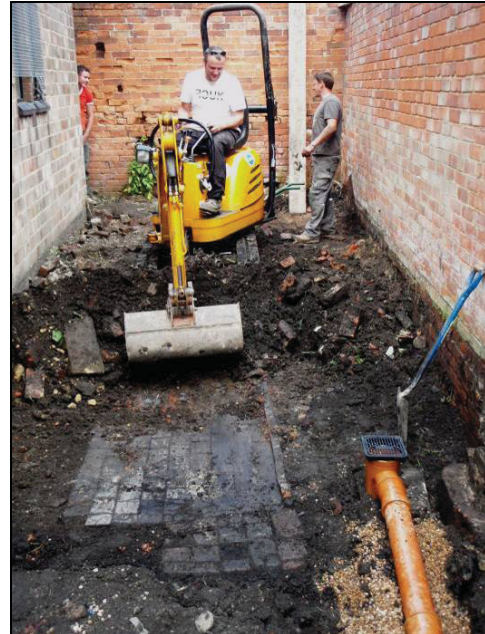




**Archaeological
Research
Services Ltd**

**Archaeological Watching Brief at
220 Mansfield Road, Derby.**



Groundwork at 220 Mansfield Road, Derby

Report 2009/59

October 2009

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Executive Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Malcolm Bayliss, Architect & Surveyor by Archaeological Research Services Ltd in June 2009 at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 220 Mansfield Road, Derby. The watching brief was required during work to excavate the foundation trenches for the construction of an extension at the north-west corner of the church. During this watching brief no notable archaeological remains were uncovered. However, the remains of a 19th century cottage and garden area were present within the site.

1 Introduction

1.1 In June 2009 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Malcolm Bayliss, Architect & Surveyor, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Seventh Day Adventist Church, 220 Mansfield Road, Derby (Fig. 1). The work was carried out during groundworks for the construction of an extension at the north-west corner of the church (Fig. 2).



Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: The present church with the proposed new extension shown in pink

2 Location and Geology

- 2.1. The site is centred at NGR: SK 3566 3748 which is located within an Archaeological Alert Area as defined in the City of Derby Local Plan Review (2006). This corresponds to the area in which archaeological deposits of Medieval and/or Anglo-Scandinavian date, relating to the early town of Derby, may be expected to be found below ground.
- 2.2. The site lies on Alluvial Sand, Gravel and Clay deposits from the River Derwent (Aitkenhead 2002).

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1. The development site is located very close to what is believed to have been the junction of two Roman roads – Ryknield Street (SMR 18929) and the Little Chester to Sawley road (SMR 32049). Previous investigations just to the north and west have revealed traces of an extensive Romano-British civil settlement (SMR 18907) and Saxon cemetery (SMR 18908). Excavation by Archaeological Research services Ltd in 2007 beneath the car park of the Coach and Horses, Mansfield Road (opposite the proposal site), identified Roman features of 2nd to 3rd century date. The Scheduled Ancient Monument of Little Chester Roman Fort (SAM DR147: SMR 18905) lies just 120m to the west, while just to the south lies the Romano-British settlement at Chester Green (SMR 18953).
- 3.2. Given the close proximity to the aforementioned sites, there was a possibility that archaeological remains of the Roman period may have existed at the site. There was also the potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeology to have survived.

4 Aims of the Project

4.1 The project was an archaeological watching brief and the aims of the project were as follows:

- To observe all groundwork for the presence of archaeology.
- To alert all interested parties to the possible destruction of archaeological features.
- To fully record and excavate any archaeological features encountered.

5 Methodology

5.1 All machine 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).

5.2 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 maintained.

5.3 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).

5.4 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.

5.5 Cartographic records that relate to the site were consulted following the exposure of masonry structure remains during fieldwork. This provided evidences of the chronological use of the site, including how the building, any associated structures and open spaces functioned and articulated, and also how they changed and evolved through time.

6 Results

6.1 The survey drawings, consisting of plans and sections of the excavated area, are shown on the illustrations in Appendix 1.

6.2 The project commenced with the excavation of a c. 10m long trench running from west to east and turning diagonally towards the north (Fig. 3). The trench was excavated to insert a drain pipe. The trench was 600mm wide and had a maximum depth of 500mm. The stratigraphy consisted of a thin layer of topsoil (101) c. 100mm thick over a made-ground layer (103) composed of dark brownish grey firm clayey silt with a general thickness of 400mm and containing

occasional modern ceramic sherds and animal bones. These layers extended throughout the entire site apart from the northern end.

