

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at
Doveridge, Uttoxeter, Derbyshire**



ARS Ltd Report 2010/56
September 2010

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August 2010 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Bewater Treatment Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Doveridge, Derbyshire. The monitoring was carried out during ground works for the extension of the current sewage works.

The work was carried out prior to new sewage pipes being laid and a new pumping station built. The sedimentary sequence in the trench was recorded and contained topsoil, subsoil and a layer of modern household debris. The trench varied in depth from 2m to 5m.

No features of archaeological significance or buried land surfaces were revealed. However, some ridge and furrow was visible on the surface of the field, along with the remnants of a water meadow system.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Location and scope of work

1.1.1. In August and September 2010 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the sewage works at Doveridge, Derbyshire (Fig. 1). The work was carried out during groundworks for the development of a new pumping station along with the laying of a pipeline of 3023m in length.

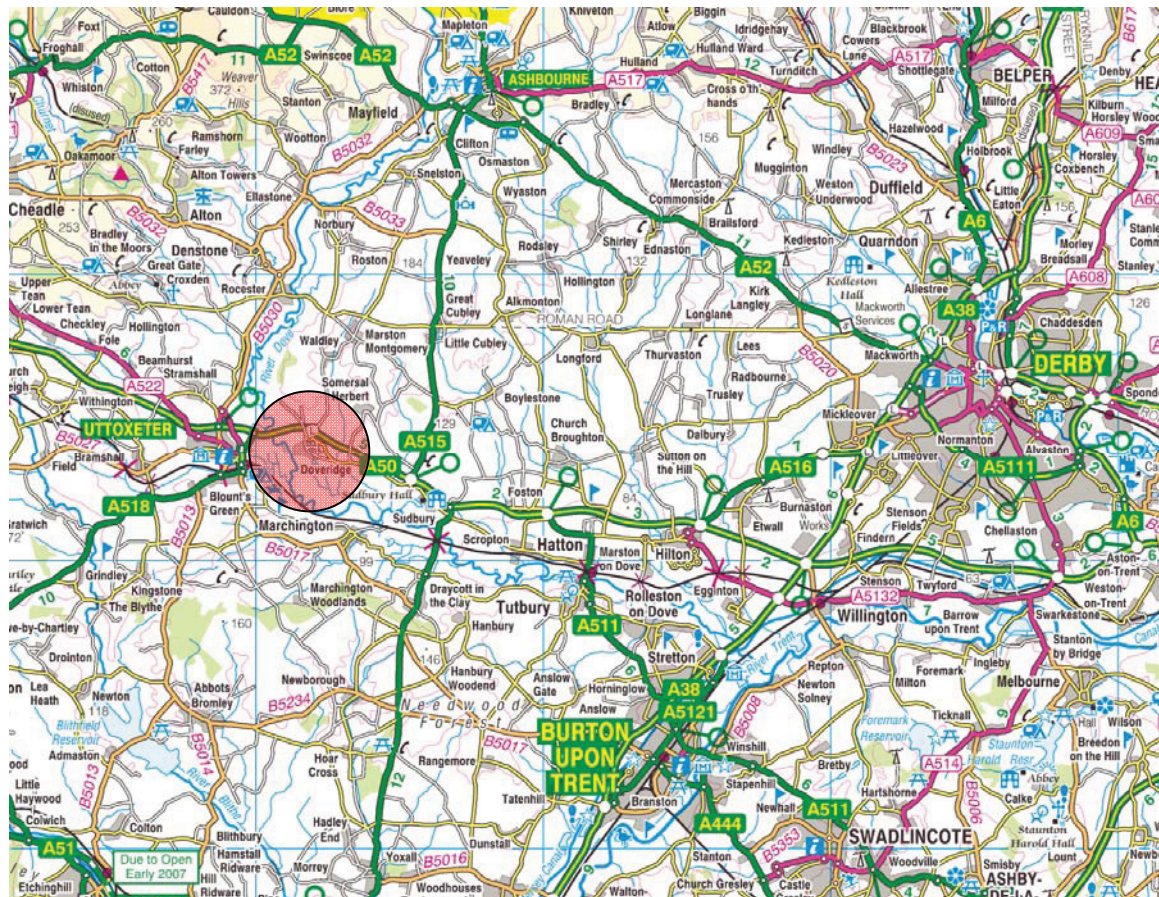


Fig. 1 Site location

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1.1.2. The village of Doveridge is listed in the Domesday Book under the name of Dubridge. The under-tenant was St. Pierre sur Dives Abbey and the tenant-in-chief was Henry de Ferrars, a Norman lord with a large amount of land who is the ancestor of the Earls of Derby (Hinde 1985; 69, 339). The village at this time was listed to have a church and a mill (Hinde 1985, 69). The land was passed to the Priory of Tutbury, and during the dissolution was passed again to the Cavendish family, who still reside in the area (Glover and Riden 1981, 118). The name Doveridge comes from the village's close proximity to the stone bridge that crosses the River Dove to Uttoxeter (Glover and Riden 1981, 118).

- 1.1.3 The village church of St. Cuthbert is situated near the river, on land that was originally in the grounds of Doveridge Hall (Pevsner 2002, 197). In the grounds is an ancient yew tree, rumoured by the locals to be the tree under which Robin Hood married Lady Marion. The church itself is mainly 13th century, with a west tower that was originally Norman but was remodelled in the 13th century (Pevsner 2002, 197).
