# Bolsover Castle, Bolsover, Derbyshire

## Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief on the extension and reduction of footpath areas and tree planting scheme.

**P. Flintoft**

**2014**

**Project Code – BFG3**

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*South-east looking photograph of the Wall Walk entrance after footpath widening*

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***Summary***

Trent & Peak Archaeology was contracted by English Heritage to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief on various small scale works within the confines of the curtain wall of Bolsover Castle. The individual stages of work are listed below;

- Replanting of trees and plants.
- The installation of a conduit below each of the gravel pathways to allow for the use of hose pipes along the full length of the flowerbed.
- The installation of a soak away in front of the West Garden Room door to allow for water runoff.
- The extension of a pathway across the width of the exit door from the Wall Walk Entrance.
- The reduction of a pathway across the entrance to the West Garden Room.

Throughout the monitoring of the stages of work reported on herein, no archaeological features, deposits or structural remains were identified. Both the topsoil and compacted gravel were very rarely penetrated which indicates that any archaeological remains that do exist below these layers are reasonably well protected. A layer of terram which was observed in Area 15 indicates that the topsoil has been disturbed relatively recently.

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## Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief on the extension and reduction of footpath areas and tree planting scheme.

**Prepared by Paul Flintoft**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was contracted by English Heritage to carry out an archaeological Watching Brief on various small scale works within the confines of the curtain wall of Bolsover Castle (SK 4600 3372). The individual stage of work are listed below;

- Replanting.
- Install conduit below each pathway to allow for the use of hose pipes along full length of flowerbed.
- Install a soak away to West Garden Room door and lower level to allow for water runoff.
- Extend pathway width to exit door from Wall Walk Entrance.
- Reduce pathway entrance width to West Garden Room.

1.2 Each of the stages of development were completed by hand digging with the use of a square headed spade and fork. The contractors conducting the work were briefed about the archaeological constraints on their operations in advance of any hand digging.

1.3 The aim of the Watching Brief was to monitor the ground works in order to prevent any damage to any human remains or the historic walls, gateways or footings. In the event that any features of archaeological significance were encountered, the building work/planting strategy would be amended to avoid any damage.

1.4 The replanting included a series of fruit trees, rose plants and *Viburnum tinus* s.p. The depth of the holes required for planting varied but did not extend beyond 0.23m. As part of the tree replanting scheme, the topsoil was never penetrated and no archaeological features, deposits or structural remains were encountered.

1.5 The groundworks which included the installation of the conduits and the soak away required small trenches to be excavated laterally through the compacted gravel paths and the fringes of the flowerbeds.

1.6 In order to extend the pathway on either side of the Wall Walk route, the flowerbed was partially removed and replaced with compacted gravel. The strategy to reduce the pathway which services the West Garden room used the reverse approach; this required the removal of compacted gravel which was replaced with loose topsoil and an organic mulch which covered the flowerbed.

1.7 The monitoring of these activities rarely identified any intrusive work which penetrated the gravel or topsoil apart from the pathway reduction which identified a sheet of terram and an earlier layer of gravel.

## 2. PROJECT BACKGROUND.

2.1 Bolsover Castle is located approximately 10km to the east of Chesterfield and 9km to the west of the Nottinghamshire boarder (figure 1). The castle is to the south of a prominent curve of the A632 (Station Road) within the small town of Bolsover. Access to the castle was prohibited by paying patrons whilst the works were undertaken. All of the developments were expected to be completed by the 1st of April so the castle could be re-opened to visitors.

2.2 The 1:50,000 British Geological Mapping shows that the castle is situated on a bedrock geology of Cadeby Formation- Dolostone which formed approximately 251 to 271 million years ago. (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

2.3 Topographically the castle is situated on a roughly flat outcrop of Dolostone escarpment which suddenly drops off to the west where the solid geology has been described as calcareous mudstone and located at a height of c. 8.5m AoD. This places the castle on a particularly visible promontory within the landscape, especially when approached from the north and the west.

## 3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

*By Richard Sheppard*

3.1 The present-day mansion of Bolsover Castle largely dates from the 17th century but is on the site of a formerly fortified Medieval castle, of which little evidence survives today. The most prominent building on the site, the Little Castle, is adjacent to a walled garden whose polygonal shape is believed to replicate the course of an original inner bailey, possibly a ring work dating from the later 11th century when the manor of Bolsover was granted to William Peveril, following the Norman Conquest of England. The extent of the Medieval castle has long been thought to be marked by the remains of an earthen bank by the present castle entrance at the north-west end of Castle Street. This bank once extended further to form an effective south-east barrier across the neck of the dolostone promontory that the castle site occupies; beyond this manmade barrier the castle was defended by steep natural falls in height.

3.2 The Outer Court, a largely open area between the bank and the 17th century Riding School Range has historically been known as *Castle Yard*. It is named so on early survey plans of the castle by Senior in c.1630 and Colbeck in 1739. Knyff's engraving of the castle from 1698 shows the area as a walled and fenced enclosure under grass, an area next to the Riding School Range that was almost certainly used for grazing horses in the 17th century. At this time the main approach to the Castle was the driveway along the south-west edge of the promontory, leading to the Terrace Range and the Little Castle steps. The 1780 enclosure map of the town still showed Castle Yard as an open area but now divided into a west and an east half by a straight boundary running through the middle. In the late 18th century a small school was built on Castle Street and in 1840 a Gothic-style house built for the school master encroached onto the south-west corner of the Yard, followed later by a new school in 1868-72. By 1875 a drive had been laid out across the east half of the Yard, running between the minor entrance at the end of Castle Street and a gateway into the Great Court, beyond the Riding School Range.

3.3 Between c.1900-18 Castle Yard was further divided up, with a tennis court laid out in the eastern part and a bowling green in the west part. After 1945 and the acquisition of the Castle by the Ministry of Works, a bungalow was built near the site entrance (roughly in the position of the later visitor centre), with separate halves for the site custodian and the head gardener. Another track was laid out east of the existing drive and across where the tennis court had been, to a probable equipment store / garage just beyond the east end of the bungalow. These features still show in the grass during dry spells. Services to the Castle (water, electricity and gas) followed the west edge of the drive.

3.4 Six small trenches were excavated for replacing diseased trees alongside the east side of the drive in 1979. The remains of 8 undated human burials were found in three of the holes at depths of 0.7m to 0.8m; they were generally orientated east-west. A post-hole was seen in one trench, and some sherds of medieval pottery recovered from undisturbed stratigraphical levels. Four burials were found in Trench A, three in Trench B and a single one in Trench D, some 56m south of the entrance to the Great Court. These, and other burials found to the north within the *Great Court*, are thought to date to within the 14th-17th century period when the castle site was largely unoccupied.

3.5 In 1996 six small test-pits around 0.2m² were dug by *Northamptonshire Archaeology* as part of their third season of exploratory investigations at the Castle. These were widely spaced but being relatively small in dimension were only taken to a maximum depth of 0.4m and, consequently, were not informative.

