

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Ashbourne Road, Mackworth



ARS Ltd Report No. 2015/59

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Compiled By:
Megan Fletcher-Cutts
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Checked By:
Chris Scott MCIfA

Tel: 01629 814540

Fax: 01629 814657

admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com



An Archaeological Watching Brief at Ashbourne Road, Mackworth

April 2015

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Executive Summary

In April 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd.) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling in Mackworth, Derbyshire.

Foundation trenches were dug up to 1.5m in depth through the topsoil and into the natural subsoil and natural sand and clay deposits. The finds included pottery, ceramic building material, roofing slate, and glass of 18th - 20th century date. Three archaeological features and one section of made ground were identified and recorded. All features were dated to between the 18th - 20th centuries and were associated with the use of the site as allotment and garden plot.

1. Introduction

1.1 In April 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd.) was commissioned by Mr Greg Clark to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling on the land adjacent to 94 Ashbourne Rd, Mackworth, Derbyshire (Figure 1). The work was carried out as a condition of a planning application (Application Reference: AVA/2014/0240).

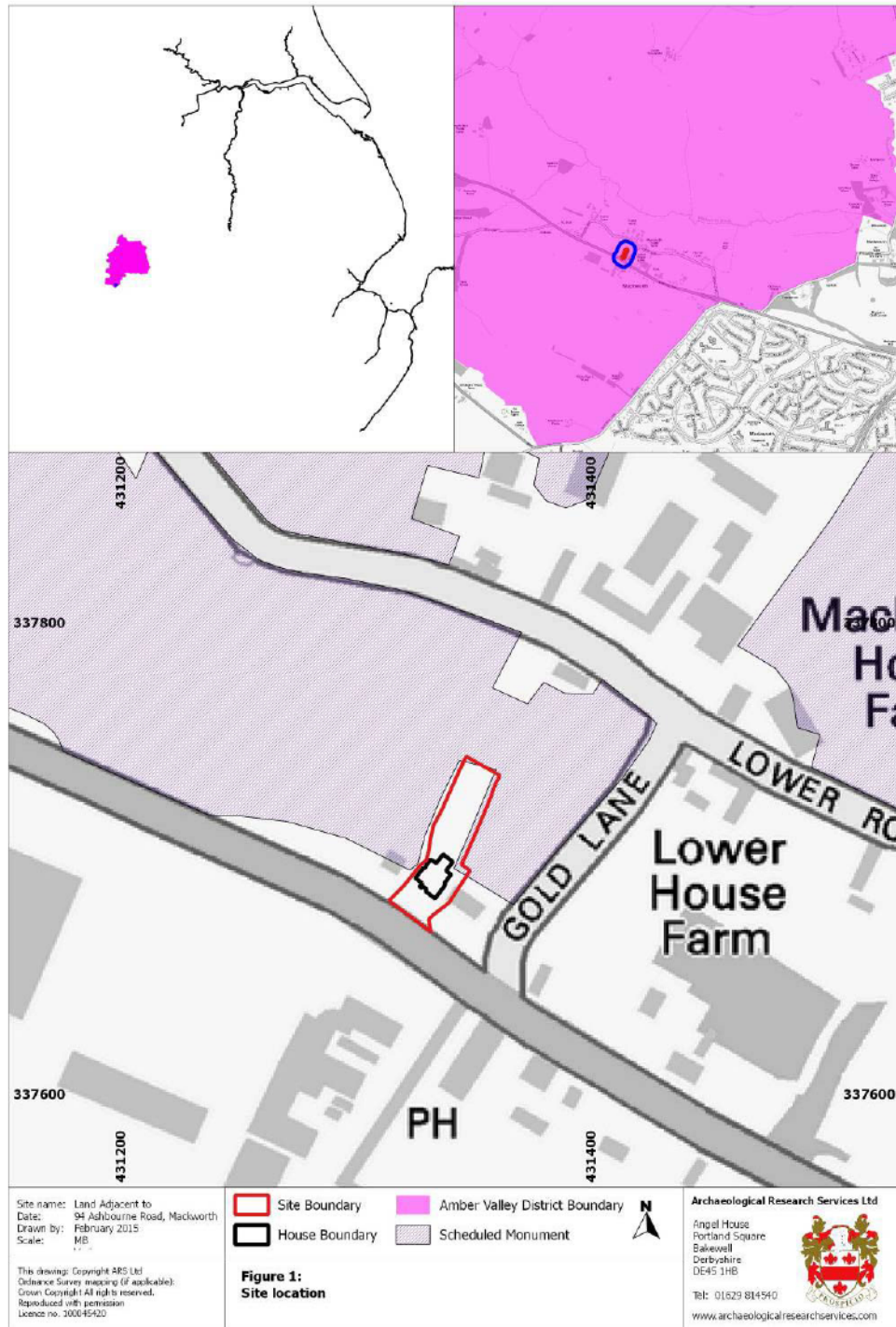


Figure 1: Site Location. (Ordnance Survey data Copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence No. 100045420).

2. Location and Geology

2.1 The site is centred at NGR 431333, 337700 and is situated adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 29959) comprising the remains of Mackworth medieval settlement (Figure 1). The underlying geology of the area consists of Siltstones, Mudstones and Sandstones of the Tarporley Siltstone Formation and Limestones and Mudstones of the Widmerpool Formation (BGS 2015).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 The Scheduled Ancient Monument includes the earthworks of the medieval village, and part of the associated open field system. The standing and buried remains of a 15th century gatehouse also lie within the Scheduled boundary, and can be seen from the site. The gatehouse is linked to the fortified manor house known as Mackworth Castle.

3.2 The development site had the potential to impact upon remains dating from the early medieval period up to the modern day.

4. Methodology

4.1 Topsoil was stripped to a maximum depth of 0.25m across the watching brief area before the excavation of 15 connected foundation trenches. These measured from 1m and 1.5m in depth and 0.7m in width. A 3.5m x 1.8m soak away with a maximum depth of 1.5m was excavated along with drainage trenches with a maximum depth of 0.8m and width of 0.6m.

4.2 All relevant groundworks were undertaken with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. All excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision.

4.3 The deposits were recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. Each context was recorded on pro-forma records which included the following: character and contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers.

4.4 Where archaeological features were present, these were investigated by hand, photographed, and drawn at an appropriate scale. A sample section for the stratigraphy was photographed and documented. An adequate sample of any material finds was taken.

4.5 A photographic record was maintained including photographs of the excavated groundworks. All photographs were of digital format.

5. Results

5.1 A very dark black/brown sandy silt Topsoil (001) covered the entire excavation area, with a maximum depth of 0.25m. Beneath (001) lay a mid orange grey brown sandy silt subsoil (013) with depths varying from 0.2m to 0.4m. The subsoil was discontinuous and was not present across the entirety of the site. Where subsoil was absent, the topsoil lay directly onto natural sand and clay deposits excavated into to depths from 1m to 1.5m below existing ground level.

5.2 Beneath the concrete base of a demolished greenhouse 3.5m from the south-easterly corner of the foundations lay a modern deposit of made ground containing charcoal and modern bricks (004). It had a maximum depth of 0.8m and did not extend beyond the base of the greenhouse which was 1.5m in length. The full extent of this was not exposed by the excavation.

5.3 Feature [008] located in the south westerly corner of the foundation trenches (see Figure 2), was cut into the natural sand deposits and had a mid yellow/brown fill with flecks of charcoal (007). It had a maximum depth of 0.2m and width of 0.65m. The cut had steeply curved sides and a flat base.

5.4 Features [010] and [012] were situated 0.2m apart (see points e and f on Figure 2). F009 had gently curving sides and base, a width of 0.63m, and maximum depth of 0.25m. F011 had steeply sloping edges with a rounded base, a width of 0.36m and a maximum depth of 0.3m. They were both sterile features cut into the subsoil, with mid yellow brown sandy silt fills (009) and (011) respectively.

5.5 Feature [015] was located in the centre of the south edge of the excavations (see points a and b in Figure 2) and cut into the subsoil. It had a maximum depth of 0.45m, and contained a modern brick and charcoal inclusions. The fill (014) was a mid yellow brown clay silt.

5.6 Features [008], [010], [012] and [015] all likely represent modern are all likely to represent modern intrusions related to the site's previous use as an allotment garden.

6. Finds Report

Dr. Robin Holgate

6.1 Pottery

A total of 24 fragments of pottery (see Table 1) were recovered from contexts (001) and (013).

