



**Archaeological
Research
Services Ltd**

**Watching Brief at Kedleston Hall,
Derbyshire.**



View of the North façade of Kedleston Hall.

ARS Ltd Report 2009/18

October/November 2008

January/February 2009

Compiled By:

Jessika Shakarian
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Suite 7 Angel House
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Checked By:

Dr. Richard Chatterton
Tel: 01629 814540
Fax: 01629 814657
admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

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Executive Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between October/November 2008 and January/February 2009 during a scheme of replacement drainage works at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire. The work included the excavation of trenches across the North Lawn and on the bank adjacent to the West Wing including groundworks for associated manholes and a replacement grease trap.

A compacted, cobbled road surface was identified in a number of the trenches across the site. The road surface overlay the original topsoil and had in turn been overlaid with a redeposited clay during works to landscape the garden in the 18th century. It was not possible to identify the age of the road surface due to lack of diagnostic finds only that it was probably earlier than the 18th century landscape works.

In Trench 2 a deposit of 20th century demolition rubble was identified and recorded. The remains were believed to be related to temporary buildings built during the Second World War.

There were no other archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds revealed during the ground works for this project.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by The National Trust to oversee a scheme of replacement drainage works at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire. The purpose of the scheme was to connect the current drainage system from the Eastern Wing of the Hall, into the main National Trust drain. The associated groundworks comprised of the excavation of a new drainage trench across the Northern Lawn. Works also included the excavation of a replacement drainage trench and grease trap close to the West Wing, both of which adjoined the National Trust's main drain to the Northwest of the house.

2. Location and Geology

- 2.1 Kedleston Hall lies just 4.5 miles to the northwest of Derby between the A6 to Matlock and the A52 to Ashbourne (Grid reference SK 312 403). The elevation of the site is between 85mOD to 90mOD.
- 2.2 The solid geology of the site is late Triassic Keuper Marl boulder clay above sandstone (BGS 1993).



Fig. 1: Location of Kedleston Hall

3. Background

- 3.1 The present Kedleston Hall was constructed for Nathaniel Curzon, the First Lord Scarsdale by the architect Robert Adam between 1758 and 1765. The Curzon family has had their family seat at Kedleston since the 12th Century when they arrived from Normandy. Nathaniel Curzon inherited the estate in 1758 and immediately set in motion the demolition of the existing hall in order to construct the present building. The construction of the present hall and gardens also required the relocation of the village of Kedleston, which had previously clustered around the hall, to its present location site some two kilometres away.
- 3.2 The present hall and gardens were constructed on the site of the earlier hall, the only original remaining building from the village of Kedleston being the 13th Century church which is positioned immediately to the west of the present Kedleston Hall. The new building and gardens were designed initially by the architects Bettingham and Paine but Curzon replaced them with the now famous Scottish architect and designer Robert Adam. It was Adam who was principally responsible for the creation of the 'pleasure ground' landscaped gardens which remain largely unaltered from his creation today.
- 3.3 The gardens were re-designed by Adam with the earlier formal, ornamental gardens designed by Charles Bridgeman being replaced by a more natural landscaped garden. To the south of the house the South Lawn was created over the more formal walled gardens and a 'ha-ha' wall built to the south in order to give uninterrupted views to the grass and parkland beyond the lawn. In order to facilitate drainage a series of underground culverts were constructed in the 18th Century beneath both the South and North lawns.

4. Aims of the Project

- 4.1 The aims of the project were as follows:
- To observe all groundworks for the presence of archaeological remains especially earlier buried garden features.
 - To fully record and excavate any previously unrecorded archaeological features.

5. Method Statement

- 5.1 During the excavation of the trenches the overburden was removed to the required depth using a back acting JCB using a toothless ditching bucket approximately 0.2metres in width (Fig. 3). The trenches were excavated by the removal of level shallow spits between 0.1m and 0.2m deep. A check was made at all stages for the presence of any archaeological features.
- 5.2 All machine and hand dug excavation on the site was observed by an archaeologist to ensure that no archaeological remains were disturbed. Any features or structures were to be fully cleaned and recorded in accordance with the standards stipulated by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and the guidance provided in 'Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions' (English Heritage 2003).