- 6.3 The remains of a brick wall (105) with an associated sandstone flagstone floor (104) were revealed at the eastern end of the trench at an approximate depth of 500mm below the present ground level (Fig. 4). The brick wall (105) was orientated north to south and consisted of two courses of orange red hand-made bricks (9½” x 4¾” x 3”) bonded with flush light whitish brown fine lime mortar (up to 15mm thick) and laid to English Bond. The floor (104) was situated on the western side of the wall and was composed mainly of three flagstones (350mm x 250mm x 100) made of dressed sandstone slabs with their base roughly squared, dry bonded and laid over a made-ground layer (119). The floor also contained a few brick fragments abutting the wall. Some of the bricks were laid on edge and others were laid on bed. These surviving masonry remains appear to have been constructed in the 19th century.
- 6.4 The area where the new extension of the church is planned to be built, was subsequently reduced to a depth of 450mm below the present ground level; which involved the excavation of the topsoil (101) and the made-ground layer (103). The excavation revealed a series of masonry structures of 19th century date. They consisted of an East/West brick wall (110) between an external brick floor (106) on the east and an internal brick floor (111) on the west (Figs. 5-7). The wall was built with orange bricks (9” x 4½” x 3”) bonded with flush white lime mortar (up to 15mm thick) and laid to English Bond. The wall abutted the North/South boundary wall (107) on the east and its western end seems to have been cut by the foundation of the present church.
- 6.5 The external brick floor (106) was made of modern paving blue engineering bricks (9” x 4½” x 1½”) bonded with brownish black soft clayey silt and laid on bed to stretcher bond (North/South). There is a possible repaired/rebuilt area (108) on the south-east corner of the floor, which is made of similar bricks but had a distinct division. Adjacent to the main boundary wall (107), there was a rectangular area marked by brick edging which appears to have been used as a plant/flower bed filled by a dark brownish black firm clayey silt soil (109) with occasional charcoal flecks. The western side seems to have been cut by the foundation of the present church. Approximately in the centre of the paved floor there was a square drain opening (400 x 400mm). The characteristics of this floor indicate that it was a side/back yard area of the adjacent remnants of a house on the north.
- 6.6 The internal brick floor (111) was also made of modern paving orange bricks (9” x 4½” x 1¾”) bonded with brownish black soft clayey silt and laid on bed to stretcher bond (N/S). The western side seems to have been cut by the foundation of the present church. Traces of a fire place (112) were identified against the eastern main boundary wall (107). These consisted of two parallel dismantled single veneer brick walls joined by a green sandstone slab (125mm long x 400mm wide). Around the remains of the fire place structure there were traces of surviving plaster over the main eastern boundary wall.
- 6.7 Following the removal of the brick floors (106) and (111) and the uppermost courses of the East/West wall (110), a ‘U’ shaped trench was excavated for the foundation of the proposed extension building. The trench measured 7.10 metres

long (N/S), 1 metre wide and had a maximum depth of c. 1.50 metres below the present ground surface. The northern E/W return measures 3 metres in length and the southern counterpart 2.60 metres (Figs. 8-10).

