15 Station Road, Denby, Derbyshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

Client: Mr & Mrs G. Holtam

Prepared by M. Hurford

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1. BACKGROUND

Site Name: 15 Station Road, Denby, Derbyshire, DE5 8ND
NGR: SK 38612 47345
Client: Mr & Mrs G. Holtam
Planning Application AVA/2026/0174
Proposed Work*:* Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of a replacement bungalow with detached garage and outbuilding.

Mr & Mrs G. Holtam has commissioned Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the ground works associated with the demolition of the existing bungalow and construction of a replacement bungalow with detached garage and outbuilding at 15 Station Road, Denby, Derbyshire, DE5 8ND centred on National Grid Reference SK 38612 47345 (Figure 1-2) as part of Planning Application AVA/2026/0174.

Denby is a small village located three miles to the east of Belper and eight miles north of Derby with the bungalow situated just under a mile to the north-west of the village within late twentieth century ribbon development along Station Road. The property comprises a modern bungalow with a drive to the front extending to Station Road and gardens to the rear backing onto open fields. The house lies at *c*. 289.10 O.D. The 1:50,000 British Geological Survey (British Geological Survey 2026) illustrates that the underlying geology is Pennine Lower Coal Measures with no superficial deposits recorded.

The development lies within a larger triangular piece of land defined by three distinct features of archaeological interest (Figure 3). Station Road to the east, recorded on the Derbyshire HER (MDR4698) as likely to be on the line of Ryknield Street, a major Roman road in England running roughly 110 miles from the Fosse Way at Burton-on-the-Water in Gloucestershire north-east to Templeborough in South Yorkshire and used throughout the Roman period from 43 AD to 409 AD. To the south is the route of the Midland Railway Ripley Branch Amber Valley and Erewash (MDR11724). that was completed in 1855 and abandoned in the 1990s following the closure of Denby coal washery. The western boundary follows the line of a former mineral railway which is depicted on Sanderson's map of 1835. In addition, the site is within a former deer park (MDR13039) which had medieval origins and was still extant during the Elizabethan period. Thus, the site itself is bounded by a Roman road to the east, a mineral track of likely early nineteenth century date to the west and is within a former deer park of medieval to seventeenth century date. Buildings depicted within the site from 1835 onwards may relate to the industry prevalent in the area during the nineteenth century notably the brick works and collieries to the south.

Due to the archaeological interest of the site, principally regarding the Roman road, Derbyshire County Council requested an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the works. The details of this WSI are guided by recent consultations with Steve Baker, Derbyshire County Archaeologist at Derbyshire County Council, to ensure works are conducted to an appropriate standard and in line with the expectations of the council.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of the proposed archaeological work can be stated as:

To identify the presence of any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the work and to achieve an appropriate level of *preservation by record*. Where practical (within the constraints of the watching brief), this will include an assessment of the overall extent, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains.

Any buried archaeological remains identified would potentially offer an opportunity to address research priorities highlighted in the East Midlands Updated Research Agenda and Strategy (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012) notably section notably section 6.5 Romano-British (43 – c. 410):

5.7.1 Roads and waterways – Can the chronology of road construction and links between road building and campaigns of conquest be clarified?

6.9 Modern (1750 to Present):

9.7.3 What linear transport features and structural features have survived and how does this vary regionally?

All excavations potentially provide an opportunity to recover palaeoenvironmental samples which contribute to an understanding of the nature of the landscape and the uses to which it was put. If appropriate archaeology is identified, then a representative proportion of excavated features will be sampled in line with the methodology set out in Appendix 1. The results of processing and analysis will be assessed in the light of the research objectives set out above.

2.2. The proposed archaeological work comprises:

The archaeological monitoring of all intrusive ground works with the potential to impact on features and layers of archaeological significance including trenching for services and landscaping (Figure 4). It is thought that the archaeology is likely to have been truncated within the footprint of the existing bungalow and so monitoring will not be required during its demolition. The most sensitive areas are likely to be within the garden in the location of the new outbuilding which is adjacent to the former mineral trackway and for the new garage which is by Station Road that is on the likely line of Ryknield Street. If significant archaeological features or deposits are encountered the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council will be informed which may require a temporary stop to work being undertaken and a new written scheme of investigation produced which will have to be approved by the Derbyshire County Archaeologist prior to work re-commencing. The result will potentially be additional costs in the form of extra staff and/or specialist attendance and post-excavation analysis and digital archiving. In addition, there may be extra costs where it is deemed necessary to take samples for palaeo-environmental analysis, scientific dating, or to identify and interpret industrial processes.

