

# Archaeological Works at St Oswald's Primary School, Ashbourne, Derbyshire



View south-east showing soil strip and furrows [011] and [014]

**ARS Ltd Report 2021/24**  
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# Archaeological Works at St Oswald's Primary School, Ashbourne, Derbyshire

ARS Ltd Report 2021/24



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Chronology (calendar years BC-AD)	Glacial Eras	British Archaeological Periods	Climatic Phases	Environment		
AD 1901 AD 1837 AD 1714	Holocene	modern Victorian Georgian	Sub-atlantic (climatic warming)	Open landscapes with forested areas. Mixed farming widespread		
AD 1485		post-medieval				
AD 1066		medieval				
AD 410		early medieval				
AD 43		Roman Britain				
0		Iron Age				
500 BC		Bronze Age			(abrupt climatic deterioration)	
700 BC					(climatic warming)	
800 BC						
1800 BC		Beaker period			Sub-boreal (episodes of abrupt climatic deterioration, colder and wetter)	Deciduous woodland clearance for agriculture
2400 BC		Neolithic (advent of farming)				
3800 BC		Late Mesolithic				
4000 BC					Atlantic	Mixed deciduous forest (oak, elm, pine, alder, hazel and full range of trees) Increased amount of alder
4200 BC						
6175 BC					(Abrupt climatic deterioration, colder and drier)	Storegga Slide tsunami Britain becomes an island
6400 BC	Boreal	Preboreal (very rapid decadal warming)	Mixed forest (hazel, birch, pine, willow, heather)			
7000 BC	Early Mesolithic					
9700 BC	Pleistocene	Palaeolithic	Arctic	Tundra		
11500 BC					Loch Lomond Stadial (known as Younger Dryas across NW Europe)	Late Upper Palaeolithic Ahrensburgian
15000 BC					Windermere Interstadial or 'Late Glacial Interstadial'	Upper Palaeolithic Creswellian/ Magdalenian
18000 BC					Devensian 'LGM' (Last Glacial Maximum)	Upper Palaeolithic

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name:	Archaeological Works at St Oswald's Primary School, Ashbourne, Derbyshire
Site Code:	SSA19
Planning Authority:	Derbyshire Dales District Council
Planning Reference:	CD3/0718/28/
Location:	St Oswald's School, Mayfield Rd, Ashbourne DE6 1AS
Parish:	Ashbourne
Geology:	Chester Formation - Sandstone and Conglomerate, Interbedded.
NGR:	SK 17537 46435
Date of Fieldwork:	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 22 <sup>nd</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
Date of Report:	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 (first draft) 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 (second draft) 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 (final)

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by St Oswald's Primary School to undertake an archaeological earthwork survey to record the landscape features within the site boundary, and a watching brief to monitor and record the excavation of a haul road, compound and storage areas, drainage ditches, ground reduction for the construction of a path and a series of augur holes. Only the ground works associated with the construction of the haul road, compound and storage areas and drainage ditches were monitored and, any ground works carried out after this were completed without informing Archaeological Research Services Ltd, and therefore without any archaeological supervision.

The earthwork survey produced evidence of previous land use on the site in the form of ridge and furrow plough scars, as well as identifying potential archaeological features and accurately plotting the position of earthworks documented in the previous desk based assessment

The watching brief identified drainage gully's and plough furrows, both evidence of the sites previous agricultural use, and a rubble deposit. No remains of a building that was postulated to have been located on a levelled area, or platform were identified during the watching brief. This levelled area was most likely formed during the construction of the school, and most likely post-dates the ridge and furrow on site, given the lack of any within the area of the levelled platform. The rubble deposit comprised hardcore and broken building material, used to form the makeup and bedding for part of the former pathway that was orientated on a south-east to north-west direction through the field.

The watching brief succeeded to the extent of monitoring that no heritage assets were damaged or remained unrecorded during the groundworks and the archaeological evidence identified successfully contributes to Research Objective 7E of the East Midlands Updated Research Framework.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background and Scope of Work

1.1.1 Derbyshire Dales County Council granted planning permission for the permanent change of use of part of an agricultural field and development of a play area for school use at St Oswald's School, Moor Lane, Dale Abbey, Derbyshire (Figure 1), centered at NGR SK 43749 38907 (Application Ref. No. CD3/0718/28). This work was subject to planning Condition 15b, requiring that:

*"No development shall take place other than in accordance with the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation. The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation and the provision to be made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured."*

1.1.2 Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process under the provisions of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (MHCLG 2019). The site lies within an area of potential archaeological sensitivity as the school is close to the medieval core of Ashbourne and opposite the Grade I listed St Oswald's Church (Figure 1). An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) (Sidebottom 2018) identified several earthwork features within the PDA including two raised, level areas that could potentially be terraced platforms created to provide a base for previous buildings of indeterminate date. As such, Condition 15b of planning consent required the implementation of an earthwork survey to record all visible features on site before ground works commenced and a watching brief to monitor the ground works associated with the proposed development in the field adjacent to St Oswald's School. The brief aimed to record and better understand the significance of any heritage assets found during the development.

1.1.3 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by St Oswald's Primary School to undertake an archaeological earthwork survey, to record the landscape features within the PDA that were identified in the 2018 DBA, and a watching brief to monitor and record the excavation of a haul road, compound and storage area in 2019. This was further supplemented by drainage ditches, ground reduction for the construction of a path, and a series of augur holes in 2020. Only the ground works associated with the construction of the haul road, compound and storage area and drainage ditches were monitored (Figure 2), all ground works carried out after this were completed without informing ARS Ltd, and therefore without any archaeological supervision.

1.1.4 Works were undertaken in compliance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (ARS 2018) approved by the Development Control Archaeologist at Derbyshire County Council and took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2020. The earthwork survey was undertaken by Robert Cole, Assistant Projects Officer, and the watching brief was undertaken by Adrian Jacklin PCIfA, Assistant Projects Officer, at ARS Ltd. The project was managed by Dr Roger Doonan, Projects Manager, at ARS Ltd.

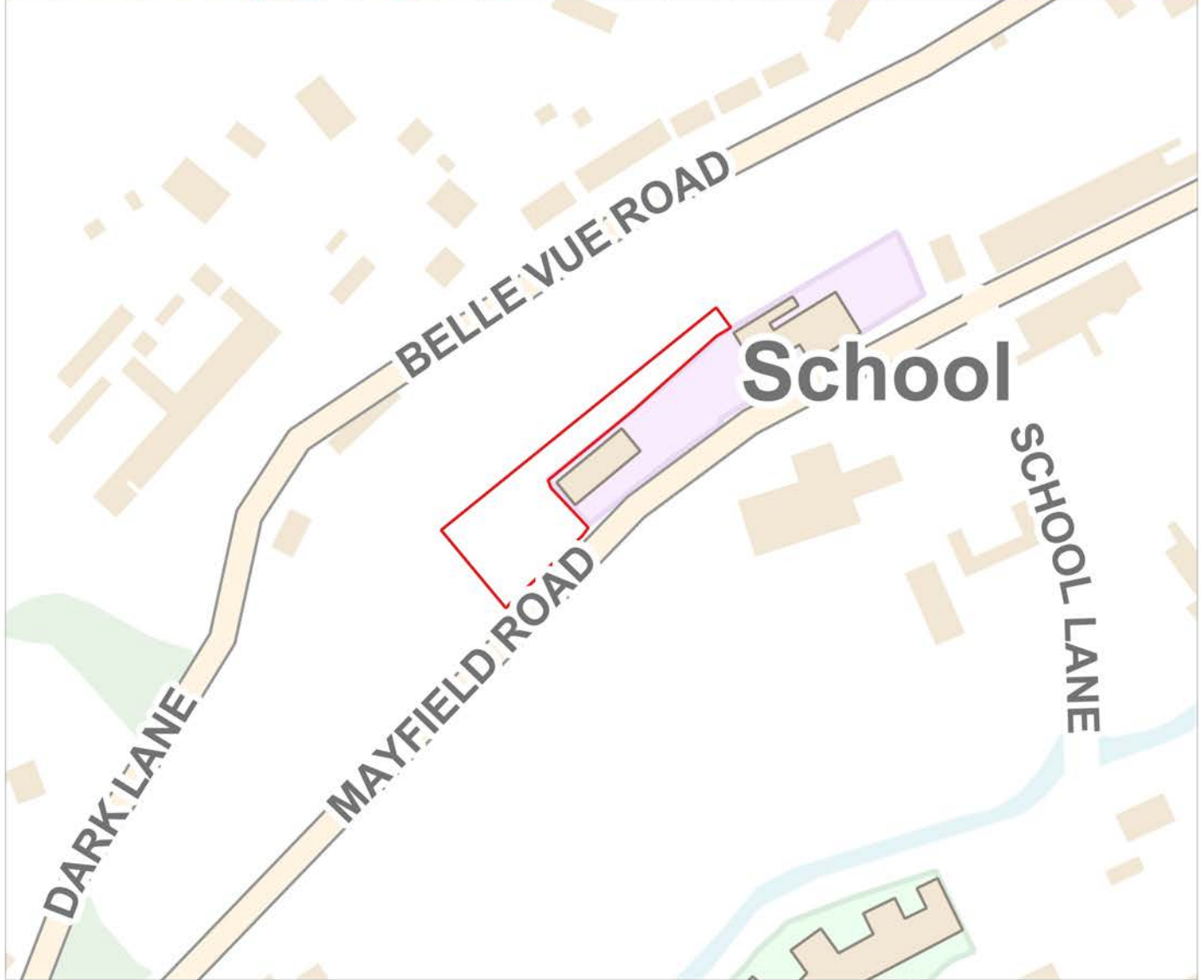
## **1.2 Site Location and Description**

1.2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the proposed development area (hereafter PDA) enclosed c.0.2ha on the north and western sides of St Oswald's Primary School, off the northern side of Mayfield Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. The site is centred at SK 17533 46432 in the valley of the Henmore Brook, a tributary of the River Dove (Figure 1). The PDA comprised part of an agricultural field that slopes steeply from north-west to south-east directly behind the school building.

## **1.3 Geology and Soils**

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology is of the Chester Formation, interbedded Sandstone and Conglomerate (BGS 2021). This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 247 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was dominated by rivers (ibid), although it extends from the South Devon Coast to Cumbria and Doncaster, from where it is traced north to Teesside. Although no superficial deposits have been recorded from the site itself, both Till and Gravels from the Wolstonian Stage (c.325-130kya) are found some 50m upslope to the north (ibid).

1.3.2 The soils of the site boundary are recorded as freely draining, slightly acidic and loamy soils (CU 2021).



Site name: St Oswald's School, Ashbourne  
 Date: February 2021  
 Drawn by: BD/ARJ  
 Scale: Varies

- Site boundary
- Local Authority boundary



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**Figure 1:  
 Site location**



## 1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.4.1 A comprehensive and detailed summary of archaeological information from the site and surrounding 1km study area is presented in an archaeological Desk Based Assessment that was completed in October 2018 (Sidebottom 2018). A summary is provided below.

