

An Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Chesterfield County Court House, Chesterfield, Derbyshire



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Executive Summary

Project Name:	Archaeological Evaluation at land adjacent to the former Chesterfield County Court House, Spa Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire
Site Code:	CCC19
Planning Authority:	Derbyshire County Council
Planning Reference:	CHE/19/00229/FUL
Location:	Spa Lane, Chesterfield, S41 7TH
Geology:	Deep Hard rock- sandstone
NGR:	SK 38556 71084
Date of Fieldwork:	20 th September 2019
Date of Report:	25/09/19

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by County Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land adjacent to the former Chesterfield County Court, Spa Lane, Chesterfield, S41 7TH. The evaluation was in advance of the determination of planning application (CHE/19/00229/FUL) for an extension to the County Court building to provide a further 3 apartments and internal configurations.

The evaluation was undertaken on the 20th September 2019, in accordance with a written scheme of works agreed with the Derbyshire County Archaeologist (DCA).

The evaluation comprised four trenches that were sited to investigate the edges of the proposed development in order to determine if any undisturbed deposits could survive within the footprint of the proposed development, either within or outside the 1976 excavation area. Trenches two and three identified the eastern and western extent of the 1976 trench edge whilst trenches one and four also confirmed that the ground had previously been disturbed by the previous excavation.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd. on behalf of County Developments Ltd. in advance to the determination of planning application (CHE/19/00229/FUL), for the development of three apartments on land adjacent to the former County Court, Spa Lane, Chesterfield, S41 7TH. (Figure 1) The site is centred at SK 38556 71084.
- 1.1.2 Following the advice of the Derbyshire County Archaeologist (DCA), a ‘pre-commencement evaluation’ was commissioned by County Developments Ltd. in order to determine the impact that the development would have on existing archaeology. Excavations carried out in 1976 (Ellis 1989) within the PDA, revealed substantial evidence of Roman and medieval activity. This work will examine the peripheral zones of the PDA to establish the extent of the excavations and to determine whether intact deposits/features are present and how extensive they are.

1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The ‘red line boundary’ of the proposed development area (hereafter ‘PDA’) is depicted by a red polygon on Figure 1, and is c.1206m² in area. The site is bounded to the east, south and west by Station Road, Spa Lane, and St Mary’s Gate respectively, and to the north by the St Mary’s Gate car park. The site is currently occupied by the L-shaped former County Court building, with the remainder of the site dedicated to parking and bin storage. The site of the proposed extension, on which this evaluation focuses, is depicted by a purple polygon on Figure 2, and is adjacent to the eastern elevation of the County Court building, covering an area of c.134m². The site of the proposed extension includes a blocked-up entrance block from Spa Lane and part of the present car park. The site is located at NGR SK 38556 71084 (Figures 1 and 2).

1.3 Geology and soils

- 1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the PDA comprises Deep Hard Rock – sandstone formed approximately 318 to 319 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was previously dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits are recorded by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2019).
- 1.3.2 No superficial geology is recorded within the PDA.

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.4.1 A full and detailed account of the archaeological and historical background of the PDA is presented in the accompanying Historic Environment Desk-Based

Assessment of the site adjacent the former Chesterfield County Court, Chesterfield (Burpoe 2019) and is summarised below.

- 1.4.2 The site is located within the footprint of two successive Roman forts. Previous archaeological investigations within the proposed extension boundary in 1976 have identified the presence of intact, albeit truncated, archaeological remains of Romano-British date possibly relating to the Vicus associated with these forts.
- 1.4.3 The site is also located on the edge of the medieval core of Chesterfield, which grew around the location of the original church and was located within the confines of the Roman forts. The aforementioned excavations within the proposed extension area identified medieval levels during the archaeological works, with over 500 fragments of medieval pottery recovered from this site.
- 1.4.4 Historic mapping shows the site being occupied by crofts as early as 1637 (Burpoe 2019) with later mapping showing the area becoming more and more developed. The 1876 OS map shows three terraced houses on the PDA called Spa Terrace. Early photographic evidence from 1957 (see Burpoe 2019) shows these houses in a dilapidated, uninhabitable condition with all the windows boarded up. It is perhaps no surprise then that these buildings are no longer evident on the 1961/2 OS plan. The photographs also illustrate that Spa Terrace was built on a much higher level than the surrounding buildings and a small window near ground level shows that the end terrace at least had a cellar.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

- 2.1.1 The proposed archaeological works had the potential to provide evidence relating to research objectives and overarching research themes for the Romano British and high medieval periods identified in the Updated Research Agenda for the East Midlands (Knight et al. 2012). For the Romano- British they included:
 - What spurred the foundation of extramural settlements (vici) next to early forts and how was the development of vici and forts related (Knight et al. 2012:70)? And
 - How does the distribution of towns correlate with Iron Age foci, and how far may their social, political and economic roles have overlapped (Knight et al. 2012:70)
- 2.1.2 For the high medieval (1066-1485) they included; how did the major towns and smaller market towns of the region develop after the Norman Conquest, both within the urban core and in suburban and extra-mural areas (Knight et al. 2012:94)?

2.2 The Evaluation Aims and Objectives

- 2.2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to investigate the potential for archaeological remains outside the area previously explored by excavation in 1976 and investigate the potential remains of Spa terrace.
- 2.2.2 The objectives of the evaluation were as follows.
- ◆ To identify the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits.
 - ◆ To record any archaeological features/deposits encountered.

3 Method Statement

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The method for the evaluation was outlined in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Cavendish 2019, Appendix III) and is summarised below:

3.2 Coverage

- 3.2.1 Four trenches were excavated within the proposed extension area to the east of the current building to target foundation pilings. The trenches were excavated to determine whether the proposed foundation piling would affect any undisturbed deposits that may survive within the area.

3.3 Standards

- 3.3.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Evaluations* (2014b).
- 3.3.2 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work. Health and Safety regulations were adhered to at all times.

3.4 Evaluation Methodology

- 3.4.1 Trenches were sited in accordance with a pre-agreed trench plan using a Leica Smartrover GPS to a tolerance of 0.025m. The same GPS was later utilised to locate drawn plans and sections and to take spot heights within the trenches.
- 3.4.2 Each trench was opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. Excavation was undertaken in spits to the first archaeological/natural horizon.
- 3.4.3 Where permitted, trenches were cleaned by hand to expose and clarify archaeological features. Pre-excavation photographs were taken of exposed archaeology and each cleaned trench.

- 3.4.4 All archaeological features were drawn and recorded at an appropriate scale
- 3.4.5 All features and trenches were tied into Ordnance Survey, all deposits were levelled and their spot heights calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

4 Results

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Four trenches were excavated within the proposed development (see table 1).
- 4.1.2 All trenches showed that the majority of the PDA is within the area of the 1976 excavation.
- 4.1.3 The trench summary table is presented below. This provides a synthesis of the size of the trench, presence/absence of archaeology or potential archaeology in each of the trenches as well as the maximum thickness of the modern overburden and demolition backfill/made ground.

Trench No	Size of Trench (l x w)	Archaeology ? Y/N	Period	Carpark/bedding material	Backfill/made ground thickness
1	2.26 x 2m	N	N/A	0.53 – 0.60m	0.74 - 0.94 m
2	2.78 x 1.95m	Y	Roman?	0.05m	0.98 – 1.01m
3	2.65 x 2m	N	N/A	0.52m	1.14- 1.28m
4	3.34 x 1.92m	N	N/A	0.48 – 0.87m	0.52m

Table 1. Trench summary table demonstrating presence absence of archaeology/excavated deposits/structures and topsoil/subsoil depths.