All recording will result in 'the preparation of a report and ordered archive', in line with the guidelines of the CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and Guidance: for an archaeological watching brief* published October 1994, revised September 2001 and October 2008).

3. METHODOLOGY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 General conditions

Staffing. The work will be undertaken by suitably qualified archaeologists according to accepted archaeological practice and the 'Standard & Guidance' produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Notice. Clients are requested to give at least four weeks' notice of the commencement of works to both Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services and the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

Services. The client will be responsible for carrying out service checks prior to ground works, and will provide plans of all services within the development area.

Base maps. The client is requested to supply both digital copies and hard copies to scale of base maps to be used during the fieldwork and within the report.

Contingency. If important archaeological features and finds or palaeoenvironmental deposits are encountered they may be subject to a request for contingency funding covering additional staffing and/or specialist attendance and post-excavation analysis. Contingency expenditure would only occur with the explicit recommendation of the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council for Derbyshire County Council, and the prior agreement of the client. Should archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be treated to a satisfactory and proper standard within the resources allocated to the watching brief the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council for Derbyshire County Council, will immediately be informed. This may entail ceasing any site work that is damaging to remains present until resources are in place to either ensure preservation *in situ* or adequate treatment

of the archaeological remains.

Report. A record of the results, whether positive or not, will be made and presented in an appropriate report format to the client and the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council for Derbyshire County Council, within 6 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. Further details of the report structure are specified below (Detailed Specification of Archaeological Recording).

Fencing. The client will be responsible for securing the site from unauthorised public access.

Machine. The client will provide the necessary plant and equipment for the excavation including drivers.

3.2 Fieldwork

Where appropriate, the archaeological contractor will implement the following requirements:

Machining
The client must ensure the use of a **toothless ditching bucket** on any excavator/machine so that a clean surface can be exposed and the archaeologist can inspect the deposits revealed. Any exceptions to this must only occur following agreement with the archaeologist on site and the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

Spoil-heaps
Where practical and safe to do so, all spoil heaps will be regularly examined for archaeological material.

3.3 Recording – general

Recording will as a minimum include the location and extent of any archaeology exposed in the monitored areas, their depth, and the deposits exposed, both by scale drawing (section and/or plan where applicable) and photograph. For further details of the recording methodology see below (*Detailed Specification of Archaeological Recording by Watching Brief*).

Project Staff
The watching brief will be managed and undertaken by M. Hurford.

Reporting and Liaison
A report on the results, whether positive or not, will be prepared in the appropriate format and presented to the client and the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council for Derbyshire County Council within 6 months of the completion of the fieldwork. Should the results of the watching brief warrant it then a detailed report will also be submitted for publication in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal and an appropriate specialist publication covering the period from which the remains have been dated. For further details of the contents of the report see below (Detailed Specification of Archaeological Recording by Watching Brief).

The County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council for Derbyshire County Council will be given a minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of the watching brief, and Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services will continue to liaise closely throughout the period of the works. The curator will be free to visit the site to monitor fieldwork subject to access conditions imposed by the client and/or landowner, and adherence to relevant health and safety guidance.

3.4 Welfare, Access and Insurance

The client will ensure safe access to the ground-works and make toilet and hand-washing facilities available to archaeological staff.

Services Checks
The client will make available all information relating to buried services prior to the commencement of intrusive ground works.

Insurance/compensation
Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services carry the appropriate public and third party insurances, copies of which are available for inspection if required.

Any compensation claims for disruption to the land should be directly between the client and landowner.

3.5 Health and Safety

Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services will adhere to all relevant health and safely regulations. No archaeological staff will be allowed to enter the site until they have undergone a health and safety induction organised by Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services and/or the principal contractor. Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services will complete a task specific risk assessment safe working method statement before the commencement of the watching-brief, and copies of this will be made available to the client. This will be in compliance with the industry guidelines laid out in FAME Manual, *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology*. Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services staff will wear appropriate personal protective equipment at all times.