3.6 Two T-shaped anchor points 1.1m across and 0.45m deep were excavated by ground-staff for use in a forthcoming tattoo in 1997. In an attempt to locate another point previously put in, an area near anchor point A was de-turfed. This came down on to the gravel surface belonging to the former track mentioned above. The anchor points cut through topsoil, subsoil to 0.2m depth, and into a consistent limestone rubble and clay soil mixture. No bedrock was exposed (Sheppard 1997).

3.7 In 2002 a set of 27 small pits were dug for a marquee on the platform that is thought to have been formed for the former tennis court. Despite its supposed flatness, the ground slopes gently westwards and northwards, in total by over a metre. The west edge of the supposed tennis court platform has a pronounced dip of 0.2m, and the ground falls a further half-metre to the drive. The site chosen for the marquee is relatively prominent. No definite archaeological features were observed and the finds only included one sherd of medieval pottery; the rest were relatively late in date. Along the west side of the marked area the gravelled track was encountered in two pits and a concrete slab in two other pits was found to overlie a drainage pipe which had run alongside the track between the Ministry of Works bungalow and the outlet near the toilet block at the north end of the Yard. Other pits along this side had a consistent sequence of topsoil, subsoil, broken limestone with soil (referred to locally as *'ratchel')* and bedrock. Bedrock was found at only 0.35-0.55 depth and had not been penetrated by any obvious archaeological features. The *'ratchel'* in one pit may have been disturbed by a feature, but this was uncertain. Most pits forming the short sides and the east long side of the rectangle contained introduced material – varying from individual layers of re-deposited stone and soil, brick dust and chippings, ground stone, tile and brick, mortar, yellow clay and dark clay soil (possibly buried topsoil). These layers went down to an average depth of 0.45m and appear to have been introduced. Although some fragments of plaster and old tiles were found amongst the rubble, most finds were 19th century or early 20th century in date. The only early finds were a single medieval pot sherd and a piece of daub, both re-deposited. In two-thirds of the total of 27 pits bedrock was found at a depth of 0.5-0.6m; with the ground sloping naturally from east to west (Sheppard 2002).

3.8 The decision was made in the late 1990s to erect a new visitor centre within the castle grounds, close to the existing entrance and over the site of the by now demolished bungalow. As a first step an evaluation excavation was carried out across the footprint of the new building and the surrounding area affected. This was followed by an excavation of the full site. In 1997 two evaluation trenches, numbered 01 and 02, were excavated. Trench 01 penetrated the bank of the former Medieval castle's outer bailey and the underlying buried soil was found to contain pottery dating from the late Saxon to the early Medieval period, thereby dating the bank's construction to after the late 11th century. The remaining part of the trench and Trench 02 provided other evidence for Medieval occupation of the area. Here the topsoil was found to go down to 0.2m and the subsoil to 0.35m. The natural limestone was found to have dips suggestive of fissures in the underlying rock. A year later the full area to be occupied by the new building was excavated. Here, large post-pits belonging to part of an aisled timber building were found. This was interpreted as a structure running north-south, with either one or two aisles, this point remaining uncertain as a later quarry pit had removed evidence for any former east aisle. A series of smaller post-pits at the south end of the building could have been for an outshot, perhaps replaced by a fence on a slightly different alignment. Finds from the post-pits and a nearby cess-pit collectively indicated a probable domestic use of the building and a construction date in the first half of the 13th century. An alternative function as an administrative building might explain its more public position close to the likely site entrance. The building's use terminated towards the end of the same century. These dates correlated with what is known from the limited documentary record of the castle (Sheppard 1998a, Sheppard 1998b, Sheppard 1999).

3.9 From the visitor centre evaluation and a subsequent watching brief on the south-east side of the bank it was concluded that the surviving earthen bank of the Medieval castle had a total width of about 12m and survives, with topsoil, to less than 1.5m in height. Such a low height-width ratio would result from a reduction of the bank's height prior to the present wall being built upon its crest. References in documents from 1771-75 to workmen 'getting stone in the Castleyard Bank' suggests that part of the bank was actively quarried, in part to provide stone for building 'a fence wall in the Castle Yard' (*Nottinghamshire Archives, Portland Collection Bundle 15*). Part of the wall skirting the east side of Castle Yard is shown in Figure 9. This shows a length where a lower buttress and some concrete reinforcements can be seen. Although it is not clear if Knyff shows a wall along this side of the Castle Yard, both the survey plans suggest that there had been one; Colbeck's plan in particular shows a dark line around most of the castle's perimeter and this is lacking where the banking was present instead. The reference of 1771-75 probably relates to the introduced boundary that was added to cut the Yard in two halves and which is shown on the enclosure map. The proposed

play area is near the point at where the earthen bank terminated and the walling started. There is a notable inward kink to the wall's route here which is not evident on the early survey plans (or the enclosure map). This, and the evident reinforcing of the slope, might suggest that this area has suffered slippage in the recent past.

3.10 The castle site is a promontory position along the escarpment of a limestone plateau, naturally defended on three sides and a favoured position for a settlement requiring security. There is no conclusive evidence for use of the site in the Prehistoric or Romano-British period but finds from under the earthen bank included features and 10th-11th century pottery indicating a pre-Conquest settlement; this is further supported by the old English origin of the Bolsover name. A lack of such finds elsewhere in the town might suggest that the focus of settlement may have been within the area of the Outer Bailey of the castle. The evaluation excavation of the visitor centre site found that it was extremely difficult to identify subtle features in the subsoil at Bolsover where feature fill with a high stone content was almost indistinguishable from the surrounding material and in an area already disturbed by former buildings and an aborted attempt to construct a works compound. Both here, and during the main excavation, the features became most evident once they had penetrated into the underlying natural bedrock and their fills showed up in contrast to the surrounding limestone. The discovery of the aisled hall, fence-posts and a cess-pit showed that the site has an important archaeological potential, the full nature of which was not at first obvious during the evaluation stage. The clearance of a relatively large area, 15m x 39m to a formation depth of 0.7m provided the rare opportunity to record the first known medieval structure within the castle site. Few castle sites have been explored sufficiently to determine how their ground-plans were organised, especially in the outer bailey areas. From the 13th century the typical castle may have had several halls, each the focus of a different household or social group. It is reasonable to conclude that other structures and associated features might have existed within Castle Yard and that some evidence for these survives.

## 4. OBJECTIVES.

4.1 The objective of the Watching Brief was to identify any archaeological features and deposits that may be impacted upon by the developments. In the event that anything judged to be archaeologically sensitive was revealed, the English Heritage Inspector would have been contacted immediately and the construction plan and planting strategy would have been amended.

## 5. METHODOLOGY.

5.1 The heritage impact assessment identified that bedrock (into which archaeological features are cut) is generally located at around 0.5m to 0.6m in the vicinity of the proposed path extension.

5.2 The archaeological contractor will therefore implement the following procedure:
TPA will monitor archaeologically the hand digging of a soil strip up to a depth of 300mm along the flower bed. The compacted gravel which forms the footpaths will be partially excavated to install the soak away, hose conduit and footpath reduction. In the area where the footpath is to be extended a small area of loose topsoil will be removed and replaced with compacted gravel. In accordance with the Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent approved by English Heritage, the following will be adhered to.

I) On site interpretation materials should frankly indicate the historically inspired rather than historically authentic nature of the planting scheme.