- 4.1.4 The area was covered by a modern carpark made up of asphalt and overlaid a hard-core bedding material; made up ground comprised of black clayey silt with frequent machine made bricks, plastic and fragmented sandstone which backfilled the 1976 excavation area.
- 4.1.5 Full details of the dimensions and elevation of the features identified in the evaluation trenches can be found in Appendix II.

4.2 Evaluation trenches

Trench 1

(Figure 3, see also Table 1 and APPENDIX II: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE)

- 4.2.1 Modern asphalt (101) and hard-core (102) were removed by machine under continuous archaeological supervision to a depth of 0.53-0.60m below ground level (BGL) at which depth a deposit of pea gravel (107) overlaying concrete foundation (106) was identified. The concrete represents the foundations of the carpark retaining wall which runs along the southern and eastern edge of the PDA. To the north and directly below hard-core (102) and concrete foundation (106) made up ground (103) was identified, measuring between 0.74m- 0.94m in

depth. Below the made-up ground, the geological natural (104) was encountered at 1.23-1.4m BGL.

Trench 2

(Figures 4-8, see also Table 1 and APPENDIX II: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE)

4.2.2 Asphalt surface (201) and hard-core (202) were removed to a depth of 0.49-0.54m BGL at which point a made-up ground deposit (203) and several deposits of clay (205, 206) were identified. Further machine excavation of the made up ground identified the edge of the 1976 excavation visible in the section at c. 92.10m aOD (Figures 6 and 8). The clay deposits within the western half of the trench represent several layers of clay, redeposited natural and lenses of coal which likely reflect levelling up and possible ground surfaces. Below coal lens (208) a ditch [212] was identified cutting through earlier levelling up deposit (210) and is seen to continue in a north-east direction (Figures 7 and 8). Levelling up deposit (214) overlies a mottled yellowish black clay deposit with charcoal inclusions at some c. 91.44m aOD and potentially represents a trampled surface.

Trench 3

(Figure 9, see also Table 1 and APPENDIX II: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE)

4.2.3 Asphalt surface and hard-core (302) were removed to a depth of 0.52m BGL at which a made-up ground deposit (303) was identified. Below made ground deposit (303) at 1.14m BGL (c. 91.71m aOD), the geological natural (304) was encountered within the eastern half of the trench extending from east to west for 0.7m before being cut by the 1976 excavation [305]. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered within this trench.

Trench 4

(Figure 10, see also Table 1 and APPENDIX II: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE)

4.2.4 Modern asphalt (401) and hard-core (402) were machine excavated to a depth of 0.48 – 0.87m BGL at which point a made-up ground deposit (403) was identified. The removal of the made up ground deposit to a depth of 1.27m BGL (91.90m aOD) revealed the remains of backfilled feature [405] in the north western corner (Figure 10). The feature is filled by made up ground deposit (403) and likely relates to an excavated waste pit or well identified during the 1976 excavation. Natural geology (404) was identified between 1.15m and 1.37m BGL, c. 91.90-91.58m aOD.

4.3 Conclusions

4.3.1 The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that a large proportion of the PDA is within the footprint of the previous 1976 Spa Lane excavation. Trenches two and three identified the western and eastern edges of the excavation respectively, with Trench 4 confirming the presence of a previously excavated pit/well. Trench 3 identified that the eastern edge of the 1976 excavation was

some c.0.7m from the western edge of the existing boundary/retaining wall of the carpark.

- 4.3.2 Trench 2 identified that the western edge of the 1976 excavation, which is located 1.15m away from the current eastern end of the former court building, and identified undisturbed archaeological deposits. The removal of the made up ground, which had backfilled the eastern half of the trench, demonstrated an unexcavated section of a ditch, sampled in 1976, that was observed to cut into a possible surface layer. This ditch appears to extend south-west, beneath several levelling deposits identified within the western half of this trench. Given the location and orientation of this ditch, it is thought to be the same ditch (F25) identified during the 1976 excavation and potentially forms part of the military ditch around the fort (Ellis 1989, pp 73-74).
- 4.3.3 The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeological deposits, which were not excavated at the time, probably survive within the footprint of the 1976 excavation trench. It has also demonstrated that the eastern and western principal edges of excavation also lay within the footprint of the PDA.

5 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

- 5.1.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 5.1.2 ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

6 Statement of Indemnity

- 6.1.1 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.

7 Archive

- 7.1.1 A digital archive, which will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data will be submitted Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The digital archive will be prepared in line with current best practice outlined in *Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice* (ADS/Digital Antiquity 2011) and a copy will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service at the University of York.
- 7.1.2 No artefacts were recovered.

- 7.1.3 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be supplied to the South Yorkshire SMR and deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM, in addition to the report in PDF/A format.
- 7.1.4 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> has been initiated and completed for this work and all parts of the OASIS online form 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).