- 6.8 The excavated deposits consisted of two made-ground layers (119) and (116) which were very similar in character, composed of mid brownish grey firm silty clay with occasional sub-round pebbles. Layer (119) produced two modern glass jars and one clay pipe with no stamps. The natural substratum (117) was also encountered at the base of the trench. This consists of a mid yellowish brown hard silty clay layer and seems to be undisturbed.
- 6.9 The excavation of the foundation trench exposed four courses of projecting brick foundation of the main eastern boundary wall (107) at 1.15 metres below present ground level and also a pilaster (107) with single bullnose bricks. The excavation entailed the demolition of the eastern side of the E/W brick wall (110), which revealed its depth to 1.20 metres below present ground level. The base of the wall was built with projecting sandstone blocks (400mm wide x 150mm high). The foundation trench cut of this wall was not visible within the adjacent layers (119) and (116).
- 6.10 The demolition of the fire place (112) also enabled to establish the nature of its construction, which was built of a veneer of brick wall backfilled with a deposit (118) composed of frequent ceramic building material within a loose silty matrix (Fig. 8).
- 6.11 The northern end of the foundation trench revealed an earlier masonry remain, consisting of a brick floor (115) with a possible storage container (114) constructed from two brick walls laid over the floor (Fig. 9). The floor was found at 900mm below the present ground level. The possible container was filled by a dark brownish grey firm clayey silt deposit (113) with occasional small ceramic building material fragments. The floor was heavily truncated and only visible after cleaning the section across the foundation trench. The reason for this truncation is unknown as no cuts were identified. However, a plausible cause is that it may have been made by a robber trench for the dismantlement of a former E/W wall. The upper layer (102) over these masonry remains is completely different from the entire site as it is composed of a mixed demolition material composed of light yellowish brown loose mortar, ceramic building material fragments, slate fragments within a loose mid brown clayey silt matrix. The nature of this deposit may be a backfill of the possible robber trench suggested above.
- 6.12 Floor (115) was made of orange bricks (9¹/₄" x 4³/₄" x 3") bonded with soft brownish grey clayey silt with charcoal flecks. The floor extends towards the north underneath the existing E/W wall of the church northern boundary. The layers below the floor are the aforementioned (116) and the natural substratum (117).



Figure 3: Excavation of drain trench, looking east



Figure 4: Remains of sandstone floor (104) and brick wall (105)



Figure 5: Brick floor (106), looking north



Figure 6: E/W brick wall (110), looking south



Figure 7: Brick floor (111) and remains of fire place (112), looking east



Figure 8: Foundation trench along garden wall, looking north



Figure 9: Section 3 across northern end of foundation trench revealing brick floor (115)



Figure 10: Foundation trench fully excavated down to the natural sub-stratum (117)

7 Discussion

- 7.1 A number of historic maps were consulted in order to establish development of the site over time. Ordnance Survey maps of a suitable scale have been included in a map regression exercise (Figs. 11-12). The maps are reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright –All Right Reserved. Licence Number 100045420.
- 7.2 The 1901 Ordnance Survey map shows that the site consisted of five cottages with gardens. The proposed extension lies within the easternmost cottage and garden area.
- 7.3 The 1965 Ordnance Survey map illustrates the present church without any of the former structures around it, suggesting that when the church was built, possibly around the mid 20th century, the existing cottages and gardens were demolished. However, part of the easternmost cottage and garden area, illustrated in the 1901 Ordnance Survey map, partially survived in the form of an internal floor (111) with traces of a fire place (112), an East/West brick wall (110) and an external yard area (106). Moreover, the remains of the paved floor (104) and North/South brick wall (105), revealed at the eastern end of a drain trench, appear to have been the western side of a small structure also shown in the 1901 Ordnance Survey map.
- 7.4 The structural remains (114) and (115) observed and recorded in the northern side of the foundation trench for the proposed extension are likely to be the remains of previous boundary walls and/or garden divisions.