- 5.3 Any features or structures were to be photographed, recorded and where possible, fully-excavated. All the contexts were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets, and a context register was prepared.
- 5.4 Photographs were taken using a 35mm SLR camera with black and white print film, and colour transparency, as well as with a digital camera (7.1 megapixel resolution).
- 5.5 All work was carried out wearing appropriate safety equipment. A system of hand signals was agreed before work commenced to allow for easy communication and a safe environment for examining the potential archaeological remains while supervising machine excavation.

6. Description of Archaeological Investigation

6.1 TRENCH 1 (ACROSS THE FRONT LAWN)

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 was orientated approximately east-west across the North Lawn in front of the main hall, connecting two previously existing manholes (Fig. 2). The trench initially had an approximate depth of 1.8m, gradually deepening to approximately 4.5m at the site of the other manhole.



Fig. 2: View of Trench 1 showing proximity to the hall.

- 6.1.2 The soil surrounding the existing manhole was a loose redeposited clay matrix containing pieces of sandstone and brick. The rest of the trench was found to contain a shallow (0.12m to 0.15m) topsoil (500) above a loose redeposited clay matrix (501) which was between 0.8m to 0.85m thick. Beneath (501) was an orange/brown (5YR 8/8) clay substrate (509). The redeposited clay (501), found above the firm natural ground, was probably deposited during works to landscape the gardens.