The pottery represents 18th – 20th century utilitarian wares (e.g. brown/black-glazes earthenwares and stoneware) and refined wares (e.g. blue-and-white transfer-printed earthenware) used for storage, preparation and consumption of food. The pottery assemblage comprises mass-produced wares which are in no way unusual; parallels can be found on most sites in the region yielding 18th – 20th century material.

6.2 CBM

Six fragments of roof tile and six fragments of brick, all dating to the 18th – 20th century, were recovered (see Table 2).

6.3 Slate

One fragment of purple roof slate, probably originating from North Wales, was recovered from context (013).

6.4 Glass

Four fragments of 19th – 20th century glass from wine or fizzy drinks bottles were recovered (see Table 3)

Artefact Type	Date	Artefact count by context	
		001	013
Yellow-glazed earthenware	18 th – 19 th century	3	-
Brown stoneware	18 th – 19 th century	1	-
Brown/black glazed earthenware	18 th – 19 th century	7	2
Mocha ware	18 th – 19 th century	1	-
Blue-and-white transfer-printed ware	19 th century	1	1
White ware	19 th – 20 th century	8	-
Total		21	3

Table 1. Pottery Assemblage.

Type	Artefact count by Context			
	001	004	013	014
Roof tile	3	-	3	-
Hand-made brick	2	2	1	1

Table 2. CBM Assemblage.

Type	Artefact count by context	
	001	013
Light green bottle glass	2	-
Dark green bottle glass	1	1

Table 3. Glass Assemblage.

7. Discussion and Conclusion

7.1 The topsoil and fills of three of the features recorded at the site contained material from the 18th - 20th centuries. The archaeological features uncovered at the site result from modern activity related to its use as an allotment/garden. No earlier or significant archaeological features were identified during the watching brief.

8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

8.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

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

9. Statement of Indemnity

9.1 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.

10. Archive Deposition

Digital and paper copies of the report have been submitted to the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record. The OASIS record for the site has been completed and a copy of the report uploaded to OASIS.

11. Acknowledgements

10.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with this work, in particular Greg Clark for commissioning the watching brief and for providing access, and Steve Baker, Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.

12. References

British Geological Survey 2015. Geology of Britain viewer. Available online at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home/html> [Accessed 10 April 2015].

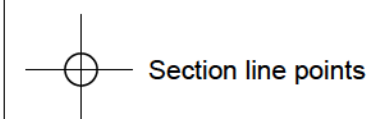
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Scale: 1:100 @ A3

Drawn by: MFC

Key:

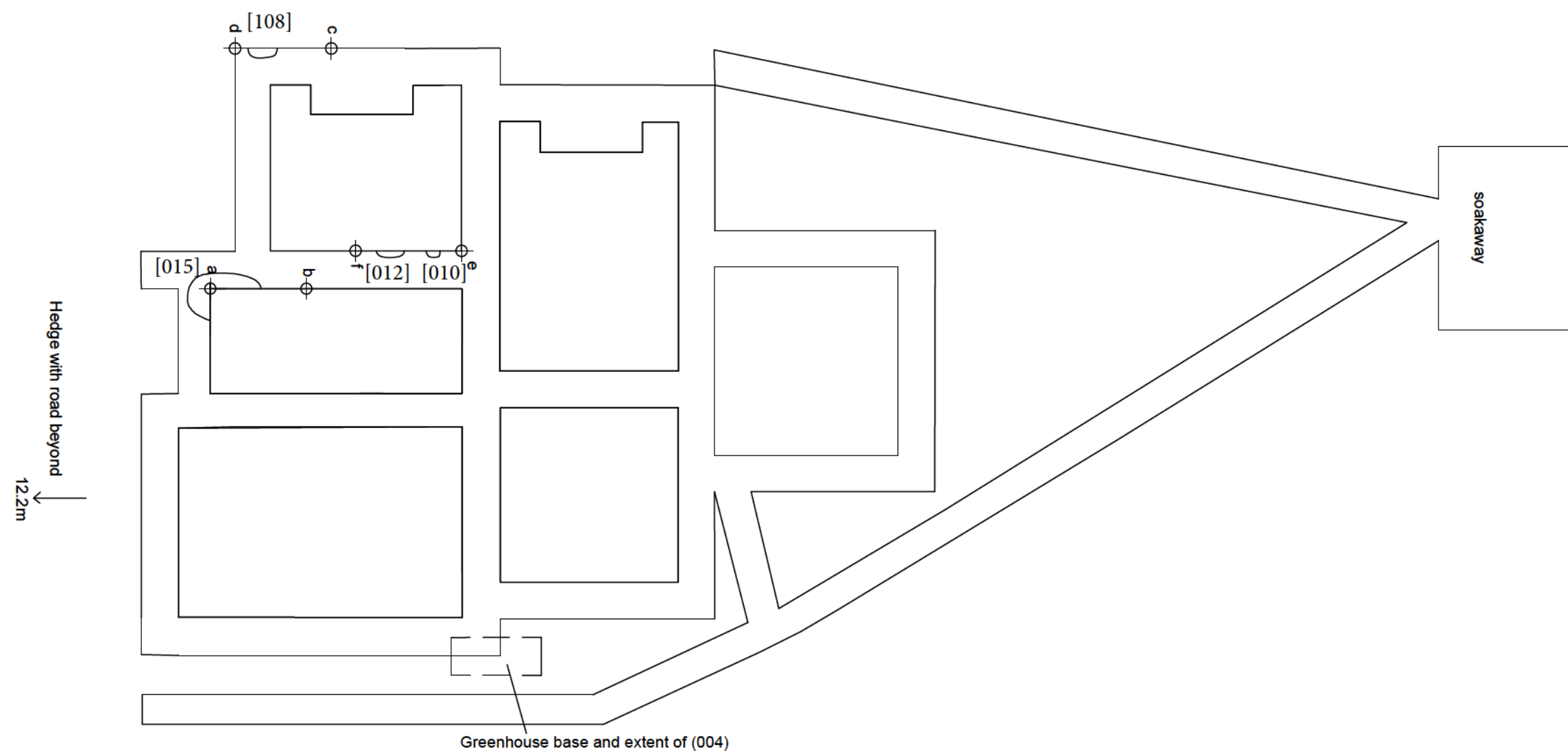
Unexcavated areas



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Hedge separating from no. 92