II) No buried historic structural or human remains are to be disturbed in the course of these works.

III) No damage is to be caused to historic walls, gateways or their footings during or as a consequence of these works.

IV) The above conditions to be ensured by continuous professional archaeological supervision of all ground works including the modification of any tree planting design which is found on archaeological inspection likely to cause either direct or consequential disturbance to archaeological deposits of pre-nineteenth century date.

V) In the event of any unexpected archaeological discovery the English Heritage Inspector is to be informed immediately.

5.3 Within Health & Safety constraints, the contractor will ensure access to service and/or foundation trenches to permit examination/cleaning and where necessary recording of sections. It is important that time is allowed for such work, before any form of backfilling occurs. Where excavation can be quickly demonstrated not to have revealed significant archaeological deposits, delay will be minimal.

## 6. RESULTS.

6.1 The area which was monitored along the flower bed rarely exceeded 0.25m in depth. At no point was the topsoil penetrated exposing an underlying geological substrate or any anthropogenic layers. Finds from the topsoil (0004)/(0008) which include pottery, tile, clay pipe and glass artefacts are believed to be residual and are not indicative of any particular activity or cultivation regime.

6.2 The subsequent tree and rose planting did not surpass a depth of 0.23m and did not reveal any buried subsurface layers of significance. The dimensions of each of the planting holes are tabulated below.

*Table 1.Viburnum tinus* s.p planting holes

| Identifying number | Max depth | Max width |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | 0.08m | 0.47m |
| 02 | 0.14m | 0.48m |
| 03 | 0.06m | 0.45m |
| 04 | 0.07m | 0.49m |
| 05 | 0.09m | 0.49m |
| 06 | 0.11m | 0.51m |
| 07 | 0.12m | 0.52m |
| 08 | 0.1m | 0.59m |
| 09 | 0.12m | 0.56m |
| 10 | 0.09m | 0.48m |
| 11 | 0.13m | 0.57m |
| 12 | 0.06m | 0.48m |
| 13 | 0.09m | 0.56m |
| 14 | 0.08m | 0.55m |
| 15 | 0.18m | 0.52m |
| 16 | 0.07m | 0.55m |
| 17 | 0.07m | 0.6m |
| 18 | 0.08m | 0.59m |
| 19 | 0.07m | 0.64m |
| 20 | 0.08m | 0.6m |
| 21 | 0.07m | 0.6m |
| 22 | 0.06m | 0.59m |
| 23 | 0.07m | 0.58m |
| 24 | 0.07m | 0.7m |

*Table 2. Fruit tree planting holes*

| Identifying number | Max depth | Max width |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | 0.07m | 0.5m |
| 02 | 0.07m | 0.51m |
| 03 | 0.06m | 0.47m |
| 04 | 0.11m | 0.56m |
| 05 | 0.06m | 0.5m |
| 06 | 0.09m | 0.46m |
| 07 | 0.07m | 0.44m |
| 08 | 0.04m | 0.4m |
| 09 | 0.04m | 0.43m |
| 10 | 0.09m | 0.44m |
| 11 | 0.09m | 0.46m |

*Table 3. Rose planting holes*

| Identifying number | Max depth | Max width |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | 0.23m | 0.4m |
| 02 | 0.09m | 0.5m |
| 03 | 0.09m | 0.44m |
| 04 | 0.09m | 0.36m |
| 05 | 0.08m | 0.21m |

6.3 The excavation of the small trenches intended for the hose pipe conduits and soak away did not exceed the depth of the compacted gravel (figure 2). As a result of this, no geological or anthropogenic layers or deposits were encountered. No residual finds were discovered in any of the compacted gravels.

6.4 A series of small trenches were cut in the flowerbed for the hose pipe conduits (figure 2). The dimensions of the trenches are detailed below;

*Table 4. Trenches cut through flower bed for hose pipe conduits*

| Identifying number | Max depth | Max width | Max length |
|---|---|---|---|
| Area 3 | 0.28m | 0.29m | 1.12m |
| Area 4 | 0.23m | 0.28m | 1.19m |
| Area 5 | 0.26m | 0.31m | 1.03m |
| Area 6 | 0.27m | 0.3m | 1m |
| Area 7 | 0.28m | 0.29m | 0.97m |
| Area 8 | 0.26m | 0.25m | 0.91m |
| Area 9 | 0.29m | 0.29m | 1.03m |
| Area 10 | 0.25m | 0.28m | 0.91m |
| Area 11 | 0.26m | 0.29m | 0.91m |
| Area 14 | 0.27m | 0.26m | 0.99m |

6.5 The depth of the conduit trenches through the flowerbed were not deep enough to exceed the depth of the topsoil (0004) and encroach onto any substrate. A lens of fine, well sorted orangey builders sand (0009) measuring 5mm in thickness was observed within the topsoil in Area 6.

*Table 5. Trenches cut through the footpaths*

| Identifying number | Max depth | Max width | Max length |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | 0.28m | 0.22m | 1.69m |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | 0.3m | 0.23m | 0.55m |
| 20 | 0.28m | 0.24m | 1.27m |
| 21 | 0.27m | 0.21m | 0.71m |
| 22 | 0.29m | 0.19m | 1.31m |
| 23 | 0.28m | 0.22m | 1.4m |

6.6 The construction of the Wall Walk footpath involved the removal of a 1.53m x 2.64m area of topsoil (0001) and the subsequent replacement with crushed gravel (Area 1). A maximum depth of 0.57m of topsoil was removed which revealed a yellowish white compact gravel (0003). This material is believed to be an earlier levelling deposit. No dating material was recovered from (0003) and an accurate date cannot therefore be attributed to this layer.

6.7 An area of topsoil (0002) measuring 1.24m x 2.8m was removed to the south-west of the wall walk pathway (Area 2). The maximum depth removed did not exceed 0.33m and the full depth of the topsoil was not exceeded.

6.8 The compacted gravel pathway to east and the west of the West Garden Room entrance was removed and replaced with loose topsoil. The eastern area (Area 15) measured 1.5m x 1.85m and had a topsoil horizon, (0005), 0.31m deep. The removal of this material revealed (0006), a moderately sorted type 1 gravel and a layer of terram. The terram appeared to be in reasonable condition and was not particularly degraded which suggests that this part of the flower bed has been altered and disturbed relatively recently.

6.9 The area to the west of the West Garden Room path (Area 16) measured 1.6m x 1.9m. A layer of topsoil (0005) measuring 0.29m in depth was removed which revealed the same type 1 gravel (0006) observed in Area 15.

