



**Archaeological
Research
Services Ltd**

**Fat Cat Café Bar, 9 Friar Gate, Derby,
Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief.**



Excavation of foundation trench for new extension showing considerable post medieval disturbance.

ARS Ltd Report 2009/44
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Compiled By:
Andrew Burn
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Checked By:
Ben Johnson

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

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Executive Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd on behalf of the Fat Cat Café Bar at 9 Friar Gate Derby, on groundwork for an new extension to the bar. The site is located within an archaeological alert area as defined in the City of Derby Local Plan Review (2006). This relates to deposits of Anglo-Scandinavian and/or Medieval date relating to the old city, which may be expected to survive as below ground deposits. The site is also located within the Friar Gate Conservation Area and 65m west of the 7th century foundation of St Werburgh's church and graveyard. Previous archaeological investigation at the corner of Friar Gate and Ford Street (100m to the west of the current site) revealed stratified deposits of medieval date, identifying the potential for survival of stratified remains.

The excavation of a foundation trench 0.6m wide and 0.9m deep around the perimeter of an area of 13.24m (North to South) by 3.28m (East to West) revealed an area highly disturbed by modern activity. The area was covered in tarmacadam and concrete and these were first removed using a toothbed bucket. The area of the foundation trench was then excavated stratigraphically using a toothless ditching bucket. The trench revealed several modern deposits and drains and pipes. There were no Medieval or earlier deposits observed at the excavated depth of 0.9m.

A shallow drainage trench surrounding the main foundation was also dug by hand with the assistance of the machine to remove tarmac. This was excavated to a depth of 0.15m and revealed the same modern disturbance as the main foundation trench. No other archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd on behalf Fat Cat Café Bars at their premises at 9 Friar Gate, Derby. The work had been requested by the Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council due to the location of the proposed development within an Archaeological Alert Area and within the Friar Gate Conservation Area.

2. Location

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located at 9 Friar Gate in the centre of Derby (Fig. 1). The area of the proposed development is within the Friar Gate Conservation Area and an Archaeological Alert Area (Derby City Council 2006).