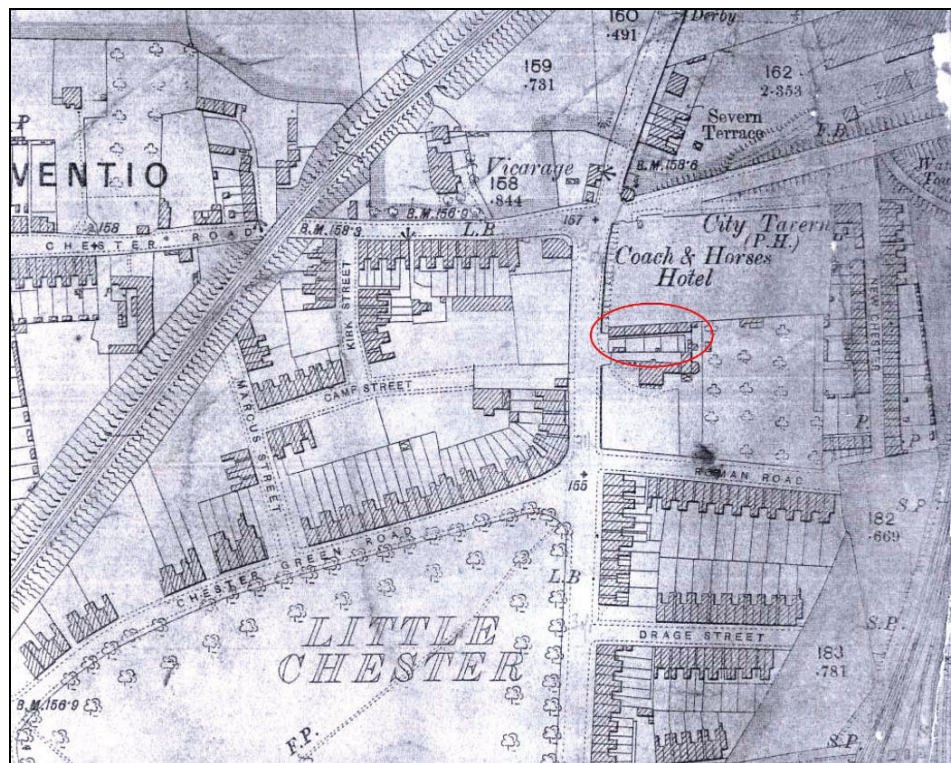


Figure 11: Extract of the 1901 OS map showing the site in red

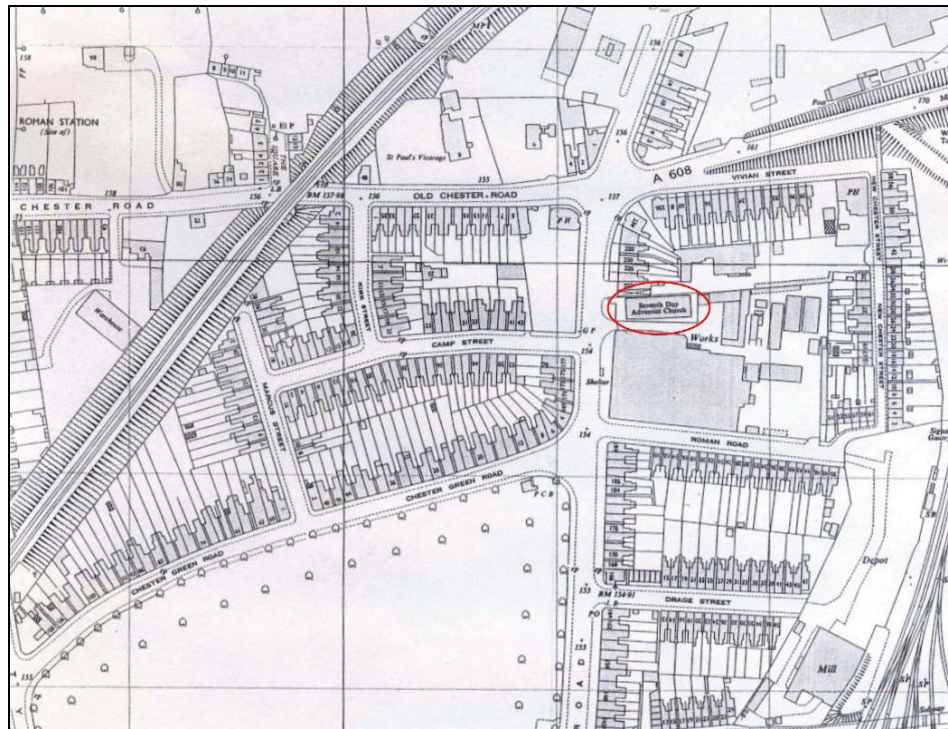


Figure 12: Extract of the 1965 OS map showing the site in red

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 220 Mansfield Road, Derby during the groundwork for the construction of an extension at the north-west corner of the church. The groundwork did not produce any significant archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds within the extent of the excavated area. However, it revealed modern structural remains dating to the 19th century, which were accordingly recorded.
- 8.2 The foundation of the main eastern boundary wall was exposed at 115 metres below the present ground level. The natural substratum layer was also found at a c. 1.50 metres.

9 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

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

10 Statement of Indemnity

- 10.1 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.

11 Acknowledgements

- 11.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular Malcolm Bayliss for commissioning this work and Patrick O'Connell and the ground workers of PJ Joinery & Building Services Ltd for the smooth running of the project.

