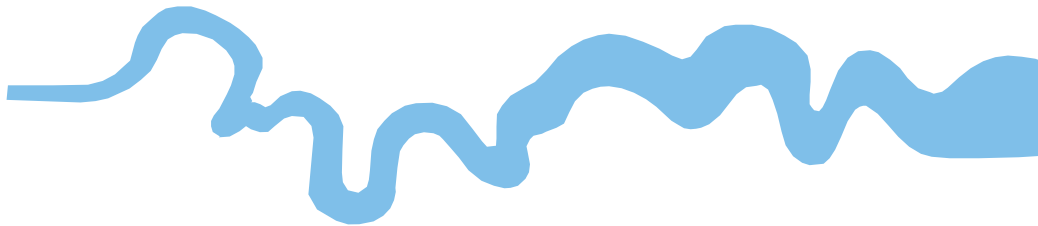


**T V A S**



**NORTH MIDLANDS**

**University of Derby land, Ford Street,  
Derby, Derbyshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Steve Ford**

**Site Code: FSD 21/176**

**(SK 3476 3652)**

**University of Derby land, Ford Street,  
Derby, Derbyshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief  
for University of Derby**

by Steve Ford  
TVAS North Midlands

Site Code FSD21/176

**August 2021**

## Summary

**Site name:** University of Derby land, Ford Street, Derby, Derbyshire

**Grid reference:** SK 3476 3652

**Site activity:** Watching brief

**Date and duration of project:** 26th July 2021

**Project coordinator:** Helen Daniel

**Site supervisor:** Steve Ford

**Site code:** FSD21/176

**Summary of results:** Three test pits dug for geotechnical purposes were monitored. One of these revealed modern deposits associated with the foundations of the modern building and a brick/tile floor of a previous building. The other two test pits were positioned to examine foundations identified by GPR survey. These brick constructions were revealed and were founded on large sandstone blocks, which in turn overlay mid-19th century deposits above gravel. No artefacts nor deposits of archaeological interest were revealed.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands and will be deposited with a suitable repository in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 26.08.21
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# University of Derby land, Ford Street, Derby, Derbyshire Archaeological Watching Brief

by Steve Ford

**Report 21/176**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of a watching brief carried out to monitor the digging of a series of geotechnical test pits in advance of redevelopment of a parcel of land at Ford Street, Derby, Derbyshire (SK3476 3652) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the University of Derby as advised by Ms Helen Martin-Bacon of Avalon Heritage.

Planning consent is to be sought from Derby City Council to build a new business school on the site.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the western margins of Derby City centre (Fig. 1), on the west side of Ford Street and to the north of Agard Street (Fig. 2). The site is currently used as a Tarmacadamed car park with a hall of student residence to the west. The site lies at a height of *c.* 48m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as alluvium with Allenton sand and gravel immediately adjacent to the south (BGS 2021). A brook (Markeaton) is culverted beneath the site.

## **Archaeological Background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been detailed in a Heritage Statement produced by Avalon Heritage (Martin-Bacon 2021). In summary the site lies beyond the historic (Saxon, Medieval) core of Derby but within a zone developed in post-medieval times. The first cartographically recorded development on the site is depicted on Roper's map of 1806 with two large structures fronting Agard Street with garden to the rear (north). A similar layout is present for the plot now occupied by the hall of residence. The Ordnance Survey map of 1880 shows much change with numerous structures present, along with the viaduct of the Great Northern Railway line along the western margins of the site. Demolition of structures on the site took place after 1938 according to the historic maps, but Ford Street was widened in 1936. Various fieldwork projects have been carried out in the vicinity variously reporting some Medieval but mostly Post-medieval remains. Fieldwork has also take place on the site itself revealing medieval features and walls with as many as six episodes of reconstruction present.

Building Recording also took place on 5 Agard Street and 33-35 Ford Street, prior to their demolition. A watching brief along the Ford Street frontage revealed a vault containing post-medieval burials in lead-lined coffins associated with the nearby Baptist chapel.

A number of listed buildings of 17th-19th century date, including a railway bridge, are also present in the vicinity of the site.

