

# FIELDWORK IN DERBYSHIRE DURING 2005 BY THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD (ARCUS)

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## **BAMFORD, SALTERGATE LANE (SK 209828)**

*Mark Stenton*

ARCUS was commissioned to assess the archaeological potential of land at Bamford, north west of Saltergate Lane, with regard to a proposed access road from Station Road to the water treatment works. The site has been used as arable, pasture and farmland from at least the late eighteenth century and, with the exception of single structures at the Joan Lane frontage and the north-west Station Road frontage, has remained undeveloped until housing was built in the second half of the twentieth century. The only feature with possible archaeological subsurface potential was an eighteenth-century stonework wall along the perimeter of Joan Lane. Several current field boundaries and ditches accord with those depicted on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century maps and appear to be the site's only other pre-twentieth-century features. In general the undisturbed nature of the area suggests that any existing early archaeological deposits would be in good condition. Geophysical survey and targeted trial trenching were recommended to evaluate the nature of any subsurface features.

### *Reference*

Stenton, M. (2005) Archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Bamford, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 940.1.

## **CROMFORD, DENE QUARRY (SK 285563)**

*Duncan Alexander*

ARCUS monitored soil stripping in the northern extraction area of Dene Quarry, Cromford. The area around the quarry was known to contain archaeological remains from the Derbyshire lead mining industry, including spoil heaps, depressions, tops of shafts, shafts and soughs. Work in the southern extraction area revealed common eighteenth and nineteenth-century features such as dry-stone lined (ginged) climbing shafts (Pl. 1) 2.4m to 4.56m deep and possible stemples. To the north were narrow, shallow passages that could be worked veins or mine entrances. A number of unexplored earth works concentrated in the southern extraction area are likely to yield further significant evidence for the Peak District lead mining industry.

### *Reference*

Alexander, D. (2005) Archaeological watching brief, Dene Quarry, Cromford, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 450g.2.



Plate 1: Dry-stone lined (ginged) shaft at Dene Quarry, Cromford. Photo by Duncan Alexander. ©ARCUS

### **EYAM, BRADSHAW HALL (SK 21567673)**

*Rowan May*

ARCUS carried out an appraisal of land around Bradshaw Hall which was owned from the twelfth century by the Stafford family, with a large hall located at the site from the sixteenth century. The hall passed into the hands of the Bradshaw's during the seventeenth century and a three storey wing was added to the building, which was eventually converted to a cotton manufactory in 1791. Ruination, collapse and damage by fire left only the northern section of the building intact but in an unstable condition; archaeological building recording was recommended prior to any reconstruction. There is the potential for sub-surface archaeology related to the earlier occupation of the site including features such as middens, pits, foundations and floor layers. It was recommended that archaeological mitigation works be agreed with the Peak District National Park Authority Archaeological Services prior to any ground works taking place.

#### *Reference*

May, R. (2006) Archaeological desk-based assessment, Bradshaw Hall, Eyam. *ARCUS* unpublished report 991.1

### **HOPE, HOPE LIMESTONE QUARRIES, NEAR DIRTLOW RAKE (SK 15208135)**

*Richard O'Neill and Ben Chan*

ARCUS undertook archaeological excavation and watching brief on land adjacent to the Hope Limestone Quarries, Derbyshire. Planning permission exists for an extension

to the current quarry, and although archaeological works were not required as part of this permission, they were undertaken in parallel with a review of the planning permission under the Environment Act. Excavation was conducted in three areas (Trenches A to C) located to investigate features identified during previous archaeological survey (Badcock 2004). The survey had tied together known and potential archaeological features with previous investigations on the site (most recently reported by Dearne (1997) and Guilbert (*et al.* 1995 and 1997)). The upstanding remains include stone-built enclosures, which may be prehistoric in date. The largest enclosure is ovoid, measuring c. 80m on its longest axis, recorded by L.H. Butcher in the 1960s (Guilbert *et al.* 1995). Excavations by Guilbert (*et al.* 1995) in 1990 indicated that this enclosure may also have had a ditch associated with it.

In Trench A multiple archaeological features were identified including a group of several pits probably associated with mineral prospection and a large cutting relating to more recent lead extraction. The pits (Pl. 2) all displayed an unusual sequence of infilling with layers of organic peaty deposits separated by layers of clay and re-deposited gravel, indicating a prolonged period of disuse. Animal bone from one of the pits provided a probable post-medieval/early modern radiocarbon date for its infilling.