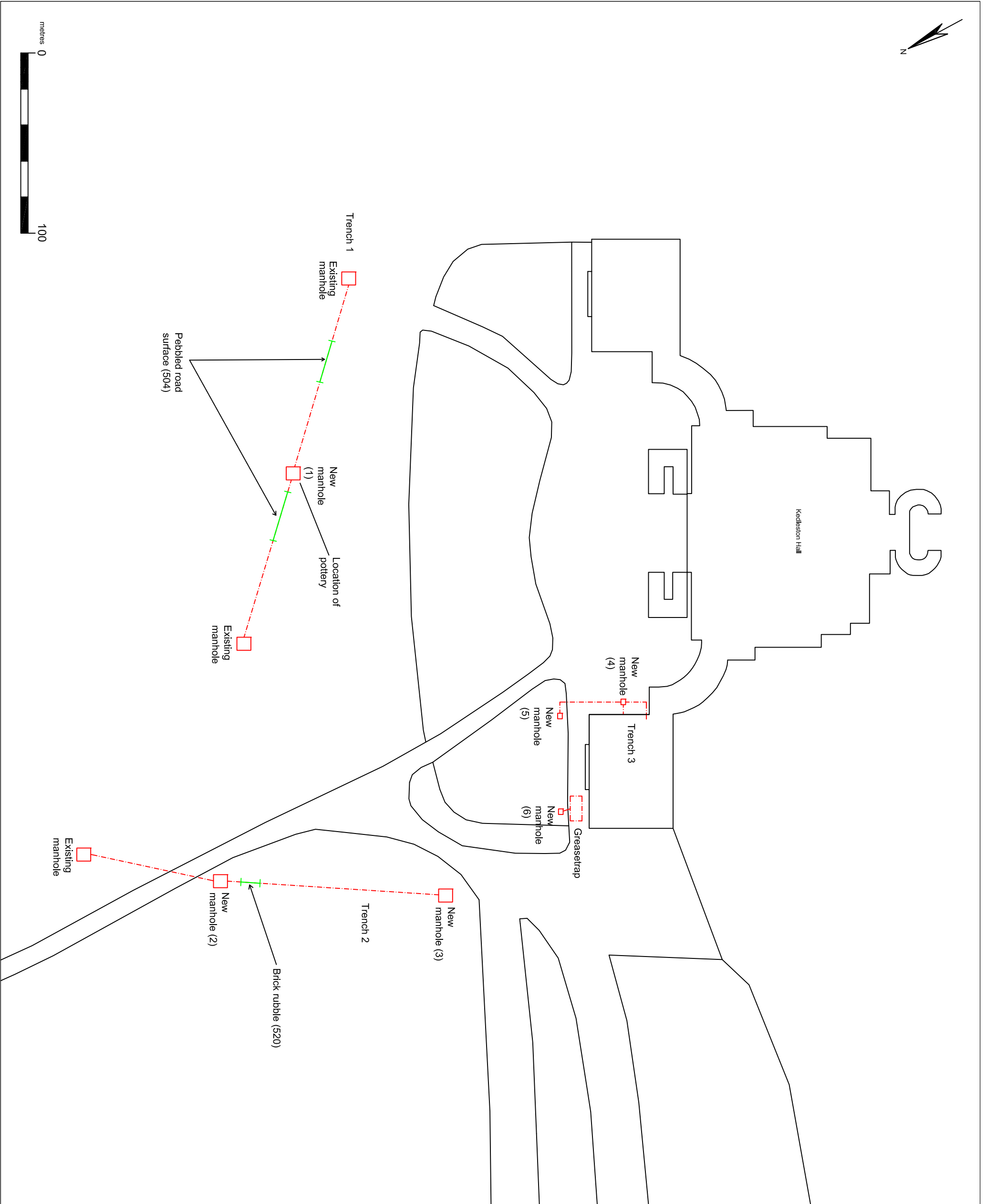


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Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

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Figure 3
Plan of site showing the location of the
service trenches and related
archaeology

Key:



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The landscaping may have involved the redistribution of material excavated during work to create the lake to the front of Kedleston Hall.

- 6.1.3 A compacted path surface (504) and (507) was uncovered 12.3m from the start of the trench which continued for a total length of 8m (Fig. 23, Appendix I). The surface was found approximately 1.25m below the modern ground level and consisted of a sandy compacted gravel surface (7YR 4/4) which contained rounded quartz pebbles (Fig. 4). Larger pebbles were noticeably higher in the deposit, forming the upper surface. The deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.3m. The surface appears to be the remains of a road or path relating to the formal gardens that pre-date the 18th century landscaping.
- 6.1.4 The floor surface was partially sealed by a friable clay deposit (503) with a depth of containing crushed lime mortar and medium sized broken brick fragments. This deposit may relate to buildings or walls relating to the earlier formal gardens but it is also possible that this deposit could relate to the earlier village of Kedleston that was moved in the 18th century to make way for the present hall. A lack of diagnostic finds relating to either the road surface or the deposit (503) meant that further interpretations regarding date and function of the deposits could not be made.



Fig. 4: Gravel path surface (504). Scale: 1m.



Fig 5: Gravel path surface (507) & edging stones cut by later ceramic drain (522). Scale: 1m & 2m.

- 6.1.5 Sandstone edging blocks (508) measuring 0.53m by 0.26m by 0.07m were found to exist running across the trench on a north-south alignment at the western limit of the gravel path surface (Fig. 5). The gravel surface in this area had been cut by a modern ceramic drain (522).
- 6.1.6 Below the gravel path was a buried soil horizon (502), probably the original topsoil. The context was a dark brown clayey silt containing frequent charcoal

flecks with a thickness between 0.5 - 0.1m was found to exist in isolated areas above the clay substrate (509). The depth of this deposit was approximately 1.8m - 2m below the modern ground surface. During the construction of the new manhole (1) sherds from two different pots were recovered from this deposit. The sherds did not come from any obvious feature but were found in the same location at an approximate depth of depth of 1.5m below the modern ground level (Appendix II for specialists report).

- 6.1.7 Approximately 4m north-west from the manhole (1) in Trench 1 the gravel path surface (518) was encountered for a length of 10m (Figs. 3 and 6). The compacted layer of gravel and sand contained smaller pebbles than the previous road surfaces but nonetheless it was believed to be a continuation of (504) and (507) as it was at the same thickness and depth.