## **Results**

Three test pits were dug and monitored.

### Test Pit 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1-4)

This test pit was 0.6m wide and up to 1.9m deep. It was initially 3.5m long orientated E-W. The pit was subsequently extended eastwards to 9m (Pl. 3) but without digging to the full depth of the initial pit. The stratigraphy encountered comprised 0.05m of Tarmac over 0.15m of rubble. At this position the top of a brick-built plinth was encountered with the test pit dug down its side. Further rubble lay to the side of the plinth. The plinth continued down to a depth of 0.7m before being founded on sandstone rubble to a depth of 1m. The rubble overlay a yellow slightly clayey sand to a depth of 1.6m giving way to a charcoal rich red/brown clayey sand with much fragmented brick and some transfer-printed pottery ('china') (Pl. 4) This overlay gravel natural geology below 1.9m.

### Test Pit 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 5-6)

This test pit was 0.6m wide and was dug adjacent to the north wall of the hall of residence. It was 2.5m long and 0.95m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.1m of turf overlying 0.85m of brick and sandstone rubble onto a brick/tile floor. No further excavation took place below this floor.

### Test Pit 3 (Figs 3 and 5; Pls 7-8)

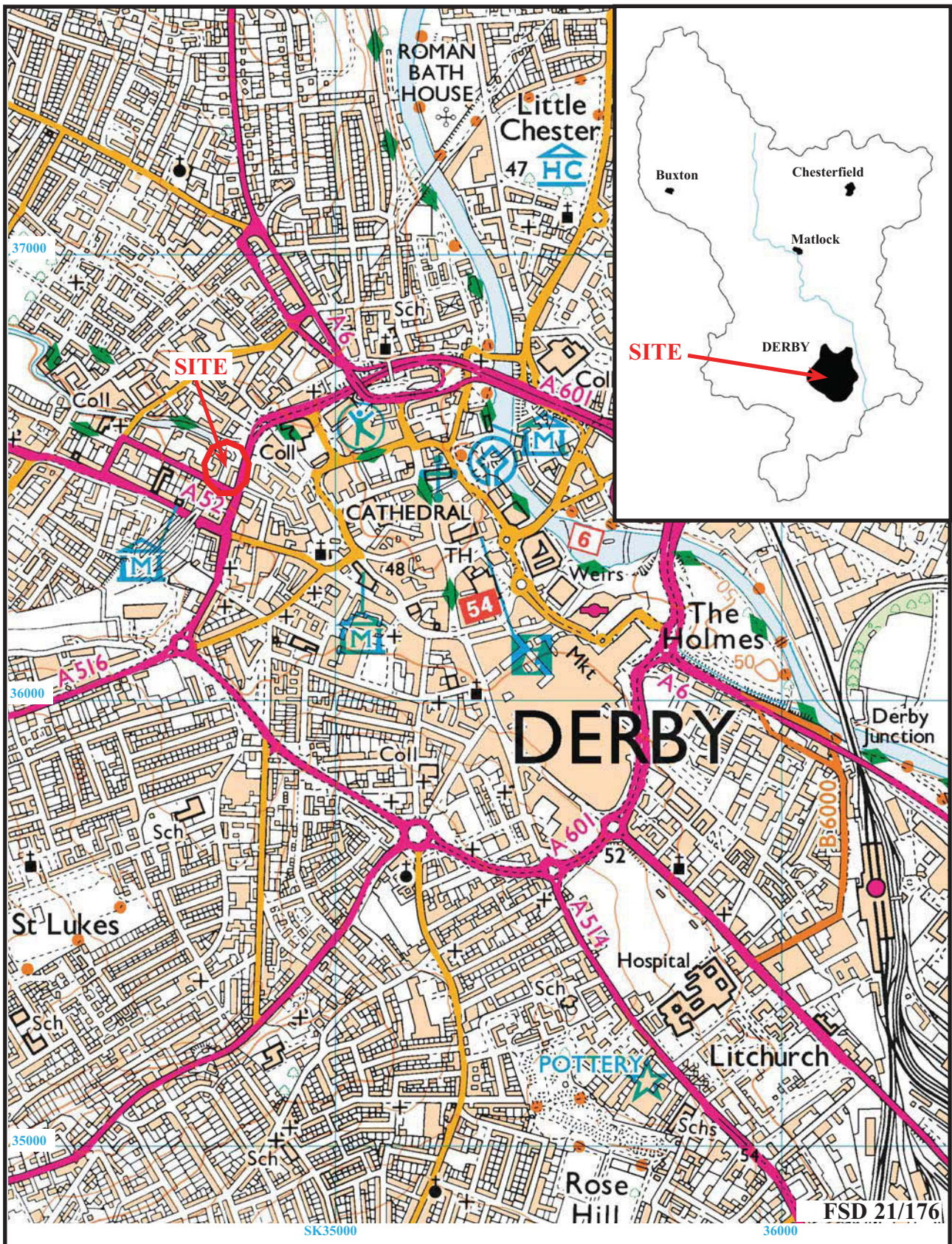
This test pit was 0.6m wide, 2m deep and initially 2m long orientated E-W. The pit was subsequently extended southwards by 1.6m but without digging to the full depth of the initial pit. The stratigraphy encountered comprised 0.05m of Tarmac over the top of a second brick-built plinth. The test pit dug down the plinth's side revealed 2m of brick and stone rubble which directly overlay gravel natural geology. The rubble infill comprised brick and sandstone ashlar including a drain made from sandstone (Pl. 9).