8 Acknowledgements

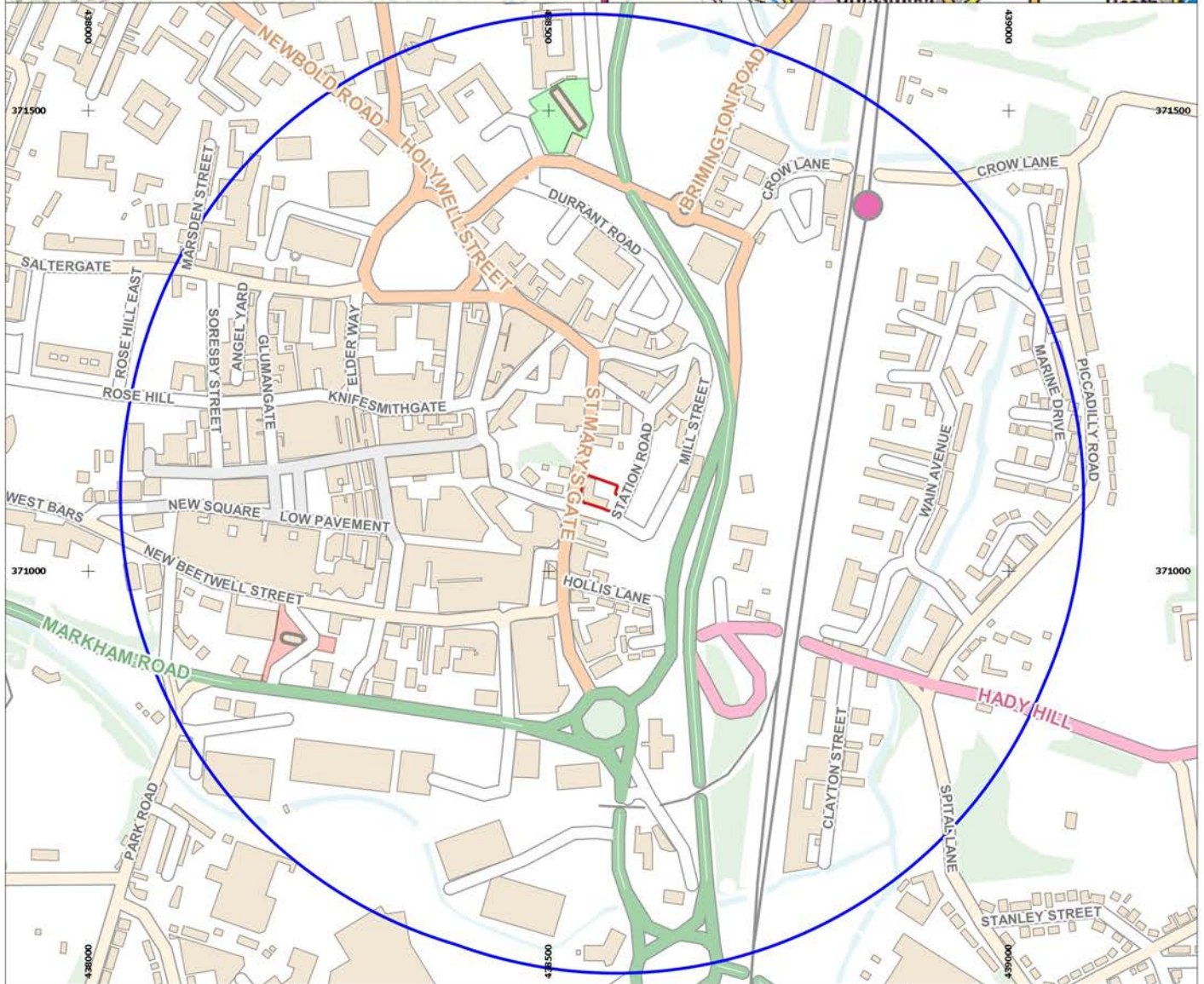
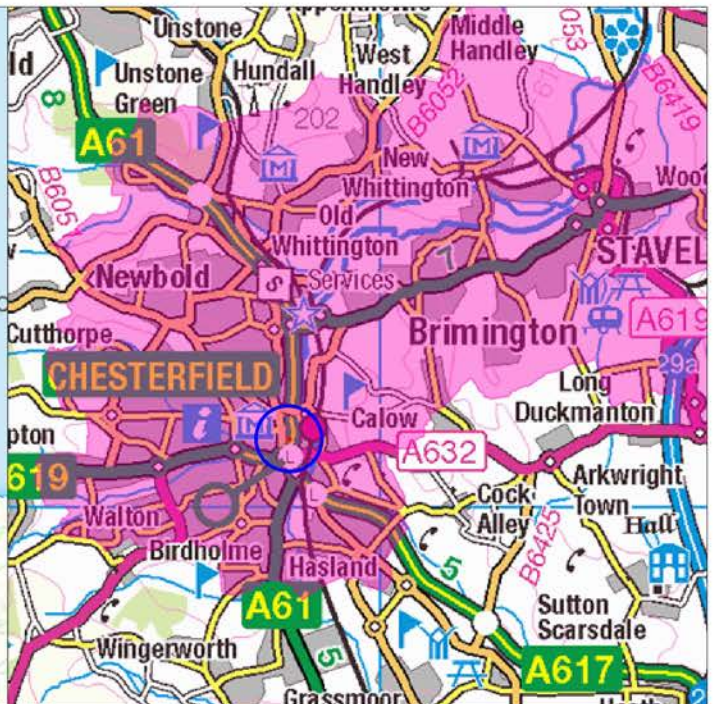
- 8.1.1 ARS Ltd would like to thank County Developments Ltd. for commissioning the project, Donald Clapham for his assistance on site and Steve Baker, Derbyshire County Archaeologist for his assistance with the project.

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9.1 APPENDIX I: FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location



Site name: Chesterfield Courthouse
 Date: July 2019
 Drawn by: MB
 Scale: Varies

Figure 1:
Site location

- Site Boundary
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- 500m Study Area



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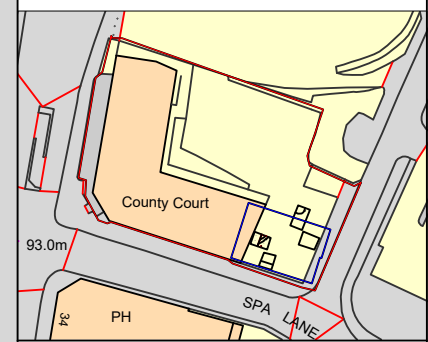
This drawing: © ARS Ltd
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Figure 2: All features plan and trench location plan overlying OS map.

Figure 2: All features plan and trench locations overlying OS Map (License no. 100022432)



- Key:
- Limit of excavations
 - Section
 - Edge of concrete (106)
 - Estimated Edge of 1976 excavation



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Figure 3. View East of Trench 1 (Scale = 1x1m in 0.5m graduations)



Figure 4. View north west of Trench 2 (Scale = 1x1m in 0.5m graduations).



Figure 5. South-west facing section of Trench 2 showing edge of the 1976 excavation [205] with backfilled deposit (203) (Scale = 1x1m in 0.5m graduations).