Fig. 6: Trench One: Surface two (507) continued, Scale: 2m (looking west).

6.2 TRENCH 2

- 6.2.1 Trench 2 ran from an existing manhole positioned to the south of the access road across the road, over the grass bank and up to the existing manhole close to the house (Fig. 3). The trench required the excavation of two new manholes. The depth of the trench began at a depth of 1.85m and gradually became shallower, approximately 1.25m, towards the top of the slope. The stratigraphy of the trench comprised of a layer of tarmac and builders gravel which existed for a maximum depth of 0.3m, below which was the natural substrate clay (509) (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7: View of Trench two coming across the road.

6.2.2 Approximately 3m from the north edge of the road the remains of a modern brick building was found to exist below the topsoil approximately 0.15m below the modern ground level. The remains were identified before excavation started in the form of slight dips and rises in the grass and comprised of demolition rubble from a brick built building (Fig.10). The rubble (519) did not reveal any structural elements of the building and contained bricks, tiles, coal, slag and unidentified metal objects. The bricks measured 0.24m x 0.12m x 0.09m and had been mortared with cement; some were imprinted with the local manufacturer 'Denby' (Fig. 8). Some of the tiles had writing on them such as 'elect', indicating the tiles use as a cover or indicator of electric cables (Fig. 9).



Fig. 8: Brick from demolition rubble printed with printed 'DENBY'.



Fig. 9: Tile found amongst demolition rubble imprinted with 'ELECT'.



Fig. 10: View of demolition rubble in Trench 2, Scale: 2m (looking north).

- 6.2.3 The demolition rubble stretched for a length of 3.9m and is believed to be the remains of a temporary World War II camp present at Kedleston Hall during this period (Pers.Comm, National Trust Employee). The rubble, when removed, was found to be above a redeposited clay (520) that contained crushed bricks and coal. The natural alluvium was encountered between 0.2 - 0.3m below this deposit. No other deposits or finds were uncovered during the rest of the excavation of this trench.
- 6.2.4 The trench continued across the road in front of the house in order to connect with an existing manhole. The gravel path surface (507) was encountered again below the tarmac at an approximate depth of 0.2m below the modern ground surface (Fig. 11). The edging stones for the present road were found to overlie the gravel path surface, leading to the interpretation that the surface may be an original road for the present hall rather than being related to the formal gardens. A lack of diagnostic finds from this level makes it difficult to ascertain the surfaces age and purpose of the surface.



Fig. 11: View of gravel surface (507) below tarmac in Trench 3, Scale: 2m (looking east).

6.3 TRENCH 3 (EXCAVATED IN JANUARY 2009)

- 6.3.1 Trench 3 was located along the eastern wall of the Western Wing of the hall and connected a new pipe from the interior of the cellar to the National Trust's main drainage system (Figs. 3 and 12). The work was undertaken by a mini excavator with a toothless bucket that measured 0.5m in width.



Fig. 12: Location of Trench 3 (looking south).

6.3.2 The ground was heavily disturbed for the first 10m of the trench with a number of services being present at different levels. Below the tarmac was made ground containing redeposited clay with bricks and pebbles (523) (Fig. 13). At approximately 10m from the southern end of the trench the made ground terminated. The clay substrate (509), encountered on site previously, was found to exist below the tarmac for the remainder of the trench. A ceramic drain (522) (Fig. 14), located roughly on a north-south alignment, was found to be disused and subsequently removed. All other services were left *in situ*.



Fig. 13: Trench 3: View of trench, (looking south).



Fig. 14: View of ceramic pipe in Trench 3, (looking north).

6.3.3 Directly in front of the West Wing a pit for a replacement grease trap for the kitchen was excavated (Fig. 15). The pit measured 2m x 1.5m and had a maximum depth of 0.8m (Fig. 16). The soil around the original grease trap had been heavily disturbed and elsewhere the stratigraphy encountered consisted of a shallow layer of topsoil overlying the clay substrate (509). No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in Trench 3.