## 7. The Finds

7.1 Fragments of ceramic vessels, clay pipe and glass were recovered during the watching brief. With the exception of the fragment of slipware/yellow ware with decoration, which may have been produced as early as the 17th century, the finds assemblage appears to be 18th to 19th century in date. All of the finds were either from the topsoil or were unstratified.

| Site code | Find code | Material | Object | Period | Context |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BFG3 | AAA | Coin | Cu alloy coin | 1919 | (0004) |
| BFG3 | AAB | Pottery | Blue and white transfer (willow pattern) | 19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAC | Pottery | Brown saltglaze stoneware | 18th/19th century | (0004) |
| BFG3 | AAD | Glass | Miniature perfume bottle | 17th/18th century | (0004) |
| BFG3 | AAE | Tile | Coarse tile | 19th century | (0004) |
| BFG3 | AAF | Clay pipe | Clay pipe stem | 19th century | (0004) |
| BFG3 | AAG | Pottery | Earthen ware flower pot | 19th century | (0001) |
| BFG3 | AAH | Pottery | Yellow ware with decoration | 17th/18th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAI | Pottery | Yellow ware with decoration | 17th/18th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAJ | Pottery | Slipware with decoration | 17th/18th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAK | Pottery | Brown saltglaze stoneware | 18th/19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAL | Pottery | Earthen ware flower pot | 19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAM | Pottery | Brown saltglaze stoneware | 18th/19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAN | Pottery | Brown saltglaze stoneware | 18th/19th century | (0008) |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BFG3 | AAO | Pottery | Brown saltglaze stoneware | 18th/19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAP | Pottery | Industrial slipware | 19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAQ | Pottery | Industrial slipware | 19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAR | Pottery | Blue and white transfer (willow pattern) | 19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAS | Pottery | White ware | 19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAT | Pottery | White ware | 19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAU | Pottery | Blue and white transfer (willow pattern) | 19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAV | Pottery | White ware | 19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAW | Tile | Coarse tile | 19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAX | Pottery | Basalt ware/type | 18th/19th century | (0008) |
| BFG3 | AAY | Clay pipe | White clay pipe bowl with no decoration | 19th century | (0008) |

**Artefacts**
The artefacts from the site are a typical post-medieval/modern assemblage and as such, following identification and quantification, discard is recommended.

## 8. Conclusion.

8.1 Throughout the monitoring of the stages of work reported on herein, no archaeological features, deposits or structural remains were identified. Both the topsoil and compacted gravel were very rarely penetrated which indicates that any archaeological remains that do exist below these layers are reasonably well protected. The layer of terram which was observed in Area 15 indicates that the topsoil has been disturbed relatively recently.

8.2 The finds which were recovered from the topsoil are all residual and do not inform us of any particular activities which were ongoing within the limits of the castle.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## APPENDIX 1- SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST

| ***Context*** | ***Description*** |
|---|---|
| 001 | Topsoil (in area 1) |
| 002 | Topsoil (in area 2) |
| 003 | Make up layer |
| 004 | Topsoil (area 3-11, 14) |
| 005 | Topsoil (area 15-17) |
| 006 | Type 1 gravel |
| 007 | Compost/mulch |
| 008 | Topsoil (residual finds) |
| 009 | Sand lens |

## APPENDIX 2- FIGURES AND PLATES

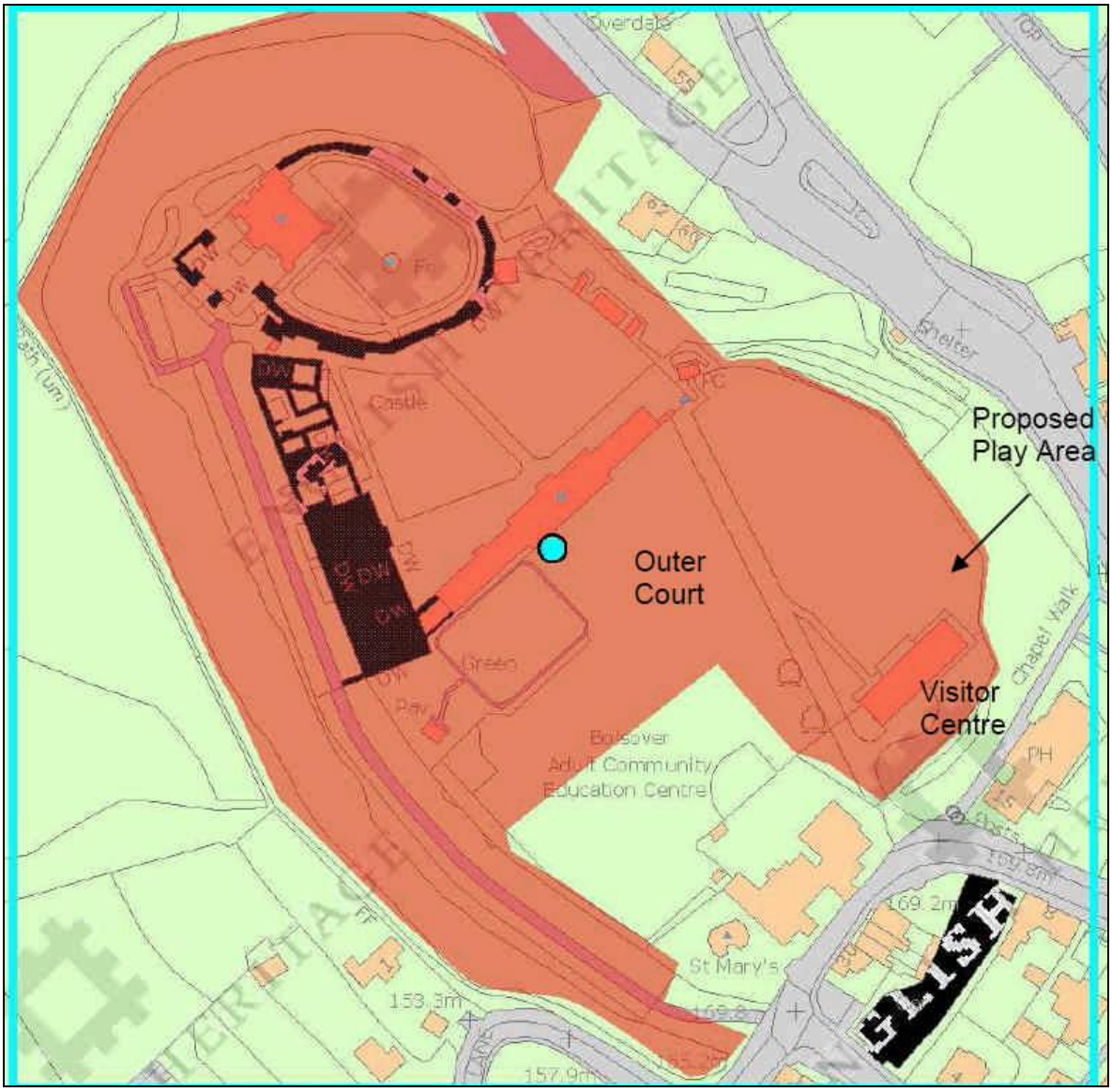
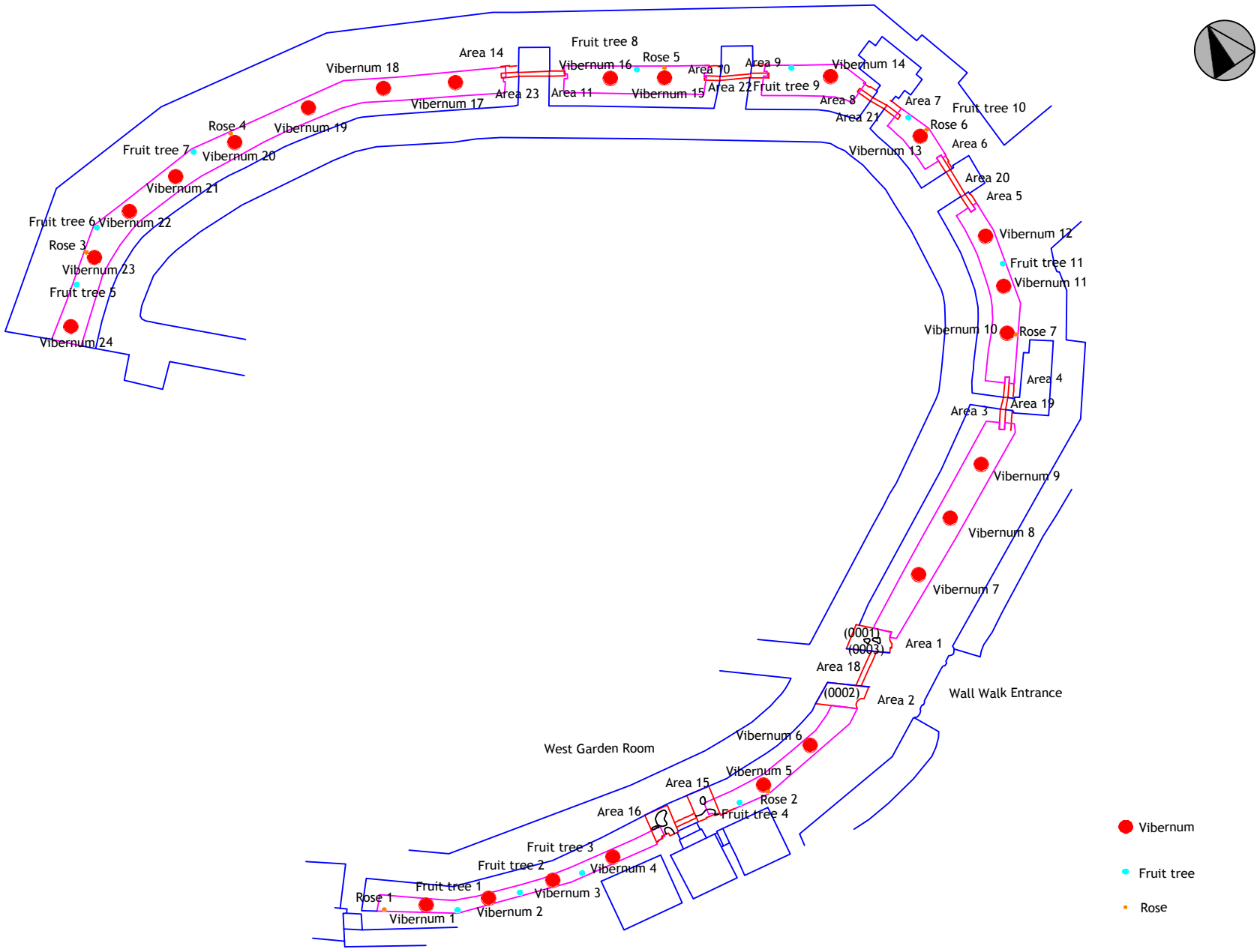