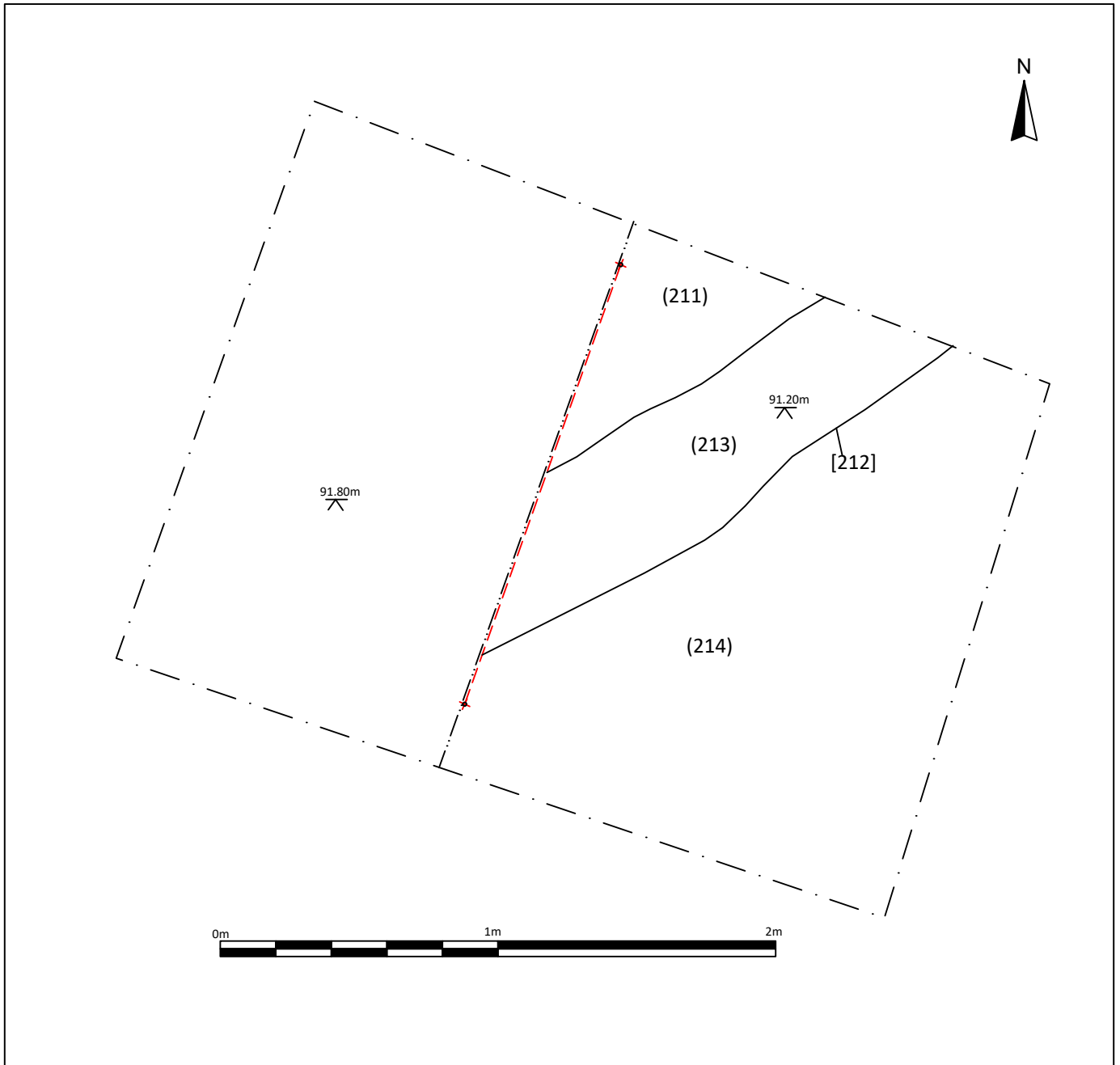


Figure 6. East facing section within trench 2, of the 1976 excavation edge showing several layers of made up ground and ditch [212] (scale= 1x1m in 0.5m graduations)



Figure 7. View south-west of Ditch [212] (Scale = 1x1m in 0.5m graduations).

Figure 8. Plan and section of Trench 2



East facing section of 1976 excavation in Trench 2 showing levelling deposits.

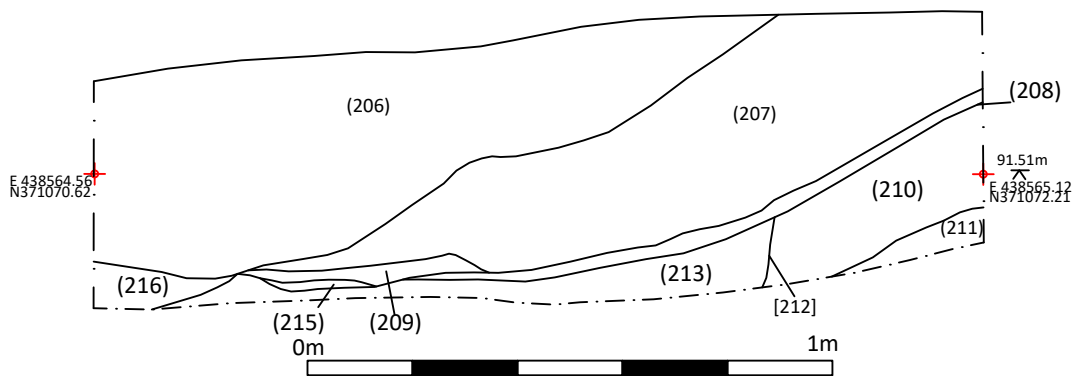


Figure 8. Plan and section of Trench 2
Scale: As shown @A4

Key:
 - - - - - Limit of excavation
 ㄟ aOD (m)
 - - - - - Section

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Figure 9. South facing section of Trench 3 (Scale =1x1m in 0.5m graduations).



Figure 10. View north east of Trench 4, showing pit [405] in the north-west corner (scale =1x1m in 0.5m graduations).

9.2 APPENDIX II: Context Summary Table

Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Chesterfield County Court House, Spa Lane, Derbyshire

Trench	Context	Types	Description	Dimensions	Aod
1	101	Deposit	A coarse textured grey deposit of asphalt. Represents the current car park surface.	2.26 x 1.92m x 90mm	92.19- 92.35m
	102	Deposit	A coarse textured, pale yellow matrix of silty sand and limestone inclusions. Represents hard-core used for the bedding of the asphalt carpark surface.	2.26 x 1.92 x 0.44-0.51m	c. 92.1 - 92.26m
	103	Deposit	A medium textured, black clayey silt with frequent inclusions of machine made red brick, metal, plastic and angular stone. Represents made up ground which filled the 1976 excavation area.	2.26 x 1.92 x 0.74-0.97m	c. 91.66 - 91.75m
	104	Deposit	A medium textured, yellowish orange silty sand mixed with angular broken sandstone. Represents the natural geology of the area.	2.26 x 1.92 x - m	c.90.92 - 90.78m
	105	Deposit	A deposit of pea gravel below hard-core (103) and overlying concrete deposit (106). Represents a deposit associated with drainage of water.	2.10 x 0.89 x 0.42m	91.7m
	106	Deposit	A deposit of grey coarse concrete, along the edge of the modern retaining wall of the carpark. Represents possible foundations of the modern wall.	2.10 x 0.89 x 0.14m	91.28m
2	201	Deposit	A coarse textured grey deposit of asphalt. Represents the current car park surface.	2.78 x 2 x 0.1m	c. 92.72 – 92.41m
	202	Deposit	A coarse textured, pale yellow matrix of silty sand and limestone inclusions. Represents hard - core used for the bedding of the asphalt carpark surface.	2.78 x 2 x 0.39-0.44m	c. 92.61 - 92.31m
	203	Deposit	A medium textured, black clayey silt with frequent inclusions of machine made red brick, metal, plastic and angular stone. Represents made up ground which filled the 1976 excavation area.	2.78 x 2 x 0.98-1.01m	c. 92.22 - 91.87m
	204	Void	Void	Void	Void
	205	Cut	A steep sided, relatively straight cut which is aligned across trench 2 in a north to south. Represents the eastern edge of the 1970's excavation.	-	c.92.10m
	206	Deposit	A fine textured, light grey mottled orange clay deposit with charcoal inclusions. Interpreted as a levelling up deposit	1.3 x 1.15 x 0.4m	c.92.10m
	207	Deposit	A mottled pale yellow with brown clay and charcoal inclusions. Interpreted as a levelling up deposit	1.4 x 1.15 x 0.35m	c.92.10m

Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Chesterfield County Court House, Spa Lane, Derbyshire

Trench	Context	Types	Description	Dimensions	Aod
2	208	Deposit	A thin deposit/ lens of coal below levelling up deposit (207). Interpreted as a levelling up deposit	91.67m	91.67m
	209	Deposit	A fine textured, white grey clay deposit. Interpreted as a levelling up deposit	- x 0.44m x 50mm	91.35m
	210	Deposit	A mid brown, coarse sandy clayey silt with angular sandstone inclusions. Interpreted as a possible levelling up deposit	- x 0.4 x 0.17m	91.64m
	211	Deposit	A dark blackish grey deposit of coal. Interpreted as a possible dumping layer used for levelling.	- x 0.3m x 70mm	91.45m
	212	Cut	A north-east to south-west aligned parallel sided feature. Represents the cut of an un-excavated ditch.	1.8 x 0.52 x -m	91.42m
	213	Fill	A mid brown sandy silt fill of ditch [212]. Not excavated. Represents disuse of ditch [212]	1.8 x 0.52 x -m	91.42m
	214	Deposit	A mottled yellowish black silty clay with charcoal inclusions. Possibly represents a surface layer	1.06 x 2 x -m	91.11m
	215	Deposit	A thin lens of coal below clay deposit (209) and above ditch [212]. Levelling up deposit?	- x 0.19m x 20mm	91.30m
3	301	Deposit	A coarse textured grey deposit of asphalt. Represents the current car park surface.	2.65 x 2m x 90mm	92.85m
	302	Deposit	A coarse textured, pale yellow matrix of silty sand and limestone inclusions. Represents hardcore used for the bedding of the asphalt carpark surface.	2.65 x 2 x 0.43m	92.76m
	303	Deposit	A medium textured, black clayey silt with frequent inclusions of machine made red brick, metal, plastic and angular stone. Represents made up ground which filled the 1976 excavation area.	2.65 x 2 x 1.11m	c. 92.33m
	304	Deposit	A medium textured, yellowish orange silty sand mixed with angular broken sandstone. Represents the natural geology of the area.	2.65 x 2 x - m	c. 91.22 - 91.39m
	305	Cut	Steep sided cut through natural (304) in the eastern half of the trench, some 0.7m from the eastern edge of the trench. Represents the edge of the 1970's excavation.	-	91.39m

Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Chesterfield County Court House, Spa Lane, Derbyshire

Trench	Context	Types	Description	Dimensions	Aod
4	401	Deposit	A coarse textured grey deposit of asphalt. Represents the current car park surface.	3.34 x 1.92m x 90mm	c. 93.16m
	402	Deposit	A coarse textured, pale yellow matrix of silty sand and limestone inclusions. Represents hard-core used for the bedding of the asphalt carpark surface.	3.34 x 1.92 x 0.39 - 0.78m	c. 93.06m
	403	Deposit	A medium textured, black clayey silt with frequent inclusions of machine made red brick, metal, plastic and angular stone. Represents made up ground which filled the 1976 excavation area.	3.34 x 1.92 x 0.52- 0.77m	c. 92.67 - 92.28m
	404	Deposit	A medium textured, yellowish orange silty sand mixed with angular broken sandstone. Represents the natural geology of the area.	3.34 x 1.92 x - m	91.90- 91.58m
	405	Cut	Part of a circular? Cut feature identified 1.27m BGL. Filled by made up ground (403). Represents the possible cut of a previously excavated pit feature within the original footprint of the 1970's excavation.	1.42 + x 1.26+ x - m	91.90m

9.3 APPENDIX III: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

***Land Adjacent the former Chesterfield County Court, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire.***

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching

September 2019



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Angel House, Portland Square, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1HB

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of: County Developments Ltd

Compiled by: Zoë Cavendish

Date of compilation: September 2019

Planning Reference: CHE/19/00229/FUL

Local Authority: Chesterfield Borough Council

Site Centre NGR: SK 38556 71084

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by County Developments Ltd to monitor the excavation of a series of pre-commencement trial trenches at the site adjacent to the former Chesterfield County Court in Derbyshire to limit the scope of any future archaeological planning condition. These works are in advance of the determination of planning application (CHE/19/00229/FUL) for an extension to the County Court building to provide 3 apartments and internal reconfiguration. The Proposed Development Area (hereafter PDA) is centred at NGR SK 38556 71084 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 Excavations in the area of the PDA in 1976 (Ellis 1989) revealed features and material culture of Roman date as well as from the medieval period. However, the extent of these excavations is not known, nor how they may have impacted on any extant below ground remains. Therefore, a 'pre-commencement evaluation' will be carried out to examine the peripheral zones of the PDA to establish whether intact deposit sequences are present and how extensive they are.

1.1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation confirms the nature of the archaeological works which, in this instance, is for an evaluation consisting of 3 1.6m x 2-3m trenches, and 1 1.6 x 4m trench (Figure 2) to investigate the edges of the PDA in order to determine if they lay outside the footprint of the excavations in 1976 and are therefore not disturbed as a result.

1.1.4 There is the potential for in situ archaeological remains to be present beneath the stairwell extension on the eastern end of the County Court building. Therefore, this evaluation may form part of a scalable, phased programme of archaeological investigation during development work which could include, but not be limited to, watching brief, strip map sample, or open excavations if necessary. Any such works would be subject to an addendum to this WSI.

1.2 Site Description

The 'red line boundary' of the proposed development area (hereafter 'PDA') is depicted by a red polygon on Figure 1, and is c.1,206m² in area. The site is bounded to the east, south and west by Station Road, Spa Lane, and St Mary's Gate respectively, and to the north by the St Mary's Gate car park. The site is currently occupied by the L-shaped former County Court building, with the remainder of the site dedicated to parking and bin storage. The site of the proposed extension, as depicted by a blue polygon on Figure 2, is adjacent to the eastern elevation of the County Court building, covering an area of c.134m². The site of the proposed extension includes a blocked-up entrance block from Spa Lane and part of the present car park. The site is located at NGR SK 38556 71084 (Figures 1 and 2).



1.3 Geology

The underlying solid geology of the PDA comprises Deep Hard Rock – sandstone formed approximately 318 to 319 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits are recorded by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2019).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A full and detailed account of the archaeological and historical background of the PDA is presented in the accompanying Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment of the site adjacent the former Chesterfield County Court, Chesterfield (Burpoe 2019) and is summarised below.

2.2.1 The site is located within the footprint of two successive Roman forts. Previous archaeological investigations within the proposed extension boundary in 1976 have identified the presence of intact, albeit truncated, archaeological remains of Romano-British date possibly relating to the *Vicus* associated with these forts.

2.2.2 The site is also located on the edge of the medieval core of Chesterfield, which grew around the location of the original church and was located within the confines of the Roman forts. The aforementioned excavations within the proposed extension area identified medieval levels during the archaeological works, with over 500 fragments of medieval pottery recovered from this site.

2.2.3 Historic mapping shows the site being occupied by crofts as early as 1637 (Burpoe 2019) with later mapping showing the area becoming more and more developed. The 1876 OS map shows three terraced houses on the PDA called Spa Terrace. Early photographic evidence from 1957 (see Burpoe 2019) shows these houses in a dilapidated, uninhabitable condition with all the windows boarded up. It is perhaps no surprise then that these buildings are no longer evident on the 1961/2 OS plan. The photographs also illustrate that Spa Terrace was built on a much higher level than the surrounding buildings and a small window near ground level shows that the end terrace at least had a cellar.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The proposed archaeological works have the potential to provide evidence relating to research objectives and overarching research themes for the Romano British and high medieval periods identified in the *Updated Research Agenda for the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012). For the Romano- British they include:

- ◆ 5.3.1: What spurred the foundation of extramural settlements (*vici*) next to early forts and how was the development of *vici* and forts related (Knight *et al.* 2012:70)? And



- ◆ 5.3.2: How does the distribution of towns correlate with Iron Age foci, and how far may their social, political and economic roles have overlapped (Knight et al. 2012:70)?

For the high medieval (1066-1485) they include:

- ◆ 7.1.1: How did the major towns and smaller market towns of the region develop after the Norman Conquest, both within the urban core and in suburban and extra-mural areas (Knight et al. 2012:94)?

3.2 Archaeological Evaluation Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 Specific aims of the archaeological evaluation include:

- ◆ Investigate the potential for archaeological remains outside of the area previously explored by excavations in 1976.
- ◆ Investigate the potential remains of Spa terrace.

1.2.2 These aims can be achieved through the following objectives:

- ◆ Identify the presence/ absence of archaeological features and deposits within the site through the excavation of a series of trial trenches.
- ◆ Record any archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- ◆ Sample sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Professional Standards

4.1.1 All elements of the archaeological evaluation will be carried out in accordance with ClfA's Code of Conduct (2014a) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (2014b).