4. DETAILED SPECIFICATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

The investigation will be carried out in accordance with the code of conduct of The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Features will be hand cleaned and planned. All features will be sample excavated sufficient to determine their plan and form and to recover any datable artefacts , initially 10% of linear features and 50% of discrete features. However, if the goit is encountered the portion located within the footprint of the new build will be excavated in its entirety.

Feature fills will be removed by contextual change (the smallest usefully definable unit of stratification) and/or spits no greater than 100mm. Substantial features will be hand excavated to a maximum depth of 1m, or a perceived depth if the sides are unstable.

All finds of medieval date or earlier will be recorded three dimensionally. Post medieval finds or abundant redeposited material will be recorded by context/spit.

Spoil will be visually inspected for artefacts.

The Coroner will be immediately informed if human remains are found. Disturbance of human remains will be avoided where possible. Where removal is deemed necessary, following discussion with the client and County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council, the necessary licence will be obtained in line with the Ministry of Justice circular dated April 2008.

In the event that important archaeological remains are uncovered, the client's site representative will be informed immediately, with a proposal for the most effective measures for dealing with the remains. If they cannot be preserved *in situ,* their excavation may require contingency resources and additional time; the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council be informed of such events and their input requested.

Recording
Plans of all contexts will be drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and will show at least:

context numbers,
all colour and textural changes,
principal slopes represented as hachures,
sufficient details to locate the subject on a 1:500 plot of the area of ground-works and O.S. 1:2500 map (i.e the national grid).

The locations of all sections will be shown on the plan.

The recording will involve the use a DSLR camera at 10-megapixel minimum resolution.

Sampling (Palaeoenviromental & Industrial residues)
Where appropriate features are identified soil samples will be retrieved in order to undertake palaeo-environmental sampling. The sampling of features will follow procedures set out within the English

Heritage Centre of Archaeology Guidelines, *Environmental Archaeology* 2011. Samples will generally be 30 litres if possible.

Depending on the type of deposits identified, soil samples may also be retained for the purpose of retrieving industrial residues or for the provision of scientific dating (e.g. C14 dating). The range of techniques applicable to differing preservation and depositional environments is set out in Table 1.

Where it is deemed necessary to take samples for palaeo-environmental analysis, scientific dating, or to identify and interpret industrial processes the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council will be consulted as a contingency cost will have to be enacted by the client.

All samples will be processed and analysed by suitably qualified specialists.

Table 1 – Preliminary Site Sampling Strategy*

feature type	Sediment condition	Overall scope of sampling	MM	C14	Po/Dm	Ch	BP/BS	Bo	Wd
Sampling method:				A4x1cm (seal)	Film caps or column in gutter + Clingfilm	Min.30L+ Tubs (specialists to advise as to appropriate level of sub sampling of deposit)			wrap each bit sep.
Man-made feature	Waterlogged organic (looks 'peaty')	each occurrence series of samples if thick (>150mm)			*	*	*	*	*
buried soil	Dry visible charred material	each occurrence (C14 selected: best is twigs then layer then flecks)		*		*		*	
	Waterlogged organic	each occurrence, at thickest point	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Dry visible charred material	each occurrence, at thickest point, series of samples if thick (>150mm)	*	*	*	*		*	
Any	Wood structure	retain all, keep damp, bag each timber		*					*
Industrial residues / debris etc.		All process stages to be represented					*		

Abbreviations MM Micromorphology **C14** Radiocarbon **Po/Dm** Pollen/diatoms **Ch** Charred material **BP** Waterlogged Beetles/Plant remains **Bo** small bone **Wd** wood. BS – Bulk Sample (industrial waste/residues/processing debris)

*Adjustments to be made following specialist advice and liaison with the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council where appropriate.

4.1 Post–excavation Processing

All finds will be stored as recommended in "First aid for finds" (by the Archaeology section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation), and marked with the site and find codes, and relevant accession numbers. These will be deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery on completion of the report, subject to the provisions of the brief and the agreement of the client.

Any Prehistoric pottery will be submitted for assessment to Dr. D. Knight (York Archaeological Trust), Romano-British pottery to A. Beeby (Independent), Anglo-Saxon and tile to L. Elliott (Independent), Medieval pottery (C. Cumberpatch), Post-medieval and modern pottery Alison Wilson (Independent), Flint to P. Webb (South West Archaeology), Palaeoenvironmental to Dr. A. J. Howard (Independent), Dendrochronology to A. J. Arnold (Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory), Coins to A. Gurney (Independent), Early medieval to modern metalwork to Dr. H. Jones (York Archaeological Trust) and Waterlogged wood to M. Bamforth (University of York).