Figure 1. Location of castle

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| Trent & Peak Archaeology | Site Code: BFG3 | Site Name: Bolsover Fountain Gardens | Printed by: PF | Date of Printing: 12/05/2014 |
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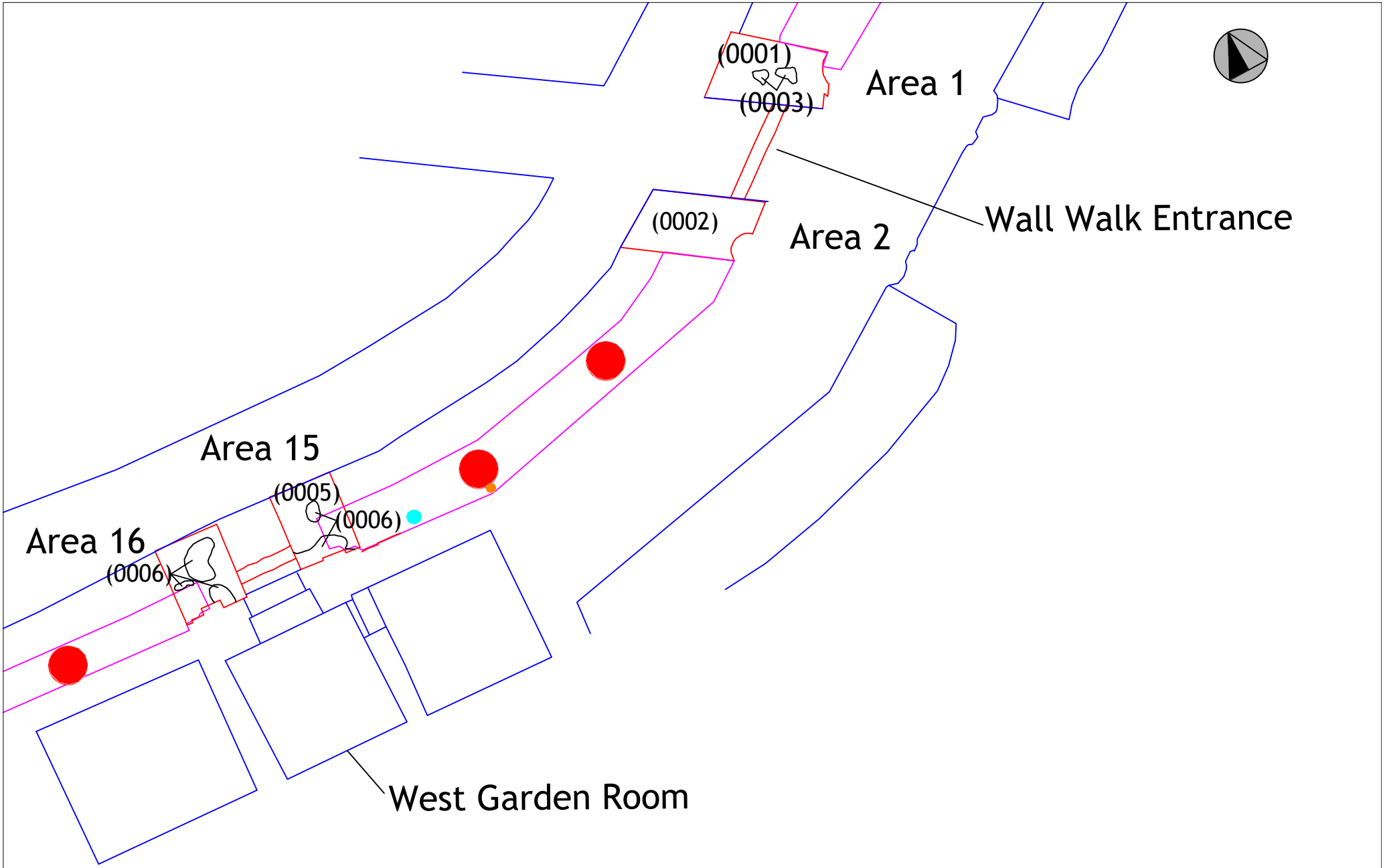
| | File name: Bolsover drawings_recover_2014-05-12.dwg | | Annotated by:PF | Date of Annotation:12/05/2014 |