- 1.1.4 The site is centred in farmland approximately 250 metres south of Church Street, Doveridge, at the existing sewage works. Due to the close proximity to the village and recent discoveries of prehistoric archaeology in the area it was possible that important features may be uncovered.

1.2. Geology and preservation

- 1.2.1 The solid geology of the area consists of Mercia mudstone and the drift geology consists of alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2007).
- 1.2.2 The proximity of the River Dove suggested that there was the potential for water logging throughout the site as well as possible anaerobic conditions, depending on the depth of deposits and overburden.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The specification required that a watching brief should be carried out to observe any ground works taking place for the proposed development, in order to identify any potential archaeological remains. This involved monitoring the excavation of the topsoil into which two pipe trenches were to be inserted, one five metres in width and the other 10m in width, and determining whether any features were visible in the deposits beneath (Fig. 2 location of groundworks). A total of 3000m of trench was excavated. For the purposes of recording, the site was split into two areas: area 1 and area 2, area 1 being East of the River Dove and area 2 being west of the River Dove. Figure 2 shows the full extent of the excavation in relation to the surrounding geography.
- 2.2 The trenches were excavated by machine, using a back-acting toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The machine removed the topsoil (1001, 2001) in level spits until the first potential archaeological horizon (2003) was exposed. The surface was then cleaned using hand tools in order to expose any archaeological features.
- 2.3 A single context recording system was employed. Each layer encountered was given a unique context number and a full written description (a Harris matrix is shown in Appendix I and a full context register is shown in Appendix II). Photographs of features were taken in black and white print and colour slide in order to record the ground work.