4.2 Coverage

4.2.1 In order to investigate the archaeological potential of Chesterfield County Court a total of four trenches are proposed in the extension area to the east to target foundation pilings. Trench measurements are approximate and can be amended slightly if required to fit in with conditions on site; they are depicted on Figure 2 and detailed below:

- ◆ Trench 1 – 1.6m x 4m aligned approximately north to south and targeting the rear of Spa Terrace.
- ◆ Trench 2 – 1.6m x 2-3m aligned west to east
- ◆ Trench 3 – 1.6m x 2-3m aligned south to north
- ◆ Trench 4 – 1.6m x 2-3m aligned east to west



4.2.2 The trenching plan has been agreed in consultation with the ADCC. Should it be necessary to re-position any of the trenches due to unforeseen circumstances, this will be carried out in consultation with the ADCC.

4.3 General Statement of Practice

4.3.1 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified for their respective project roles and have substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording.

4.3.2 All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work entailed to fulfil this specification.

4.3.3 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 requirements of the ADCC.

4.3.4 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.

4.3.5 The locations of all the trenches will first be surveyed in in relation to Ordnance Datum to ensure the excavated trenches are sited in the appropriate locations to achieve the aims of the evaluation.

4.4 Evaluation Trenching Methodology

4.4.1 Overburden will be removed by a tracked or wheeled excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The overburden will be removed down to the level of 1.2m or to the level of any buried ground surface not representing extant fill of the archaeological excavations of 1976. Overburden removal will be in successive horizontal spits.

4.4.2 Where previously extant ground surfaces are apparent more modern fill and make up will be removed to identify the former edge of the 1976 excavations. The level of fill abutting these former excavation edges will also be removed to demonstrate any potential for intact stratigraphy. The original edges of excavation may be cleaned up and recorded if necessary but it is envisioned that demonstration of presence or absence is sufficient to demonstrate the potential for archaeological deposits to survive.

4.4.3 Excavated spoil will be scanned visually to recover small finds. Finds so recovered will be retained and recorded with their location of origin ascribed.

4.4.4 Should archaeological deposits or structures be revealed that are more numerous, better preserved, or of higher status than expected or than which could reasonably be expected consultation will take place with the ADCC to identify and agree further excavation/recording strategy.



4.4.5 Isolated, discrete features such as pits which do not form structural features or are representative of industrial activities will be 50% sampled, if they produce artefacts then provision is made for full excavation.

4.4.6 Archaeological linear features, such as ditches and gullies that are not of a structural nature, will be sampled in segments no less than 1m wide away from intersections.

4.4.7 Cut features of an archaeological nature which comprise structural units will be excavated to and respect the original interface of construction.

4.4.8 Upstanding or positive features of an archaeological nature, following recording, may be partially excavated by hand where such excavation facilitates access to evaluating lower lying archaeological stratification.

4.5 Sampling, Faunal Remains and Treasure

4.5.1 This section outlines sampling methodologies to be utilised in all excavation types.

4.5.2 For sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits that have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or land use regime, a minimum of 40 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist and provisions will be made for further scientific dating, where justified against the project aims.

4.5.3 In the case of waterlogged or anaerobic deposits a minimum sample size of 20L will be taken.

4.5.4 Should a sequence of superimposed deposits of note be present, column sampling may be considered.

4.5.5 In all instances sampling strategies will be in accordance with guidelines issued by Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation* (Campbell *et al.* 2011) and will be targeted in order to explore the levels and types of preservation present.

4.5.6 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Science Advisor will be taken as appropriate.

4.5.7 Any human remains will initially be left *in situ* and, if deemed necessary, removal will be undertaken once a Coroners licence has been obtained in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations and in discussion with the ADCC.



4.5.8 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer will also be notified.

HM Coroner

Dr. Robert Hunter
5-6 Royal Court
Basil Close
Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S41 7SL
Tel: 01246 201391

Finds Liaison Officer

Dr Maria Kneafsey
Museum and Art Gallery
The Strand
Derby
Derbyshire
DE1 1BS
Email: maria@derbymuseums.org

4.5.9 The ADCC will also be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the find spot is required.

4.6 Recording

4.6.1 The site will be recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd's field recording manual and single context recording system, and will include as a minimum context record sheets, an accurate site plan and record photography where no archaeological features are present.

4.6.2 The site will be tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd field recording manual.

4.6.3 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pre-printed record sheets with text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate measured scale plans and sections/elevations will be drawn where required at the appropriate and in accordance with best practice. In addition to relevant illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.

4.6.4 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.

4.6.5 Sample representative levels will be taken to record the maximum depth of excavation and /or natural should no archaeological features be uncovered.

4.6.6 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.

4.6.7 A stratigraphy of the site will be recorded.

4.6.8 The heights above sea level will be recorded for all deposits and features in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

4.6.9 All site photography will be undertaken with a high resolution (7 megapixels or greater) colour DSLR camera and register of all photographs will be



maintained. The photographic record will encompass all encountered archaeological entities. In addition key relationships between entities, where these help demonstrate sequence or form, will also be photographed. A clearly visible, graduated metric scale will be included in all record shots. A supplementary record of working images will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.

4.6.10 A stratigraphic matrix will be compiled for all trenches where superimposed archaeological deposits, features or structures are encountered.

5 FINDS PROCESSING AND STORAGE

5.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA (2014c) *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*.

5.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.

5.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and 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.

5.4 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).

5.5 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.

5.6 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.

5.7 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and Chesterfield Museum and Art Gallery prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.

5.8 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.



6 STAFFING

6.1 The Project Manager for the archaeological evaluation will be Zoë Cavendish, Project Manager at ARS Ltd. The Fieldwork Project Officer will be Caitlin Tilt, Project 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:	Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA, FSA
◆ Romano-British pottery:	Dr Phil Mills MCIfA
◆ Samian ware:	Dr Gwladys Monteil
◆ Medieval and post-medieval pottery:	Dr Chris Cumberpatch or Dr Robin Holgate, MCIfA, FSA
◆ Medieval and post-medieval metalwork, glass and clay pipes:	Mike Wood MCIfA
◆ Plant macrofossils and charcoals:	Luke Parker
◆ Human and animal bone:	Milena Grzybowska ACIfA
◆ Radiocarbon dating:	Prof. Gordon Cook (SUERC)
◆ Finds conservation:	Vicky Garlick (Durham University)
◆ Industrial Waste	Dr Rod MacKenzie

7 REPORT

7.1 Following completion of the archaeological evaluation, 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
- ◆ A summary statement of results that conveys the significance and importance of the archaeology whilst referring back to specific evaluation aims and whether each has been met/addressed
- ◆ Conclusions
- ◆ Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices to include:
 - Specialist Reports



- Structural and Stratigraphic details
- ◆ 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 with a digital copy of the final report in PDF/A format on disc will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report will be updated as part of the OASIS record (see 8.9 below) for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

7.3 Upon completion of the project provision will be made, if appropriate, to update the East Midlands Historic Environment Record Forum (EMHERF) wiki. The ADCC will be informed of any updates.

7.4 If no other publication is recommended, a brief site summary in text format will be provided for Derbyshire Archaeological Journal's annual fieldwork round-up. This will be sent to chriswardle01@btinternet.com at the same time as submitting the final report to Derbyshire HER.

7.5 Provision should be made for updating the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) where the results of a fieldwork project contribute towards agenda topics. This should be done using the interactive digital resource at <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf> and noted explicitly in the conclusion of the relevant report.