Fig. 15: View of the West Wing showing work to remove the grease trap underway.



Fig. 16: View of the pit for the new grease trap, Scale: 2m (looking north).

6.4 TRENCH 4 (EXCAVATED IN FEBRUARY 2009)

- 6.4.1 Due to flooding across the main access road a trench for a French drain was excavated along the road to the north of Trench 2 (Fig. 17). The trench measured 0.5m by approximately 15m and was between 0.6m and 0.7m in depth. The stratigraphy of the trench comprised of a thin layer of topsoil 0.1m in depth below which was the clay substrate (509) (Fig. 18). No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during these works.



Fig. 17: View of flooded access road.



Fig. 18: Trench 4, looking west.
(Scale: 0.2m graduations)

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The compacted gravel path surface identified across the site in a number of trenches overlies the original topsoil and lies beneath the redeposited clay used to landscape the gardens by Adam in the 18th century. Therefore, the road is clearly earlier than the landscaping works and probably relates either an earlier garden phase of the hall rather than the original village.
- 7.2 The 20th century demolition rubble that was identified in Trench 2 appears to be the remains of temporary buildings that were constructed during the Second World War. As no foundation remains were uncovered it was not possible to identify any more structural details about the building. A small assemblage of 20th century pottery was recovered during the investigation of the building which are discussed in the specialist pottery report (Appendix III).
- 7.3 The remains of two medieval vessels from (205) in Trench 1 indicates activity between the 12th and 14th centuries having taken place close to the hall. The sherds are discussed in more detail in the specialist pottery report (Appendix III). There were no other archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds revealed during the ground works for this project.

8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

- 8.1 Any Publicity will be handled by the client.
- 8.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act, 1988.

9. Statement of Indemnity

- 9.1 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. Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank the National Trust for their support in this work. We are particularly grateful to the contractors W. S. Biggin for ensuring the smooth running of operations on the ground and Rachael Hall of the National Trust for her advice and support.

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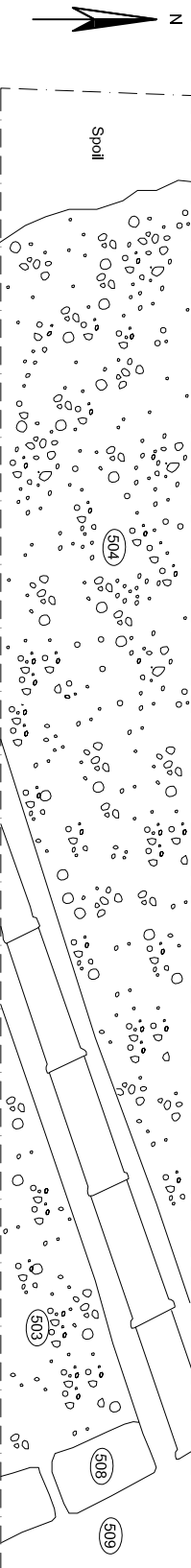
National Trust, 2008, Unpublished brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Kedleston Hall during drainage works.

