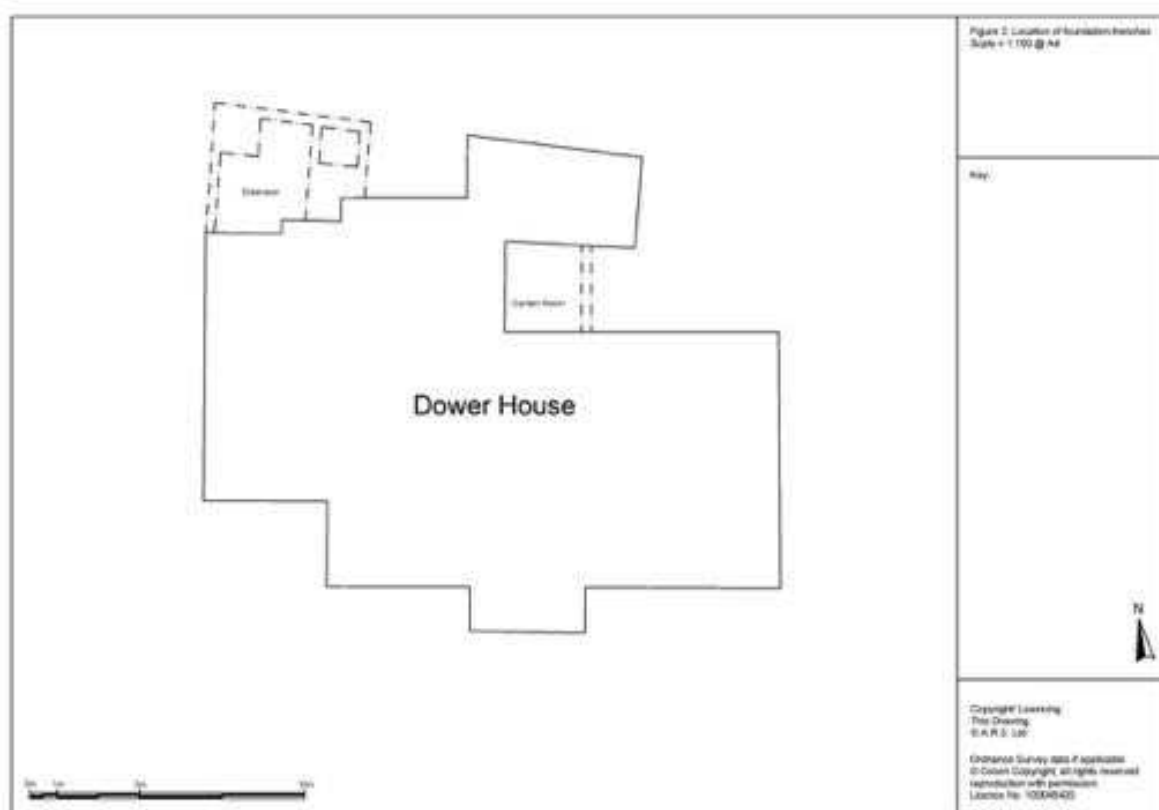


Figure 2. Location of footings for extensions at Dower House, Melbourne.



Figure 3. Dower House foundation trenches for north-west extension, looking south. Scale = 0.25m.



Figure 4. Dower House foundation trenches for north-west extension, looking east. Scale = 0.25m.



Figure 5. Dower House foundation trenches for north-west extension, looking north-west. The foundation trenches for the former outbuildings (which included a toilet) are visible in the centre of the image in front of the water pipe. Scale = 0.25m.



Figure 6. Dower House foundation trenches for north-west extension, looking west. The fill of the foundation trenches for the former outbuildings are visible in the centre of the image to the right of the water pipe. Scale = 0.25m.



Figure 7. The foundation trenches for the garden room, looking west, excavated to the bedrock. Scale = 0.25m



Figure 8. The foundation trenches for the garden room, looking south, excavated to bedrock. Scale = 0.25m



Figure 9. Sample of finds of building materials recovered from excavation of the garden room foundation trenches. Top left: 19th century ceramic roof tile fragments, Top Right: Welsh roofing slate, Bottom: 19th century ceramic floor pavers. Scale = 0.25m

5 Conclusion

5.1 Although no archaeologically significant finds, features or buried land surfaces were found during the watching brief, the footings of the outbuildings associated with Dower House were recorded on the north-west side of the building. On the east side of Dower House, finds of building materials suggest that the house could have originally been roofed with ceramic tiles, which were later replaced with dark grey Welsh slate. The ceramic pavers are identical to those used to floor the room in the north-east side of the building.

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 copy of the report will be submitted to the Derbyshire HER.
- 8.2 The OASIS record for the site has been completed and a copy of the report uploaded to OASIS.

9 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with the archaeological project, especially William Kerr for commissioning the work, Alan Staley of Alan Staley Building Contractors Ltd for providing access during the course of the work and Steve Baker, Development Control Archaeologist of Derbyshire County Council for his advice and assistance throughout the course of the watching brief.

11 References

British Geological Survey 2014. *Geology of Britain Viewer* [online]. Available at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html?src=topNav> [Accessed 3rd November 2014].

Institute for Archaeologists. 2013. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

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APPENDIX I: SPECIFICATION AND OASIS FORM

Dower House, Church Square, Melbourne, Derbyshire

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



1 Introduction

1.1 This scheme of works relates to the erection of extensions and internal alterations at the Dower House, Church Square, Melbourne, Derbyshire (Figure 1). Ground works during the course of this work are focused at the north west of the existing building. The site is centred at SK38845 24981.

1.2 Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent has been granted for the works on condition that a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring of ground works is submitted to and approved in writing by the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.

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 Dower House is a Grade II Listed building (NHLE 83077). The House was built in 1829 with late 19th century alterations and a 20th century addition.

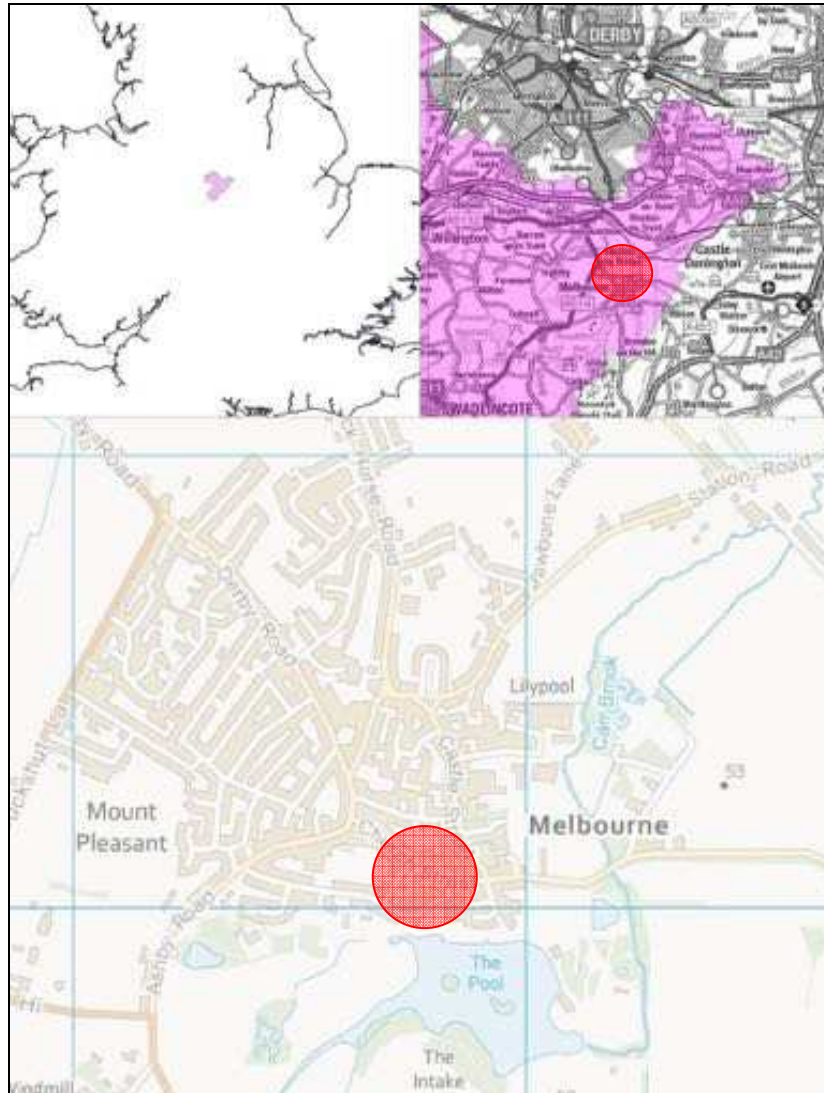


Figure 1. Location of site (highlighted in red)
(Ordnance Survey Data © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence No. 100045420)

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 recommence 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 At least two weeks prior notice of the commencement of the 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 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report should be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see 8.4 below).

7.3 If the watching brief reveals no archaeologically-significant finds or features/stratigraphy, then the report to the HER will be the only record required, and therefore needs to include a good selection of photographs.

8 Archive deposition

8.1 Should significant finds or stratigraphy be generated, then an accession number will be requested from the Derby Museum, and 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 Derby Museum). 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.

8.2 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.

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OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol5-194462

Project details

Project name	Dower House, Melbourne, Derbyshire. Watching Brief
Short description of the project	Watching brief at Dower House, Melbourne, related to extension footings. No archaeological deposits identified.
Project dates	Start: 20-10-2014 End: 23-10-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	HOUSE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NO None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE MELBOURNE Dower House, Melbourne
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 3884 2498 52.8206242808 -1.42357963772 52 49 14 N 001 25 24 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Derbyshire County Council
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Robin Holgate
Project supervisor	Robin Holgate

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Derby Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Dower House, Melbourne, Derbyshire. Archaeological watching brief.
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