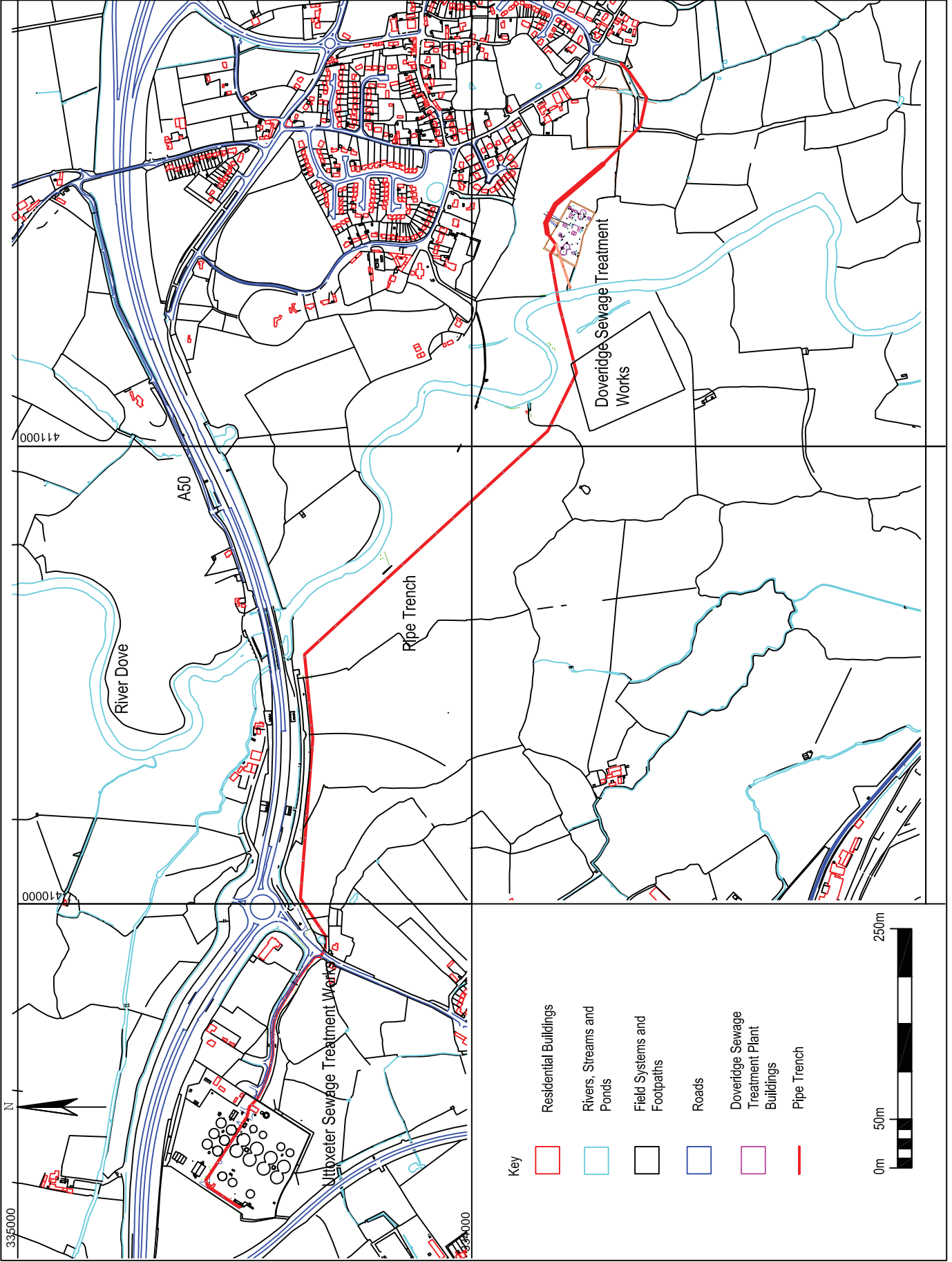
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Figure 2

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3. RESULTS

3.1 *Topsoil*

The topsoil (1001, 2001) covered the whole of the site and varied between 0.15m and 0.4m. It consisted of a medium to coarse silty material (7.5YR 3/2) with a small amount of inclusions of angular stones.

3.2 *Subsoil*

The subsoil was present on the whole site apart from the area immediately adjacent to the A50 which had been previously excavated during the building of the bypass and replaced with clay. It consisted of fine silty and sandy material varying in colour across the site (5YR 5/8, 10YR 7/2, 5YR 4/3) with a small amount of inclusions of rounded pebbles.