No. 94

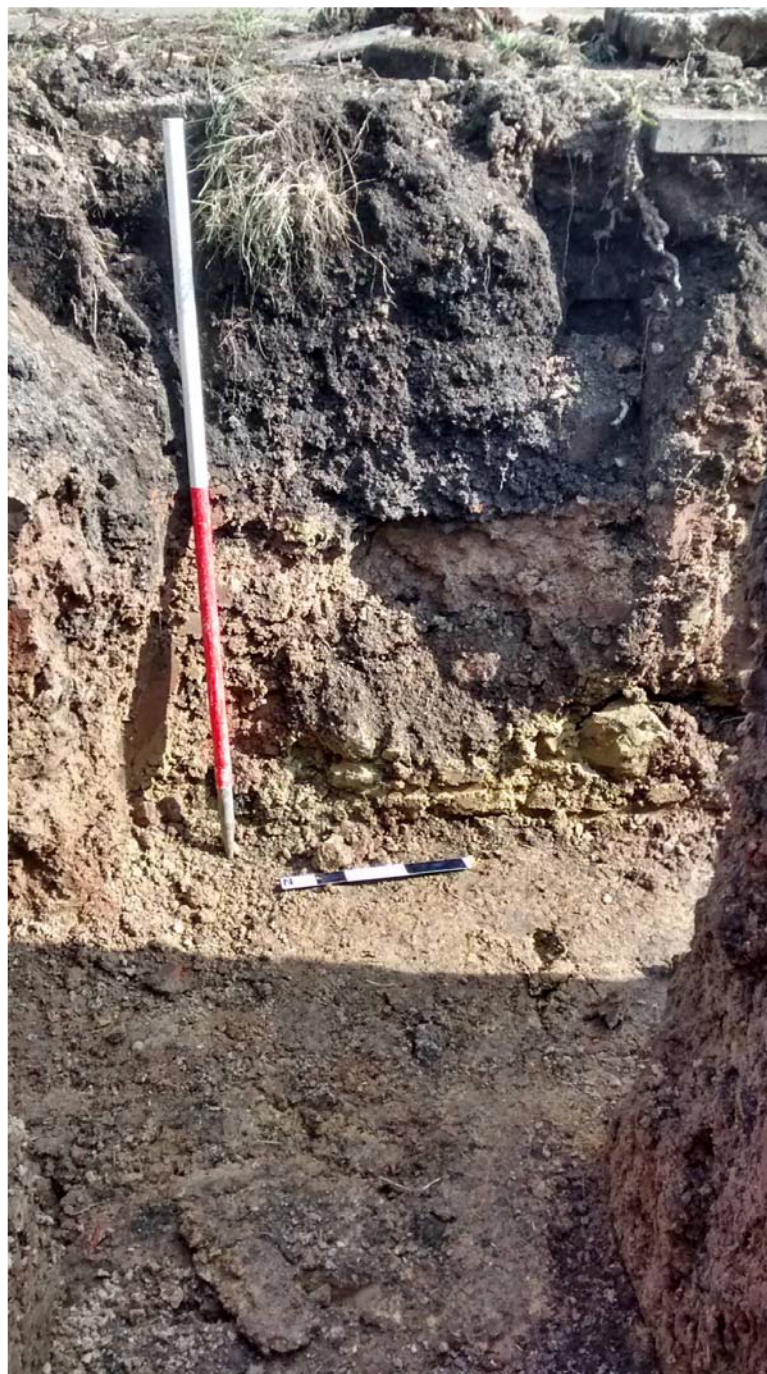


Figure 3. West facing section of (004). Scale = 1x1m.