12 References

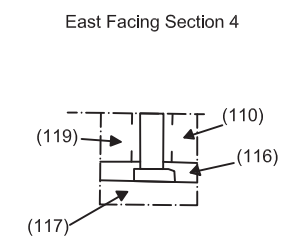
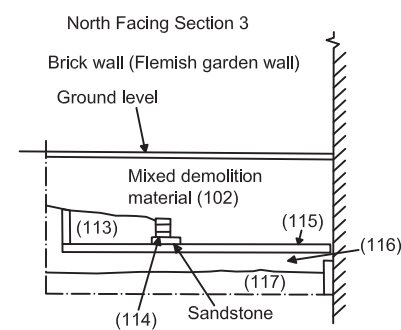
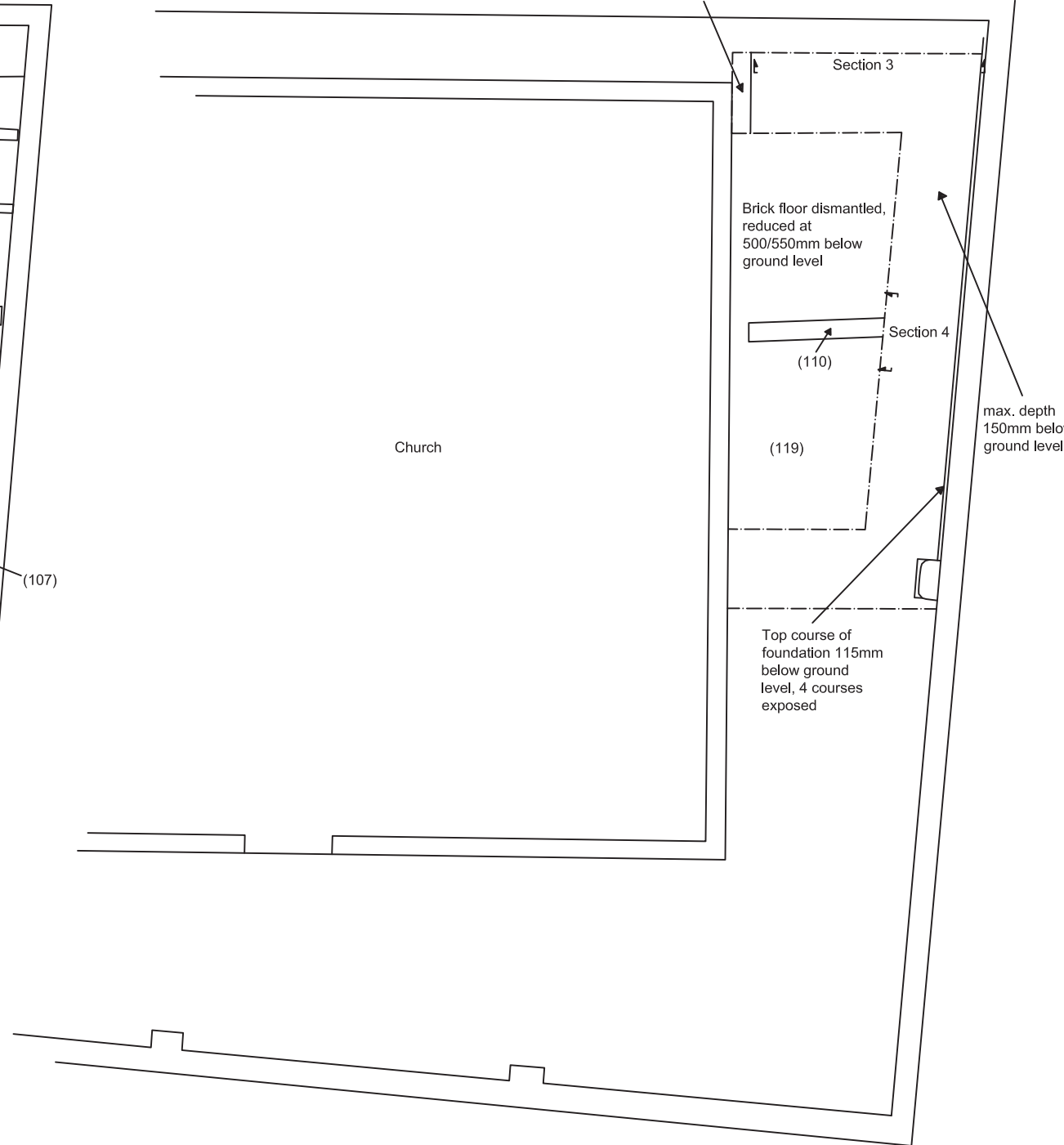
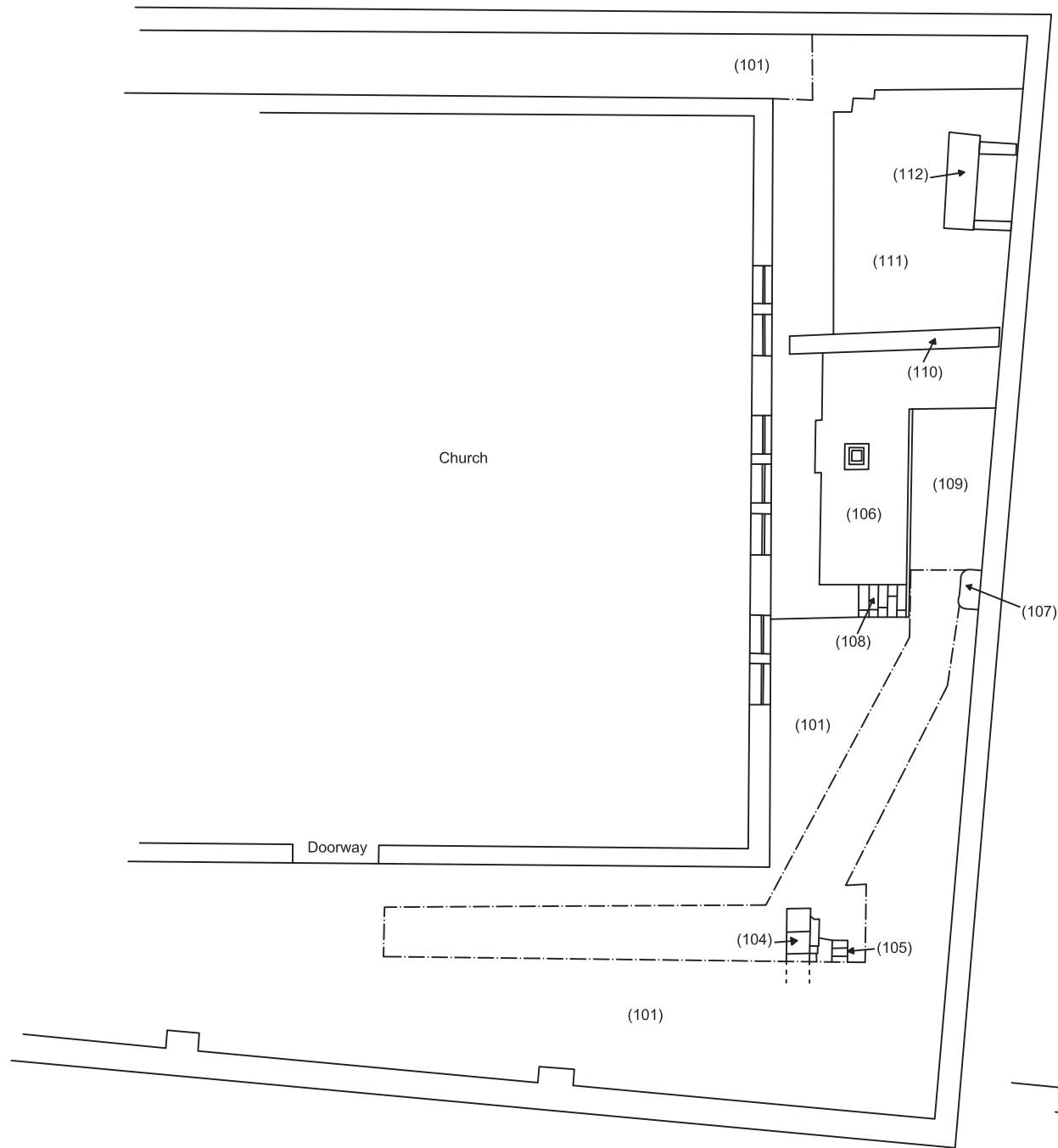
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APPENDIX I
SURVEY DRAWINGS



Archaeological Research Services Ltd
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Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Site Code: MRD09
Drawing Ref: Report Fig. 13
Date: 30 October 2009
Drawn: PC
Scale: 1:50 at A3

Title: Plans and sections of Watching Brief trenches

Figure 13: plans and sections of trenches

Key:

Notes:

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