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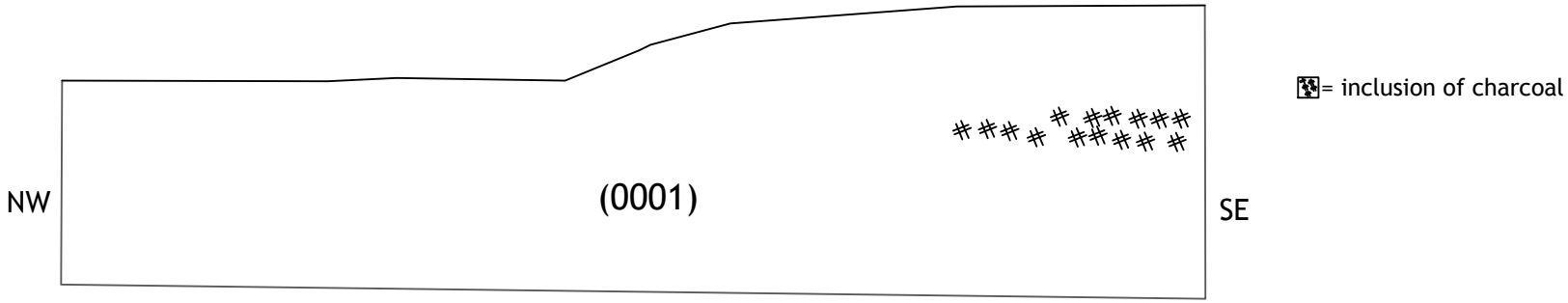
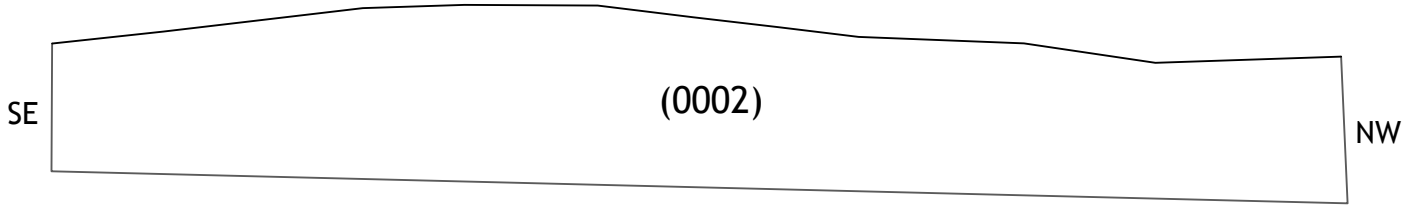
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trent & Peak Archaeology | Site Code:BFG3 | Site Name:Bolsover Castle Watching Brief | Printed by:PF | Date of Printing: 12.05.2014 |
| | | Description: Figure 3 | Drawing No:3 | |
| | File name: Bolsover drawings_recover_2014-05-12.dwg | | Annotated by:PF | Date of Annotation:12.05.2014 |

Section through topsoil in Area 1




Section through topsoil in Area 2




| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Site Code:BFG 3 | Site Name: Bolsover Fountain Garden | Printed by:PF | Date of Printing: 12/05/2014 |
| | Description: Figure | Drawing No:4 | |
| File name: Bolsover drawings_recover_2014-05-12.dwg | | Annotated by:PF | Date of Annotation:12/05/2014 |

Trent & Peak ARCHAEOLOGY

Plate 1. South looking photograph of West Garden Room

Plate 2. South-east looking photograph of Wall Walk Entrance

Plate 3. North-east looking photograph of vibernum 16

Plate 4. North looking photograph of fruit tree

Plate 5.South looking photograph of vibernum

## APPENDIX 3- WSI

# Bolsover Castle, Footpath Extension

# Bolsover,

# DERBYSHIRE

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### Written Scheme of Investigation.

**2014**
**TPA Project Code BFG3**

**TPA Report no 020/2014**
**Prepared by Dr. Gareth Davies MIfA**

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Trent & Peak
ARCHAEOLOGY

# Bolsover Castle,
# Bolsover,

## DERBYSHIRE

### Archaeological Watching Brief

### Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

## 1. BACKGROUND

***Site Name:*** Bolsover Castle pathway extension within fountain garden, Bolsover.
***NGR:*** SK 4600 3372
***Client:*** English Heritage.
***Planning Application No.:*** English Heritage. County monument number 1012496
***Brief:*** N.A.
***Proposed Development:*** Footpath extension
**Geology:** Limestone Bedrock
***Previous Archaeological Evidence:*** Four phases of interventions in the immediate vicinity, see Impact Assessment (*Appendix* 1).