4.2 Archive

The archive will be fully indexed and contain where relevant:

- copies of correspondence relating to fieldwork
- site notebooks/diaries
- original photographic records
- site drawings (plans, sections, elevations)
- original context records, matrix diagrams showing stratigraphic sequence of all contexts.
- artefacts
- original finds records
- original sample records
- original skeleton records
- original timber records
- computer discs and printout

4.3 Archive and Finds Deposition

The project archive will be compiled in accordance with the recommendations made in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC, 1990)) and the standards set out in Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* and the *Standard Guidance for the Creation, Transfer, and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (CIfA 2020b) and adhere to the CIfA *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* published in 2020 (CIfA 2020c).

A Project Initiation Form has been sent to Spencer Bailey at Derby Museum and Art Gallery with a proposed Contractor Site Code of SDD.1.

Should the results of the watching brief warrant deposition, contact will be made with Derby Museum and Art Gallery, using the appropriate notification form. The physical and digital archive, including finds, will be deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery. An accession number will be ascribed to the project on the completion of fieldwork. However, if the project produces no significant archaeological finds or features the archive will not be deposited with the museum. A report will be submitted to Derbyshire HER (in PDF/A format) and an OASIS record produced.

Where necessary the documentary archive will be sent to the NMR for copying.

Finds will remain the property of the client with deposition to Derby Museum and Art Gallery subject to their approval.

The paper and digital archive generated by Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services will remain their property until deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

The Derbyshire County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council and museum curator will be notified in writing on completion of fieldwork, with a proposed timetable for deposition of the archive. This should be confirmed in the project report.

The Derbyshire County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council must be informed in writing on final deposition of archive.

4.4 Report

A verbal report and where appropriate textual summary will be provided to the client on completion of fieldwork. Within 2 months of the end of the fieldwork, a final report combining the earlier evaluation and watching brief results will be completed and PDF/A copies provided to:

- The client
- Dr Dana Campbell, HER Officer for Derbyshire County Council for accession to the Sites and Monuments Record (in PDF format) and to enable the relevant planning condition to be discharged.

The report will include:

- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the project
- Methodology
- An objective summary statement of results
- Conclusion
- Illustrations at appropriate scales.
- Illustrative site photography, including key features and working shots
- Supporting data - tabulated or in appendices, including as a minimum a basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts and structural data including recommendations for retention/discard and proposals for conservation.
- Index to archive and details of archive location; confirmation of archive transfer arrangements including a provisional timetable for deposition.
- References
- A copy of the OASIS form

Dissemination
If no other publication is recommended, a brief site summary in text format will be provided for Derbyshire Archaeological Journal's annual fieldwork round-up. This will be sent to rich.shep50@btinternet.com at the same time as submitting the final report to Derbyshire HER.

Provision should be made for updating the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) where the results of a fieldwork project contribute towards agenda topics. This should be done using the interactive digital resource at *https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/* and noted explicitly in the conclusions of the relevant report.

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4.5 OASIS

Prior to commencement of the fieldwork an OASIS online record will be initiated (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/). A copy of this document will be included in the report.

4.6 Monitoring

All phases of the investigation will be undertaken in line with the relevant *'Standard and Guidance'* documents prepared by the CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists).

Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services will keep the client and the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council informed of all material facts of the archaeological investigations. This will include agreeing any changes to the approved methodology or programme of works, and invitations to inspect any uncovered remains at appropriate stages in the fieldwork programme. The County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council will be free to visit the site at any stage of the fieldwork.

5. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

A provisional timetable of July/August 2026 has been suggested for the commencement of the main ground works. As soon as a project start date is confirmed the County Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council will be informed.

6. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey., 2026 1:50,000 Geological Map Accessible at https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?_ga=2.162213180.160523869.1749023845-1305521262.1749023844 [Accessed 27/04/2026]

Brown, D. 2011 *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum.*

Crossley, D. and Kirenen, D., 1992 Lead Smelting Mills of Derbyshire *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* **112** 6-47

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020a *Standard and Guidance: for an archaeological watching brief*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020b *Standard Guidance for the Creation, Transfer, and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020c *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit

English Heritage 2008 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, PPN3 Archaeological Excavation.*

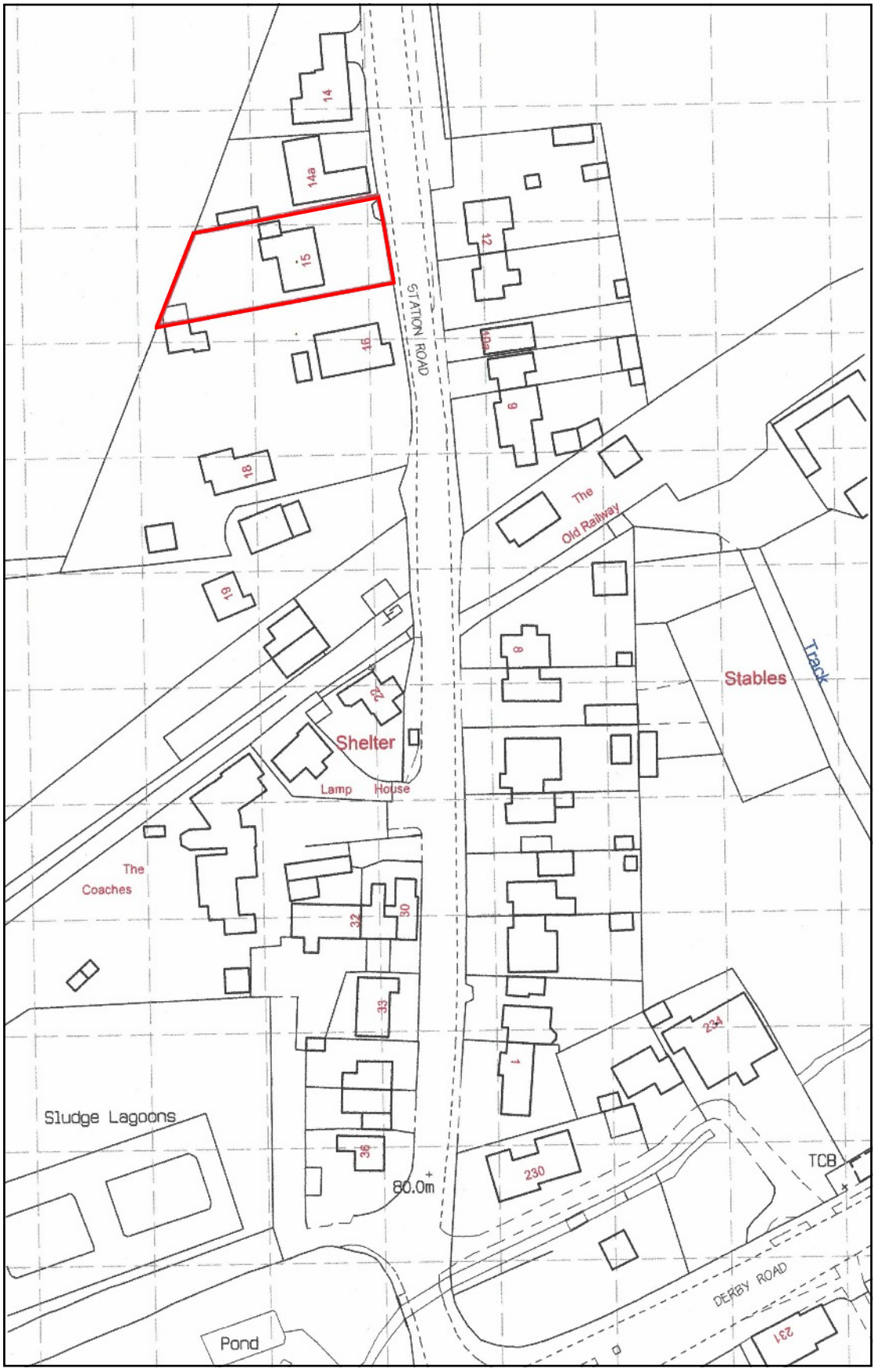
Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012 *East Midlands Heritage An Updated Research Agenda for the Historic. Environment in the East Midlands, Buxton Press.*