8 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

8.1 At the inception of the project, Chesterfield Museum and Art Gallery will be notified.

8.2 Should the archaeological evaluation produce no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with Chesterfield Museum and Art Gallery. This is in line with the Museums of Derbyshire *Procedures for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives from Derbyshire at Derby Museums* (Museums of Derbyshire 2016). Should the archaeological evaluation identify significant stratigraphy but produce no finds then an all-digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

8.3 Should the archaeological evaluation produce archaeologically significant finds, a physical archive will be prepared for deposition by ARS Ltd with Chesterfield Museum and Art Gallery alongside a digital archive for deposition with the ADS. The archive will comprise the primary records and synthetic works arising from the project, including documents, plans, sections, photographs, and electronic data and an accompanying metadata statement.



8.3 Should the archaeological evaluation produce archaeologically significant finds, a project archive will be prepared for deposition by ARS Ltd with Chesterfield Museum and Art Gallery. The archive will comprise the primary records and synthetic works arising from the project, including documents, plans, sections, photographs, and electronic data and an accompanying metadata statement.

8.4 The archive will be deposited in line with the ClfA (2014d) *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Society of Museum Archaeologists (1999) *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*, and *Conditions for the Acceptance of Archaeological Material from Excavations and Field Work* (2003). In addition, the recommendations of *Procedures for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives from Derbyshire at Derby Museums* (Museums of Derbyshire 2016) will be adhered to. The archive will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report.

8.5 The ADCC and Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity should the site produce archaeologically significant, unusual, or unexpected finds.

8.6 The ADCC 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 and its contents will be outlined in the report and ADCC informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

8.7 All retained artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive.

8.8 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 disc.

8.9 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 Derbyshire HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.

8.10 Depending on the requirements of the ADCC, the results of the work or a synthesis of them will be published in an appropriate archaeological journal.

8.11 Any publicity will be handled by the client. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988). However, F W Harrison Commercials Ltd will be allowed to use the final report for their own purposes.



9 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

9.1 Internal monitoring of the project will be maintained by Zoë Cavendish at ARS Ltd, who will ensure the application of appropriate professional standards. Provision will be made for monitoring visits by the ADCC.

9.2 Notice of no less than five working days, prior to commencement of recording and monitoring will be given to the ADCC.

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

9.3 The contractor will liaise closely with the ADCC so that the site may be inspected when fieldwork is near to completion. Excavations will only be backfilled once the ADCC has inspected all trenches and/or given approval for the trenches to be backfilled.

9.4 The client will afford reasonable access to the ADCC or their representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological works. ARS Ltd will liaise with the client and the ADCC at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

10 GENERAL ITEMS

10.1 Health and Safety

10.1.1 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 Citation as its expert health and safety consultants.

10.2 Insurance Cover

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

10.3 Community Engagement and Outreach

10.3.1 Any opportunities will be sought for engaging the local community in any archaeological findings, for example a guided site tour and/or dissemination of information via ARS Ltd website and local media.



10.4 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

10.4.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the ADCC.

10.5 Publication

10.5.1 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. ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability public liability, professional indemnity.

11 REFERENCES

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Museums in Derbyshire 2014. *Addendum to the 2003 Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives*. Matlock, Derbyshire County Archaeological Services.

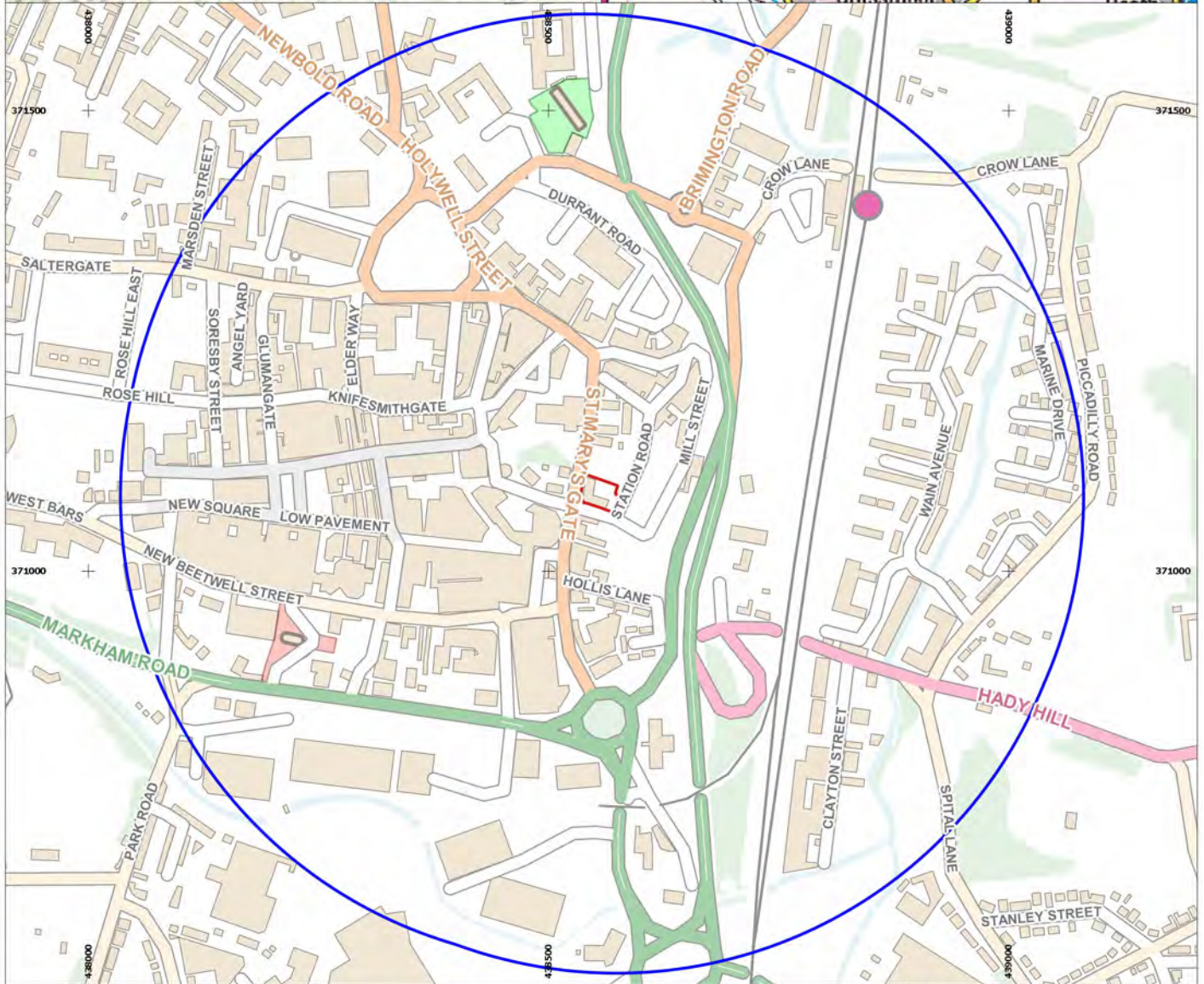
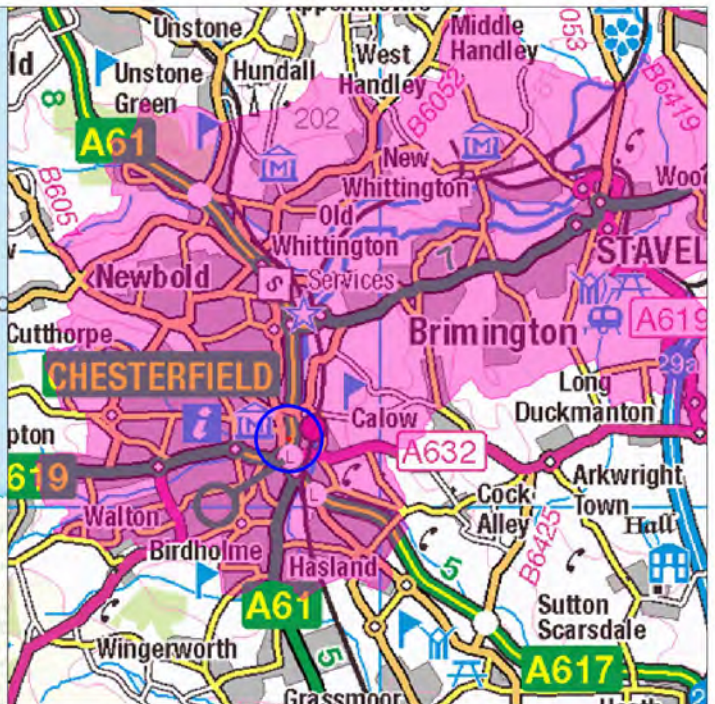
Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*. London: Society of Museum Archaeologists.