APPENDIX I – Context Register

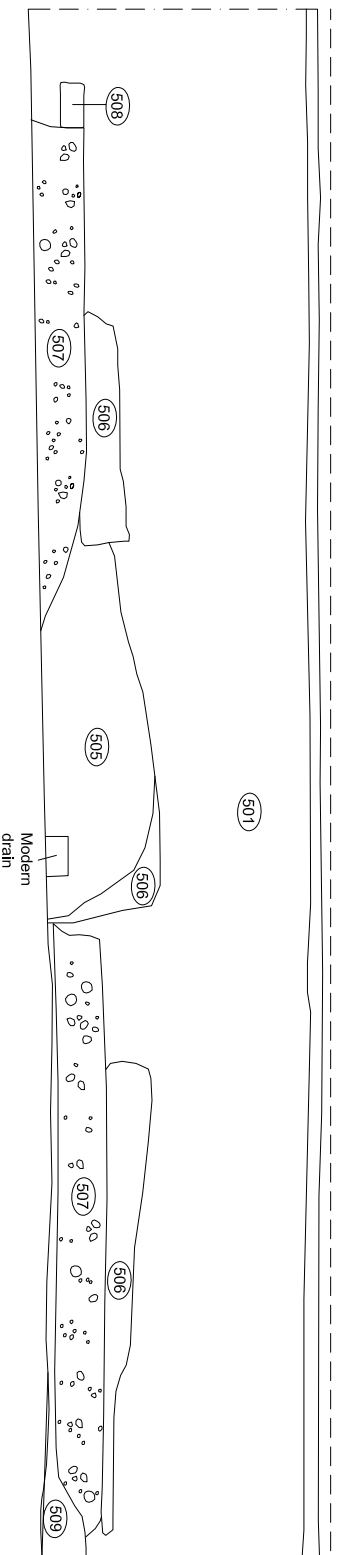
Context No.	Type	Location	Description
500	Topsoil	Across site	Found across the site.
501	Made ground	Trenches 1 and 2	Made ground comprising of redeposited natural marl mixed with frequent large angular sandstones and frequent rounded quartzite pebbles. Up to 0.85m thick.
502	Deposit	Trench 1	Dark brownish clayey silt with well sorted small quartzite pebble inclusions. Frequent charcoal flecks. Full depth not ascertained owing to limit of excavation. Probably represents buried soil contingent for original topsoil prior to med-18 th century landscaping. Pottery inclusions
503	Deposit	Trench 1	Layer of crushed lime mortar with frequent medium sized brick fragments. None of the fragments were sufficiently complete to give original dimensions. Could represent the demolition rubble of a building or wall.
504	Road surface	Trenches 1 and 2	Compacted road surface comprising of a sandy gravel with frequent large rounded pebbles appearing at the top of the surface. Overlies and abuts (502) so appears to be a road surface prior to the 18 th century landscaping.
505	Made ground	Trenches 1 and 2	Made ground same as (501) comprising of redeposited natural marl mixed with frequent large angular sandstones and frequent rounded quartzite pebbles. Up to 0.85m thick.
506	Deposit	Trench 1	Layer of crushed lime mortar same as (503) with frequent medium sized brick fragments. None of the fragments were sufficiently complete to give original dimensions. Could represent the demolition rubble of a building or wall.
507	Road surface	Trenches 1 and 2	Compacted road surface same as (504) comprising of a sandy gravel with frequent large rounded pebbles appearing at the top of the surface. Overlies and abuts (502) so appears to be a road surface prior to the 18 th century landscaping.
508	Sandstone edging stones	Trench 1	Sandstone edging blocks at the Western limit of the cobbled surface (507). Measured 0.53m x 0.26m x 0.07m.
509	Clay substrate	Across site	Fine red brown substrate clay found across the site.
510	Deposit	Around house and courtyard	Modern loose laid pebble surface for decoration around the house and car park.
511	Deposit	Below (510)	Very fine orange grey silt below pebbled surface – not a deliberate deposit.
512	Made ground	Trenches 1, 2 and 3	Made ground comprising of redeposited natural marl mixed with frequent large angular sandstones and