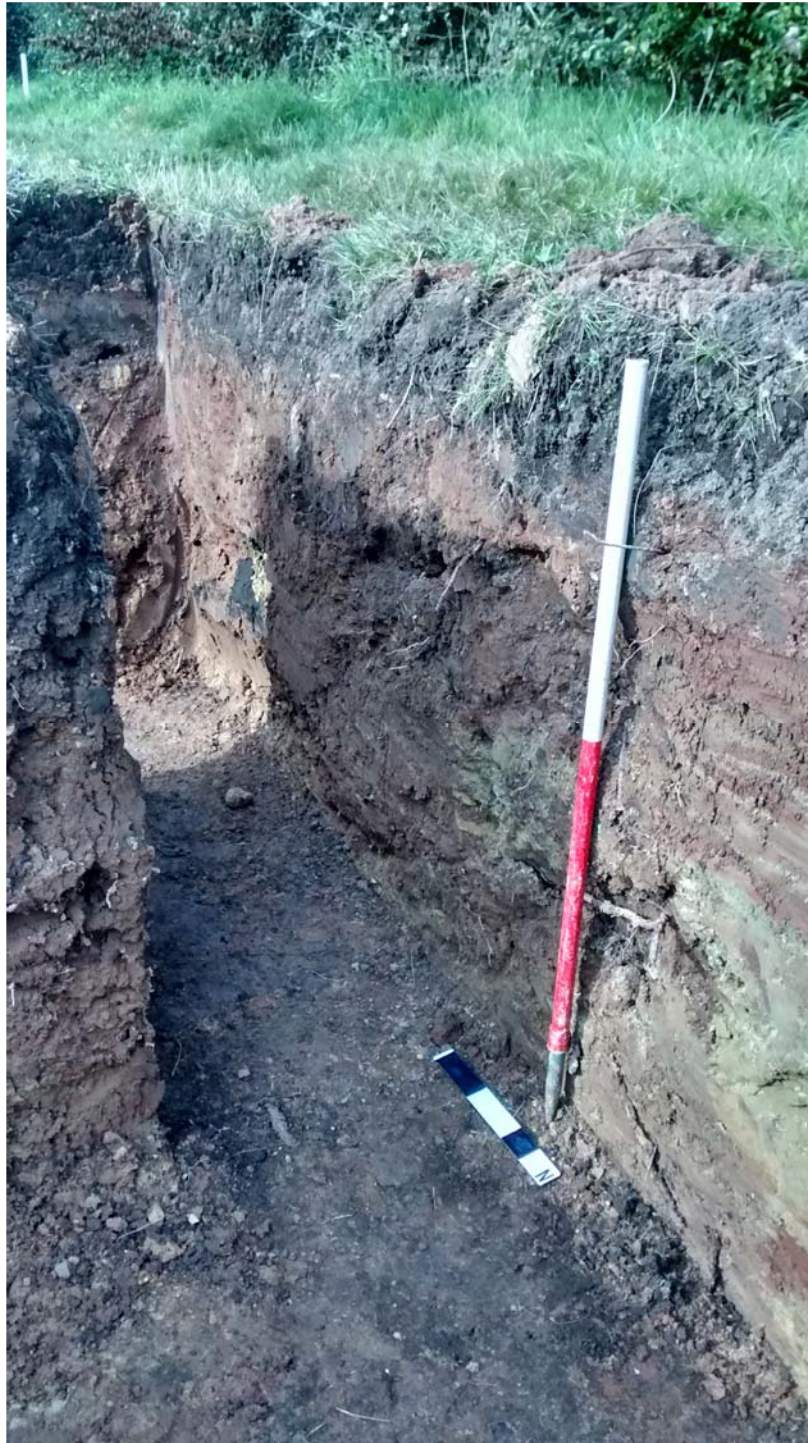


Figure 4. E facing section of Westernmost trench with (007). Scale = 1x1m.



Figure 5. East facing section with (009) and (011). Scale = 1x1m.



Figure 6. West facing section of (014). Scale = 1x1m.