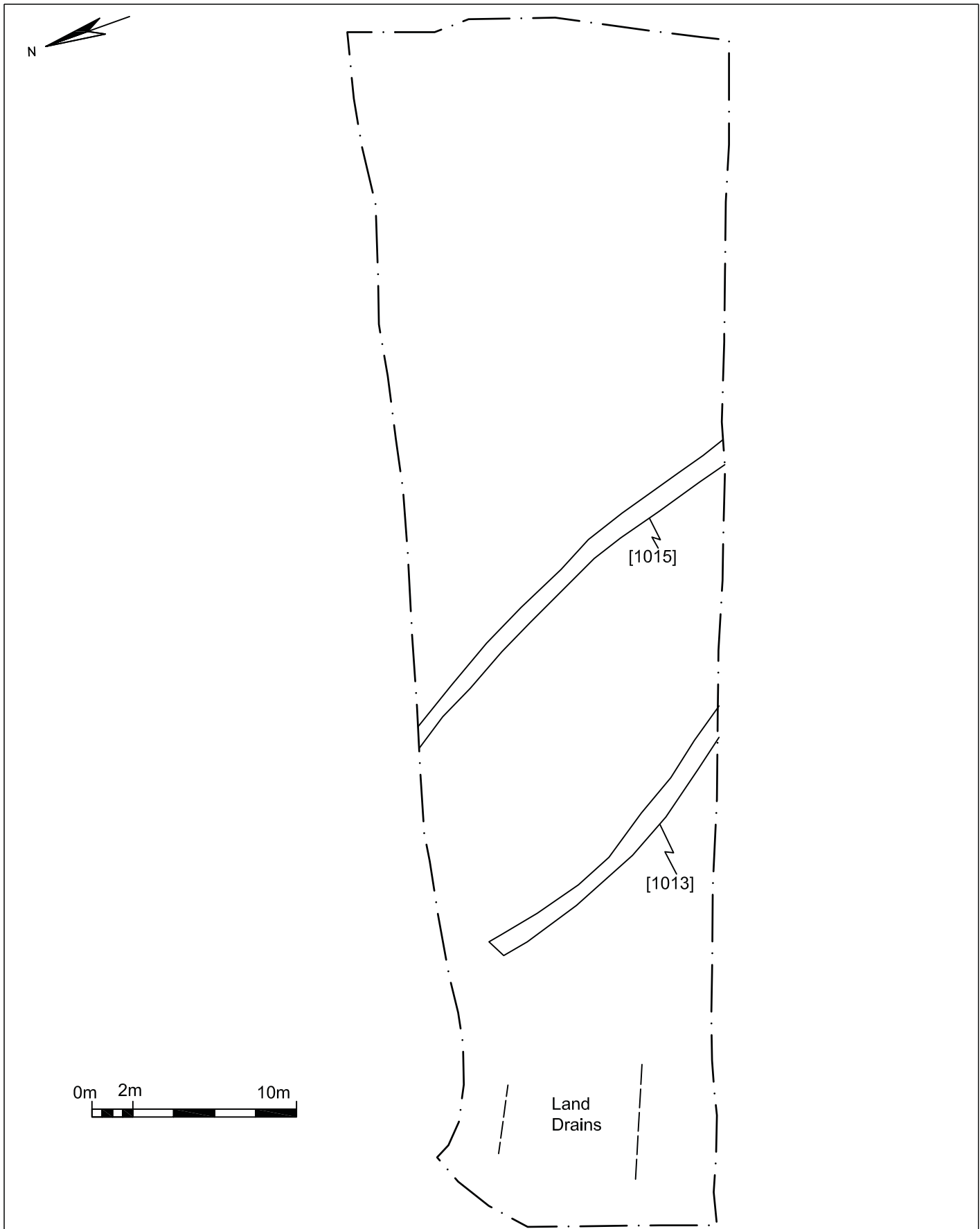
3.3 *Household Debris*

In area 2 of the site (across the river to the sewage farm), directly below the topsoil (2001) lay a deposit of household debris (2003) made up of broken pottery, glass fragments, burnt coal, unburnt coal, ash and corroded iron objects. They are likely to be associated with local farmsteads and look to have originally been a dump of household waste concentrated near the farm track which was then washed over the area during flooding and mixed with the topsoil. The typology of the pottery suggests that the dump was deposited no earlier than the 19th century. The layer was dominant at the west end of the site and measured to a depth of between 0.05m and 0.2m. A very similar deposit was found in the fill of two curved, shallow gullies at the far east of the site ([1013] and [1015]).