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief has noted the presence of two brick-built plinths which may have been part of the railway viaduct, and a deeply buried deposit of 19th century date. The underlying natural geology comprised gravel with no evidence of alluvial deposits. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds recovered.

## **References**

- BGS, 2021, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [accessed July 2021]  
Martin-Bacon, H, 2021, 'Land at the corner of Agard Street and Ford Street, Derby, a heritage statement', Avalon Heritage report AH 434, Stoke-on-Trent

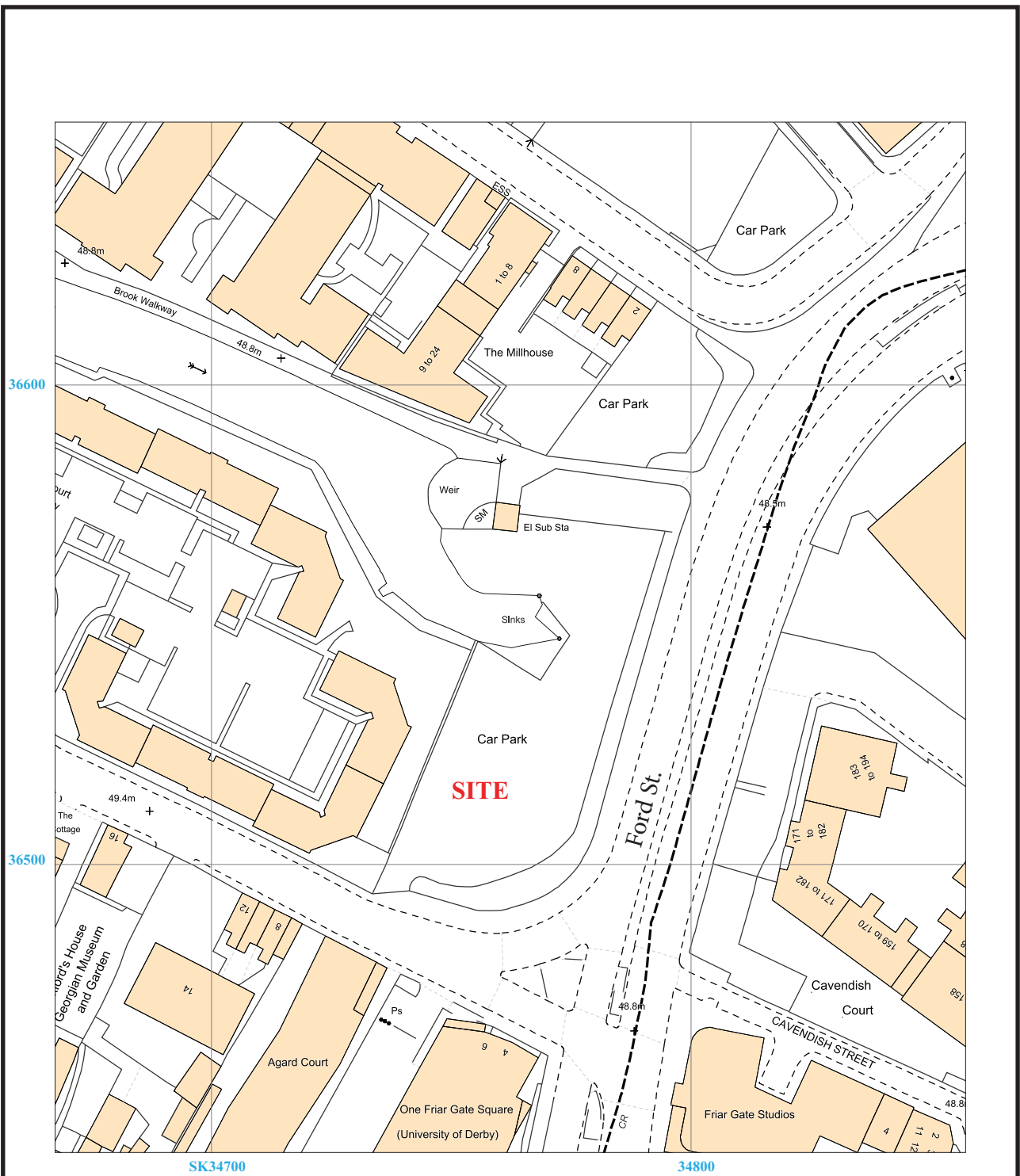


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Figure 1. Location of site within Derby and Derbyshire.

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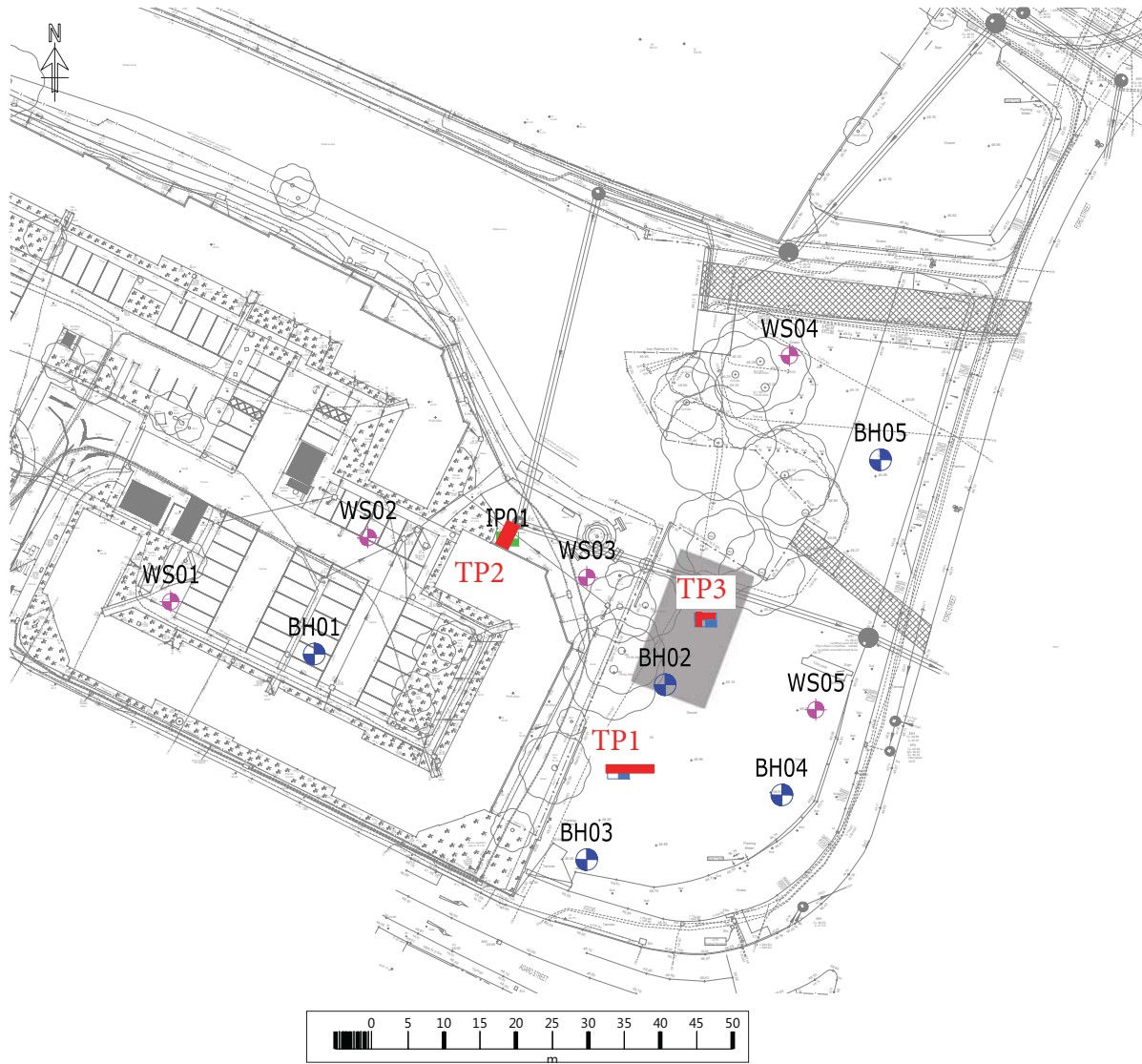
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Ford Street.