			frequent rounded quartzite pebbles. Up to 0.85m thick. Probably same as (501).
513	Modern deposit	Over grease trap	Modern grey builders sand over grease trap. Approx. 0.05m thick.
514	Modern deposit	Over manhole	Crushed sandstone layer below (510) covers manhole close to the grease trap and Trench 3.
515	Modern deposit	Over grease trap	Modern tarmac around parameter of grease trap
516	Ceramic land drain	To the west of grease trap	Red ceramic land drain 0.08m wide running 0.4m to north of modern drain pipe between the grease trap and the manhole at north-east corner of Western Wing.
517	Brick culvert	North-west corner of West Wing	Top of probable brick culvert located during works to find BT cable. Only top 3 bricks uncovered so exact dimensions unknown.
518	Road surface	Trenches 1 and 2	Compacted road surface same as (504) comprising of a sandy gravel with frequent large rounded pebbles appearing at the top of the surface. Overlies and abuts (502) so appears to be a road surface prior to the 18 th century landscaping.
519	Deposit	Trench 4 between bricks of (520)	Redeposited natural clay found between and below the bricks found to exist within the demolition rubble (520). Silty-clay, yellow/orange in colour with brick dust and charcoal inclusions.
520	Demolition Rubble	Trench 4	Demolition rubble 3.9m in length consisting of bricks, tiles, coal slag, metal items. Found just below the topsoil/turf and bedded on a dirty redeposited natural clay. Tiles had writing on them 'elect' etc. Bricks were imprinted with 'Denby'.
521	Redeposited Clay	Trench 4	Redeposited clay with black industrial waste
522	Industrial deposit	Trench 4	Black coal rich industrial deposit found above and between bricks of demolition rubble
523	Ceramic Drain		Disused ceramic drain found in Trench 3 close to the corner of West Wing. Located approx. below ground level on a roughly N-S alignment.

APPENDIX II – Illustrations



Plan of gravel path surface (Trench 1)



South Facing section of Trench 1 showing gravel path surface (Trench 1)



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 Angel House
 Portland Square
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Figure: 19
 Plan and section of gravel
 path surface (Trench 1)

Key:
 (503) is (506)
 (504) is (507)

Notes:

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Site Code: KED08/09
Drawing Ref: Appendix II
Date: 20-01-09
Drawn: JS
Scale: 1:20 at A4

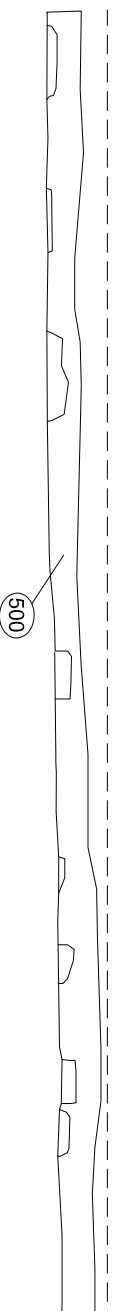
Figure 20
Plan and section of
demolition rubble (520)
found in Trench 2

Key:

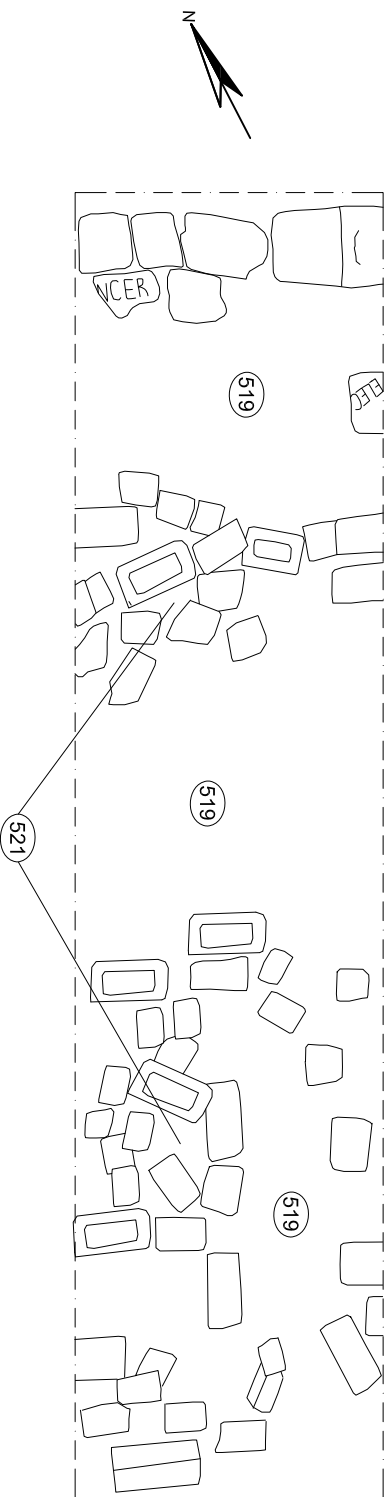
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East facing section of brick demolition rubble (Trench 2)



Plan of brick demolition rubble (Trench 2)

metres



APPENDIX III – Specialist Pottery Report

Pottery from a watching brief at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

C.G. Cumberpatch BA PhD
Freelance Archaeologist

Introduction

The pottery assemblage from the watching brief at Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire was examined by the author on 21st February 2009. It consisted of twelve sherds of pottery from two contexts weighing 424 grams and represented a maximum of six vessels. The details are summarised in Table 1.