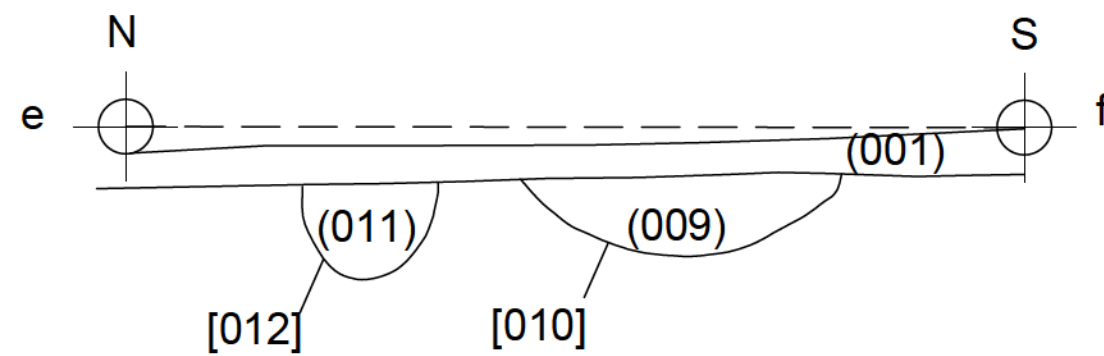
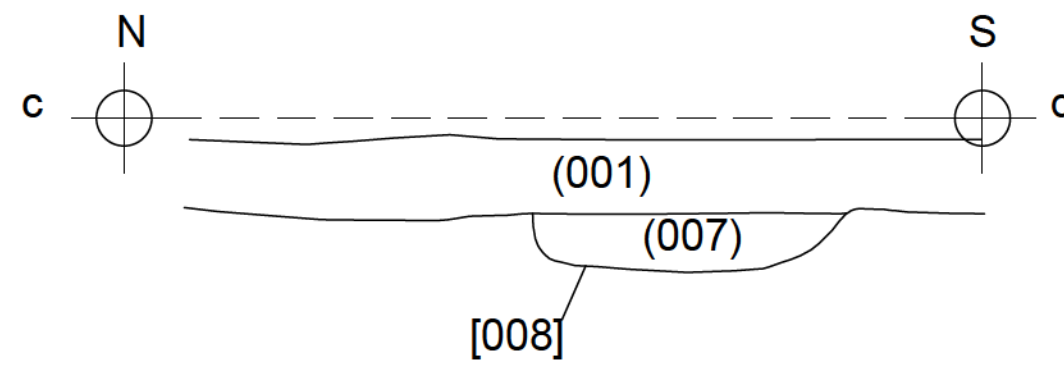
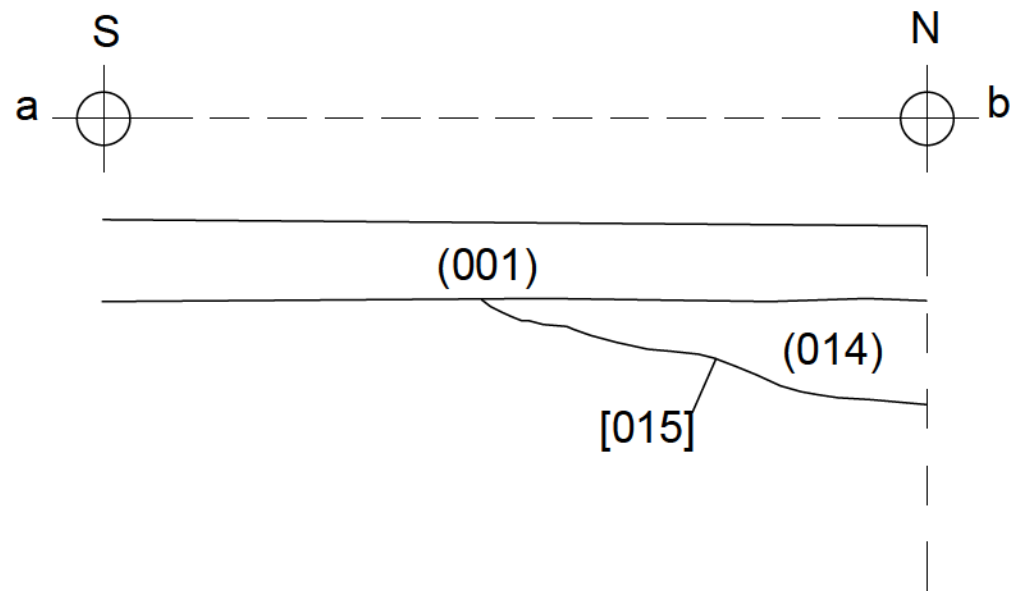
Figure 7. East and South facing sections of black trenches, showing (001), (002), (003), and (013). Scale = 1x1m.