1.4.2 The PDA stands within visible range of the Grade I parish church of St. Oswald (NHLE 1207715) which has a pre-Conquest origin. Field survey has identified several earthwork features, although only three relict field boundaries and a hollow way can be interpreted with any degree of certainty. Several levelled areas may well be terraced platforms created to provide a base for previous buildings of indeterminate date, although those close to the school buildings may have been created through the construction of the latter, although this is conjectural.

1.4.3 There is little in the way of recorded Prehistoric, Roman or Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity of the PDA, though it is documented that Ashbourne was perhaps a royal estate in the Early Medieval period, with a parish church by 1086. The location of the parish church is unusual, being to the west of the medieval town focus and it is possible that the early Medieval phase of settlement may have been in the vicinity of the parish church and the PDA. In around 1190, Ashbourne became a market town with borough status, that does not appear to have extended beyond the 13<sup>th</sup> century. For the medieval period, most entries in the Historic Environment Record refer to ridge-and-furrow, some of which may date to the post-Medieval period. The closest of these recorded plough-marks to the PDA is located c.450m to the west.

1.4.4 The PDA is situated within the western extent of the Ashbourne Conservation Area that contains the parish church and meadowland associated with the Henmore Brook, although this part of the Conservation Area is relatively void of Listed buildings compared to the main town centre further to the east. A map of Ashbourne from 1550 (Sidebottom 2018, 13) depicts the parish church of St Oswald, with the opposite side of the road, which is now occupied by the PDA, comprising an undeveloped area.

## 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 overarching research themes and research objectives identified in the *Updated Research Agenda for the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012). For the High Medieval Period (1066-1485) research themes include, urbanism (i.e. how did the major towns and smaller market towns of the region develop after the Norman Conquest?) and rural settlement (i.e. how can we improve our understanding of the form, evolution and functions of buildings within rural settlements?). The research objectives relevant for the work undertaken here include,

- ◆ Research Objective 7A for the High Medieval (1066-1485) period: undertake syntheses of urban and suburban excavation, survey and documentary data (Knight *et al.* 2012, 96).

- ◆ Research Objective 7E for the High Medieval (1066-1485) period: investigate the morphology of rural settlements (Knight *et al.* 2012, 100).

## **2.2 The Archaeological Watching Brief**

2.2.1 The principal aim of the archaeological supervision, recording and reporting was to ensure that any potential archaeological remains encountered during the course of the ground works were not destroyed without first being recorded and interpreted.

2.2.2 The following objectives contributed towards accomplishing this aim:

- ◆ Identify the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits within the site.
- ◆ Record all archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- ◆ Sample sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.
- ◆ Gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeology.

## **2.3 The Earthwork Survey**

2.3.1 The earthwork survey covered the whole 0.2ha extent of the PDA (Figure 1), including a limited area outside the PDA to encompass a number of features which extended beyond the red line boundary.

2.3.2 The objectives of the earthwork survey were to identify and record any extant earthworks of possible archaeological origin within the survey area (Figure 5) in order to record the location and potential significance of archaeological remains on the site. In particular the earthwork survey concentrated on three features identified by the archaeological desktop assessment (Sidebottom 2018) as follows:

- ◆ Feature 2: A possible hollow-way extending from the present footpath rising from Church Road and heading diagonally towards St. Oswald's House on Dark Lane. The purpose and possible date of the hollow-way is unclear; it is relatively shallow and could possibly be related to a sub-rectangular slightly raised feature located in the north-western area of the PDA. Alternatively, the location of two wells, shown on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map adjacent to Dark Lane and close to the top of the hollow-way, may be significant.
- ◆ Feature 3: A levelled area adjacent to St. Oswald's Primary School (old building) and within the PDA. The exact dimensions of this feature are difficult to determine, but may have been formed from earth moved here during the construction of the school building, as the latter has been cut into the hillslope, necessitating the removal of soil. An alternative suggestion is that the feature might have been a garden or vegetable plot associated with the school, possibly created as part of a war-effort initiative. However, these interpretations are merely conjectural.

- ◆ Feature 4: A probable field boundary indicated by a faintly raised line with two trees along its length. The feature appears to relate to a field boundary shown on the map of 1830 (Sidebottom 2018, 14).

## 3 Method Statement

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The methodology for the watching brief is outlined in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ARS 2018 and Appendix II this volume) and, along with that for the Earthwork Survey, is summarised below.

### 3.2 Professional Standards

3.2.1 All elements of the archaeological works were carried out in accordance with ClfA's *Code of Conduct* (2019) and followed the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2020) and Historic England's *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2017), where appropriate.

3.2.2 All staff employed on the project were suitably qualified for their respective roles and had substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff were made aware of the circumstances and potential archaeological importance of the work and were fully briefed on the requirements of the specification.

3.2.3 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work, and Health and Safety regulations were adhered to at all times.

### 3.3 The Earthwork Survey

3.3.1 The earthwork survey was carried out to the standards of a level 2 survey in accordance with Historic England's *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2017).

3.3.2 The survey was undertaken using a Leica GPS 1200+ global navigation satellite system (GNSS) with post-processing of data providing sub-centimetre accuracy. Each surviving feature was located and a series of points recorded at the tops, bottoms and breaks of slope. Where linear features were recorded, points were measured at significant changes of direction or at appropriate intervals where no changes in alignment were identified.

3.3.3 A description was recorded of each feature and colour photographs taken using high resolution digital photography (16 megapixels), including a scale.

### 3.4 The Watching Brief

3.4.1 All ground works associated with the excavation of the haul road, compound, storage areas, and drainage trenches were undertaken under archaeological supervision, to allow for the identification and recording of any archaeological material that potentially could have been uncovered.

3.4.2 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) was made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the

work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings were drawn at 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate.

3.4.3 The stratigraphy of the site was recorded.

3.4.4 All archaeological deposits and features were recorded with above Ordnance Datum (aOD) levels.

3.4.5 A photographic record of all contexts was taken using a digital camera (10 megapixels), and include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale.

## **4 Unmonitored Works**

4.1.1 The intention of the watching brief was to monitor all ground works associated with the development within the site boundary, in accordance with the imposed planning conditions. However, only the ground works associated with the construction of the compound and storage areas, the haul road, and drainage trenches were monitored (see section 5), and all subsequent works were carried out without notifying ARS Ltd, and therefore without archaeological supervision.

4.1.2 The unmonitored works included the drilling of a series of augur holes across the central area of site on a north-east to south-west orientation, ground reduction associated with the construction of the path and retaining walls and any other ground works that were necessary for the pathway and walls (Figures 2 – 4).



Figure 2: View north-west of constructed paths and retaining walls.



Figure 3: View south-west of constructed paths and retaining walls.



Figure 4: View north-west of the location of unmonitored augur holes.

## 5 Results

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section provides an overview and synthesis of the results from the earthwork survey and the monitored areas of the watching brief. Depths of deposits are expressed as below ground level (bgl) and in metres aOD.

5.1.2 The earthwork survey recorded 2109 points at regular intervals across the PDA and the area immediately surrounding it, making particular emphasis of the visible landscape features. A hachure plan showing the features identified during the earthwork survey is depicted in Figure 5.

5.1.3 The archaeological watching brief consisted of two phases of monitoring. The first phase being carried out in January 2019 monitored the excavation of a haul road, compound and storage areas. The second phase included monitoring the excavation of drainage ditches, in July 2020. The excavation of the haul road, compound and storage areas, saw the stripping of the topsoil (1) and subsoil (2) to the natural beneath (3), which was identified at an average depth of 0.53m bgl (c.123.63 – 129.27m aOD). The excavation works for the construction of the drainage ditches in 2020 comprised the excavation of a small section of the drainage trench through the topsoil (1), subsoil (2) and the natural (3) to the depth of development, and two 4m wide levelled areas along the route of the remainder of the drainage ditch through topsoil (1) and subsoil (2) down to the natural (3), finishing at between c.0.15 – 0.70m bgl (123.02m - 129.65m aOD). The archaeological monitoring works observed a broadly uniform stratigraphic sequence throughout the ground works. The topsoil deposit comprised a dark red and brown silty topsoil (depth ranges from 0.07m – 0.45m bgl). This overlaid a dark orange and brown silty-clay subsoil (average depth 0.31m bgl).

5.1.4 A context summary table of the depositional sequence encountered during the archaeological monitoring is presented in Appendix I. This should be viewed in association with the figures and the photographs presented in this section.

### 5.2 Earthwork Survey

5.2.1 Feature 2, as identified by Sidebottom (2018), was clearly visible within the PDA in the form of a gully extending from the footpath north-west up the hill toward St. Oswald's House on Dark Lane. It measured c.11.00m wide by c.34.00m (17.50m of which lay within the PDA) and ran perpendicular to the contours of the hill. To the south-east of feature 2, two ridges from ridge and furrow ploughing were identified within the PDA, they were aligned with the contour of the hill and continued outside the PDA. A further four ridges were identified on the north-east side of feature 2. They were also aligned with the contour of the hill and ran from the base of feature 2 to a hollow at the base of a small tree.

5.2.2. Feature 3 identified by Sidebottom (ibid) was clearly visible within the PDA adjacent to the school building as a flattened area or platform that protruded above the contours of the hill. It measured c.22.00m long by 12.00m wide. The edges of feature 3 were clearly defined on the north-west and south-east sides by the presence of ridges from ridge and furrow ploughing and on the north-east side by the school itself. The south-

west edge of feature 3 was poorly defined where it coincided with the bottom of feature 2.

5.2.3 Feature 4 could not be clearly identified within the PDA.



5.2.4 A levelled area behind the school building identified in the DBA could be clearly seen but the majority of it lay outside the PDA. Within the PDA it measured c.15.50m x 4.50m and was aligned along the contours of the hill. In the south-west, it was delimited by the presence of ridges left by ridge and furrow ploughing, and in the north-east it was delimited by feature 8 which lay at the north-eastern limit of the PDA.

5.2.5 A probable field boundary was identified at the north-eastern end of the PDA. It was very similar in character to feature 2, forming a gully, which ran perpendicular to the contours of the hill. In total, it measured 23.25m long by 15.50m wide, and approximately 5.50m of the lower part of the feature actually lay within the PDA.