Sanderson, G.,1835 *Twenty Miles Round Mansfield*

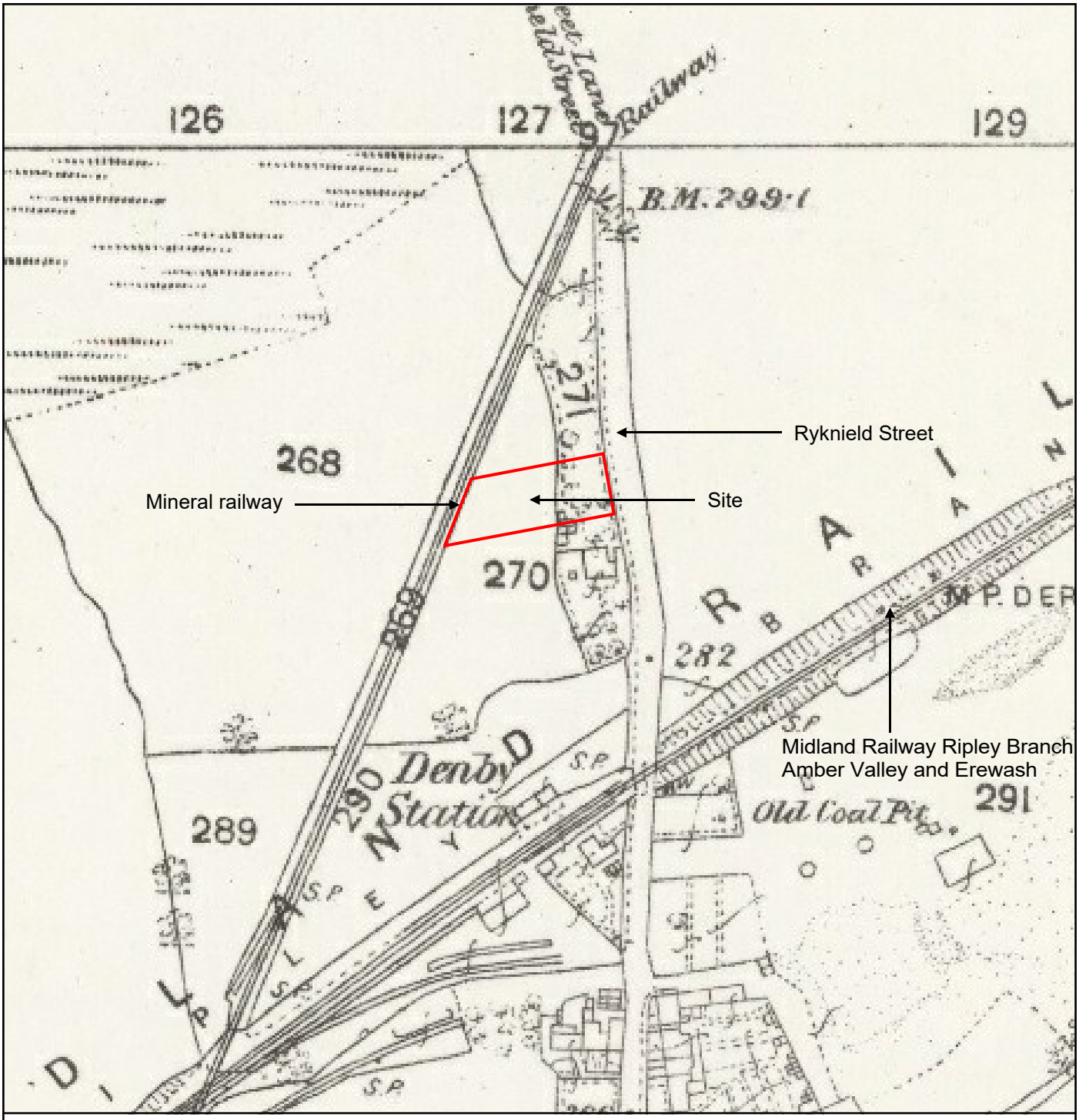
M. Hurford
Matt Hurford Historic Buildings and Archaeology Services
27/04 /26