Discussion

The pottery assemblage consisted of two distinct components. The first, from context 205 was of medieval date and the remainder, from context 507 was of later 19th or 20th century date.

The medieval pottery from context 205 consisted of fragments of two vessels. The first of these was the base of a large jar in the Derbyshire Medieval Shelly ware 1 fabric (Young pers. comm). This type, for which there is as yet no known manufacturing site, dates to between the later 12th and mid 14th century. The fabric had been badly affected by acidic ground ware leaching out much of the soluble shell which accounts for the poor appearance of the sherds and their friable nature.

The second medieval vessel was a jug in the distinctive Burley Hill Fabric 1. The Burley Hill pottery was partially excavated in 1957 and the archive (lacking detailed context information) was deposited in Derby Museum. The pottery assemblage was examined by the author and has been published in summary form elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2002/3). A copy of the full report has been lodged with the county SMR and copies are available from the author on request.

The sherd from Kedleston Hall shows many of the typical features of a Burley Hill jug, notably the deep slashes at the upper junction of the handle with the neck and the stabbed holes running down the upper surface of the handle (Cumberpatch 202/3: 92, Table 4). The body of the pot was decorated with applied and impressed strips, and mottled green-brown glaze, both typical features of the Burley Hill wares.

The dating of the Burley Hill industry is poorly understood but a range within the 13th and 14th centuries seems likely, given the characteristics of the pottery.

The second component of the assemblage consisted of four vessels of later 19th to early 20th century date. Three of these vessels appeared to be parts of utilitarian ware mugs or cups in standard bone china fabrics. Without maker's marks it is impossible to date them more closely. The fifth sherd was part of a teapot in the common and popular brown 'Rockingham' style glaze. Although the fashion for brown teapots was established in the late 18th century, it remained popular throughout the 19th and 20th centuries and is still common today. The example in this assemblage appears to be of 19th century date but closer dating is impossible and while it might be earlier in date than the other sherds in the assemblage, it could equally be contemporary.

Conclusion

The assemblage is too small for any significant or wide-ranging conclusions to be drawn from it but the vessels from context 205 indicate medieval activity in the vicinity of the

site while the assemblage from context 508 suggests that the origin of this deposit most probably lies in the later 19th or early 20th century.

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Cumberpatch, C.G. 2002 – 2003 *Medieval pottery from manufacturing sites at King Street, Duffield and Burley Hill, Duffield, Derbyshire: a summary report* Medieval Ceramics 26/27; 85 – 100.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Jane Young for identifying the Shell Tempered ware vessel

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
205	Derbyshire Medieval Shelly ware 1	4	177	1	Flat base	Jar	U/Dec	LC12th – MC14th	Type code DERMSH1
205	Burley Hill 1	3	183	1	Handle & BS	Jug	Patchy green glaze, ap & imp strip; slashed and stabbed handle	C13th – C14th	See text for details
507	Bone China	2	37	1	Rim & BS	Mug/cup	U/Dec	C19th	Utilitarian mug or cup
507	Bone China	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Blue band ext	LC19th – EC20th	
507	Bone China	1	16	1	Rim	Mug/cup	U/Dec	LC19th – EC20th	Utilitarian mug or cup
507	Colour Glazed ware	1	9	1	Spout & strainer	Teapot	Shiny brown 'Rockingham' style glaze int & ext	C19th	Typical teapot fragment
	Total	12	424	6					

Table 1. Pottery from Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire