



**Archaeological
Research
Services Ltd**

**Ireton Home Farm, Kedleston.
Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief.**



Post medieval wall preserved during
excavation looking North.

ARS Ltd Report 2009/32
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Executive Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd on behalf of Mr Peter Yates and Mrs Susan Yates, tenants at Ireton home Farm, during the excavation of a foundation trench for a new cowshed. This entailed observation of the excavation of a trench, approximately 0.30m deep, 28.20m in length and 10.9m wide forming a roughly L shaped trench to the north of the main farm yard and complex of barns. The excavation preserved an upstanding post medieval brick wall that will form part of the interior of the new building.

The excavations recorded a heavily disturbed layer relating to post medieval farm activity along with three possible farm track surfaces with large amounts of residual modern and post medieval brick, glass and pottery. These were in use during living memory and represent recent 20th century farm activity. No other significant archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds were located within the extent of the trench due to the shallow depth excavated.

1. Introduction

1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ARS Ltd on behalf of Mr Peter Yates and Mrs Susan Yates. The area of ground under observation was situated on the northern edge of the farm yard and in the small field directly to the north of this. The work had been requested by the Development Control Archaeologist for Derby City council due to the proximity of the proposed development to Kedleston Hall and the historic landuse.

2. Location and Geology

2.1 Ireton home farm is located 2.8km northwest of Allestree off the A6 to the northwest of Derby (Fig 1) and the farm complex is centered at NGR 41363162.

2.2 The solid geology of the site of Ireton farm is late Triassic Keuper Marl boulder clay above sandstone (BGS 1993).



Fig. 1: Location map of Ireton home farm Kedleston.

3. Aims of the Project

- 3.1 The project was an archaeological watching brief at the request of Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist. The aim of the watching brief was to observe the ground works for a new cowshed for the presence of any archaeological remains and fully record and excavate any archaeological features encountered to allow preservation of any archaeology at risk by record.

4. Method Statement

- 4.1 The excavation was undertaken by machine and also by hand in areas where any evidence of archaeological potential or possible service pipes were noted. The entire process was monitored by an archaeologist from ARS Ltd. All the contexts were recorded on pro-forma sheets, and a context register and photo register were produced for inclusion in the archive.