Fig 3: Gully [1013] filled with household waste (N-S scale = 2m, E-W scale = 0.25m)

These gullies are likely to be the remains of some sort of agricultural system that were later filled in with household waste. These features were photographed and planned (figure 3).



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Figure 4

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3.2 *Natural substratum*

Directly below the topsoil (1001, 2001), household debris (2003) and subsoil (1002, 2002) lay the natural substratum. This existed throughout the site and consisted of very fine clayish sand which varied between light yellow and mid orange in colour. The depth of this layer is unknown as it continued beyond the depth of excavation, however it could be seen in the side of the river bank approximately 10m north of one area of the trench that the sandy layer was approximately 1.2m in depth and overlaid a shallow layer of gravel approximately 0.4m in depth which in turn overlaid another sandy layer of unknown depth.

3.3 *Archaeological features*

No significant archaeological features were identified during the watching brief. However there was an amount of ridge and furrow still visible in the fields, along with some earthen banks associated with water meadows in the adjacent fields. The ridge and furrow in Area 1 were recorded photographically and a large portion of the ridge and furrow system in field 1 was surveyed (figure 6).






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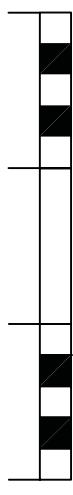
Figure 5

Key:

-  Buildings
-  Fence line / Extent of Survey
-  Extant Ridge and Furrow

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0m



45m

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1. Other than the ridge and furrow previously noted there were no archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds located within the trenches.

5. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

- 5.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 5.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

6. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

- 6.1 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.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular Severn Trent Water, Craig Thompson of Biwater, Steve Baker and Stephen Dean.

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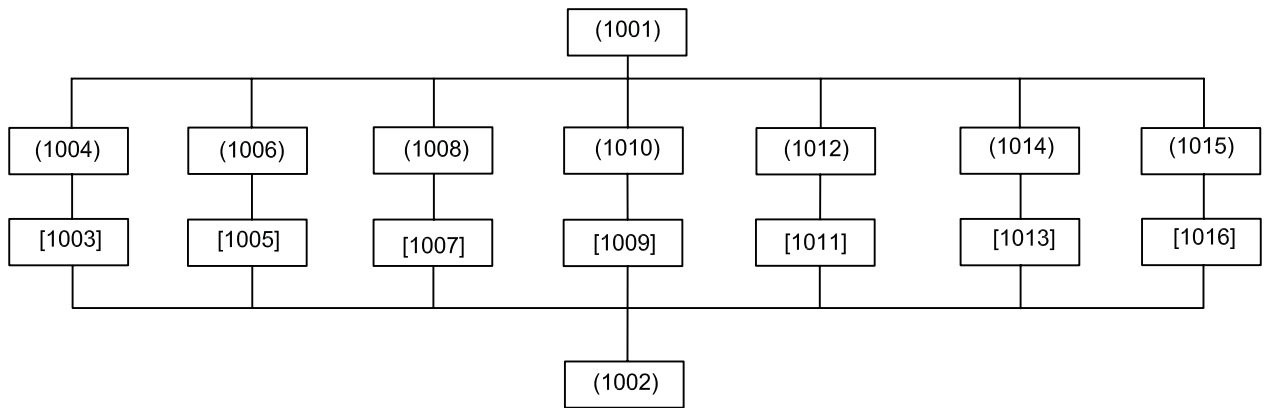
Hinde, T. (1985) *The Domesday Book: England's Heritage Then and Now*. Guild Publishing, London.