The remnants of a possible enclosure ditch, previously excavated by the Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust (Guilbert *et al.* 1995), were found to be poorly defined in plan and section. The putative ditch was not observed to continue around the line of



Plate 2: Recording a prospection pit at Hope Limestone Quarry, Hope. Photo by Richard O'Neill. ©ARCUS.

the ovoid enclosure to the north-east or west of previous trenching, indeed it appeared more of an amorphous feature, perhaps a natural hollow. Despite rigorous sieving only one fragment of worked chert was recovered from the surface of the feature. There was also no remaining above-ground trace of the enclosure in the area south-east of the old Castleton Road, perhaps removed by field clearance, land improvement or industrial working of mineral seams.

Other features investigated included a natural hollow containing five pieces of worked flint, including two well-worked blades. This was the only feature to produce flint, derived from a non-local source. The flint is consistent with that previously recovered from the site, with an emphasis upon a Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic blade technology and multi platform cores. Adjacent to this was an undated linear low stone bank, comprising a loose collection of undressed angular limestone blocks. The structure was observed to continue beyond the excavated area to the south but not on an alignment consistent with any previously identified putative prehistoric features or existing late seventeenth century enclosure walls.

In Trench B a sampling and sieving strategy was established, in an area of a suspected lithic scatter (Guilbert *et al.* 1997), to retrieve material from a formal grid laid across the trench. The presence of a scatter or concentration of artefacts could not be identified, however, a small assemblage of worked chert was recovered. The chert was also consistent with that previously recovered, comprising small flakes indicative of by-products (debitage) from the knapping process. As with previous investigations problems were noted in relation to the identification of worked chert.

In Trench C a small wall, possibly an enclosure boundary associated with a rectilinear enclosure first identified by L.H. Butcher in the 1960s (Dearne 1997), was identified, cleaned and recorded. The wall, at its widest 1.4m in width, comprised a loose arrangement of limestone blocks and boulders of varying sizes. No finds were recovered to date the feature.

A number of samples from investigated features were taken for the recovery of palaeoenvironmental information, however, assessment of these indicated considerable contamination by modern roots.

### *References*

- Badcock, A. (2004) Archaeological survey of land at the Hope Limestone Quarry, near Dirlow Rake, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 811.2
- Dearne, M. J. (1997) Survey and Excavation at Dirlow, Bradwell Moor, 1987–88. *DAJ* 117: 5–16.
- Guilbert, G., Taylor, C., Malone, S., and Garton, G. (1995) Excavations of Earthworks on the White Peak, near Bradwellmoor Barn, 1990 and 1994. *DAJ* 115: 26–32.
- Guilbert, G., Garton, D., and Malone, S. (1997) Test-pitting for Prehistoric Artefacts near Bradwellmoor Barn, 1995. *DAJ* 117: 48–53.
- O'Neill, R. and Chan, B. (2005) Archaeological excavation and watching brief on land at the Hope Limestone Quarry, near Dirlow Rake, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 811b.2.

### **LONGSTONE EDGE, NEAR HIGH RAKE (SK 21017349)**

*Richard O'Neill*

Following a grant of mineral planning permission, a new fence was constructed along the edge of the operating area in the vicinity of the High Rake. During construction

of the fence, machine damage occurred to a known prehistoric monument, a round barrow of probable Bronze Age date. ARCUS carried out evaluation works to determine the extent of the damage to the monument which lies on a slightly elevated point of Longstone Edge, down-slope of two barrows investigated by English Heritage in the 1990s. The monument is thought to have been one of a small group of barrows investigated by Thomas Bateman in 1848. The barrow is on the Derbyshire SMR (DSMR No: 6418) and is site number 4:11 in the Peak District Barrow Survey.

A metrical plan (contour and hachure survey) of the whole area of the barrow was undertaken prior to excavation works commencing. It was apparent at this stage that the barrow was in fact much larger than previously considered. The area disturbed, c. 12m by 10m, was cleared leaving an exposed section through the upper levels of the barrow. This was recorded and an L-shaped trench was then excavated through the barrow make-up to determine the depth of archaeology and the potential for subsurface features within and below the barrow (Pl. 3). Fragments of human bone, around 70 prehistoric sherds, several pieces of worked stone (flint and chert), and over 800 fragments of animal bone were recovered. Samples were also taken for the recovery of palaeoenvironmental information. Post-excavation work is ongoing and the site will be reported on in more detail in a future edition of *DAJ*. The area of the barrow has been fenced off to protect it from future disturbance.