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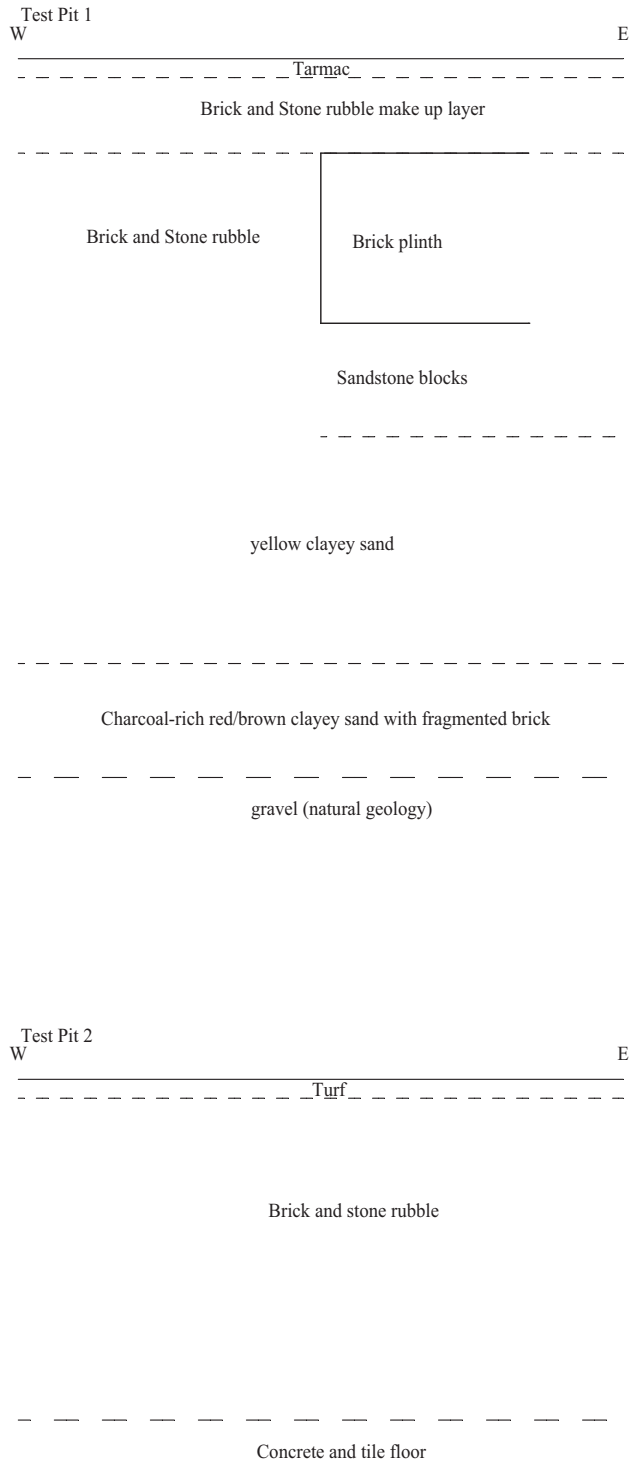