Title: Sedction Drawings

Scale: 1:30 @A3

Drawn by: MFC

Key:



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Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol5-210347

Project details

Project name	Watching brief at Ashbourne Rd, Mackworth
Short description of the project	In April 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd.) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling in Mackworth, Derbyshire, as required by Steve Baker, the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist. Foundation trenches were dug up to 1.5m in depth through the topsoil, containing various 18th - 20th century material, and into the natural subsoil and natural sand and clay deposits. Three archaeological features and one section of made ground were identified and recorded. All features were dated to between the 18th - 20th centuries.
Project dates	Start: 31-03-2015 End: 07-04-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	ALLOTMENT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE AMBER VALLEY MACKWORTH Land adjacent to no. 94 Ashbourne Rd.
Postcode	DE22 4NA
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 3123 3773 52.935738 -1.53533 52 56 08 N 001 32 07 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

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	Ben Dyson

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Derbyshire HER
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Derbyshire HER
Paper Media available	"Report"
Entered by	Megan Fletcher-Cutts (megan@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	1 May 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

Land Adjacent to 94 Ashbourne Road, Mackworth,
Derbyshire

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



1 Introduction

- 1.1 This scheme of works relates to the proposed development at Land Adjacent to 94 Ashbourne Road, Mackworth, Derbyshire, DE22 4NA, which consists of a four bedroom detached dwelling as well as a double garage. The site is centred at NGR 431333, 337700 (Figure 1). The underlying geology of the site is Siltstones, Mudstones and Sandstones of the Tarporley Siltstone Formation and Limestones and Mudstones of the Widmerpool Formation (BGS 2015).

- 1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the works through a successful appeal (Application Reference: AVA/2014/0240) made by Green 2K Design on behalf of Mr Greg Clark of Derby. Condition numbers 17, 18 and 19 of the planning permission requires that:

“17) No development shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
- 2. The programme and provision to be made for post investigation analysis and reporting*
- 3. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 4. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 5. Nomination of a competent person or persons/ organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation*

18) No development shall take place other than in accordance with the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 18.

19) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation reporting has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 18 and the provision to be made for publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.”

- 1.3 The document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) confirming the nature of the archaeological monitoring to be undertaken during a watching brief by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) at Land Adjacent to 94 Ashbourne Road, Mackworth, in accordance with guidance from Steve Baker, the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.
- 1.4 The aim of the programme of works is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 141 (CLG 2012), to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the

proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archived generated) publically accessible.

2 Background

- 2.1 The site is adjacent to (though not within) a Scheduled Monument (SM 29959) comprising medieval village earthworks and buried remains of the abandoned areas of Mackworth medieval settlement and part of the associated open field system. It also includes the standing and buried remains of the 15th century gatehouse, which formerly led to the courtyard of the fortified manor house known as Mackworth Castle. It is likely that below-ground archaeology associated with the monuments extends outside the Scheduled area.