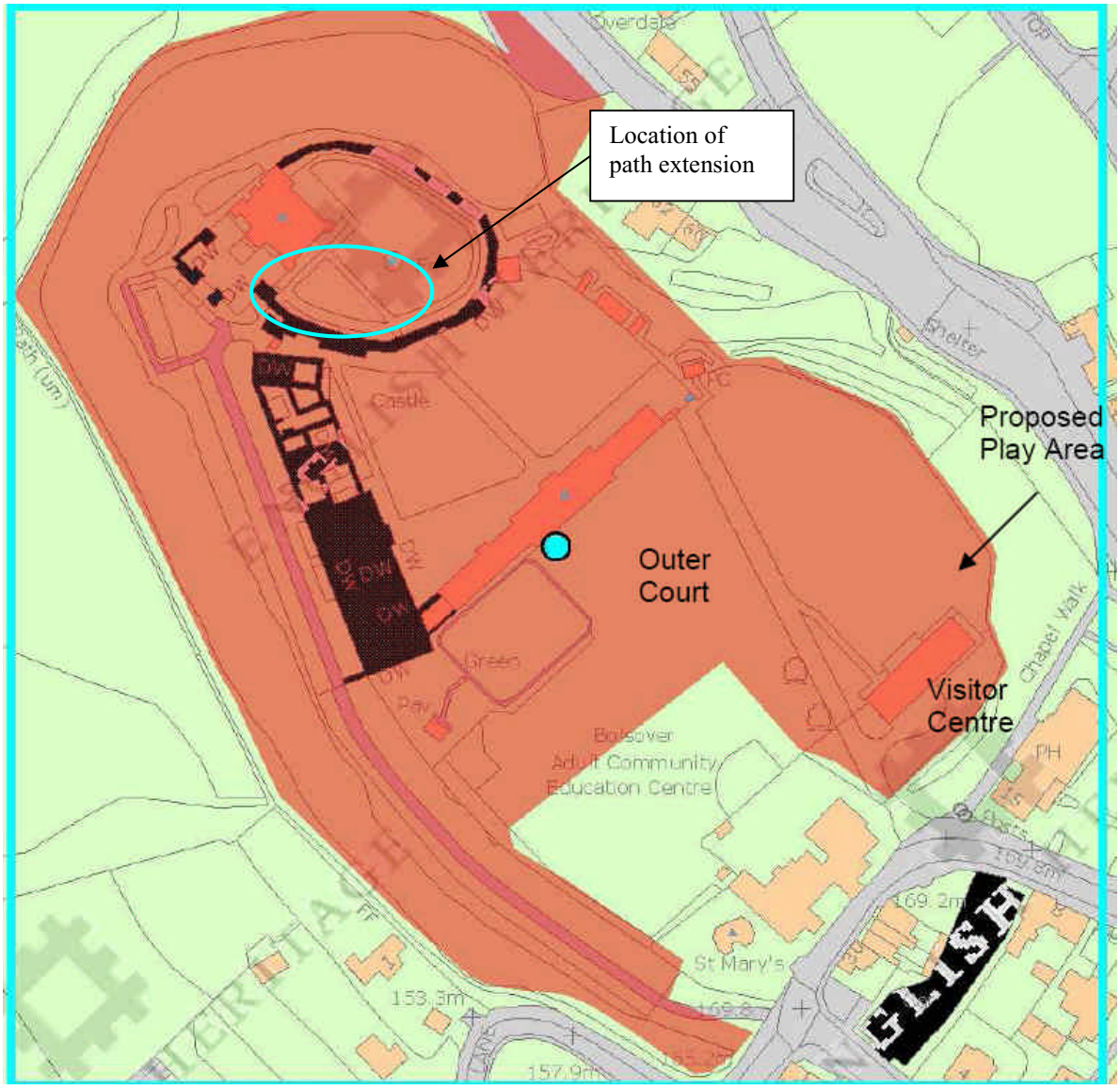


**Figure 1: Site Location**

## 2. OBJECTIVES

***2.1. The objective of the archaeological watching brief can be stated as:***

To identify the presence of any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the development (Figure 2) and to achieve an appropriate level of *preservation by record.* Where practical (within the constraints of the watching brief and development), this will include an assessment of the overall extent, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains. Any features of geoarchaeological significance will also be recorded and where there is the potential for palaeoenvironmental data, an appropriate level of sampling will be undertaken.

***2.2. The proposed archaeological work comprises:***

Continuous archaeological monitoring of intrusive ground works with the potential to impact on features and layers of archaeological significance, with the prior agreement of the Properties Curator, Joanna Sanderson (English Heritage).

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

## 3. METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 General conditions

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

*Notice of the commencement of the Watching Brief.* The Watching Brief will begin on the 10th of March and will continue intermittently until the groundworks have been completed.

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

*Base maps.* The client is requested to supply copies (preferably digital) of base maps for the Unit to use in the report.

*Contingency.* If an unusually high volume of artefacts, or deposits worthy of palaeoenvironmental investigation are recovered, these may be subject to a request for contingency funding covering additional staffing and/or specialist attendance and post-excavation analysis. No requests for contingency funding would be made without the approval of the English Heritage Project Manager. Should archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be treated to a satisfactory and proper standard within the resources allocated to the watching brief the English Heritage Principal Inspector will immediately be informed. This may entail ceasing site work until recourses 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 English Heritage Principal Inspector within 6 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. For further details of the report structure see below (Detailed Specification of Archaeological Recording).

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

## 3.2 Fieldwork

The heritage impact assessment, see Appendix 1, identified that bedrock (into which archaeological features are cut) is generally located at around 0.5m to 0.6m in the vicinity of the proposed path extension.

The archaeological contractor will therefore implement the following procedure:

**TPA will monitor archaeologically the hand digging of a soil strip up to a depth of 300mm. In accordance with the Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent approved by English Heritage, the following will be adhered to.**

**I) On site interpretation materials should frankly indicate the historically inspired rather than historically authentic nature of the planting scheme.**

**II) No buries historic structural or human remains are to be disturbed in the course of these works.**

**III) No damage is to be caused to historic walls, gateways or their footings during or as a consequence of these works.**

**IV) The above conditions to be ensured by continuous professional archaeological supervision of all ground works including the modification of any tree planting design which is found on archaeological inspection likely to cause either direct or consequential disturbance to archaeological deposits of pre-nineteenth century date.**

**V) In the event of any unexpected archaeological discovery the English Heritage Inspector is to be informed immediately.**

*Hand digging*
The 30cm deep and 1m wide trench will be hand dug using a square headed digging spade and fork. The contractor conducting the work will be briefed about the archaeological constraints on their operations in advance of any hand digging commencing.

*Exposed tranches*
Within Health & Safety constraints, the contractor will ensure access to service and/or foundation trenches to permit examination/cleaning and where necessary recording of sections. **It is important that time is allowed for such work, before any form of backfilling occurs.** Where excavation can be quickly demonstrated not to have revealed significant archaeological deposits, delay will be minimal.

*Spoil-heaps*
Where practical and safe to do so, all spoil heaps will be regularly examined for archaeological material, this will include the use of a metal-detector.

### 3.3 Recording – general

Recording will as a minimum include the location and extent of the monitored areas of excavation, their depth, and the deposits exposed, both by scale drawing (section and/or plan where applicable) and photograph (monochrome prints/digital). 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 by Gareth Davies, the attending archaeologist will be:

Paul Flintoft (Project Officer, 07950536360)

*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 curator within 6 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. A summary of the findings will also be submitted for inclusion in the next edition of Derbyshire Archaeological Journal. 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 English Heritage Principal Inspector will be given a minimum of one weeks notice of the commencement of the watching brief, and TPA 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 if possible 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 groundworks.

*Insurance/compensation*

As part of York Archaeological Trust, TPA carries the appropriate public, third party and employee 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**

TPA 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 TPA and/or the principal contractor. TPA 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.* TPA 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 Institute for Archaeologists.

Within the confines of site safety, contexts (the smallest usefully-definable unit of stratification) will be cleaned by hand and recorded.

All finds will be assigned an individual finds code. *In-situ* finds will be recorded three dimensionally, while finds from spoil will be noted in relation to their location within the trench/stripped area.

Excavation will be sufficient to securely establish the character and where possible date, and stratigraphic relationship of features.

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 English Heritage Principal Inspector will be informed of such events and their input requested.

*Human Remains*

Should human remains be uncovered they will initially be left in situ and provided with appropriate protection. The English Heritage Principal Inspector and the Coroner will be informed immediately and a Ministry of Justice burial license obtained to permit removal where necessary.

*Recording*

Plans of all contexts including features 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,
levels expressed as O.D. values, or levelled to permanent features if benchmark absent,
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).

Sections will show the same information, but levelling information will be given in the form of a datum line with O.D/arbitrary value; the locations of all sections will be shown on the plan.

Photographs of each context will be taken as monochrome prints and digital images (as per Brown 2007), together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations.

Written records will be maintained as laid down in TPA recording manual (as accepted by all regional county archaeologists).

*Sampling (Palaeoenviromental & Industrial residues)*

Appropriate sampling of deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential and residues and debris from industrial processes will be conducted in accordance with Table 1 (see below), with appropriate amendments following subsequent specialist advice. Specialist palaeoenvironmental advice will be provided by James Rackham and/or members of the School of Geography, University of Nottingham. Samples (both palaeoenvironmental and industrial) will be assessed, followed by full analysis and reporting where appropriate following receipt of specialist advice and liaison with the English Heritage Principal Inspector.

## 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: | s | | | 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 | | | | | * | | |

*Adjustments to be made following specialist advice and liaison with DCC DCA where appropriate.

**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)

### 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 English Heritage collections store (Wrest Park) 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 (TPA), Romano-British pottery to Ruth Leary (Independent), Anglo-Saxon/Medieval pottery/tile to L.Elliott & Dr.H.Jones (TPA), Flint to J.Brown (Associate of TPA).

### 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
computer discs and printout

### 4.3 Archive and Finds Deposition

Initial contact with the English Heritage Collections Store (Wrest Park) will be made before the commencement of fieldwork, using the appropriate notification form.

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

Finds will remain the property of the client with deposition to English Heritage Collections Store subject to their approval.

The paper and digital archive generated by TPA will remain the property of the Unit until deposited within the English Heritage Collections Store:

English Heritage and museum store 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.

English Heritage 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 6 weeks of the end of the fieldwork, a final report on results will be completed and copies provided to:

The client
English Heritage Principal Inspector for accession to the HER. This will include a copy of the report in PDF format on CD along with indexed copies of all digital on site photography.
English Heritage (copies sent to both the Scheduled Monument files at Derngate, and a copy for the properties department).

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, all to include levels tied to Ordnance Datum.
- 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*

The results will be submitted for publication within the annual summary, if applicable, in *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.* If significant results are discovered then an individual report of an appropriate level of detail, will also be submitted for publication to a suitable academic journal.

*Copyright*

Trent & Peak Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project, with no limitation on the number of times that the client may reproduce any report. The client's contribution will be acknowledged in any future use of the work by TPA.

**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 IfA (Institute for Archaeologists).

TPA will keep the client English Heritage 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 English Heritage Principal Inspector will be free to visit the site at any stage of the fieldwork

**6 PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

A provisional timetable of 10 March 2014 has been suggested for the commencement of the main ground works. As soon as a project start date is confirmed the English Heritage Principal Inspector will be informed.

**References**

Brown, D.H. 2007 *Archaeological Archives – A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (IFA/AAF).

BGS Geology Viewer http//maps.bgs.uk/geologyviewer

**Annexe D**

## DOCUMENTATION FOR SMCC 6

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS 1994 no. 1381 ANCIENT MONUMENTS CLASS CONSENT ORDER

### 1. Applicant

Name: Joanna Sanderson

Office Address:
English Heritage
24 Brooklands Ave
Cambridge
CB2 8BU

Telephone: 01223 582758

### 2. Monument to which the document relates:

Name of Monument: Bolsover Castle

Region: East Midlands

County Monument Number: 1012496 National Grid Ref: SK4709370520

### 3. Description of the proposed works:

- Replanting (as per attached proposal drawing)
- Install conduit below each pathway to allow for use of hose pipe along full length of flower bed.
- Install soak away to West Garden Room door and lower level to allow for water run off
- Extend pathway width to exit door from Wall Walk
- Reduce pathway entrance width to West Garden Room

| 4. | List of plans, drawings and photographs provided: |
|---|---|

- Proposed design for Foundation Garden (Annabel Brown, 13 Nov 2013)

| 5. | Any other relevant details (including justification for works/activity, method statement, reference to Conservation Plan/Statement etc) |
|---|---|

Please see the enclosed Conservation Plan Gazetteer entry which describes the history and significance of the Fountain Garden.

Justification and mitigation for the works:
The design uses historically appropriate planting to enhance the appearance of the fountain garden and the overall visitor experience.

The proposal is to cultivate the flower bed at the base of the wall so that the new planting will establish well. This will involve removing a trench of soil 30cm deep 30 cm wide and the width of the bed approx 1m wide. This soil is then placed at the end of the long bed. The soil at the bottom of the trench is then forked over to a depth of up to 30cm incorporating organic matter. The back wall of the trench then is given a layer of organic matter. A new trench is then dug to the same specification and the soil moved forward on top of the first trench and its organic matter. The process above is repeated until the gardener reaches the end of the bed, the final trench is then filled with the soil removed from the first trench.

The above describes the process of single digging to prepare the bed and would be undertaken by hand using a digging spade and fork (the spade will be a square headed spade not a pointed spade). If areas of masonry are discovered these are not damaged with a square headed spade and the area left open for archaeological investigation/recording.

As the area we are intending to cultivate has been in cultivation since the 17th century, we would not expect any significant archaeological finds, especially as the soil level has increased since the 17th century due to regular cultivation and the import of organic matter.

In the corner by the basement steps, we would remove 10cm depth of turf and insert coloured gravels to create the crest of the Cavendish family. The idea is that this would be viewed from the wall walk above.

There is little alteration to the building fabric but the fruit trees would be trained up the wall of the garden. The historic method of fixing would be used, whereby nails are inserted into the mortar joints through a cloth rag or piece of leather to hold them in place. The tree branches are then tied to the nail.

Archaeological reports from the 1990s concluded that the present path had changed from the historical route and there was not much evidence for vegetation other than climbing plants, as evidenced by nails on the walls. Copies of these reports by Richard Sheppard and Northamptonshire Archaeology are available on request.

Pre-application advice has been sought from Louise Brennan in January 2014.

The attached project specification for the works specified above are provided to document the project in accordance with the policies of English Heritage.

Signature: _____ Date:

Position:

Inspector of Ancient Monuments:

SMCC

## CERTIFICATION OF SMCC 6

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS 1994 NO 1381, ANCIENT MONUMENTS CLASS CONSENT ORDER

### 1. Monument to which this certificate relates:

Name of Monument: Bolsover Castle

Region: East Midlands

County Monument Number: 1012496 National Grid Ref: SK4709370520

### 2. Proposals to which this certificate relates:

- Replanting (as per attached proposal drawing)
- Install conduit below each pathway to allow for use of hose pipe along full length of flower bed.
- Install soak away to West Garden Room door and lower level to allow for water run off
- Extend pathway width to exit door from Wall Walk
- Reduce pathway entrance width to West Garden Room

### 3. Conditions applied to this certificate:

The documentation of this proposal has been examined and is *adequate* to permit certification.

The following conditions are required in order that the proposed works can be commissioned in accordance with English Heritage conservation policy:

I). On site interpretation materials should frankly indicate the historically inspired rather than historically authentic nature of the planting scheme.

II). No buried historic structural or human remains are to be disturbed in the course of these works.

III). No damage is to be caused to historic walls, gateways or their footings during or as a consequence of these works.

IV). The above conditions to be ensured by continuous professional archaeological supervision of all ground works including the modification of any tree planting design which is found on archaeological inspection likely to cause either direct or consequential disturbance to archaeological deposits of pre-nineteenth century date.

V) in the event of any unexpected archaeological discovery the EH Inspector is to be informed immediately.

## 4. Further documentation required:

n/a

## 5. Certification by Regional Team:

I have examined the proposals and I am content that they document fully works that would otherwise be subject to Scheduled Monument Consent.

I have listed conditions that apply to this certificate.

The proposed works may now be commissioned. Please ensure that all contractors working under this consent are issued with a copy of this certification.

Signed:  Date: 25/02/2014

Name: Tim Allen Inspector of Ancient Monuments