Site Name: StOswald's Primary School  
Date: January 2019  
Drawn by: RHC  
Scale: As shown

Figure 5: Hachure plan of earthworks N

Key:

-  Proposed development area
-  Extent of survey



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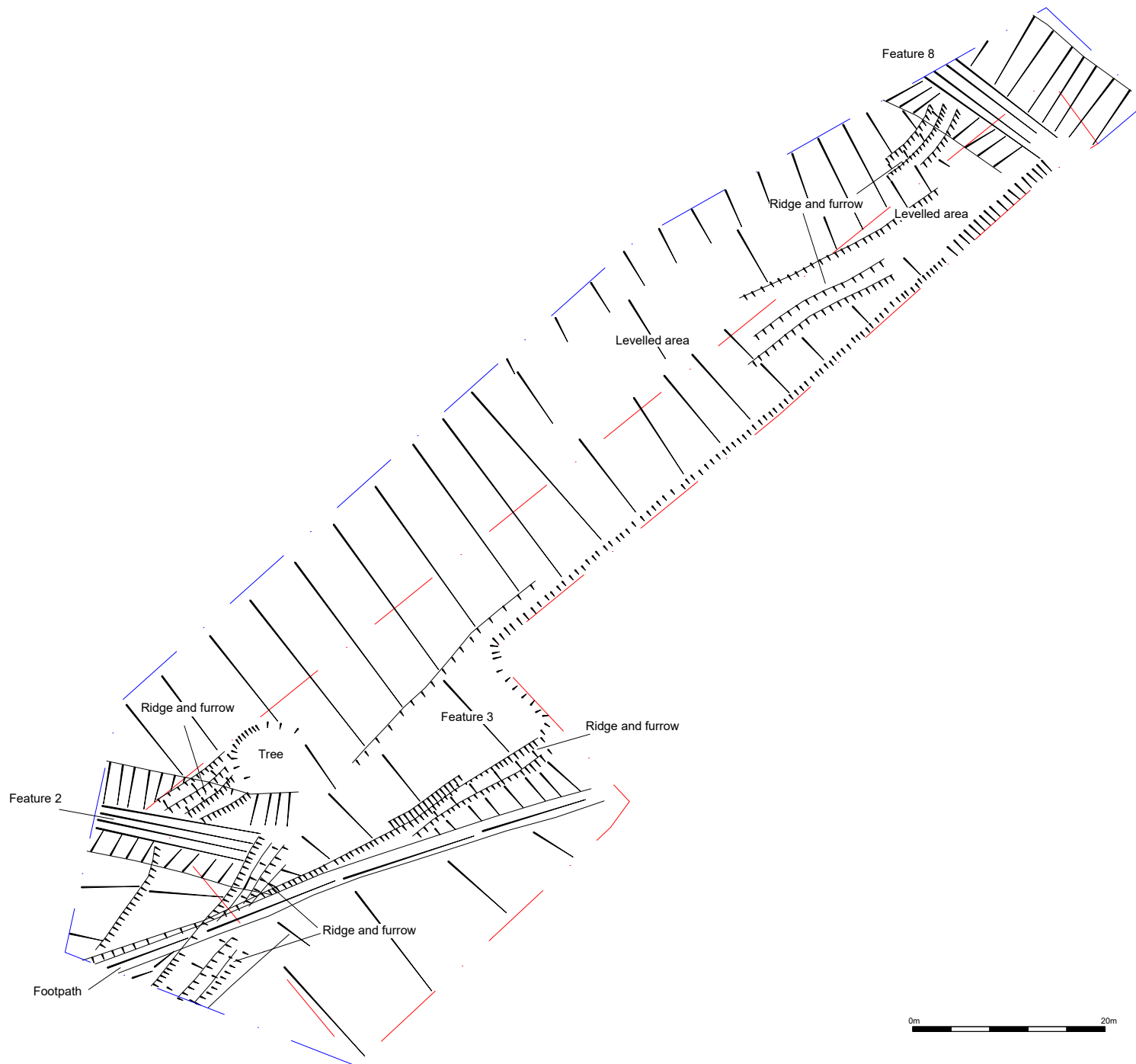






Figure 6: View west of the footpath. Scale 1x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 7: View west of feature 2. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 8: View south-east of ridge and furrow, adjacent to feature 2. Scale 1x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 9: View north-west of feature 3. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 10: View of levelled area north-east of school, looking south-west. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.

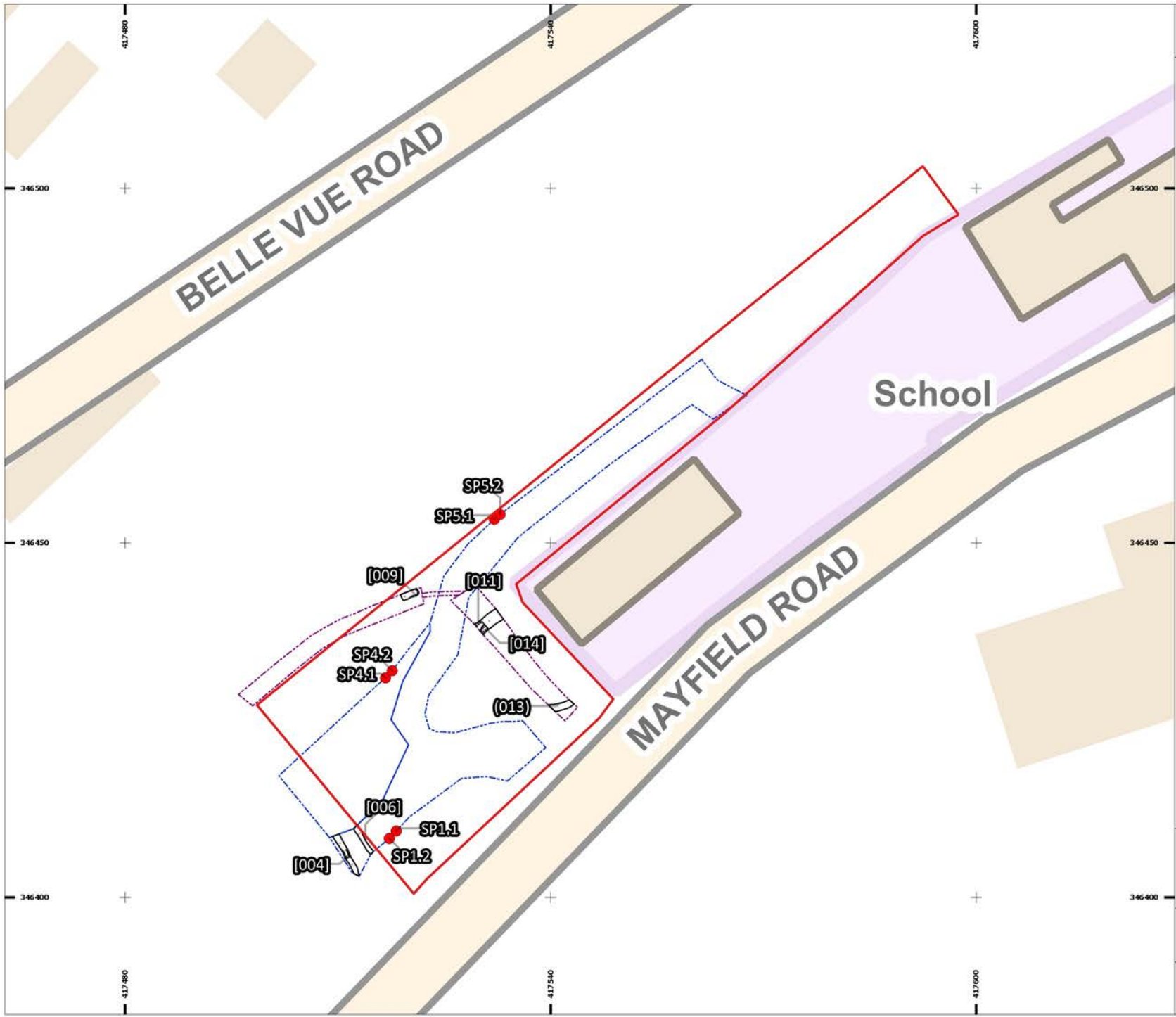


Figure 11: View east of feature 8. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.

### **5.3 Archaeological Watching Brief**

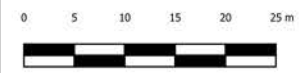
5.3.1 The archaeological watching brief comprised monitoring ground works associated with the excavation of a haul road, compound and storage areas in 2019 and drainage ditches in 2020 (Figure 12).

5.3.2 The excavation of the haul road was located to the west of the school and circled around to the north east, linking to Mayfield Road/Church Street, in the south-east. The haul road was expected to go through the two levelled areas identified in both the DBA and earthwork survey. As discussed, these had the potential to be medieval building platforms. The haul road was excavated through the western part of the western levelled area but no evidence of a structure was identified. The full extent of the excavated haul road did not interact with north-eastern levelled area. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered whilst excavating the haul road (Figures 13 – 16).



**Figure 12: Site plan**

- Site boundary
- 2019 Watching Brief Area
- 2020 Watching Brief Area



Site name: St Oswald's School, Ashbourne  
 Date: February 2021  
 Drawn by: ARJ  
 Scale: 1:750 @ A4

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Figure 13: Haul road entrance linking to Mayfield Road/Church Street. View north-east. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 14: Haul Road, view north-east. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 15: View east of the haul road. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 16: The eastern end of the haul road, view east. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.

5.3.3 The excavation of the storage area was located within the western area of the PDA, north of the compound area, and north-west of the haul road. This area comprised of a topsoil strip only and was excavated through 0.28m of topsoil and 0.22m of subsoil, on average, stopping part way through the subsoil layer at 0.5m bgl (126.29m aOD). No archaeological features or deposits were located in this area (Figures 17 and 18), with the ridge and furrow identified in the earthwork survey expected to be beneath the subsoil.



Figure 17: View south-west of storage area. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 18: Storage area, view west. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.



5.3.4 The compound area was located within the south-west corner of the site boundary and two linear features, [004] and [006], were identified in this area. Both were orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment and extended across the compound area and beyond the limit of excavation (Figures 20 and 21). Linear [004] measured 0.8m wide by 0.3m depth and, Linear [006], measured 0.26m wide. Both linear features contained a mid-yellow clay fill (005) and (007).



Figure 19: View west of the compound area. Scale 2x2m in 0.5m graduations.

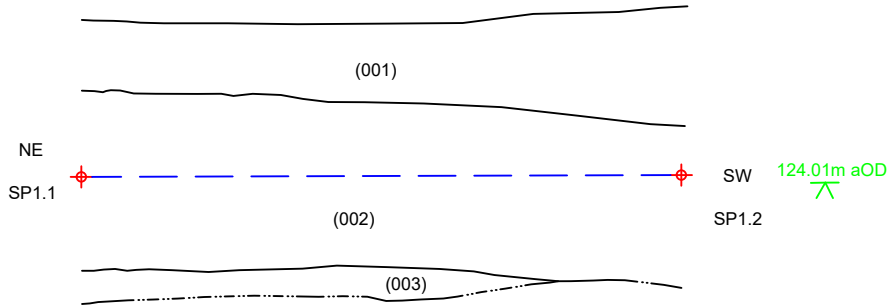


Figure 20: Linear [004], looking north-east. Scale 1x2m in 0.5m graduations.

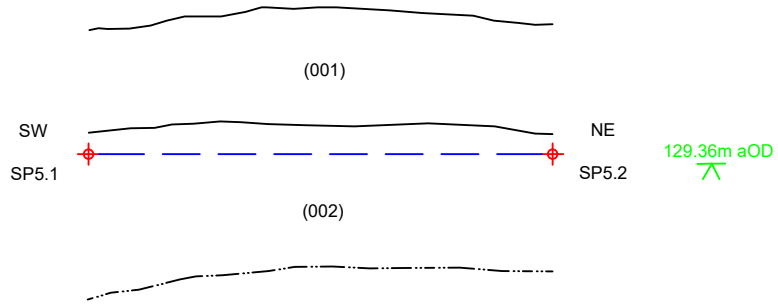


Figure 21: Linear [006], view north-east. Scale 1x2m in 0.5m graduations.

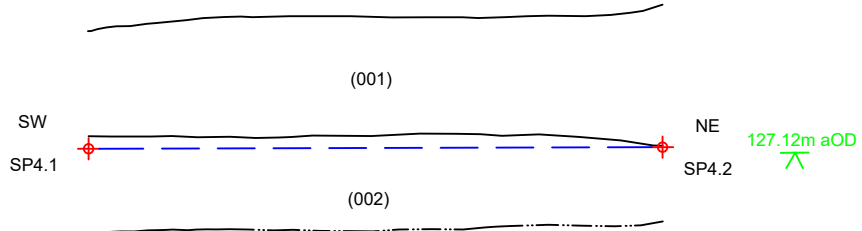
North West Facing Representative Section of Compound Area



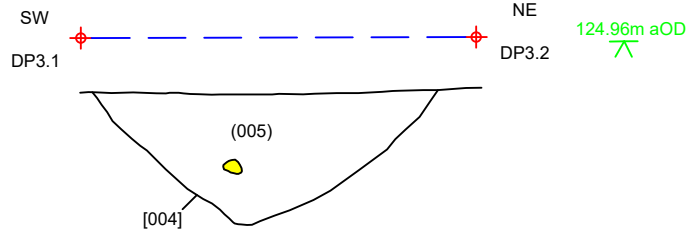
South East Facing Representative Section of Haul Road



South East Facing Representative Section of Storage Area



South East Facing Section of Linear [004]



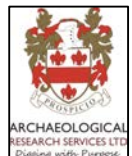
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**Figure 22: Representative Sections of the Excavation Area and of Linear [004]**



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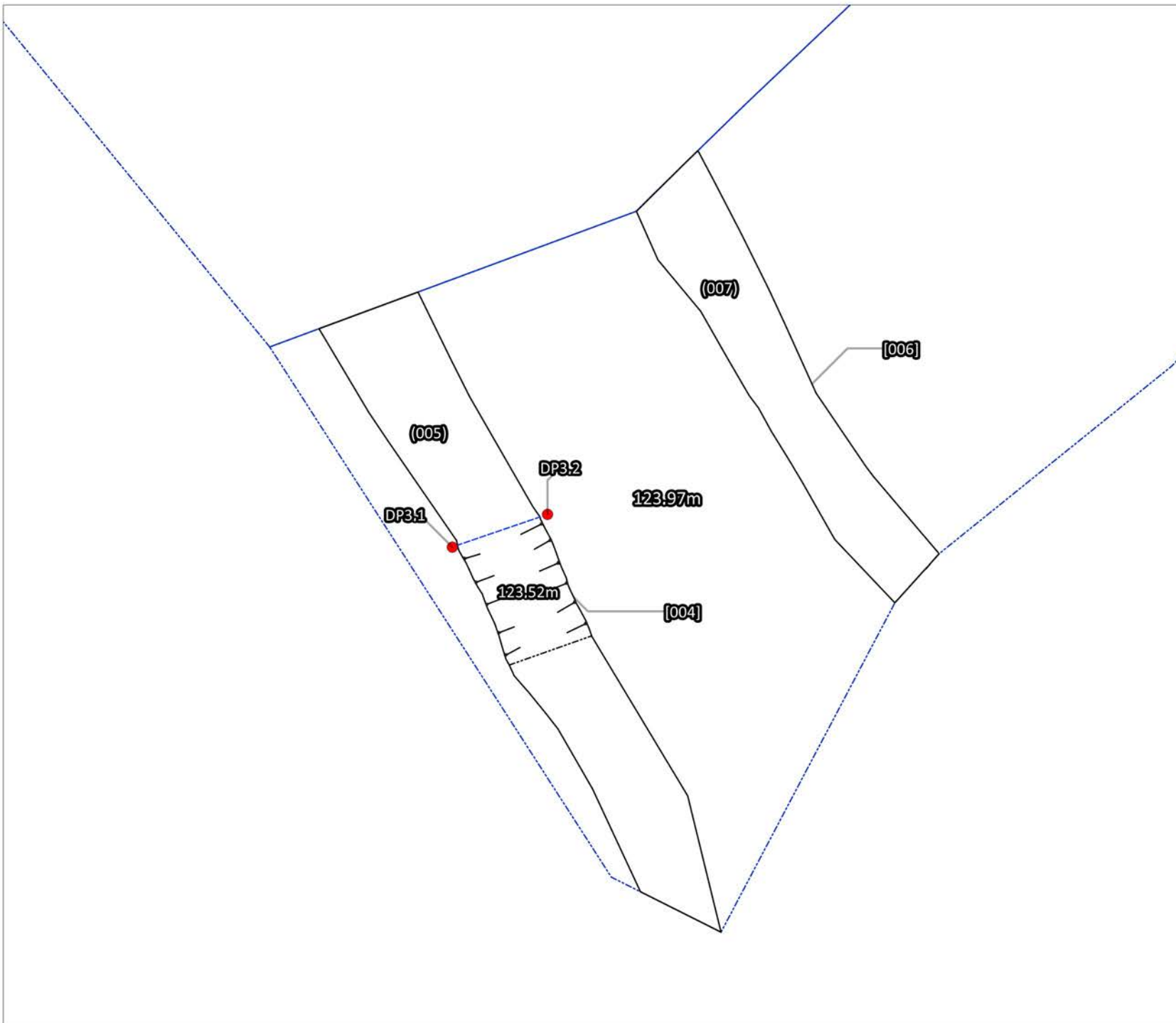
Sandstone



Drawing Points

- - - Section Drawing Line

**Figure 23: Plans of [004] and [006]**



-  Site boundary
-  2019 Watching Brief Area
-  Drawing Points
-  Section Drawing Lines

All levels in above Ordnance Datum



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5.3.5 The excavation of the drainage ditches was located north-west of the storage area, extending north-east towards the school, and then turning south-east towards Mayfield Road/Church Street (Figures 24 – 26). A portion of the drainage trench went through the western levelled area. The excavation of the drainage trenches revealed a treebole [009], a linear [011]/[014] and a gravel and brick rubble deposit (013).

5.3.6 The treebole [009] was irregular in shape and was only partly exposed (Figure 27); measuring 0.8m in length, 2.56m wide, and 0.18m deep, it comprised a silty-loam, mid-grey fill with frequent roots and stones (010).

5.3.7 Linear [011]/[014] was located within the eastern area of the drainage trenches and measured 1.78m wide by 0.18m depth. This feature extended the full width of the excavated area (2m) and carried on beyond the limit of excavation on both sides (Figures 28 and 29). The linear comprises at least two cuts, with the possibility of further recuts. The fill of [011]/[014] is homogenous, and comprises a clayey-silt mid grey/brown fill. The homogeneous nature of the fill makes it impossible to identify the different cuts within the feature, or to establish their stratigraphic relationship.

5.3.8 Deposit (013) was identified within the south-eastern area of the excavated drainage levelled area (Figure 30). This deposit measured 1.18m wide and extended the width of the excavated area, running beyond the limit of excavation on each side. The deposit comprised a mid-grey and black gravel and brick rubble mix, orientated south-east to north-west.



Figure 24: North-east facing view of excavation area. Scale 1x2m and 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 25: South-east facing view of excavation area. Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 26: View south-east of excavated drainage ditch. Scale 1x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 27: North-west facing view of treebole/depression [009]. Scale 1x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 28: North facing view of furrow [011]/[014]. Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



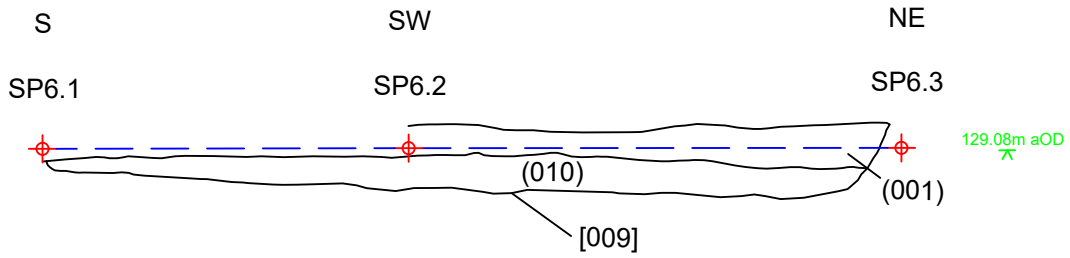
Figure 29: North-east facing section of furrow [011]/[014]. Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



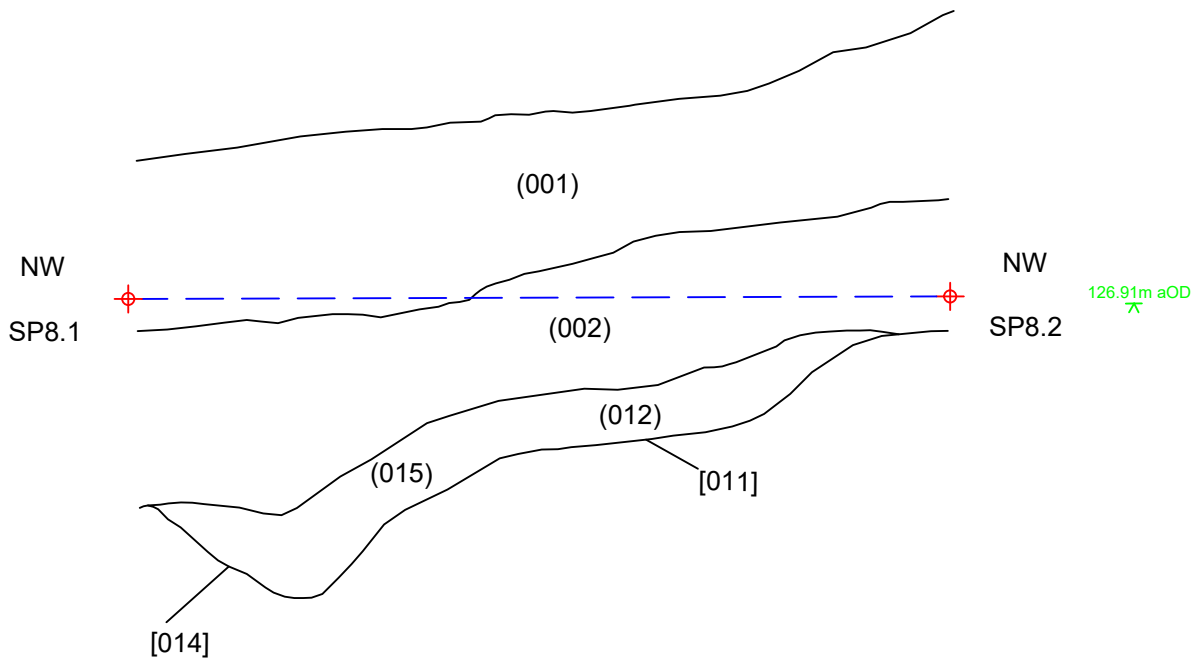
Figure 30: East facing view of rubble deposit (013). Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Section of depression/treebole [009]



North-east facing section of furrow [011] and [014]



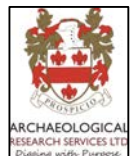
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**Figure 31: Sections of Treebole [009] and Linear [011] and [014]**



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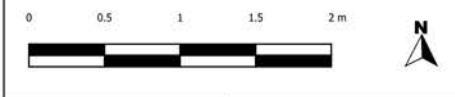
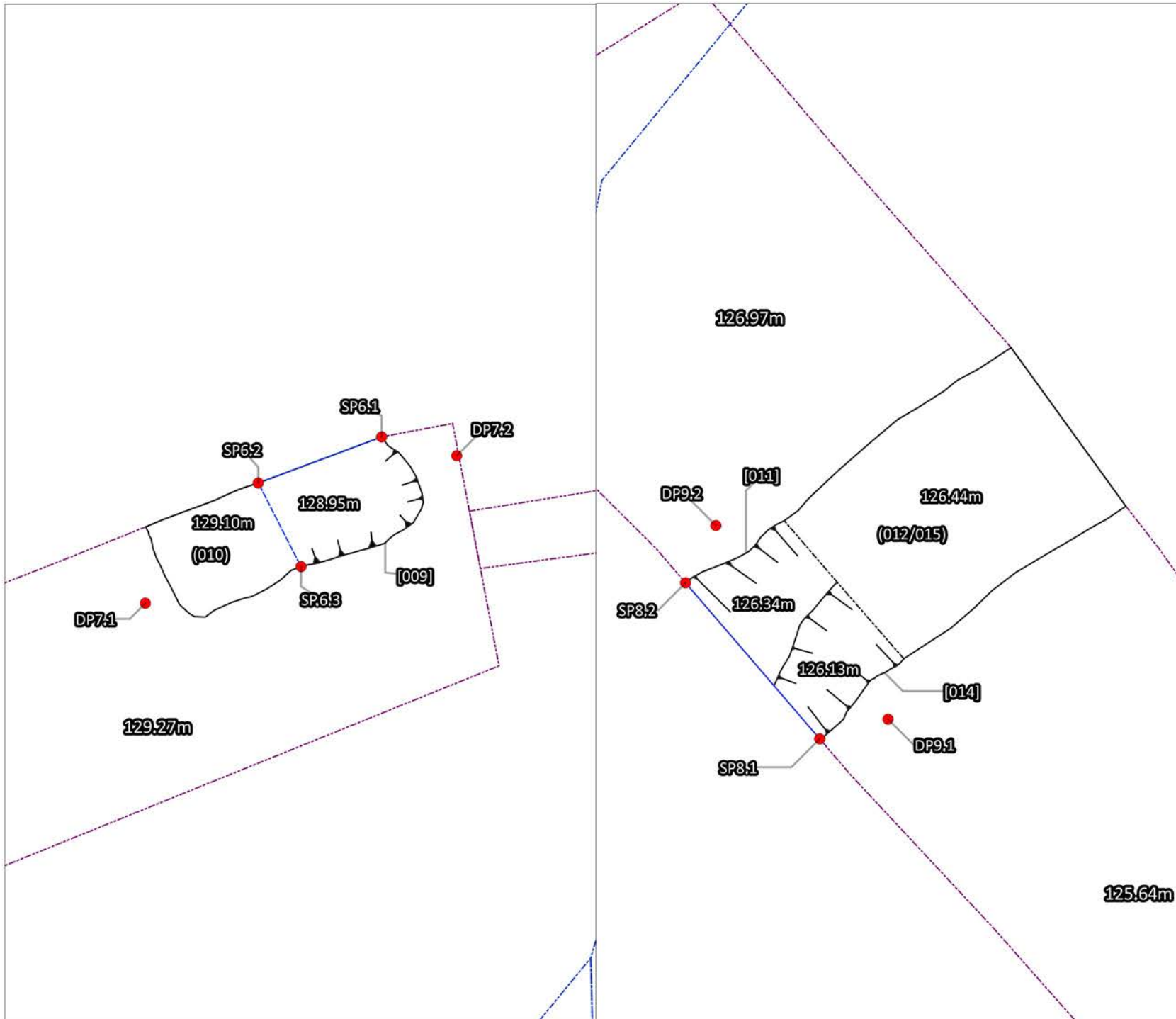
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-  Drawing Points
-  Section Drawing Line

**Figure 32: Plans of [009] and [011]**

-  Site boundary
-  2020 Watching Brief Area
-  Drawing Points
-  Section Drawing Lines

All levels in above Ordnance Datum



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## 6 The Assemblages

### 6.1 The Finds

Dr Rebecca L. Trow ACIfA

6.1.1 A small quantity of pottery, tile, land drain, and glass were recovered from the site deriving from topsoil. The material was cleaned, counted, and individually examined to identify diagnostic pieces.

#### Pottery

6.1.2 A total of 11 sherds, weighing 186 grams, were recovered as summarised in Table 1 below. The pottery dated from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The corpus represents refined wares (i.e. transfer and plain whiteware, and mocha ware) and retail ware (i.e. salt-glazed and glazed stoneware bottles). The refined wares are associated with food consumption and the two pieces of stoneware are likely from drinks bottles. The assemblage is typical of finds recovered from topsoil deposits across the United Kingdom and are residual in a secondary context.

**Table 1. Pottery Summary Table**

Type	No.	Wt (g)		ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date
TP Whiteware	1	6		1	Rim	Plate	Dark and pale blue foliage	MC19th-LC19th
Whiteware	1	6		1	Rim	Plate	Blue feather edge	MC19th-LC19th
Mocha ware	1	3		1	Body	Mug	Green and brown bands	MC19th-LC19th
TP Whiteware	1	1		1	Body	Hollow ware	Pale blue chinoiserie	MC19th-LC19th
Whiteware	5	9		5	Rim, body	Flatware	-	MC19th-EC20th
Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	16		1	Body	Bottle	-	MC19th-LC19th
Stoneware	1	145		1	Base	Bottle	Brown glaze	MC19th-EC20th

#### Other Ceramic Material

6.1.3 Three pieces of other ceramic material were recovered. This included a piece of Quarry Tile and two pieces of abraded land drain pipe. One of the land drain sherds was very badly abraded. This material is summarised in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Other Ceramic Material**

Type	No	Weight	Date	Notes
Tile	1	41	C19th-EC20th	Quarry Tile
Drain	1	56	E-MC19th	Land drain, coarse fabric
Drain	1	20	MC19th-EC20th	Land drain, machine made, badly abraded

#### Glass

6.1.4 Two pieces of glass were recovered from the site. These included a single body shard of bottle glass, probably from a wine bottle, and a miniature clear glass bottle missing its rim dating to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The glass recovered from the site is summarised in Table 3 below.

**Table 3. Glass Summary Table**

Type	Colour	Part	Date	Notes
Bottle	Green	Body	LC19th- MC20th	Probably wine bottle
Miniature Bottle	Clear	Body, Base	MC20th	Miniature mould made bottle, rim missing

### Archive Recommendations

6.1.5 The finds recovered from the topsoil at St Oswald's School are by no means unusual for a site of this nature. Parallels can be found at numerous sites across the United Kingdom. The finds have no potential for further research and could thus be returned to the landowner, retained in a teaching collection, archived, or discarded.

## 6.2 Environmental Samples

6.2.1 No stratified or sealed archaeological deposits were encountered during the progress of the watching brief and it was not deemed necessary to undertake any environmental sampling.

## 7 Discussion and Conclusion

### 7.1 Archaeological Earthwork Survey

7.1.1 The earthwork survey clearly demonstrated the presence of features within the proposed development area. Interpretation of the ridge and furrow ploughing was unequivocal but the other features remained enigmatic. The flat areas could have related to any number of anthropogenic or geological processes but that the ridge and furrow appeared to run across the base of feature 3's slope, and cut through the north-east end of the levelled area behind the school, was suggestive that these were formed before the period in which the ploughing took place.

7.2.2 Feature 2 and feature 8 were both very similar in character and it was strongly suspected that they represented the same kind of activity, be it human or geological. As both appeared to converge on the church of St. Oswald's it was possible that they were routeways for people living at the top of the hill to access the church. Alternatively, they could have been relic field boundaries or simply natural channels made by rain water running down the hill. It should be noted that, unlike the modern footpath, which runs at an oblique angle to the contours of the hill on a shallow gradient, both features 2 and 8 run directly down/uphill, at a very steep gradient, weakening their interpretation as former routeways, or at least indicative of why they went out of use.

### 7.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

7.2.1 The archaeological watching brief has been able to address some of the ambiguities of the earthwork survey, although not particularly satisfactorily.

7.2.2 The furrow [011]/[014], along with the two drainage gullies [004] and [006], are evidence of arable farming being undertaken within the field adjacent to the school and the furrow is aligned with that detailed in the earthwork survey (Figure 33). Whilst no dating evidence was discovered it is known that the field was farmed during the post-medieval period, the 1846 Tithe Award of Ashbourne records the field as "*Third Church*

*Banks Croft*". Croft is Old English meaning 'small enclosure' and was a term applied to plots adjoining dwellings and within open fields for the small-scale cultivation of a particular type of crop (Cavill 2018, 95). It can therefore be assumed that the furrows within this field are at least post-medieval.

7.2.3 Whilst the earthwork survey identified potential ridge and furrow in the south-eastern area of the PDA, no evidence was forthcoming.

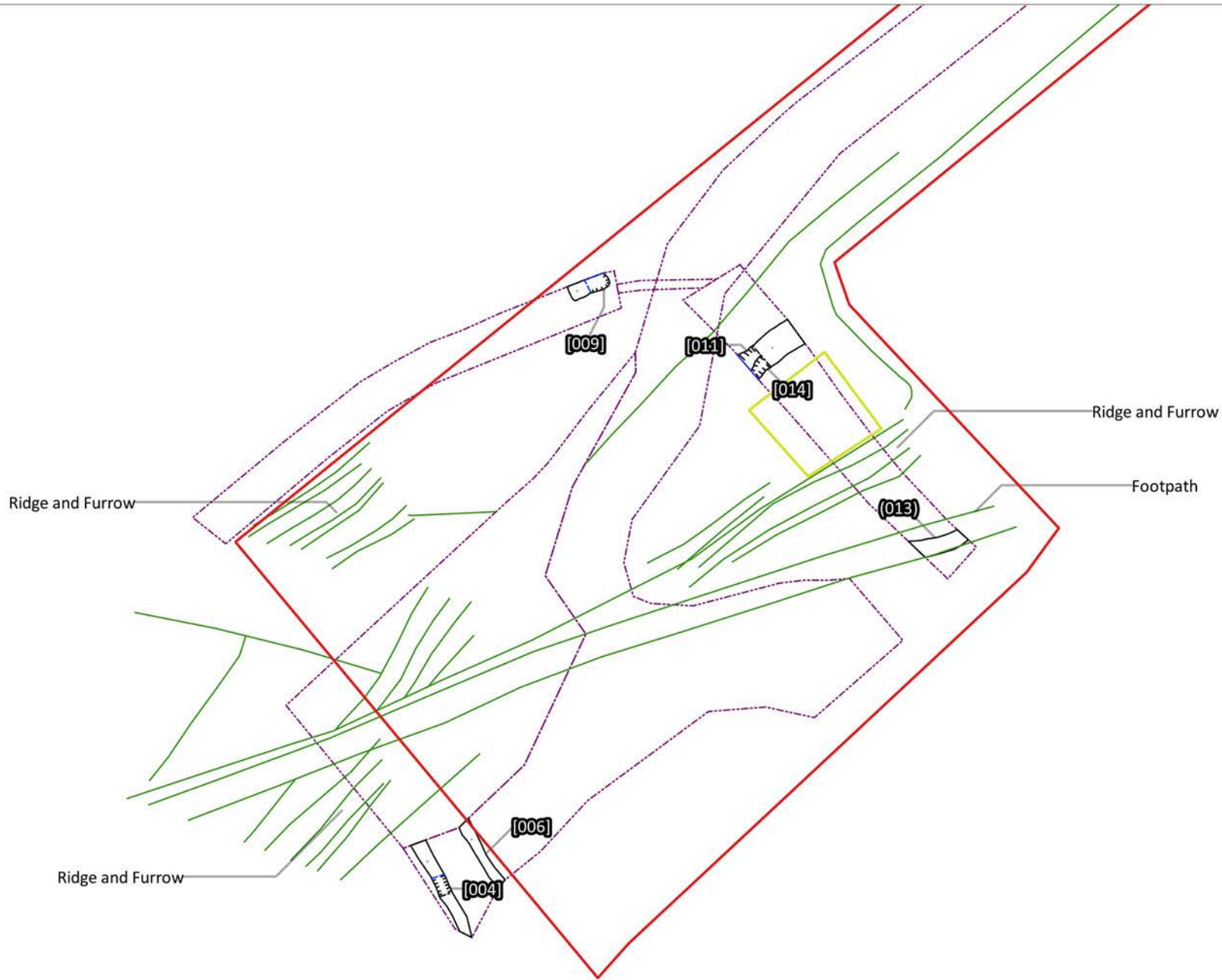
7.2.4 The rubble deposit (013) represents the remnants of the former footpath identified in both the DBA and earthwork survey, also being depicted on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map. Aligned south-east to north-west this connected Mayfield Road to Belle Vue Road.

7.2.5 No remains of the possible building that was postulated to have been located on the western levelled area were identified during the watching brief (Feature 3 of the Earthwork Survey). The 4m wide excavated trench covered the majority of the 'platform' and therefore the presence of any building within this area can be discounted. It is most likely a result of earth movement that was undertaken during the construction of St Oswald's School as suggested in the DBA (Sidebottom 2018). Despite the earthwork survey suggesting the appearance of a stratigraphic relationship between this and the ridge and furrow, none could be established. It seems most probable that the levelled area post-dates the ridge and furrow, seeming to be undisturbed by them. It now seems most likely that this levelled platform has destroyed evidence of ridge and furrow that used to be present in this area of the PDA (Figure 33) and thus post-dates the agricultural activity on the field.

7.2.6 The watching brief succeeded in ensuring that no heritage assets were damaged or remained unrecorded during the monitored groundworks. The archaeological evidence identified during the watching brief contributes to Research Objective 7E as the absence of any structural remains within the levelled area and the presence of furrows could suggest this parcel of land was continuously used for agricultural practices from the medieval through the post-medieval period, and therefore, possibly gives an indication of the western extent of Ashbourne.

**Figure 33: Archaeological features overlaying earthwork survey**

- Site boundary
- Watching Brief Area
- Features identified during earthwork survey
- Western Levelled Area



0 2.5 5 7.5 10 m



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## 8 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

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## 9 Statement of Indemnity

9.1 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.

## 10 Archive

10.1 As the project produced no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with the repository museum, which in this case is Derby Museum and Art Gallery, Derby. This is in line with the Museums of Derbyshire (2016) *Procedures for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives from Derbyshire at Derby Museums*.

10.2 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).

## 11 Acknowledgements

11.1 Archaeological Research Services would like to thank all those involved with this work, in particular ACM Interior Design Ltd and St Oswald's Primary School, who commissioned the work, and Robert Turville Constable-Maxwell of Boswell Hall for the use of the facilities therein.

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## **APPENDIX I: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE**

**Archaeological Works at St Oswald's Primary School, Ashbourne, Derbyshire**

Context Number	Type	Description/Interpretation	aOD*(above Ordnance Datum) to top	Length x Width x Depth (metres)
001	Deposit	Silt, dark brown/ <i>Topsoil</i>	124.37 – 129.70m	0.18m – 0.28m D
002	Deposit	Clay, dark orange brown/ <i>Subsoil</i>	124.18 – 129.43m	0.22m – 0.39m D
003	Deposit	Clay- sandstone conglomerate, mid orange/ <i>Natural Geology</i>	123.63m – 129.27m	N/A
004	Cut	Linear, gradual break of slope at both the top and bottom, u-shaped base/ <i>Ridge and Furrow?</i>	124.83m	2m x 0.8m x 0.30m
005	Fill	Clay, mid grey yellow, medium texture/ <i>Naturally silted up after farming ceased</i>	124.83m	2m x 0.8m x 0.30m
006	Cut	Linear/ <i>Ridge and Furrow?</i>	123.91m	2m x 0.26m W
007	Fill	Clay, mid grey yellow, medium texture/ <i>Naturally silted up after farming ceased</i>	123.91m	2m x 0.26m W
008	Unused			
009	Cut	Irregular, gradual break of slope at both the top and bottom with concave sides and a flat base/ <i>Possible depression in the clay geology or a result of rooting</i>	129.04m	0.8m x 2.56m x 0.18m
010	Fill	Silty-loam, mid-grey with frequent stones and roots, fine texture/ <i>Similar composition to the topsoil. Possibly deposited in the feature after root decay.</i>	129.04m	0.8m x 2.56m x 0.18m
011	Cut	Linear, gradual break at both the top and bottom with concave sides and a sloping base. Oriented north-east to south-west/ <i>Furrow. No dating evidence but at least of a post-medieval date, however, could be of medieval origin. On the same alignment as ridge and furrow identified during the earthwork survey. Possible recut of [014].</i>	126.52m	2m x 1.78 x 0.18m
012	Fill	Clayey-silt, mid-grey brown, and medium texture/ <i>Deposited in the ground once arable agricultural activity ceased within the field. Same as (015).</i>	126.52m	2m x 1.78 x 0.18m

**Archaeological Works at St Oswald's Primary School, Ashbourne, Derbyshire**

Context Number	Type	Description/Interpretation	aOD*(above Ordnance Datum) to top	Length x Width x Depth (metres)
013	Deposit	Gravel and brick rubble, mid-grey and black, coarse texture/ <i>Hardcore and rubble deposit used for the former footpath. Orientated south-east to north-west.</i>	123.02m	2m x 1.18m
014	Cut	Linear, gradual break at both the top and bottom with concave sides and a sloping base. Oriented north-east to south-west/ <i>Furrow. No dating evidence but at least of a post-medieval date, however, could be of medieval origin. On the same alignment as ridge and furrow identified during the earthwork survey. Possible recut of [011].</i>	126.52m	2m x 1.78 x 0.18m
015	Fill	Clayey-silt, mid-grey brown, and medium texture/ <i>Deposited in the ground once arable agricultural activity ceased within the field. Same as (012).</i>	126.52m	2m x 1.78 x 0.18m

## **APPENDIX II: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

**St Oswald's Primary School, Ashbourne, Derbyshire**  
**Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works**

October 2018



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Prepared on behalf of: St Oswald's C of E Primary School

Date of compilation: October 2018

Planning Reference: 18/00851/CM (CD3/0718/28)

Local Authority: Derbyshire Dales District Council

Site central NGR: SK 17533 46432

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by St Oswald's Primary School to undertake an earthwork survey and archaeological supervision, recording and reporting on land immediately to the west and north of St Oswald's Primary School, Mayfield Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 1AS (Figure 1). This is following a planning application (Ref. 18/00851/CM) for the permanent change of use of part of an agricultural field to a play area for school use, including the temporary change of use to site compound to enable the construction of the classroom block in the interim period (CD3/0718/28).

1.1.2 Planning permission has not yet been granted for development of the site. The applicant is seeking approval of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prior to determination to enable commencement of the proposed development as soon as possible should planning permission be granted. Should planning permission be granted it is likely that a condition of the planning permission would be to undertake a programme of archaeological works in accordance with this WSI.

1.1.3 This WSI confirms the nature of the programme of archaeological works, focusing on the earthwork survey and archaeological supervision and recording which form the first phase, along with post-excavation analysis, reporting, publication and archiving, to be undertaken by ARS Ltd at St Oswald's Primary School in accordance with guidance provided by the Derbyshire County Archaeologist. Should significant archaeological remains be encountered during the archaeological supervision and recording, this should be scaled up to a strip, map and sample excavation.

1.1.4 The archaeological works will be carried out in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* paragraph 199 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2018, 56) 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 archive generated) publically accessible.

### 1.2 Site Description and Geology

1.2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the proposed development area (hereafter PDA) covers an area of c.0.2ha on the north and western sides of St Oswald's Primary School off the northern side of Mayfield Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. The site is centred at SK 17533 46432 (Figure 1) in the valley of the Henmore Brook, a tributary of the River Dove. The PDA comprises part of an agricultural field that slopes fairly steeply from north-west to south-east directly behind the school building.

1.2.2 The underlying solid geology consists of Chester Formation - Sandstone and Conglomerate, Interbedded. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 247 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits have been recorded (BGS 2018).



## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A comprehensive and detailed summary of archaeological information from the site and surrounding 1km study area is presented in an archaeological desktop assessment that was completed in October 2018 (Sidebottom 2018). A brief summary is provided below.

2.2 The PDA stands within visible range of the Grade I parish church of St. Oswald which has a pre-Conquest origin. Several other Listed buildings stand within 150 metres of the PDA. Field survey has identified a number of earthwork features, although only three relict field boundaries and a hollow-way can be interpreted with any degree of certainty. Several levelled areas may well be terraced platforms created to provide a base for previous buildings of indeterminate date, although those close to the school buildings may have been created through the construction of the latter, although this is conjectural (Figure 2).

2.3 There is little in the way of recorded Prehistoric, Roman or Anglo-Saxon activity in the vicinity of the PDA, though it is documented that Ashbourne was perhaps a royal estate in the Early Medieval period, with a parish church by 1086. The location of the parish church is unusual, being to the west of the medieval town focus and it is possible that the early Medieval phase of settlement may have been in the vicinity of the parish church and the PDA. In around 1190 Ashbourne became a market town with borough status that does not appear to have extended beyond the 13<sup>th</sup> century. For the medieval period, most entries in the Historic Environment Record refer to ridge-and-furrow, some of which may date to the post-Medieval period. The closest of these recorded plough-marks to the PDA is located c.450m to the west.

2.4 The PDA is situated within the western extent of the Ashbourne Conservation Area that contains the parish church and meadowland associated with the Henmore Brook, although this part of the Conservation Area is relatively void of Listed buildings compared to the main town centre further to the east. A map of Ashbourne from 1550 (Sidebottom 2018, 13) depicts the parish church of St Oswald and the opposite side of the road that comprises an undeveloped area which is now occupied by the PDA.

## 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 overarching research themes and research objectives identified in the *Updated Research Agenda for the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012). For the High Medieval Period (1066-1485) research themes include: urbanism (i.e. 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?) and rural settlement (i.e. how can we improve our understanding of the form, evolution and functions of buildings within rural settlements and establish the extent of surviving medieval fabrics?). The research objectives are as follows.



- ◆ Research Objective 7A for the High Medieval (1066-1485) period: undertake syntheses of urban and suburban excavation, survey and documentary data (Knight *et al.* 2012, 96).
- ◆ Research Objective 7E for the High Medieval (1066-1485) period: investigate the morphology of rural settlements (Knight *et al.* 2012, 100).

## 4.0 EARTHWORK SURVEY

### 4.1 Coverage

4.1.1 It is intended to conduct an earthwork survey over the 0.2ha area of the PDA (Figure 1).

### 4.2 Objectives

4.2.1 The objectives of the earthwork survey are to identify and record any extant earthworks of possible archaeological origin within the survey area (Figure 2) in order to record the location and potential significance of archaeological remains on the site. In particular the earthwork survey will concentrate on three features identified by the archaeological desktop assessment (Sidebottom 2018) as follows.

Feature 2: A probable hollow-way extending from the present footpath rising from Church Road and heading diagonally towards St. Oswald's House on Dark Lane. The purpose and possible date of the hollow-way is unclear; it is relatively shallow and could possibly be related to earthwork Feature 1. Alternatively, the location of two wells, shown on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map adjacent to Dark Lane and close to the top of the hollow-way, may be significant.

Feature 3: A levelled area adjacent to St. Oswald's Primary School (old building) and within the PDA. The exact dimensions of this feature are difficult to determine, but may have been formed from earth moved here during the construction of the school building, as the latter has been cut into the hillslope, necessitating the removal of soil. An alternative suggestion is that the feature might have been a garden or vegetable plot associated with the school, possibly created as part of a war-effort initiative. However, these interpretations are merely conjectural.

Feature 4: A probable field boundary indicated by a faintly raised line with two trees along its length. The feature appears to relate to a field boundary shown on the map of 1830 (Sidebottom 2018, 14).

4.2.2 The survey and interpretation of the results will be carried out in accordance with the *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA 2014a) and will follow the scope of a level 2 survey in accordance with Historic England's *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2017).





### **4.3 Methodology**

4.3.1 ARS Ltd will provide a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist to undertake an earthwork survey of the site. When earthworks are encountered measurements will be to produce a metrically accurate plan of the features. A LeicaGPS 1200+ global navigation satellite system (GNSS) with post-processing of data providing sub-centimetre accuracy or other similar surveying system will be used to locate each surviving feature and a series of points recorded at the tops, bottoms and breaks of slope recorded. Where linear features are to be recorded, points will also be recorded at significant changes of direction or at appropriate intervals where no changes in alignment are identified.

4.3.2 A description will be made of each feature and photographs in colour will be taken using high resolution digital photography (minimum of 16 megapixels), including a scale, and a register of all photographs will be kept.

### **4.4 Interpretation and report**

4.4.1 The principal deliverable from the earthwork survey will be a plan of the features at scales of 1:10,000 and 1:2,500 shown as hachures to record the location and extent of identified features.

4.4.2 A report will be produced on completion of the survey, which will include an outline of the methodology used, a description of the general undertaking and an interpretive account of the results of the survey.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION, RECORDING AND REPORTING**

### **5.1 Coverage**

5.1.1 The site of the archaeological supervision, recording and reporting covers the ground works associated with creating a new play area immediately to the west and north of the existing school complex and constructing three new classrooms in the area between the two existing school buildings (Figure 1). The ground surface will be reduced on the north-west portion of the new play area, whilst the ground surface along the northern strip is unlikely to be reduced (Figures 1 and 2). The ground surface in the north-west portion of the area for the new classrooms will also be reduced and a retaining wall built along the north-western edge behind the new classrooms.

5.1.2 The archaeological supervision, recording and reporting will involve continuous supervised monitoring during any stripping of the play area and the area for the classrooms down to the first archaeological horizon. It may be necessary to strip the area of the 'levelled area' in spits in case this is the site of a medieval/post-medieval building platform.

5.1.3 Should significant archaeological remains be encountered during the supervised monitoring of stripping this should, in consultation with the Derbyshire



County Archaeologist, be scaled up to an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation to investigate and record the archaeological remains revealed.

## **5.2 Aims and Objectives**

5.2.1 The principal aim of the archaeological supervision, recording and reporting is to ensure that any potential archaeological remains encountered during the course of the ground works are not destroyed without first being recorded and interpreted.

5.2.2 The following objectives will contribute towards accomplishing this aim:

- ◆ Identify the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits within the site.
- ◆ Record all archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- ◆ Sample sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.
- ◆ Gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological.

## **5.3 Methodology**

5.3.1 All elements of the archaeological supervision, recording and reporting will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Code of Conduct (2014a)* and will follow the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014b)*.

5.3.2 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified for their respective project roles and have substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff will be made aware of the circumstances and potential archaeological importance of the work and will be fully briefed on the requirements of this specification.

5.3.3 Hard standing, unstratified modern material and topsoil will be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.

5.3.4 ARS Ltd will ensure that heavy plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until they have been recorded.

5.3.5 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.

## **5.4 Excavation and Sampling**

5.4.1 The site will be recorded in accordance with 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.

5.4.2 The topsoil and subsoil will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon or depth of development, whichever is the higher, in successive level spits under continuous archaeological supervision.

5.4.3 Where archaeological features and/or deposits are identified, they should be planned using a survey-grade GPS with +/- 0.1m accuracy (LeicaGPS 1200+ GNSS) or a Total Station (Leica TCR 307 reflectorless model) to capture any structural features with hand annotation of the plots to record structure details and composition, supplemented with a photographic record using high resolution colour digital photography (minimum of 16 megapixels). In consultation with the Derbyshire County Archaeologist, a sufficient quantity of these features and/or deposits will be investigated by hand to allow their nature and date to be ascribed.

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

5.4.5 Isolated, discrete features such as non-structural pits or features representing industrial activities will be 50% sampled. If they produce artefacts then provision is made for full excavation.

5.4.6 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 sample of 40 litres will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller.

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

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

5.4.9 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 provide an evaluation of the type of preservation that may be present.

5.4.10 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.

5.4.11 Any human remains 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 County Archaeologist.



5.4.12 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 No: 01246 273058

*Finds Liaison Officer*

Alastair Willis

Derby Museum and Art Gallery

The Strand

Derby

Derbyshire

DE1 1BS

Tel No: 01332 641903

5.4.13 The Derbyshire County Archaeologist 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.

## **5.5 Recording**

5.5.1 The site will be accurately 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 ClfA guidance and the ARS Ltd field recording manual.

5.5.2 A full and proper record (written, drawn and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. 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.

5.5.3 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).

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

5.5.5 Site photography will be undertaken using high resolution colour digital photography (minimum of 16 megapixels). 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.

5.5.6 A stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

5.5.7 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.



## 5.6 Finds Processing and Storage

5.6.1 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*.

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

5.6.3 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.

5.6.4 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).

5.6.5 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.

5.6.6 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.

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

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

## 5.7 Report

5.7.1 Following completion of the watching brief, ARS Ltd will produce a report that will include the following.

- ◆ 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 narrative summary of results
- ◆ 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.

## **6 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

6.1 Ideally at least one week prior notice of the commencement of the survey is to be given to the Derbyshire County Archaeologist:

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

6.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Derbyshire County Archaeologist during the course of the work.

6.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Derbyshire County Archaeologist, or their representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological works.

## **7 STAFFING**

7.1 The Project Manager for the geophysical survey will be Reuben Thorpe MCIfA, Senior Projects Manager at ARS Ltd. The earthwork survey will be carried out by Antony Brown MCIfA of ARS Ltd. The archaeological supervision, recording and reporting will be undertaken by Tom Parker PCIfA, Caitlin Halton or Tim Cobbold, Project Officers at ARS Ltd.

7.2 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
◆ Romano-British small finds:	Alex Croom
◆ Medieval and post-medieval pottery:	Dr Chris Cumberpatch
◆ Medieval and post-medieval metalwork, glass and clay pipes:	Mike Wood MCIfA
◆ Plant macrofossils and charcoals:	Luke Parker
◆ Human and animal bone:	Milena Grzybowska
◆ Radiocarbon dating:	Professor Gordon Cook (SUERC)
◆ Finds conservation:	Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

## 8 REPORT AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

8.1 One bound copy of the final report with an attached digital PDF/A copy on disc will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The disc will also include a digital archive, consisting of relevant ESRI shapefiles or CAD files, for use of updating the HER database.

8.2 Should the walkover, earthwork survey and watching brief produce no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with Derby 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).

8.3 Should the walkover, earthwork survey and watching brief produce archaeologically significant finds, a project archive will be prepared for deposition by ARS Ltd with Derby 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 (1993) *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 Derbyshire County Archaeologist and Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity should the site produce archaeologically significant, unusual, or unexpected finds.

8.6 The Derbyshire County Archaeologist 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 the County Archaeologist 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 County Archaeologist, 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).

## **9 GENERAL ITEMS**

### **9.1 Health and Safety**

9.1.1 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 and the appointed Health and Safety Officer for the company is Tony Brennan.

### **9.2 Insurance Cover**

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

### **9.3 Community Engagement**

9.3.1 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's website, local media and an on-site interpretation panel.

### **9.4 Publication**

9.4.1 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.

## **9.5 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation**

9.5.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Derbyshire County Archaeologist.

## **10 References**

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- Historic England. 2017. *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (Second Edition)*. London: Historic England.
- Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen, C. 2012. *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*. Nottingham.
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- Sidebottom, P. 2018. An Archaeological Desktop Assessment of land adjacent to St. Oswald's Primary School, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Phil Sidebottom Archaeological Consultancy, Ref. 18/108.



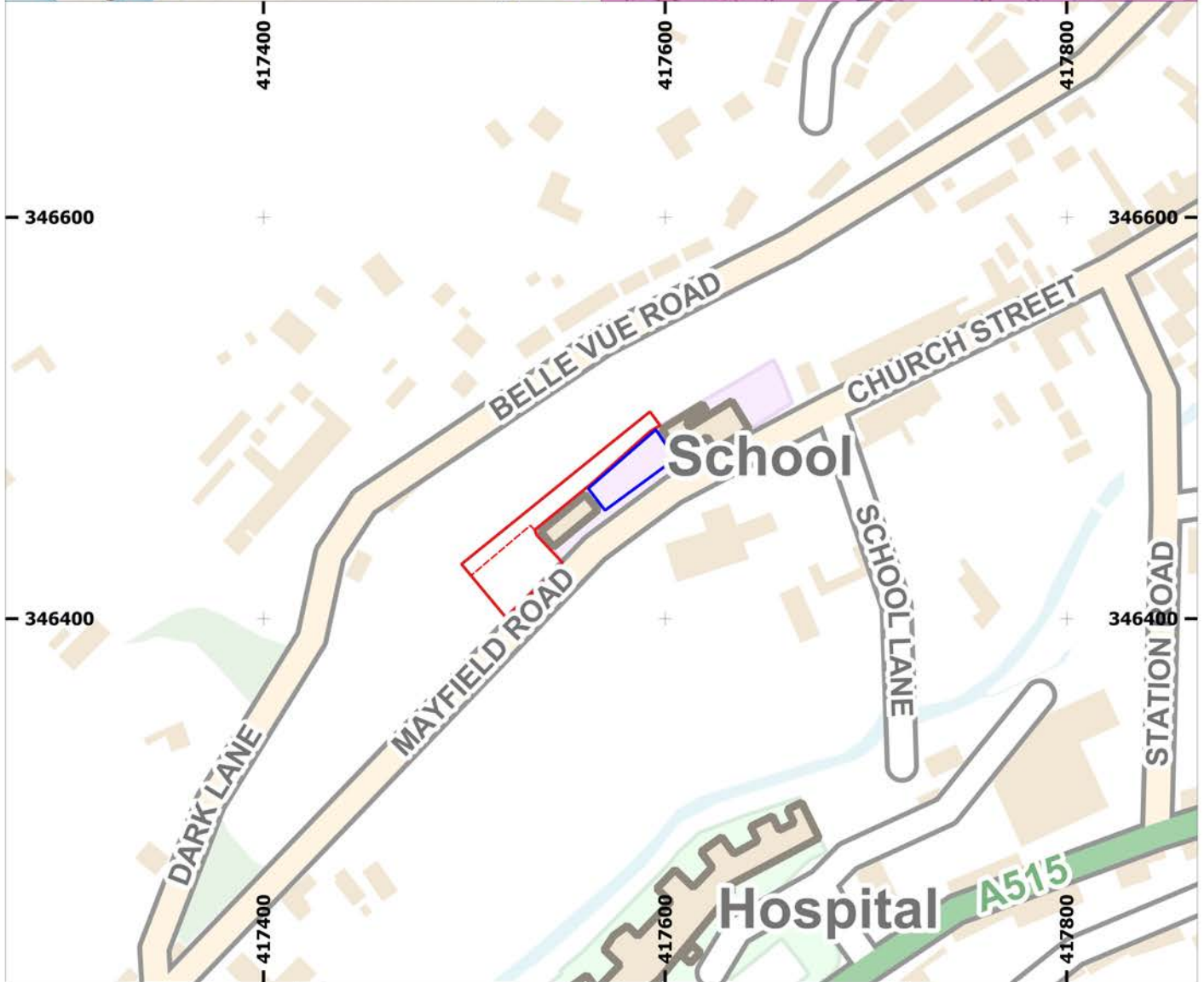
Society of Museum Archaeologists. 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*. London: Society of Museum Archaeologists.

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



## **11 FIGURES**





Site name: St Oswald's  
 Date: October 2018  
 Drawn by: BD  
 Scale: Varies

- Proposed Play Area
- Local Authority boundary
- Proposed classrooms



**Archaeological Research Services Ltd**  
 Angel House  
 Portland Square  
 Bakewell  
 Derbyshire  
 DE45 1HB  
 Tel: 01629 814540  
 www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com



This drawing: © ARS Ltd  
 Contains Ordnance Survey data.  
 © Crown copyright and database right 2015

**Figure 1:  
 Site location**

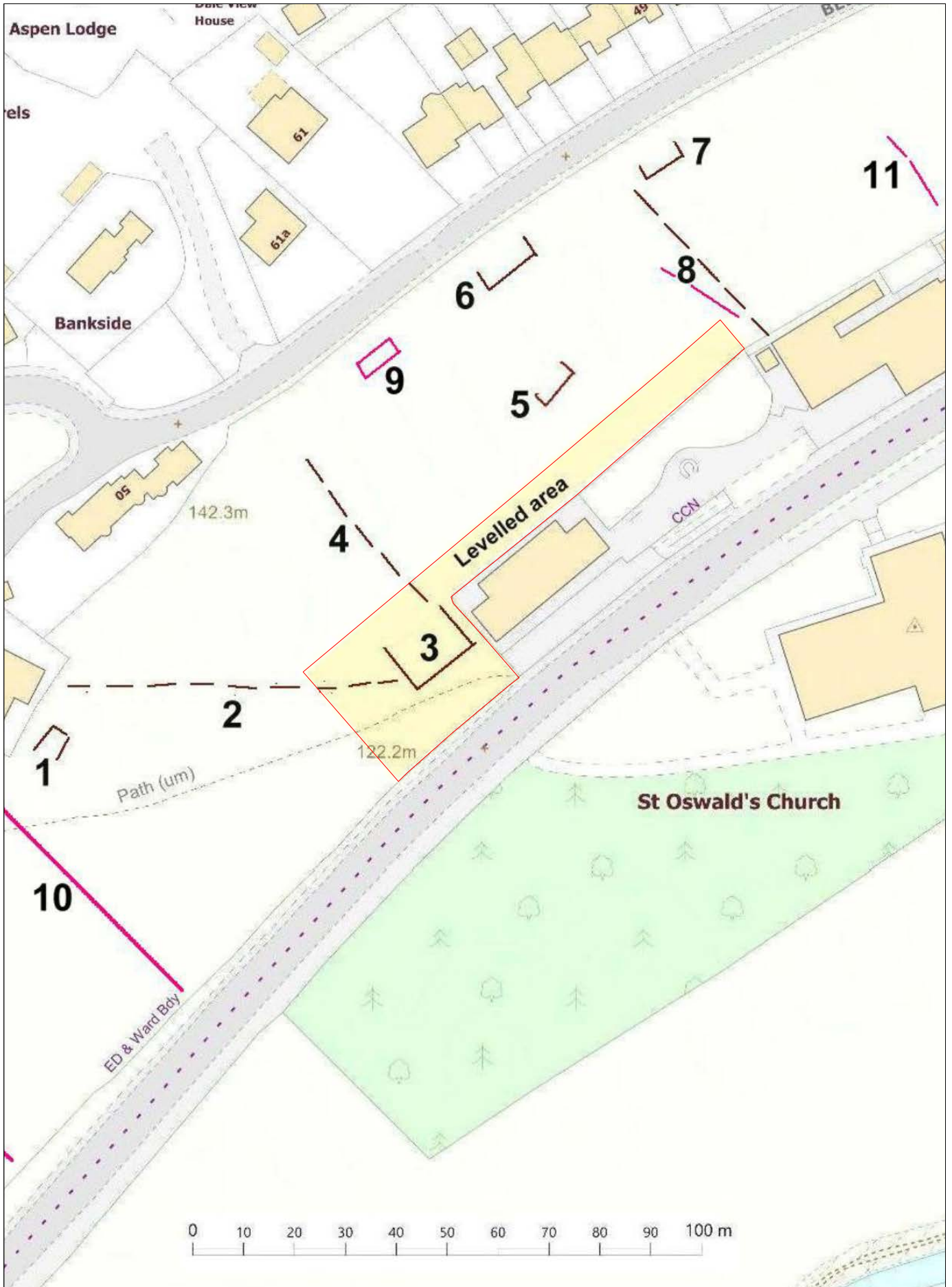


Figure 2. Earthworks within and in close proximity to the PDA (after Sidebottom 2018)

Scale: As shown.

Key:

Proposed Play Area

2,3,4 Earthworks within and in close proximity to the PDA



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## **APPENDIX II: OASIS FORM**

## OASIS ID: archaeo15-402428

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### Project details

Project name	St Oswald's School, Ashbourne
Short description of the project	Archaeological Works at St Oswald's School, Ashbourne
Project dates	Start: 14-01-2019 End: 14-07-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CD3/0718/28 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	CULTIVATION MARKS Post Medieval
Monument type	CULTIVATION MARKS Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Photographic Survey","Topographic Survey","Visual Inspection"
Development type	Amenity area (e.g. public open space)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

---

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE DERBYSHIRE DALES ASHBOURNE St Oswald's School, Ashbourne
Postcode	DE6 1AS
Study area	0.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 17537 46435 53.014624373696 -1.738570444797 53 00 52 N 001 44 18 W Point

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### 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	Roger Doonan
Project supervisor	Adrian Jacklin
Type of sponsor/funding body	Local authority

Name of sponsor/funding body St Oswald's Primary School

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Derbyshire Historic Environment Record

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive Exists? No

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Entered by Adrian Jacklin (adrian@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)

Entered on 17 February 2021