Pevsner, N. (2002) *The Buildings of England: Derbyshire*. Yale University Press, China.

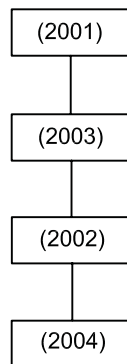
APPENDIX I: HARRIS MATRICES

Appendix I : Harris Matrices

Area 1



Area 2



APPENDIX II: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Trench	Description
1001	1	Topsoil
1002	1	Subsoil
1003	1	Cut of plough furrow
1004	1	Fill of [1004]
1005	1	Cut of plough furrow
1006	1	Fill of [1005]
1007	1	Cut of plough furrow
1008	1	Fill of [1007]
1009	1	Cut of plough furrow
1010	1	Fill of [1009]
1011	1	Cut of plough furrow
1012	1	Fill of [1011]
1013	1	Cut of debris-filled gully
1014	1	Fill of [1013]
1015	1	Cut of debris-filled gully
1016	1	Fill of [1015]
1017	1	Natural sand
2001	2	Topsoil
2002	2	Subsoil
2003	2	Household debris layer
2004	2	Natural sand

APPENDIX III: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Film One: Black and white print

Shot Number	Photograph Content
1	Trench 1 plough furrow and drain [1003]
2	Trench 1 intersection of [1007] and [1009]
3	Trench 1 gully [1013]
4	Trench 1 gully [1013]
5	Trench 1 gully [1015]

Film Two: Colour transparency

Shot No.	Description
1	Trench 1 plough furrow and drain [1003]
2	Trench 1 intersection of [1007] and [1009]
3	Trench 1 gully [1013]
4	Trench 1 gully [1013]
5	Trench 1 gully [1015]

APPENDIX IV: SPECIFICATION

**SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

DOVERIDGE TO UTTOXETER SEWAGE PIPELINE

August 2010



1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pre-application discussions with Severn Trent Water regarding the laying of a new pipeline between Doveridge and the sewage treatment works at Uttoxeter just off the A50. The main element of the works lies within Staffordshire although a small portion lies in Derbyshire; the route of the Scheme generally extends across open arable fields between the two Settlements and covers a distance of approximately 2km across the valley floor of the River Trent. The Principal Archaeologists of both Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) have identified Demonstrable potential for the groundworks to encounter buried archaeological remains (see section 2.0 for details).
- 1.2 Taking into consideration the scale, length and degree of physical impact of the proposed works and the demonstrable potential along the archaeological length of the scheme it has been advised that an archaeological watching brief be maintained throughout the course of the groundworks. This approach is supported by PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment Policy HE12 which states that where demonstrable archaeological is to be potential impacted then local planning authorities should 'require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost'.
- 1.3 The objective of this specification therefore is to establish a framework which is acceptable to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), acting on the advice of the principal archaeologist, within which a watching brief may be carried out. For the purposes of the archaeological watching brief this specification covers the entire length of the pipeline including both Counties.
- 1.4 The watching brief will be conducted in accordance with this specification and will be carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008). All stages of the project will be carried out in accordance with the requirements established in the English Heritage volume entitled the 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (MAP2).
- 1.5 This Specification may act as the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) identified within the planning condition. Alternatively the appointed archaeological organization may choose to prepare a separate WSI based upon the content of this Specification. Any variation in working methodology in either case must be agreed in advance with the developer and the LPA through the County Principal Archaeologist.