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation. 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.



FIGURES





Site name: Chesterfield Courthouse
 Date: July 2019
 Drawn by: MB
 Scale: Varies

**Figure 1:
 Site location**

- Site Boundary
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- 500m Study Area



Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Angel House
 Portland Square
 Bakewell
 Derbyshire
 DE45 1HB

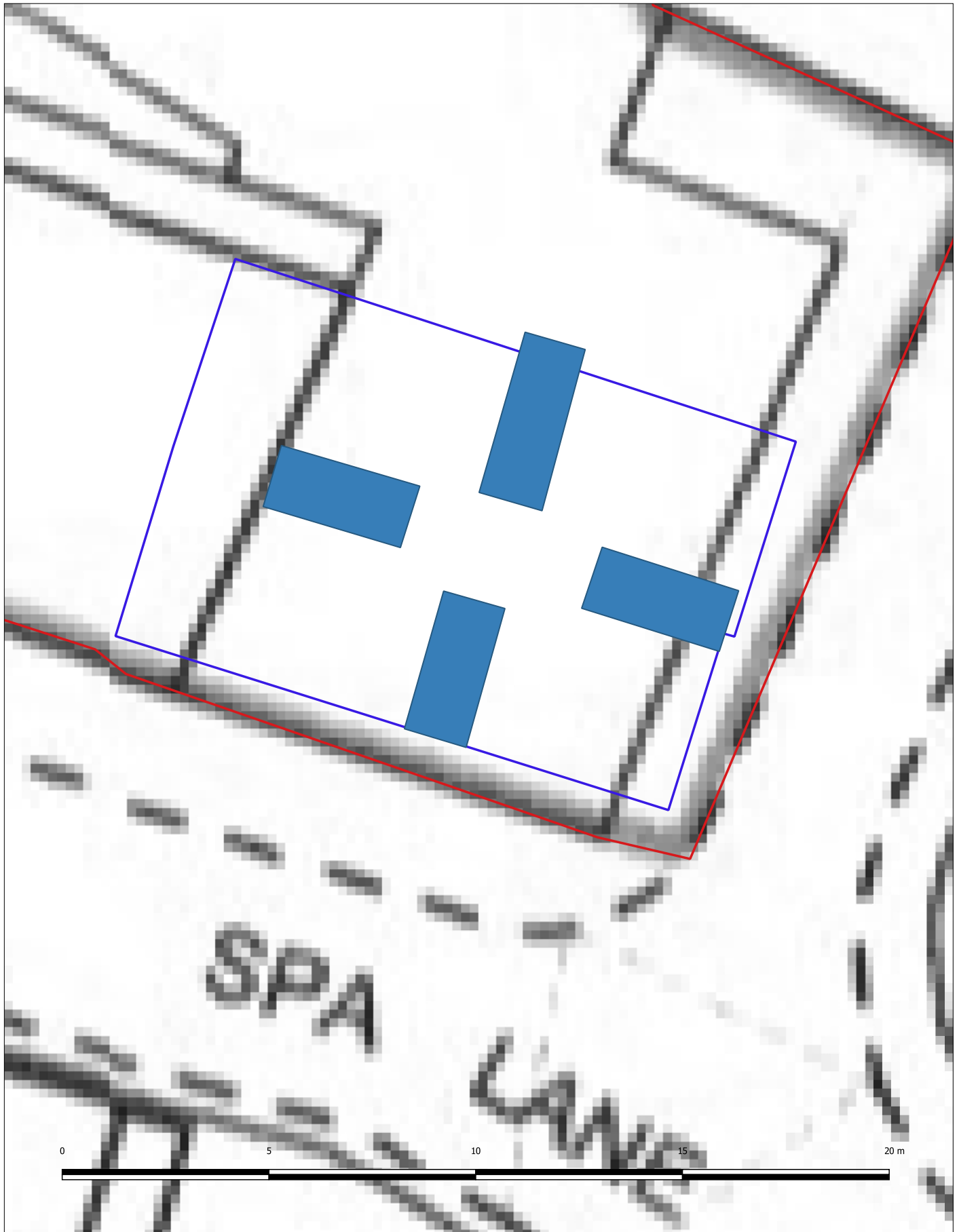


Tel: 01629 814540

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 RESEARCH SERVICES LTD

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

This drawing: © ARS Ltd
 Contains Ordnance Survey data.
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Site name: Chesterfield Courthouse
 Date: July 2019
 Drawn by: MB
 Scale: 1:123 @ A4

Figure 2: Footprint of Proposed Extension



Archaeological Research Services Ltd



Angel House
 Portland Square
 Bakewell
 Derbyshire
 DE45 1HB



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www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

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-  Proposed Extension
-  Trial Trenches

9.4 APPENDIX IV: 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: archaeol5-367921

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Chesterfield County Court House, Chesterfield, Derbyshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by County Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land adjacent to the former Chesterfield County Court, Spa Lane, Chesterfield, S41 7TH. The evaluation was in advance of the determination of planning application (CHE/19/00229/FUL) for an extension to the County Court building to provide a further 3 apartments and internal configurations. The evaluation was undertaken on the 20th September 2019, in accordance with a written scheme of works agreed with the Derbyshire County Archaeologist (DCA). The evaluation comprised four trenches that were sited to investigate the edges of the proposed development in order to determine if they lay outside the footprint of the excavations in 1976. Trenches two and three identified the eastern and western extent of the 1976 trench edge whilst trenches one and four also confirmed that the ground had previously been disturbed by the previous excavation.
Project dates	Start: 20-09-2019 End: 20-09-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE CHESTERFIELD CHESTERFIELD land adjacent to the former Chesterfield County Court House, Spa Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire
Study area	0.13 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 38556 71084 53.235106827762 -1.42228247435 53 14 06 N 001 25 20 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 Zoe Cavendish
Project supervisor Caitlin Halton

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Data Services

Paper Archive Exists? No

Entered by Caitlin Halton (caitlin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)

Entered on 24 September 2019

OASIS:

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

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