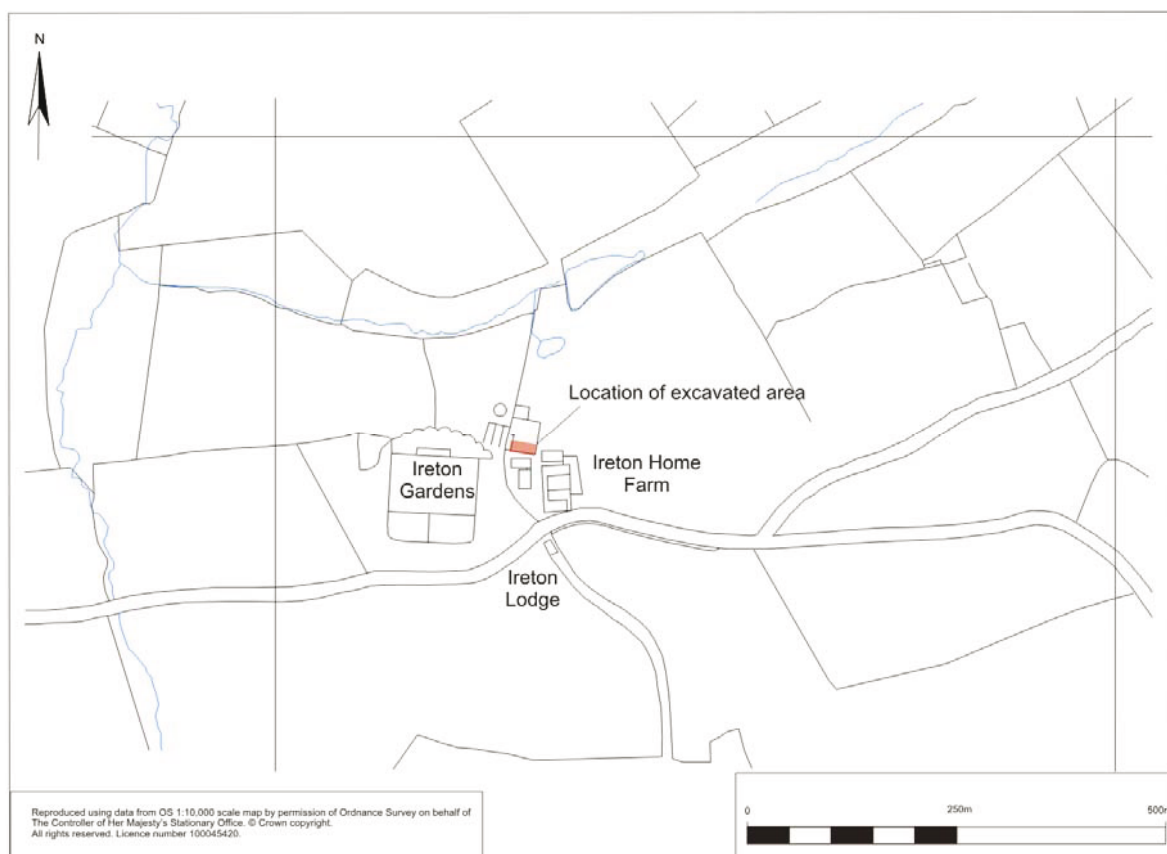


Fig. 2: Location of excavated trench

5. Watching Brief Results

- 5.1 The excavated area was located 5m south of the present barn at Ireton Home Farm and at this point was 102m above OD. The land then falls away to the north and here the excavated area fell to a height of 100m above OD. This was established using navigation grade handheld Garmin GPS and is accurate to within 1m. the trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.3 – 0.4m across the area.
- 5.2 The trench was excavated either side of an upstanding post medieval brick wall which was to be preserved as part of the new cowshed. To the north of this wall the excavations measured 7.2m x 28.2m and ran parallel to the existing field boundary. This wall was in poor repair and extremely fragile and so was photographed, measured and assigned the context number (001) in case of any potential damage caused by excavations. To the south of this wall the excavations were smaller measuring 3.1m x 13.4m. The whole of the trench was excavated to a depth of less than 0.5m and so most of what was revealed to the south of the wall was highly disturbed topsoil (002) with large amounts of residual brick, tile, glass, 20th century pottery and plastic sheeting relating to recent farmyard activity.



Fig. 3: Wall (001) in situ prior to excavations

- 5.3 To the north of the wall (001) the disturbed topsoil (002) continued but here was completely removed by excavation. Underneath (002) there was a disturbed layer made up of clay mixed with the same residual pottery and cinders (003). The modern finds from these layers suggest that this relates to repeated dumping of waste material in this area. This was confirmed by the tenants of the farm who can remember this occurring as recently as the 1950s. The foundations of wall (001) appear to be set into this layer and presumably run deeper.
- 5.4 The only archaeological features that were recorded by the watching brief were three possible post medieval track surfaces (004), (005) and (006) which appear to cut through layer (003). All three (004), (005), and (006) are made up of layers of

cinders and broken up 19th century brick with residual late 19th and 20th century pottery and modern glass. As with the episodes of dumping the tenant can remember these tracks in use until relatively recently and the surfaces appear to be post medieval or modern. Track (006) had undergone repairs at some point with a layer of half bricks (008) dumped probably as an attempt to backfill a pothole.

- 5.5 The only other features recorded were two drains (007) and (009) that cut diagonally across the trench on the same alignment and (Southeast – Northwest) and cut through the track surfaces of (005) and (006) respectively (Fig 6). These postdate the post medieval tracks and are most likely also 19th or 20th century in origin. Drain (007) appears to be at least partially stone lined with sandstone.
- 5.6 All these features will be preserved under a layer of hardcore and the concrete raft on which the new cowshed will be constructed on as no deeper foundations will be excavated. No artefacts were collected during the watching brief due to the residual nature of the very recent pottery, glass and brick that made up the excavated layers. No complete ceramic vessels or diagnostic artefacts were observed.



Fig. 4: Highly disturbed subsoil surface (003)
Relating to dumping and track (004)

- 5.7 Wall (001) was left in situ and upstanding once all excavation and backfill of stone hardcore had been completed and will comprise part of the finished cowshed.



Fig. 5: Track (005) showing crushed brick rubble and cinder surfacing and drain (007) cutting through.