2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Staffordshire

- 2.1.1 There are no designated heritage assets within the route of the pipeline or in its immediate vicinity. However, the Dove Bridge (PRN00906 and SM No.260) which once carried the Uttoxeter to Derby road over the River Dove is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a Grade II listed structure. This heritage asset lies approximately 500m to the north of the pipeline route. The Historic Environment Record (HER) does record an area of ridge and furrow which the route crosses through a field immediately to the southeast of Uttoxeter sewage works (PRN20145). These remains were recorded from the 1960-3 aerial photographs of the area and they would appear to have been ploughed out in the intervening period. There remains the possibility that these may instead be the remains of a bedwork water meadow system which stretched along the valley floor of the River Dove during the late eighteenth century. Surviving earthworks and structural remains of a similar type of system survive at Willows Farm approximately 950m to the south east while further examples survive to the north of Dove Bridge.
- 2.1.2 Comparatively little archaeological work has been carried out either within the floodplain of the River Dove or in the area to the north east of Uttoxeter. However, archaeological mitigation in advance of gravel extraction at Uttoxeter Quarry approximately 1.5km to the north of the Uttoxeter sewage treatment works has revealed the first evidence for late prehistoric activity along the River Dove. This is currently being written up although the initial works has recovered eight late Neolithic/early Bronze Age cremations within a large enclosure, several other enclosures, ring ditches and a burnt mound close to the river. This evidence would suggest a similar type of activity occurring along the River Dove as is happening along the Trent with Extensive ceremonial and burial activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age Followed by an increase in occupation and agriculture during the Iron Age. However, no evidence for Iron Age activity has to date been recovered from Uttoxeter Quarry.

2.2 Derbyshire

- 2.2.1 Only a very short stretch of the pipeline lies within Derbyshire and no heritage assets are recorded along the route of the pipeline. The route does cross the floodplain of the Dove and in 2000 the construction of a pipeline 2km to the south of the sewage works revealed evidence of former river channels with palaeo-environmental potential and previously unknown prehistoric and Romano-British remains were also discovered. The potential for significant heritage assets of archaeological interest is therefore high.

3.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed or small finds encountered during the groundworks and in particular any surviving features or assemblage groups associated with prehistoric activity in the valley of the River Dove.
- 3.2 To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains.
- 3.3 To secure the recording and assessment of suitable palaeoenvironmental deposits associated with archaeological features where these are encountered during groundworks.
- 3.4 To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 The archaeological contractor may use this specification as their WSI or may choose to prepare a separate WSI detailing the recording works to be undertaken during groundworks. If the contractor prepares their own WSI this must take into account the requirements of this specification. The project should include the following as appropriate:
 1. All removal of material should be carried out under archaeological supervision. All machine excavation (topsoil stripping and pipetrench excavation) shall be carried out using a toothless bucket;
 2. Examination of all sub-surface interventions associated with the work such as service trenches, footing trenches, pile caps etc;
 3. The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits identified within these sub-surface interventions and across the stripped easement area;
 4. Examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material. A metal detector will be employed during the visual inspection of spoil heaps;
 5. A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.
- 4.2 Where an unexpected or significant archaeological discovery is made during the course of the watching brief the appropriate curator will be contacted as soon as is practical and a site meeting arranged to discuss the formulation of an appropriate response. A specific design will be prepared detailing the agreed mitigation approach, the methodology to be employed and the post-excavation

work required. The Appointed Archaeological Contractor should prepare a contingency sum for this work to be agreed with the Client.

- 4.3 A written record of the progress of the watching brief shall be maintained and supported by the production of plans and sections drawings (at appropriate scales). A Photographic record (monochrome prints and polychrome will slides) will also be maintained and supported by an index and site plan of shot locations.
- 4.4 All spoil removed during groundworks is to be scanned visually and using a metal detector to recover small finds. Any finds recovered from spoil heaps should be recorded and their location noted on a site plan at a relevant scale. Similarly any artefacts recovered from the surface of the stripped easement Should have their location recorded. The finds should be retained, recorded and Discussed within the report and recommendations made for further conservation. The necessity for the long term conservation of finds from the site will be agreed with the archaeological contractor, representatives of the County Council and the LPA Archaeologist. Contingency provisions should be made within the programme of work for this.
- 4.5 If necessary, arrangements shall be made for development to be interrupted for reasonable periods in order that satisfactory records might be made.
- 4.6 If finds are located of a significance beyond that which might have been anticipated before the development began, development shall cease where they might be disturbed in order that provision for their adequate recording or preservation may be made in consultation with the LPA or personnel nominated by them. Contingency provisions should be made within the programme of work for this.
- 4.7 The developer shall afford access to the development site for the purposes of archaeological monitoring to officers of the LPA or personnel nominated by them at all reasonable times upon compliance with the requirements of health and safety.
- 4.8 The developer shall give the LPA or personnel nominated by them at least ten days' notice in writing of the commencement of the development, and shall keep them informed of the progress of the watching brief during the period in which it is carried out.
- 4.9 The project archive shall be compiled in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term storage* (UKIC, 1990), and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (MuseumandGalleriesCommission, 1992).
- 4.10 The archaeological contractor should agree all on-site working practices with the developer at the earliest opportunity and identify those elements of the construction programme requiring time for recording.

