

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

There are no designated archaeological remains within the proposed extension area. Matlock Bridge, which lies just outside the extension area, is a Scheduled Monument. The bridge is a key feature of the existing Matlock Bridge Conservation Area and it provides a tangible connection between the conservation area and the proposed extension.

The proposed extension area's location adjacent to the river Derwent and a historically important crossing point would indicate that there is some potential for past archaeological activity. Riverside locations were utilised throughout prehistory and history for different activities e.g. agricultural exploitation, hunting, fishing etc. Remains associated with these activities may therefore be encountered in the area during any significant ground disturbance works. In addition, there is some potential for palaeo-environmental remains to be present in alluvial deposits along the banks of the river and in the historical floodplain. The fact that the majority of the proposed extension area was subject to periodic flooding events prior to the development of modern flood defence works would however indicate that the area was unlikely to have been used for permanent settlement until the recent past. This is supported by historic map evidence which indicates minimal development until the mid / late 19th century.

The majority of the proposed extension area is occupied by the undeveloped expanse of Hall Leys Park. The lack of development in this area would indicate that there is some potential for archaeological deposits to survive in the area. The Causeway may be an ancient route across the floodplain so this too may have archaeological potential. In the area around Crown Square, 19th and 20th century development is likely to have disturbed / removed earlier archaeological deposits although there may be pockets of archaeological remains associated with earlier development and land use.

Overall the proposed extension area is not considered to be overly significant in archaeological terms although remains associated with the early exploitation of the area and its palaeo-environmental history may be of significance where these have been preserved in-situ and relatively undisturbed.