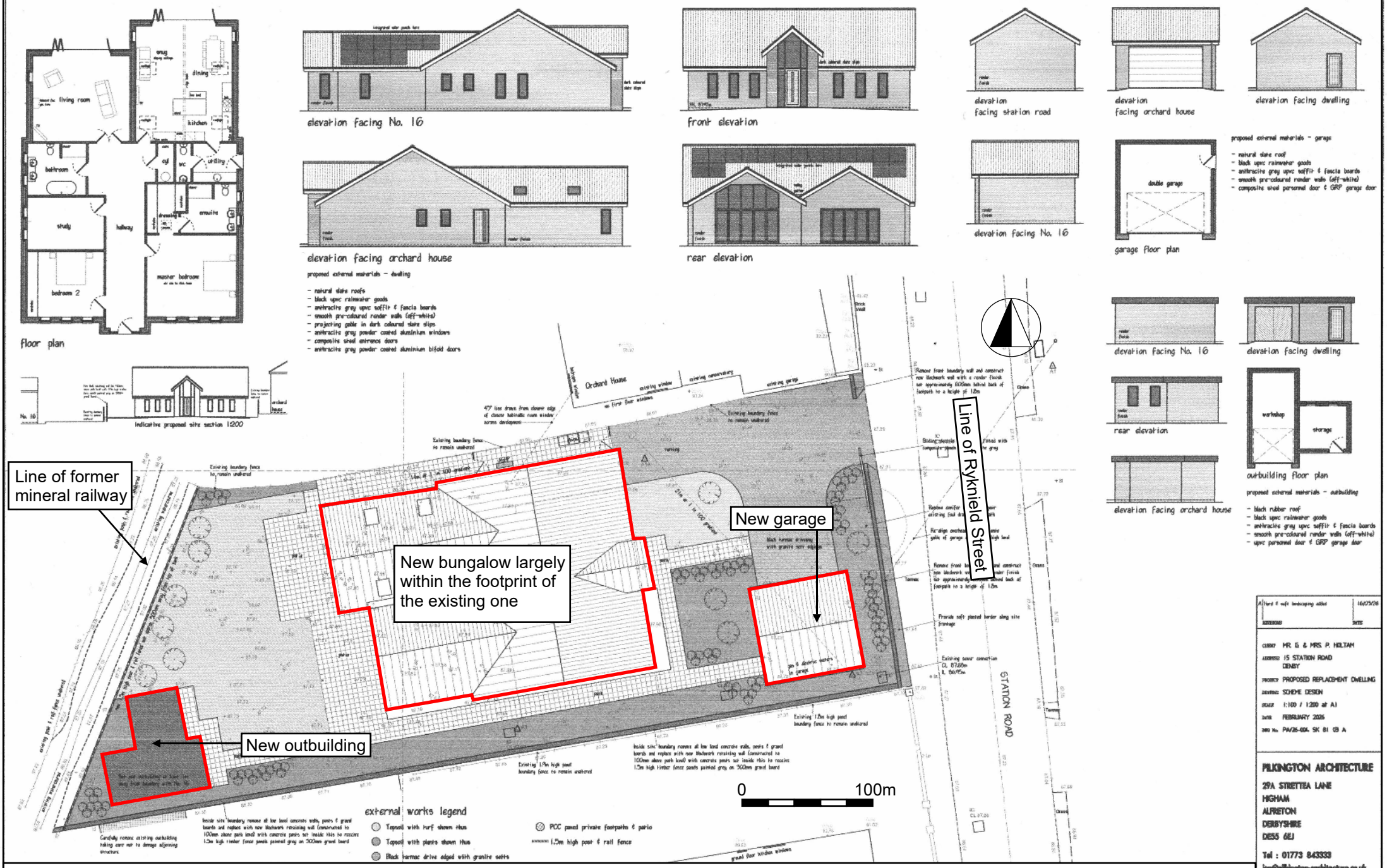
15 Station Road, Denby, Derbyshire.
Figure 1: Site location. Scale 1:10,000 at A4.
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026.



15 Station Road, Denby, Derbyshire.
Figure 2: Site location outlined in red, based on a map provided by the client.
Scale 1:2500 at A4.



15 Station Road, Denby, Derbyshire.
Figure 3: Extract from the Derbyshire XLV.2 First Edition 25 inch scale Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1880 and published in 1881 with the line of Ryknield Street, the Midland Railway Ripley Branch Amber Valley and Erewash and the mineral railway shown.
Not to regular scale.



15 Station Road, Denby, Derbyshire.
Figure 4: Drawings of the proposed new buildings and plan with the line of Ryknield Street and the former mineral railway depicted, based on a map provided by the Client and produced by Pilkington Architecture.
Scale 1:100 and 1.200 at A1.