Plate 3: Evaluation of a prehistoric barrow at High Rake, Longstone Edge. Photo by Richard O'Neill.

**NORTH WINGFIELD MANOR HOUSE (SK 40546450)***Rowan May*

The most notable feature identified by desk-based assessment within land near the manor house was an L-shaped moat, the provenance and date of which are unknown. The moat is shown on an 1842 tithe map and may be associated with a medieval settlement. Other historic features visible within the application area were two stone walls along the northern and southern access routes, one associated with the former Rectory farmhouse. Recommendations were made for field evaluation of the moat and for the preservation of stone walls *in situ* if at all possible.

*Reference*

May, R. (2005) Archaeological desk-based assessment of land adjacent to the manor house, North Wingfield, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 872.1.

**MILFORD, MILFORD FOUNDRY (SK 34834550)***Richard O'Neill*

Archaeological excavation and watching brief revealed several buildings relating to the former Strutt's Fulling Mill, Foundry and Gas Works. Jedediah Strutt purchased a fulling mill and dye house on the site in the late eighteenth century and by the 1820s the Strutts had developed a foundry and gas works there. The foundations of several heavily truncated buildings were identified beneath modern buildings. Surviving structures in the foundry included an *in-situ* water-powered drive-shaft and associated bearing blocks, thought to date from the 1820s, and an oval brick-lined casting pit (10m × 6m and 2.2m deep) filled in during the late nineteenth century (Pl. 4).

A wheel pit used to transfer power from a goit to the foundry and abutments associated with two late eighteenth century bridges across the goit were also located. Surviving structures of the gas works (Pl. 5), adjacent to the foundry, included a retort house, a 40ft diameter brick-lined gas holder and a possible iron oxide store. The gas works is known to have supplied lighting to the neighbouring area and site buildings, but was superseded by the Belper Gas Works and demolished in 1909.

*Reference*

O'Neill, R. (2006) Final report of archaeological investigations at Milford Foundry, Milford, Belper, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 894.2

**PEAK FOREST TRAMWAY (NGR SK 085780 to SK 021820)** *Stephen Duckworth*

*ARCUS* was commissioned, on behalf of the Peak Forest Tramway Partnership, to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the route of the Peak Forest Tramway. The tramway, extending from a complex of limestone quarries at Dove Holes Dale, to the terminal basin of the Peak Forest Canal at Bugsworth, west of Chinley, was opened in 1796. It is an important early example of a form of horse-drawn railed-way built according to the model specified by Benjamin Outram, widely copied elsewhere in England and Wales. Part of the route near Bugsworth canal basin is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, while surviving warehouses at Chapel en le Frith are under consideration for inclusion in a Conservation Area. The Plan forms the final stage of a three stage programme, to examine in greater detail the surviving features of the tramway,



Plate 4: Inside a casting pit at Milford Foundry, Milford. Photo by Simon Jessop. ©ARCUS.

assess their historical significance and vulnerability, and propose a series of management policies for their conservation and interpretation, significance and vulnerability.

#### *Reference*

Duckworth, S. (2005) Conservation Management Plan for the Peak Forest tramway. *ARCUS* unpublished report 875.1

#### **SCROPTON, ST PAULS CHURCH (SK 19273020)**

*Phil Jefferson*

ARCUS was commissioned to monitor repair work on St Paul's Church, Scropton, specifically the excavation of a series of drains and soakaways in the church grounds. The church dates back to at least the thirteenth century, however, the majority of material recovered related to more recent post-medieval burials in the area. Five articulated burials were identified with associated coffin fittings indicating an eighteenth to nineteenth century date. Disarticulated remains were also recorded.

#### *Reference*

Jefferson, P. (2005) Archaeological watching brief at St Pauls Church, Scropton. *ARCUS* unpublished report 832.1.



Plate 5: Excavations at Milford Foundry, Milford. The remains of the retort house and gas holder of the gas works are in the foreground. Photo by Aerial Close-Ups. ©ARCUS.