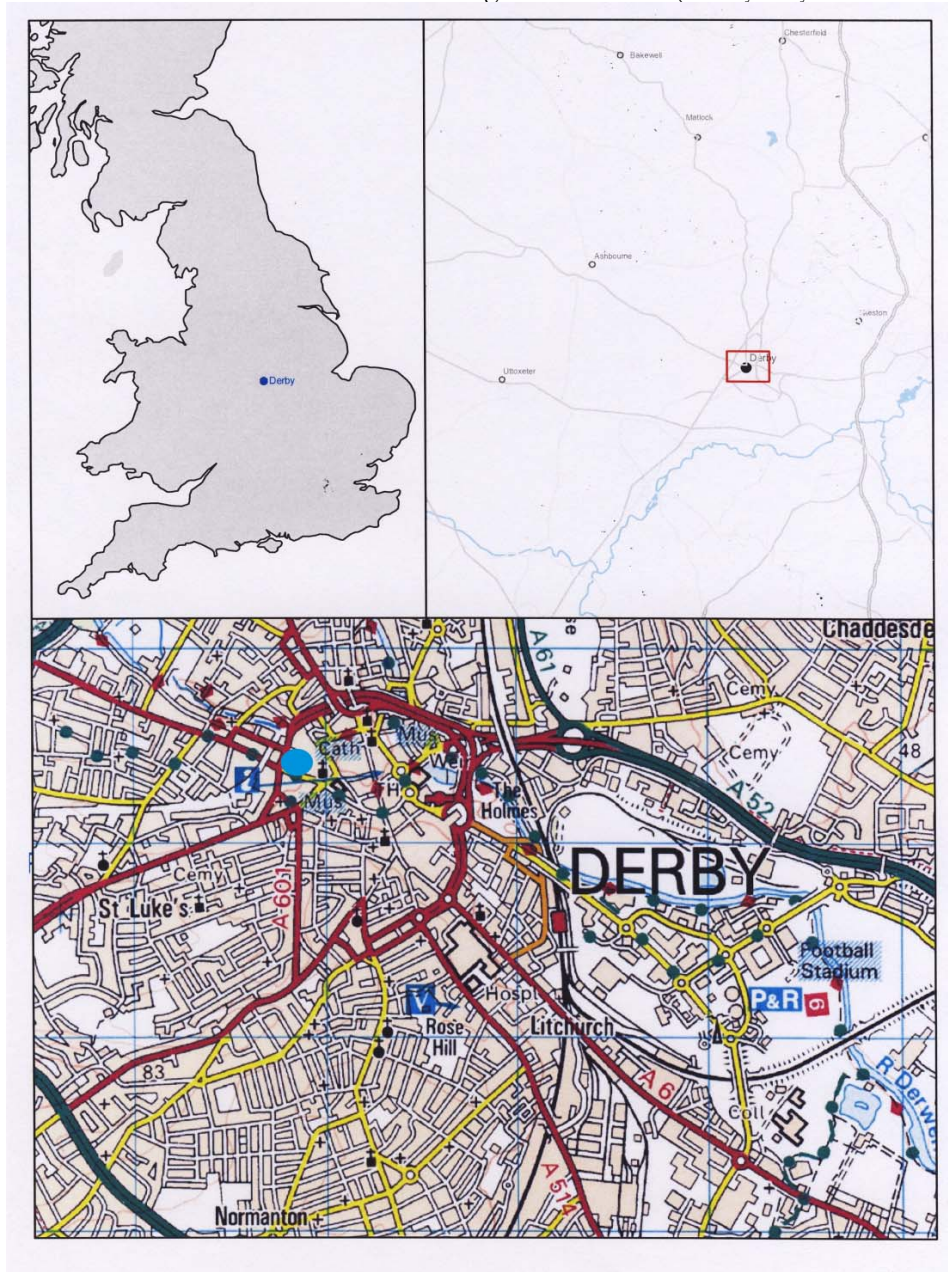


Fig. 1: Location map of Friar Gate development.

3. Aims of the Project

3.1 The project was an archaeological watching brief at the request of the Derby City Council Development Control Archaeologist. The aim of the watching brief was to observe all ground works to investigate the possible presence of any archaeological remains. Any archaeological remains observed would be subject to full record and excavation to allow preservation by record of any archaeological remains.

4. Method Statement

4.1 The excavation was undertaken initially with a toothed bucket to remove tarmac and concrete and then with a toothless ditching bucket in spots of no greater than 0.2m. Excavation was also undertaken 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 Archaeological Research Services 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 the excavated area

5. Watching Brief Results

- 5.1 The groundwork took place within an area approximately 3.28m by 13.24m, and this was initially stripped of tarmacadam (001) and concrete (002) by machine using a toothed bucket. Along the outer edge of this area a trench 0.6m wide by 0.9m deep was stratigraphically excavated by machine using a narrow toothless ditching bucket. This trench would provide the foundation trench for the wall of the new extension.



Fig 3. Initial removal of concrete from area to be excavated.

- 5.2 The excavation of this trench revealed a layer of highly disturbed ground (003), 0.65m deep at its greatest depth, relating to modern services and drains cutting through disturbed ground. These were revealed by the machine and then cleaned by hand. Two of these drains were known about prior to the start of work, as manhole covers were clearly visible on the surface. Several pipes were also revealed by excavation, including two lead water pipes (006) and (012) and three disused drain pipes (008), (010) and (014). Each of these pipes had a corresponding cut into the disturbed layer (005), (007), (009), (011), and (013).
- 5.3 Below the disturbed layer (003) was another highly disturbed layer (004), 0.36m deep at its greatest depth. This layer contained modern brick, glass tile and ceramic pipe. No preserved wall lines or other structural elements such as floor surfaces could be identified by this excavation.
- 5.4 Underneath layer (004) was a layer of clay (015) which appeared in the southern section of the trench only where the foundations were slightly deeper. No

archaeological features or finds were observed within this layer, which will be preserved below the new foundations.

- 5.5 A shallow drain was also excavated around the sides of the concrete foundations but this was only 0.15m deep and revealed the same disturbed layers as the main foundation trench. No other archaeological material was recorded and there was no evidence of further preserved pockets of earlier archaeological remains relating to the Anglo-Scandinavian or Medieval periods in this area.



Fig 5. Excavation around pipes by hand, also showing level of post medieval disturbance

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 No significant archaeological deposits were found during the watching brief. The excavations for the foundation trenches only impacted upon modern deposits associated with activity relating to the former yard area, rubble relating to a demolished building of modern date and services associated with the Fat Cat Café Bar. No other archaeological features, buried soils or artefacts were found during the groundworks.

7. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

- 7.1 Any Publicity will be handled by the client.
- 7.2 Digital and paper copies of the project archive will be deposited in the Derby Museum and Art Gallery.
- 7.3 Archaeological Research Services will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act, 1988.

8. Statement of Indemnity

- 8.1 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. Acknowledgements

9.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank Fat Cat Café Bars for their hospitality and interest during the archaeological work.

10. References

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

APPENDIX I

Context Register

Context	Type		Description
001	Layer		Tarmac
002	Layer		Hardcore deposit
003	Layer		Disturbed rubble layer
004	Layer		Lower disturbed layer
005	Cut		Pipe cut
006	Layer		Ceramic Pipe
007	Cut		Pipe cut
008	Layer		Lead pipe
009	Cut		Pipe cut
010	Fill		Ceramic pipe
011	Cut		Pipe cut
012	Fill		Metal pipe
013	Cut		Pipe cut
014	Fill		Ceramic pipe
015	Layer		Yellow / green clay surface