

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Derwent Lane, Hope Valley

ARS Report N°: 2021/95

OASIS ID: archaeol5-424281



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Archaeological Watching Brief: Derwent Lane, Hope

ARS LTD REPORT 2021/95



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Prepared on behalf of: Northern Power Grid
Date of compilation: 18/06/2021
Compiled by: Adrian Jacklin PCIfA
Checked by: Jim Moore
Approved for issue by: Jim Moore
Planning Reference: N/A
Local Authority: National Trust Midlands
Site central NGR: SK1903388068
OASIS ID: archaeo15-424281

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name:	Archaeological Watching Brief: Derwent Lane Hope
Site Code:	DLH21
Planning Authority:	National Trust Midlands
Planning Reference:	N/A
Location:	Derwent Lane, Hope, Derbyshire
Parish:	Hope
Hard Geology:	Shale Grit - Sandstone
Superficial Geology:	None
Soil Type:	Freely draining, slightly acid, loamy soils
NGR:	SK1903388068
Date of Fieldwork:	14/06/2021
Date of Report:	18/06/2021

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Derwent Lane Hope by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Northern Power Grid during June 2021. The purpose of the watching brief was to record any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains that survived on the site.

The watching brief monitored the excavation down to the depth of development of a service trench, excavated by Northern Power Grid, for the installation of below-ground electricity cables.

Two lynchets were present within the field of the service trench. No below-ground archaeological features or deposits were identified during the ground works.

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I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Scope of Work

1.1.1 The development comprised the excavation of a service trench for the installation of below-ground electricity cables by Northern Power Grid, and therefore, came under permitted development rights.

1.1.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by Northern Power Grid to undertake a watching brief at Derwent Lane, Hope (Figure 1). The watching brief comprised the continuous archaeological monitoring of the service trench.

1.1.3 As this scheme of works falls under permitted development rights, no Written Scheme of Investigation was produced for this work. However, the watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2019) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2020) and an appropriate methodology was adhered to.

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The development area boundary (PDA) is indicated in red on Figure 1. The site is located on land adjacent to Derwent Lane, Hope, close to Ladybower Reservoir. The PDA lies within an agricultural field, bounded by a metal fence and tree line to the south-west, separating it from Derwent Lane. The site slopes steeply from north-east to south-west. As mentioned above, the PDA lies close to Ladybower Reservoir, which is on the route of the Derwent River that served several medieval and post-medieval farms along its course. The site is roughly centred on NGR SK1903388068.

1.3 Geology and Soils

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the PDA consists of “Shale Grit - Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 322 to 322 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Local environment previously dominated by sub-aqueous slopes” (BGS 2021). There are no superficial deposits recorded (ibid).

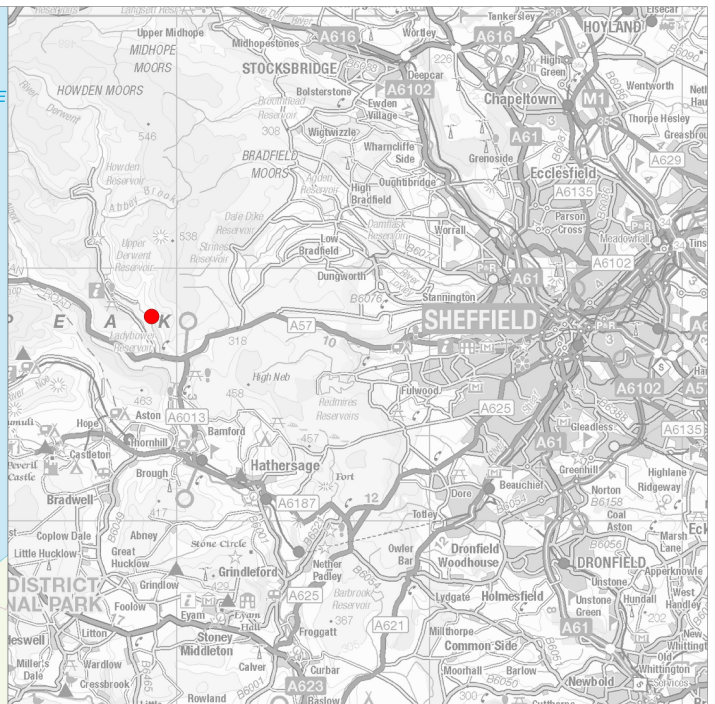
1.3.2 The soils of the PDA are recorded as “Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils” (CU 2021).

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.4.1 There is a significant amount of archaeological evidence for the Bronze Age in the form of field systems and settlements, along with funerary monuments, in the gritstone uplands of the Peak District (Brightman *et al* 2011, 19). The excavation of Swine Sty revealed that there was no clear division between places of settlement and funerary activity in the landscape and in fact, they were built in close proximity to each other, reflecting a change in social and ceremonial organisation (Richardson and Preston 1969; Manchin 1971; Manchin 1975; Brightman *et al* 2011, 24). Late Neolithic/Bronze Age barrows are evident east of the site, with a notable example, being Pike Low Scheduled Monument (National Heritage for England listing number 1008070).

1.4.2 The 15th to 18th centuries saw the economic and political landscape of Britain transform from feudalism to capitalism, which led to planned enclosures and the intensifying of agricultural activity. By the early 17th century many favourable areas beyond the medieval open fields in the

upper reaches of the Derwent Valley had been enclosed into large rectangular, or smaller irregularly-shaped walled fields as documented in surveys undertaken by William Senior of the Cavendish holdings scattered across the region - the earliest extensive cartographic evidence for the region to show field boundaries (Barnatt 2019, 27-8). Analysis of 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping shows the field of the PDA was once associated with Grainfoot Farm, and the site of the Northern Power Grid service trench, was the location of the north-eastern boundary of the aforementioned field.



Site name: Derwent Lane, Hope
 Date: June 2021
 Drawn by: ARJ
 Scale: Varies

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**Figure 1:
 Site location**

● Site Location

▭ Service Trench

N

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2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Research Aims and Objectives

2.1.1 Relevant research topics identified in the *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* (Research Frameworks 2021) include:

- ◆ Post-Medieval 8.3.1: How can we improve our understanding of the early landscapes of enclosure and improvement and the interrelationship between arable, pasture, woodland, commons and waste?

2.2 Watching Brief Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the excavation of the service trench and to record any archaeological features encountered.

2.2.2 The objective of the watching brief was:

- ◆ To identify and record the nature, extent, form and function and dating of any surviving archaeological remains.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Watching Brief Methodology

3.1.1 The methodology for the watching brief is detailed below.

- ◆ A photographic and written record was maintained during the watching brief
- ◆ The archaeological works were intended to be recorded by Leica GPS. However, as this was a remote site, no signal could be obtained for the GPS to function accurately. Therefore, the site plan was created and georeferenced with the use of the development design plan and measurements taken on site.

3.2 Professional Standards

3.2.1 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2019) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2020).

3.3 Health and Safety

3.3.1 All works were undertaken in full compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and with the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992.

3.3.2 A risk assessment (RA No. 047/21/B) was produced before commencement of the work and was adhered to throughout the course of the fieldwork.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An overall plan of the watching brief area is presented in Figure 2. Plans, section drawings and photographs of the watching brief results are included in this section. Additional digital photographs are contained in the project archive.

4.1.2 The topsoil across the area subject to the watching brief was machine excavated down to the depth of development under continuous archaeological supervision. Towards the already installed electricity substation, the overburden comprised a hardcore deposit, which was also machine excavated. The excavated service trench was 0.4m wide and 0.6m deep (Figures 3 – 6).

4.2 Site Taphonomy and Condition of Preservation

4.2.1 The site comprises an agricultural field that steeply slopes from north-east to south-west and was currently in use for pastoral farming. Historically, the south-westernmost area of the field where the PDA is located, formed the north-eastern boundary of an agricultural field that was associated with Grainfoot Farm, which dates to at least the 19th century. It is uncertain what type of agriculture was undertaken on this field during the 19th century, however, it is possible that historic ploughing could have occurred across the site. The former north-eastern boundary of the 19th century field is visible today in the form of two lynchets. A lynchet is defined as *“An artificial bank formed by a build-up or loss of soil against a field boundary, or deliberately produced as the downslope edge of a cultivation terrace on a slope. Lynchets are usually found running along slopes and accumulate soil upslope, derived from downward movement of soil after ploughing, which is trapped by the boundary. They also lose soil downslope where ploughing cuts into the slope. Where a boundary has later been removed, a lynchet is often the main surviving evidence that a wall or hedge once existed. Those forming cultivation terraces often appear in groups and date from the medieval period and once lay within strip fields”* (Barnatt 2002, 229).

4.3 Results

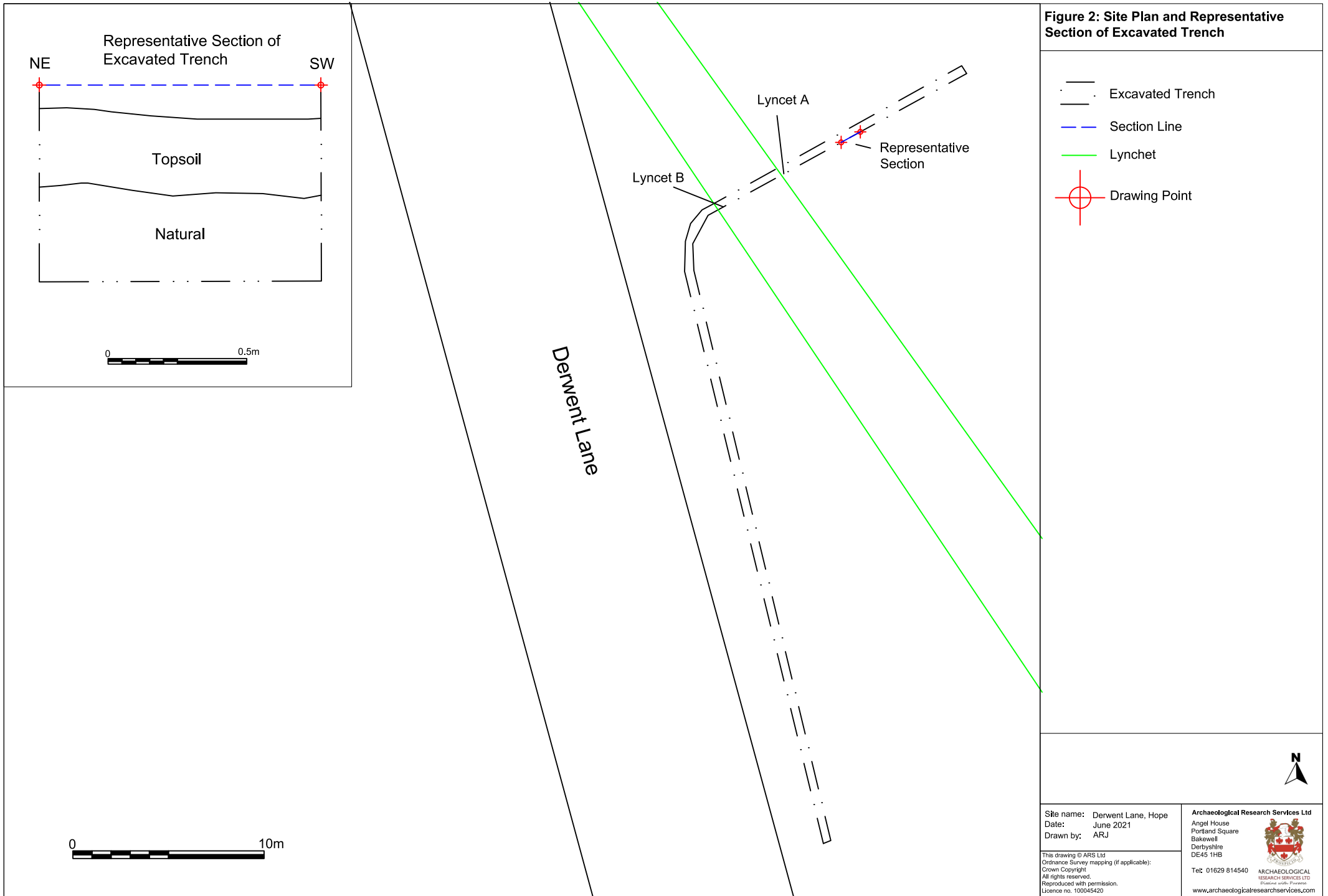
4.3.1 The topsoil consisted of a medium textured, red-brown, sandy-silt and was on average 0.3m deep.

4.3.2 The natural substrate comprised medium textured, light brown and red, silty-sand.

4.3.3 As mentioned above, two lynchets were present within the field and crossed the route of the excavated service trench, on an east-west orientation (Figures 7 – 10). A 0.4m wide slot of both of the lynchets had to be excavated to continue the route of the service trench. Both are to be restored to pre-excavated conditions once the work is completed. Both lynchets were excavated to the full depth of 0.6m and comprised an overlaying topsoil layer with the natural substrate beneath. The topsoil within both the lynchets measured c.0.35 – 0.4m deep.

4.3.4 No below-ground archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

Figure 2: Site Plan and Representative Section of Excavated Trench



Site name: Derwent Lane, Hope
 Date: June 2021
 Drawn by: ARJ

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Figure 3: View west of excavated service trench. Scale 2x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 4: View north of excavated service trench. Scale 2x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 5: View north of excavated service trench showing hardcore deposit. Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 6: View south-east of representative section of excavated service trench. Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 7: North facing section of Lynchet A. Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 8: View south-east of Lynchet A. Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 9: North facing section of Lynchet B. Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 10: South-east facing view of Lynchet B. Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1.1 The watching brief was successful in monitoring the ground works and ensuring no below-ground archaeology was destroyed before preservation by record.

7 PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

7.1.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

7.1.2 ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary, photographic and video material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

8 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

8.1.1 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.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 As no below-ground archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, an archive will not need to be deposited with the repository museum.

9.1.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> has been initiated and completed for this work (Appendix I) 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. The site has produced a digital archive which will be deposited, along with this report, in digital form with Archaeological Data Service (ADS 2011). In addition, a copy of this report will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record, the Peak District Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record and National Trust Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1.1 ARS Ltd would like to thank Northern Power Grid for commissioning the work.

11 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX I: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol5-424281

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief: Derwent Lane, Hope
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief of the excavation of a service trench on land adjacent to Derwent Lane, Hope
Project dates	Start: 14-06-2021 End: 14-06-2021
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	DLH21 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Park
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	LYNCHET Medieval
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE HIGH PEAK HOPE Derwent Lane, Hope
Postcode	S33 0AQ
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 19026 88049 53.388675093678 -1.713893253826 53 23 19 N 001 42 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.6m Max: 0.6m

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	Jim Moore
Project supervisor	Adrian Jacklin
Type of sponsor/funding body	Electricity Authority/Company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Northern Power Grid

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Derbyshire HER

Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No
<hr/>	
Entered by	Adrian Jacklin (adrian@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	18 June 2021