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Figure 3. Location of test pits observed (TP1-3)



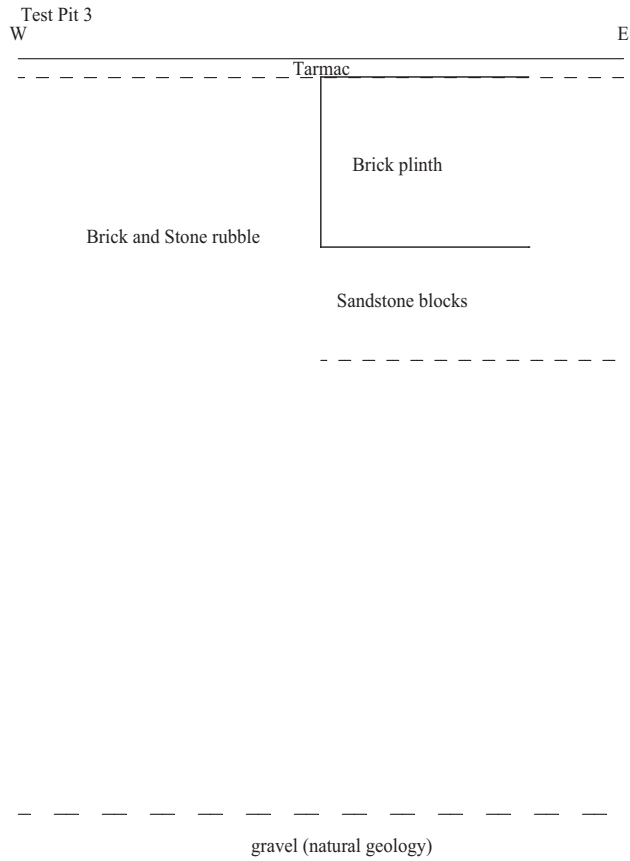


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Figure 4. Sections of test pits 1 and 2





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Figure 4. Sections of test pit 1





Plate 1: Setting of site looking North East (TP 1 in foreground)



Plate 2: TP 1 showing brick viaduct foundations looking North. Depth of scale: 1.1m



Plate 3: TP 1 extended to east to reveal more of brick foundations, looking North



Plate 4: TP 1 looking South. Depth of scale: 2.1m



Plate 5: TP 2 looking South. Depth of scale: 1m



Plate 6: Setting of TP 2 looking South West

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Plates 1-6

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Plate 7: TP 3 showing brick foundations looking North East. Depth of scale: 2.1m



Plate 8: TP 3 showing brick foundations looking North. Depth of scale: 2.1m



Plate 9: TP 3 Sandstone drain from backfill. Scale: 0.3m

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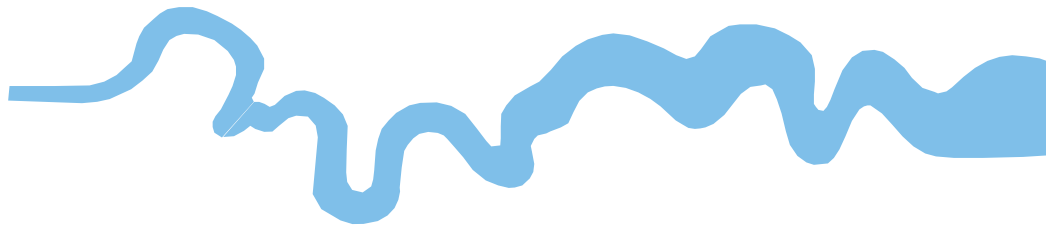
Plates 7-9



## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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