3 Objectives

- 3.1 The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that any archaeological remains encountered during the course of the groundwork are not destroyed without first being recorded and interpreted.
- 3.2 The watching brief will involve continuous monitoring during ground works, to be re-assessed, and potentially to take place on an intermittent basis, depending upon the nature of the deposits encountered on site, with visits to be agreed on site, and in discussion with the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, in order to monitor an appropriate proportion of groundwork elements or focused upon areas of identified potential. This will generally be at the beginning of each operation, at agreed points throughout the operation, and in response to any significant deposits being unearthed.

4 Fieldwork methodology

- 4.1 All relevant ground works will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. If significant archaeological features are identified, the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist will be notified and a decision taken as to the best method of proceeding.
- 4.2 ARS Ltd will provide a suitably qualified archaeologist during ground works on the site to undertake a watching brief. The on-site archaeologist will be fully apprised of the archaeological potential of the site. The 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.
- 4.3 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 and the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance upon pro forma context sheets (this will include at a minimum context record sheets, an accurate site plan and record photography where no archaeological features are present).

- 4.4 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. All significant archaeological features will be photographed (with scale) *in situ* and their location recorded on a plan of the site.
- 4.5 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). Brick samples will be taken for structures likely to pre-date the mid-19th century.
- 4.6 Site photography will be in high resolution (7 megapixel or greater) colour DSLR photography. Photography will include general site shots, shots of the excavation area and shots of individual features and groups of features. All photographs will include a suitable photographic scale (where appropriate) and will be recorded on a photographic register with the subject and direction of each shot.
- 4.7 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. Sample representative levels will be taken to record the maximum depth of excavation and /or natural should no archaeological features be uncovered. 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.
- 4.8 The watching brief will be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2014) and *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2013a).
- 4.9 Any human remains discovered 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 and in discussion with the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.
- 4.10 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act procedures.
- 4.11 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. Regular contact will be ensured between ARS Ltd. and the site project manager to ensure that ARS Ltd. is kept up to date with site works and given the chance to respond appropriately and in line with the Derbyshire Development

Control Archaeologist requirements.

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

Finds Processing and Storage

- 4.13 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA (2013b) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.
- 4.14 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 4.15 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.
- 4.16 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.
- 4.17 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.
- 4.18 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and Derby Museum prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.
- 4.19 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

5 Monitoring Arrangements

- 5.1 At least one week prior notice of the commencement of the ground works will be given to the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist:
Steve Baker
Derbyshire County Council
Shand House
Dale Road South
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3RY
Tel: 01629 539773.

- 5.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.
- 5.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, or his representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation.

6 Staffing

- 6.1 The Project Manager for the watching brief will be Christ Scott BA MA MCIfA, Operations Manager at ARS Ltd. The Fieldwork Project Officer will be Ben Dyson, Assistant Projects Officer at ARS Ltd.
- 6.2 Finds analysis will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.
- Flint and prehistoric pottery: Robin Holgate MCIfA
 - Romano-British pottery: Ruth Leary
 - Samian ware: Gwladys Monteil
 - Roman small finds: Lisa Watling
 - Medieval and post-medieval pottery: Chris Cumberpatch or Robin Holgate MCIfA
 - Clay pipes: Mike Wood MCIfA
 - Industrial Remains: Chris Scott MCIfA
 - Plant macrofossils and charcoals: Elise McLellan
 - Human and animal bone: Milena Grzybowska
 - Radiocarbon dating: SUERC
 - Finds conservation: Jenny Jones, Durham University

7 Report

- 7.1 Following completion of the watching brief, Archaeological Research Services 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
 - 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 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 9.4 below).

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 Derby Museum and Art Gallery). The archive will be deposited in line with the IfA (2013c) *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* and Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*, and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report. The 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 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 4.17-5.21 above).

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

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 General Items

Health and Safety

9.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all out workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork. ARS Ltd retains Peninsula as its expert health and safety consultants.

Insurance Cover

- 9.2 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability public liability, professional indemnity and all-risks cover.

10 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

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

11 Publication

- 11.1 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.

References

- British Geological Survey 2015. Geology of Britain viewer. Available online at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home/html> [Accessed 16 February 2015].
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