- 4.11 The project should also attempt to place the project findings into their historical and geographical context through cartographic and documentary research.
- 4.12 The project should be by an archaeological organisation working in accordance with the By-laws of the Institute for Archaeologists. Archaeologists working on the project should not attempt tasks outside of their areas of competence.
- 4.13 Any articulated human remains which are encountered must initially be left in situ until a licence to excavate has been granted by the Department of Justice (Tel: 02070 355532). The provisions for analysis, assessment and reburial of any human remains encountered during groundworks should be discussed with representatives of the County Council and the LPA Archaeologist. A contingency for the recording of articulated and excavation of articulated human remains should also be agreed in advance. Similarly provision for the reburial on consecrated ground of any human remains encountered during groundworks should also be made.
- 4.14 Any material recovered which would be regarded as Treasure under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996 should be reported to the coroner.

5. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

- 5.1 A single report on the results obtained shall be prepared to include the results of the watching brief from both Counties. This report should be submitted to both archaeological curators within 8 weeks of the completion of site work. This should include consideration of:
1. non-technical summary
 2. the aims and methods adopted in the course of the recording
 3. the nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological and environmental material uncovered
 4. the anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits and structures on the site not disturbed by development - surviving areas of archaeological potential should be indicated on the site plan
 5. the results of any work on unexpected or significant archaeological discoveries made during the archaeological watching brief
 6. appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, and drawings at an appropriate scale and photographs. All plans, sections, etc., created during the watching brief will be related to Ordnance Survey datum levels and their relation to the National Grid referencing system shall be made clear.

7. summary of results
8. description of the archive and the location for its long-term deposition
- 5.2 If significant remains are recorded during the project, then it may be necessary to undertake a full programme of analysis and publication in accordance with the guidelines contained in English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects 2. If this is the case, then a timetable and programme of work for this aspect of the project will need to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for agreement.
- 5.3 The post excavation work shall be carried out immediately on completion of site investigations. The site archive shall be prepared in accordance with established professional guidelines.
- 5.4 The written and illustrated report of the watching brief shall be copied to:
 - i) the client
 - ii) the County Council
 - iii) the National Monuments Record
- 5.5 The copy of the report sent to the County Council **must** be accompanied by a completed copy of the Activity and Source Submission Form (see appendix 1) and a CD Rom containing a full pdf copy of the report, supplementary documents and all drawings.
- 5.6 The archive and finds, including a copy of the watching brief report, shall be deposited at an appropriate museum, such as the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery at Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. The museum guidelines regarding the acceptance of such material should be taken into account. The recipient museum shall be informed in advance of the date when the watching brief is to commence.
- 5.7 The written report will become publicly accessible, as part of the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record, within six months of completion. The AFC shall also submit a short summary report for inclusion in the next edition of the journal *West Midlands Archaeology* within 6 months of the completion of the fieldwork.

If you wish to comment on the contents of this brief or require additional information, then please contact Stephen Dean at the address below:

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Staffordshire County Council
Development Services Dept,
Riverway, Stafford ST16 3TJ

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