**SIMMONDLEY, PENNINE BRIDLEWAY ROUTE (SK 023923)** *Rowan May*

ARCUS undertook a desk-based assessment in relation to a proposed new bridleway route from Plainsteads Farm to High Lane. A walk over survey of the area, revealed a number of upstanding features on or very close to the route; evidence of coal mining, sandstone quarrying, as well as medieval trackways and a possible Roman road were all visible. Possible below surface features are difficult to determine accurately using cartographic and documentary sources, except to say that the potential for archaeology is higher in areas with surviving standing features. Highlighted were a number of ephemeral medieval hollow ways close to the route, and Whitely Nab, where prehistoric tools have been found; in both these areas there is a greater danger of damage to surviving archaeology.

*Reference*

May, R. (2005) Archaeological desk based assessment of the proposed Pennine Bridleway route, Simondley, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 961.1.

**STANTON IN PEAK, NEW PILHOUGH QUARRY (SK 248643)**

*Richard O'Neill and Katherine Baker*

No archaeological features were identified during the course of a watching brief carried out during the machine stripping of the eastern part of a new extension area at



New Pilhough Quarry. Post-medieval pottery was recovered across the stripped area, predominantly nineteenth century material, presumably incorporated into the topsoil during the more recent agricultural use of the landscape. Previous work on the site has included earthwork survey of a number of stone getting pits, trial trenching of a geophysical anomaly and a watching brief during stripping of a haul road. In the area of the Haul Road, four sherds from an Early Bronze Age vessel, probably a cremation urn, were recovered (O'Neill 2004). The finds, in a subsoil deposit, were probably derived from a nearby funerary monument later disturbed by agricultural activity.

#### *References*

- O'Neill, R. (2004) An Archaeological Watching Brief (Haul Road) at New Pilhough Quarry, Stanton in Peak, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 680.3.
- O'Neill, R. and Martin, K. (2005) An Archaeological Watching Brief (Extension Area) at New Pilhough Quarry, Stanton in Peak, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 680.3.

### **STAVELEY, HAGUE LANE DERBYSHIRE (SK 445760)**

*Rowan May*

*ARCUS* were commissioned to undertake a desk-based assessment on land associated with the Chesterfield Canal. Medieval finds and agricultural earthwork features had previously been recorded within the proposal area, and a sub-oval enclosure, possibly of prehistoric date, had been recorded south of Huggester Farm from an aerial photograph. A post-medieval coal pit was recorded at the southern end of the proposal area in 1835, and it is likely that earlier, unrecorded small-scale mining also took place in the vicinity. Chesterfield Canal was constructed through the area at the end of the eighteenth century, and remained in existence until the mid twentieth century, although commercial activity on this section ceased in 1908 following the collapse of the Norwood Tunnel. Brick kilns were built in the area during the construction of the canal, although the precise locations of these features are unknown. Recommendations were made for field walking, geophysical survey and targeted trial trenching to further evaluate the archaeological potential of the site.

#### *Reference*

- May, R. (2005) Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of land at Hague Land, Staveley, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 858.1.

### **WINSTER MOOR, GLEBE MINES (SK 23535974)**

*Sean Bell and Ben Chan*

*ARCUS* undertook a watching brief during the extraction of mineral veins at Glebe mines. The bulk of documentary evidence relating to the site relates to lead-mining extraction. A walk over survey undertaken in 2002 (Hodgkinson and Emmett 2003) found pits and linear workings underlying field boundaries suggesting mining predates eighteenth century enclosure. The recognition of features, during the monitoring, was hampered by the friable subsoil and re-deposited material. However, despite this, both areas of open cast extraction and basic processing (riddling) were located. Lead processing appeared to be happening in close proximity to the extraction pits, the largest of which stretches for more than 60m in length. It was speculated that lead extraction

may have occurred in two phases; smaller scale pits in the western area of the site being replaced by larger extraction pits which follow seams. It is not possible from the monitoring to assess the time period between these two phases or the chronology of the site as a whole.

### *References*

- Hodgkinson, D.F. and Emmett, J.A. (2003) 'Proposed mineral Vein Workings at Winster, Derbyshire: Archaeological Assessment.' Unpublished Wardell Armstrong Report NL05781.
- Bell, S. and Chan, B. (2005) An Archaeological Watching Brief at Glebe Mines, Winster Moor, Winster, Derbyshire. *ARCUS* unpublished report 836.1.

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