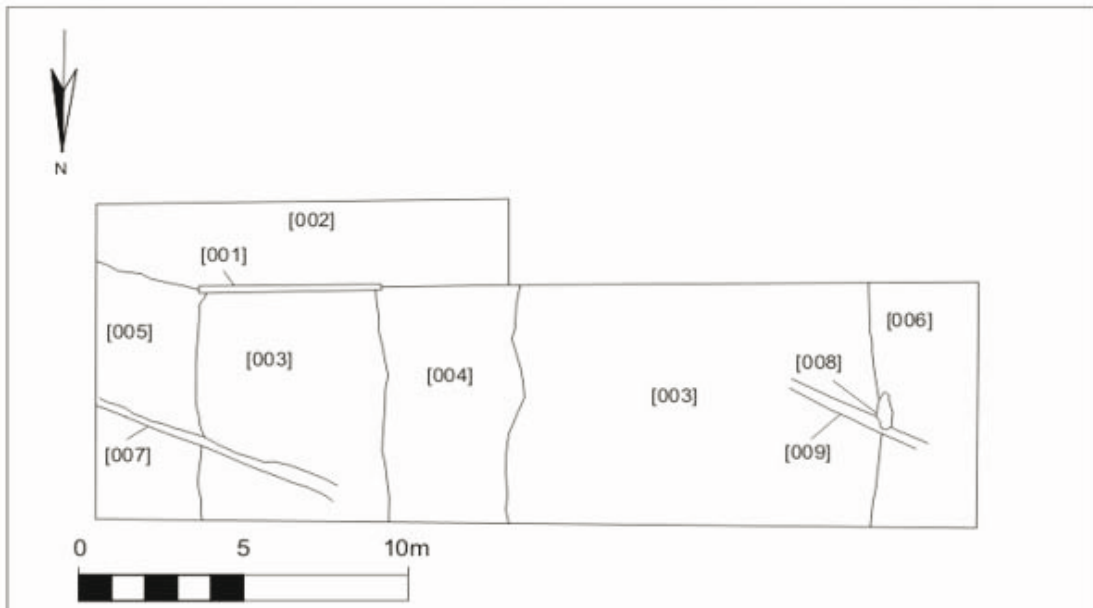


Fig 6. Plan of excavated extents of foundation trench

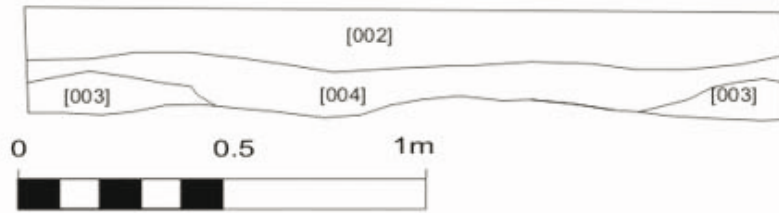


Fig 7. Representative section of trench showing (002), (003) and (004).

<p>Archaeological Research Services Ltd Angel House Portland Square Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1HD</p>	<p>Title: Incton Home Farm Watching Brief Figure 6: Plan of trench Figure 7: Representative section</p>		
<p>Site Code: ARS08 Drawing Ref: Report Fig 6 and 7 Date: 12th May 2009 Drawn: AB</p>	<p>Notes: Plan reproduced from 1:20 Section reproduced from 1:30</p>		<p>Copyright/ Licensing This Drawing © ARS Ltd All other notices that apply © Crown Copyright, all rights reserved reproduction with permission. Licence No. 31005621</p>

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Other than evidence of late 19th and 20th century farm access and dumping there were no significant archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds located within the trench

8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

- 8.1 Any Publicity will be handled by the client.
- 8.2 Digital and paper copies of the project archive will be deposited in Derby Museum and art Gallery and has be assigned accession number DBYMU 2009-8.
- 8.3 Archaeological Research Services 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 Mr and Mrs Yates for their hospitality and patience during the ground works and archaeological watching brief.

11. References

British Geological Survey, 1993. (www.bgs.ac.uk)

APPENDIX I

Context Register

Context No.	Size	Colour	Description
001	In situ post medieval brick wall 5.8m long x 0.36m wide x 1.2m high		Brick Wall with Stone capping set into (002) and (003) probably 19 th century or later.
002	Topsoil approximately 0.15m deep throughout extent of trench	Dark brown	Disturbed layer of topsoil build up around (001)
003	0.10 – 0.13m deep layer of highly disturbed subsoil below (002).	Light Brown / grey brown	Disturbed layer of silty clay containing cinders, broken brick, post medieval pottery and glass. Probably a prolonged phase of farm dumping.
004	Apparently cut into (003), not fully excavated	Black with yellow clay inclusions	Cinders, compacted brick and tile. Post medieval/modern track surface.
005	Apparently cut into (003), not fully excavated.	Black with yellow clay inclusions	Cinders, compacted brick and tile. Post medieval/modern track surface.
006	Apparently cut into (003), not fully excavated	Black with yellow clay inclusions	Cinders, compacted brick and tile. Post medieval/modern track surface.
007	Drain cut through (005) extant for 7.6m length	Light red brown	Silty clay fill of drain cut with sandstone some stone inclusions
008	Brick dumpin 0.8m x 1.2m x 0.2m deep	Red brown	Broken brick fill of pothole in track (006).
009	Drain cut through (006)	Light red brown	Silty clay fill of drain cut.

APPENDIX II

Matrix for excavated area

