

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire



Kedleston Hall, South Front

ARS Ltd Report 2015/46
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Compiled By:
Elise McLellan
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
DE45 1HB
admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Checked By:
Chris Scott MCIfA
Tel: 01629 814540
Fax: 01629 814657



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name: Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

Site Code: KED'15

Planning Authority: National Trust

Location: Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

Geology: Tarporley Siltstone Formation – Siltstone, Mudstone, and Sandstone (British Geological Survey 2015).

NGR: SK 30973 40739

Date: April 2015

In April 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake archaeological recording at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, during the excavation of a service trench for the installation of a network cable. The objective of the archaeological work was to ensure that any archaeological features encountered during the excavation of the service trench were recorded and interpreted. A small brick wall foundation was uncovered, along with small finds of white china and scattered coarse building material.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake archaeological recording at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, during the excavation of a service trench. A 30cm wide, 45cm deep trench was dug from the northwest gate house to the west wing of the stately home, and a plastic electrical duct was installed. Manholes were dug at sharp turns in the trench and every 100m in straight areas to facilitate the later installation of the internet cable.



Figure 1. Site location.

- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken on the grounds of Kedleston Hall, across the north lawn centred at NGR SK 30973 40739 (Figure 1). The present hall and gardens were constructed between 1758 and 1765 on the site of the previous Kedleston Hall and Kedleston village, which was relocated west of the grounds. A 13th century church remains, immediately west of Kedleston Hall. A detailed report on the archaeology and history of the parkland was compiled in 2013 as a part of a wider park management plan (Abbot *et al.*, 2013), and will therefore not be discussed in depth here.
- 1.3 The solid geology of the site consists of a sedimentary bedrock of siltstone, mudstone, and sandstone (British Geological Survey 2015). The soil cover for the site consists of heavy, poorly drained clays and 15-35cm of loamy topsoil.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The objective of the archaeological work was to ensure that any archaeological features encountered during the excavation of the service trench were recorded and interpreted.
- 2.2 ARS Ltd provided an archaeological officer during the project to monitor the groundworks. A toothless ditching bucket was used at all times. The on-site archaeologist was given the opportunity to stop site work in order to investigate and fully record any exposed archaeological features. Adequate time was allowed for the recording of any such features.
- 2.3 Where any features of potential archaeological significance were identified by the archaeologist, all further excavation was carried out by hand.
- 2.4 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 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.
- 2.5 Where archaeological features and/or deposits were identified during the watching brief, then a sufficient quantity of the said features were investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed. All features thus investigated were recorded in plan and section and any significant archaeological finds recovered were retained for analysis. Any archaeological features identified were photographed and drawn in plan and in section at a scale of 1:20. The stratigraphy, where relevant and observable, was recorded.
- 2.6 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 included plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets or their electronic equivalent.
- 2.7 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the respective guidance by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, such as the Code of Conduct (2014), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014).
- 2.8 ARS Ltd ensured that heavy plant or machinery was not operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains had been recorded.
- 2.9 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations were adhered to at all times.

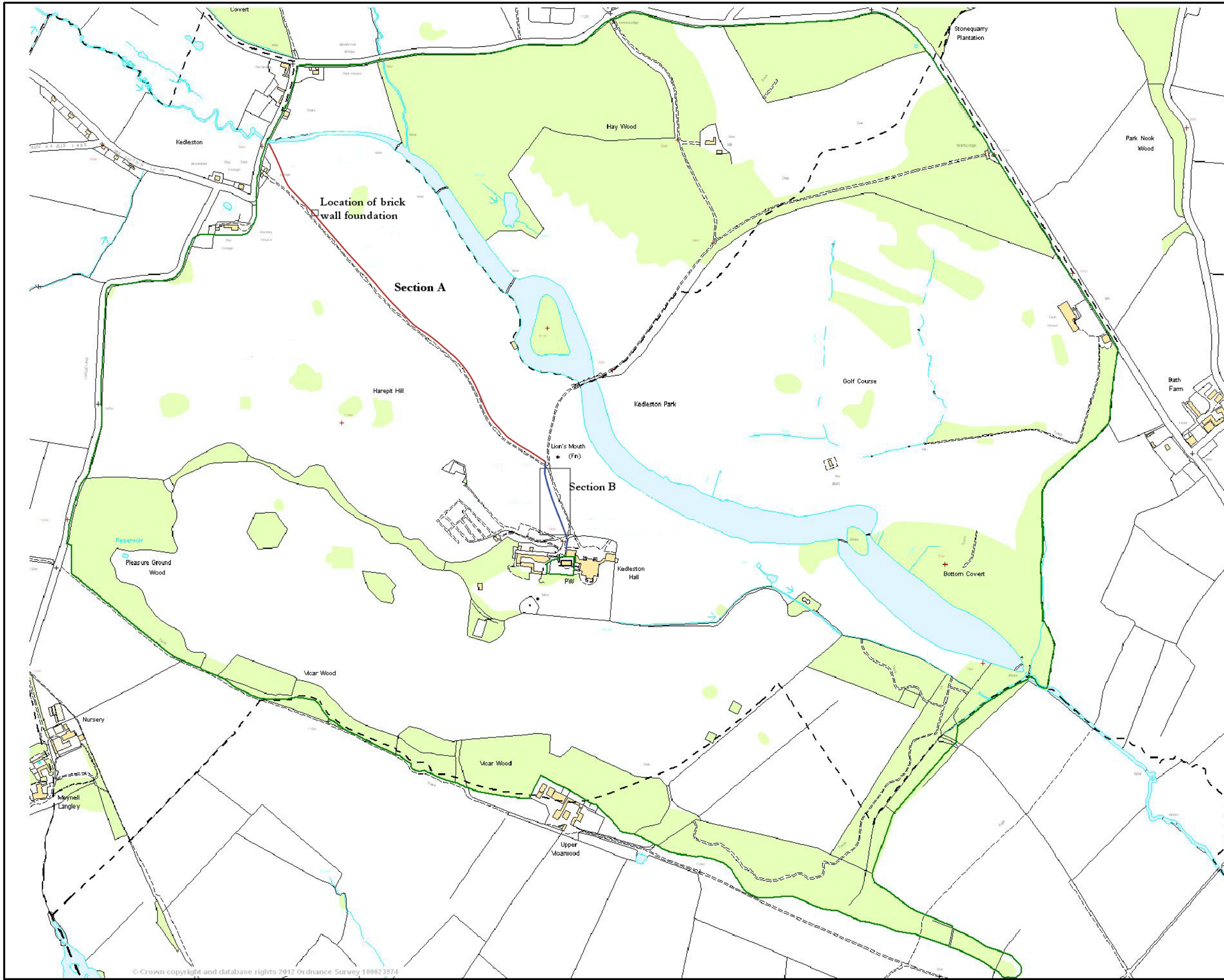
Figure 2. Site Plan

Path of excavation trench

Section A

Section B

Scale 1:12000



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3. RESULTS

3.1 The archaeological recording was undertaken from the 30th March 2015 by Elise McLellan of ARS Ltd, and completed on the 13th April 2015. The recording took place along a 1000m trench which was located along the north side of the road from the western gatehouse to the west wing of the stately home (Figure 2). The trench measured approximately 0.3m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.45m. Soil stratigraphy was largely uniform across the trench, with the exception of the final 150m closest to the stately home which will be discussed separately (Figure 2). The first 850m of the trench will be referred to as Section A, while the final 150m will be referred to as Section B.

3.2 Stratigraphy Section A 0-850m

This section of the trench was stratigraphically very uniform, with 15-35cm of topsoil (101), underlain by heavy clays. These clays were either reddish and sandy (102) in more well drained areas (Figure 3) or mottled yellow and grey in less well drained areas (104). The highest level of the grey and yellow clay was 25cm below the surface, while the reddish sandy clay was occasionally found only 15cm below the surface. In some places a mid-brown silty subsoil (103) was present between the topsoil and the underlying clays (Figure 4). The highest observed level of the mid-brown silty subsoil (103) was 15cm below the surface, and the lowest observed level was 30cm below the surface. Occasional gravel patches were present in the topsoil due to the proximity of the trench to the road.



Figure 3. Soil profile of topsoil (101) and reddish brown sandy clay (102). Scale 1m.



Figure 4. Soil profile of topsoil (101), mid-brown subsoil (103) and mottled grey and yellow clay (104). Scale 1m.

3.3 Archaeological Material Section A 0-850m

Very little archaeological material was recovered from this section. Small finds consisted entirely of 20th century fragments of white china. A single laid brick structure (Feature 1) was uncovered, possibly a wall foundation (for location see Figure 2). The laid bricks were uncovered at a depth of 40cm below existing ground level cutting into the mottled grey and yellow clay (104). The bricks were laid at the top of mottled grey and yellow clay deposits (104), indistinctly cutting through the upper mid-brown silty soil (103). The bricks were 24cm long and 5cm wide, laid in a single row running roughly east to west (Figure 5). The bricks were left in-situ.



Figure 5. Feature 1. Line of laid bricks, possibly a wall foundation. Scale 1m.

3.4 Stratigraphy Section B 850-1000m

The stratigraphy of this section of the trench (Figure 2) was disturbed. The natural stratigraphic sequence, as observed in Section A, was interrupted by a very dark sandy made ground (105) containing frequent inclusions of angular stones and coarse building material. This coarse building material consisted of fragments of brick, stone and asphalt. These fragments were large (5-15cm in diameter) and irregular in shape. This made-ground deposit was present in irregular patches, usually 3-4m in length along the course of the trench, sometimes between the topsoil (101) and sterile clay (102), occasionally replacing the topsoil entirely (Figure 6, Figure 7). The maximum observed depth of made-ground deposits (105) was 32cm below the surface.



Figure 6. Boundary between topsoil (101) to left, and made ground (105) to right, with turf removed. Scale 1m.



Figure 7. Soil profile showing made ground (105) and underlying sterile clay (102). Scale 1m.

3.5 Archaeological Material Section B 850-100m

Archaeological Material from Section B consisted entirely of fragments of 20th century white china and coarse building material rubble. There was a large amount of fragments of tarmac, suggesting this deposit may be the result of a previous road. This deposit (105) is only found in the portion of the trench closest to the current public car park, and may reflect changes in location of road surfaces. A concrete possible foundation, 40cm wide, was uncovered at a depth of 40cm (Figure 8). It was left in-situ.



Figure 8. Concrete possible foundation uncovered during excavation.

3.6 Finds Assessment

Dr. Robin Holgate, MCIFA

3.6.1 Pottery

A total of 86 fragments of pottery were recovered (see Table 1) from context (101). The pottery represents 17th-20th centuries utilitarian wares (*eg.* brown/black-glazed earthenware and stoneware) and refined wares (*eg.* whiteware plates, saucers, bowls, cups and mug fragments) used for storage, preparation and consumption of food and drink.

The pottery assemblage comprises mass-produced wares which are in no way unusual; parallels can be found on most sites in the region yielding 17th-20th centuries material.

3.6.2 Other Ceramic Material

Fragments of an early 20th century ceramic insulator used in telephone or power transmission and a white tile fragment of late 19th-20th centuries date were recovered from context (101).

Artefact Type	Date Range	No.	Comments
Blackware	17 th century	4	Body sherds
Slipware	Late 17 th -18 th centuries	1	Rim sherd of dish
Late blackware	18 th century	2	Body sherds of beaker
Yellow-glazed earthenware	18 th century	6	Three rim sherds, two plates
White-glazed earthenware	18 th century	2	One base sherd
Brown/black glazed earthenware	18 th -19 th centuries	5	Body sherds
Brown stoneware	18 th -19 th centuries	1	Rim sherd
White ware	19 th -20 th centuries	63	Includes three green transfer-painted sherds; three blue-and-white transfer-painted sherds

Table 1. Pottery assemblage.

3.6.3 Clay Pipe

One fragment of a clay pipe stem was recovered from context (101) measuring 7mm in diameter with a 2mm diameter stem bore and dates to the 18th-19th centuries.

3.6.4 Glass

A total of 11 fragments of 17th-20th centuries glass were recovered from context (101) and are summarized in Table 2.

Artefact Type	Date Range	No.
Light green window glass	17 th -19 th centuries	3
Brown bottle glass	19 th -20 th centuries	2
Clear bottle/jar glass	19 th -20 th centuries	6

Table 2. Glass assemblage.

3.6.5 Iron

An iron nail, 7cm in length, with a square cross section, was recovered from context (101).

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1. Very little archaeological material was uncovered during the course of archaeological monitoring. Small finds of 20th century white china and coarse building material were confined to the topsoil (101) and made ground (105). No significant archaeological features or finds were uncovered, with the exception of a possible laid brick wall foundation in context 104. This wall foundation may represent the remains of a previous garden wall.

5. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

- 5.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client. The National Trust will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

6. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 6.1 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 it is due to be submitted to the National Trust within three months of completion of fieldwork.
- 6.2 A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record.

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. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with his work, in particular Rachael Hall, Archaeologist of the National Trust, for commissioning the work, and Mark Cox and the staff at Kedleston Hall for providing advice throughout the project.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX I: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Trench	Description
101	1	Dark brown loamy topsoil
102	1	Reddish-brown sandy clay subsoil. Sterile, no inclusions.
103	1	Mid-brown silty subsoil. Sterile, some pebble inclusions.
104	1	Yellow and grey mottled clay. Sterile, no inclusions.
105	1	Dark brown silty sand. Frequent inclusions of angular stone, and coarse building material.

APPENDIX II: Photograph Register

Shot No.	Direction	Scale	Context No.	Description	Photo By	Date
1	N	-	-	Kedleston Hall South Front	EM	30/3/15
2	N	-	-	Kedleston Hall South Front	EM	30/3/15
3	W	1m	(101)(102)	Soil Profile	EM	30/3/15
4	W	1m	(101)(102)	Soil Profile	EM	30/3/15
5	W	1m	(101)(102)	Soil Profile	EM	30/3/15
6	W	1m	(101)(102)	Soil Profile	EM	30/3/15
7	E	1m	(104)	Feature 1	EM	31/3/15
8	E	1m	(104)	Feature 1	EM	31/3/15
9	E	1m	(101)(103) (104)	Soil Profile	EM	31/3/15
10	E	1m	(101)(103) (104)	Soil Profile	EM	31/3/15
11	E	1m	(101)(103) (104)	Soil Profile	EM	31/3/15
12	E	1m	(101)(105)	Boundary between (101) and (105)	EM	9/4/15
13	E	1m	(101)(105)	Boundary between (101) and (105)	EM	9/4/15
14	E	-	(105)	Detail of (105)	EM	9/4/15
15	E	-	(105)	Detail of (105)	EM	9/4/15
16	W	1m	(105)(102)	Soil Profile	EM	10/4/15
17	W	1m	(105)(102)	Soil Profile	EM	10/4/15
18	W	1m	(105)(102)	Soil Profile	EM	10/4/15
19	W	-	(105)	Concrete slab	EM	13/4/15
20	W	-	(105)	Concrete slab	EM	13/4/15

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Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire
Short description of the project	In January 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake archaeological recording at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, during the excavation of a service trench for the installation of a network cable. The objective of the archaeological work was to ensure that any archaeological features encountered during the excavation of the service trench were recorded and interpreted. A small brick wall foundation was uncovered, along with small finds of white china and scattered coarse building material.
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2015 End: 13-04-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Monument type	WALL Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE AMBER VALLEY KEDLESTON Kedleston Hall
Postcode	DE22 5JH
Study area	1.00 Kilometres
Site coordinates	SK 30973 40739 52.9628087132 -1.53882707621 52 57 46 N 001 32 19 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
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Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Chris Scott
Project supervisor	Elise McLellan

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	National Trust
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	National Trust
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report"
Entered by	Elise McLellan (elise@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
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