

Archaeological Watching Brief at Bay Tree Farm, Rodley, Derbyshire



Rear view of Bay Tree Farm, Rodley, Derbyshire

ARS Ltd Report 2011/53
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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Contents

Executive Summary	4
1 Introduction.....	5
2 Aims and Objectives	7
3 Methodology.....	7
4 Results.....	9
5 Conclusion	13
6 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright	13
7 Statement of Indemnity	13
8 Archive Deposition	13
9 Acknowledgements.....	13
10 References.....	14
APPENDIX I.....	15

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List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location	6
Figure 2: Site plan	8
Figure 3: Excavation of the foundation trench for the new extension.....	10
Figure 4: Foundation trench of the new extension, looking north-west.....	10
Figure 5: Detail of the foundation trench, looking west (scale 1m).....	11
Figure 6: Underpinning trench beneath the timber-framed partition, looking south (scale 1m)	11
Figure 7: Made-ground layer beneath the former tile floor in the southern room G-4 (scale 1m).....	12
Figure 8: Subsoil layer exposed following general floor level reduction in the central room G-3.....	12

Executive Summary

In May 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Jim and Kate Bates to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Bay Tree Farm, Rodsley, Derbyshire. The monitoring was carried out during groundworks for the refurbishment of the farmhouse building and the construction of a new extension.

The work involved the excavation of a foundation trench for a new extension to the rear of the building, underpinning work and the reduction of the farmhouse floor to a level approximately 0.4m below the original level.

No features of archaeological significance or buried land surfaces were revealed.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In May 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Jim and Kate Bates to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Bay Tree Farm, Rodsley, Derbyshire. The work was carried out during groundworks for the refurbishment of the existing house building and the construction of a new extension to the rear of the building.
- 1.2 The site is centred at NGR SK 20194 40236 and is situated along the eastern side of Rodsley Lane in the hamlet of Rodsley, four miles north of Ashbourne, Derbyshire (Fig. 1). The farmhouse is a Grade II listed building, and this includes a 19th century water pump in the yard. There are also a detached 19th century barn and piggery on the property, although these are not listed.
- 1.3 A building recording of Bay Tree Farmhouse was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd. in February 2010. This survey concluded that Bay Tree Farmhouse contained some elements (including a timber frame) of a post-medieval farmhouse dating from the late 16th or early 17th century (Mora-Ottomano 2010, 52). Later phases of construction were identified from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.
- 1.4 The solid geology of the site consists of Mercia Mudstone and the drift geology consists of glaciofluvial deposits (mid Pleistocene) of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2007).
- 1.5 The topography of the site itself is relatively flat at approximately 128 metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The eastern side of the farm appears to have been slightly reduced to c. 500mm in order to level a gentle slope towards the east.

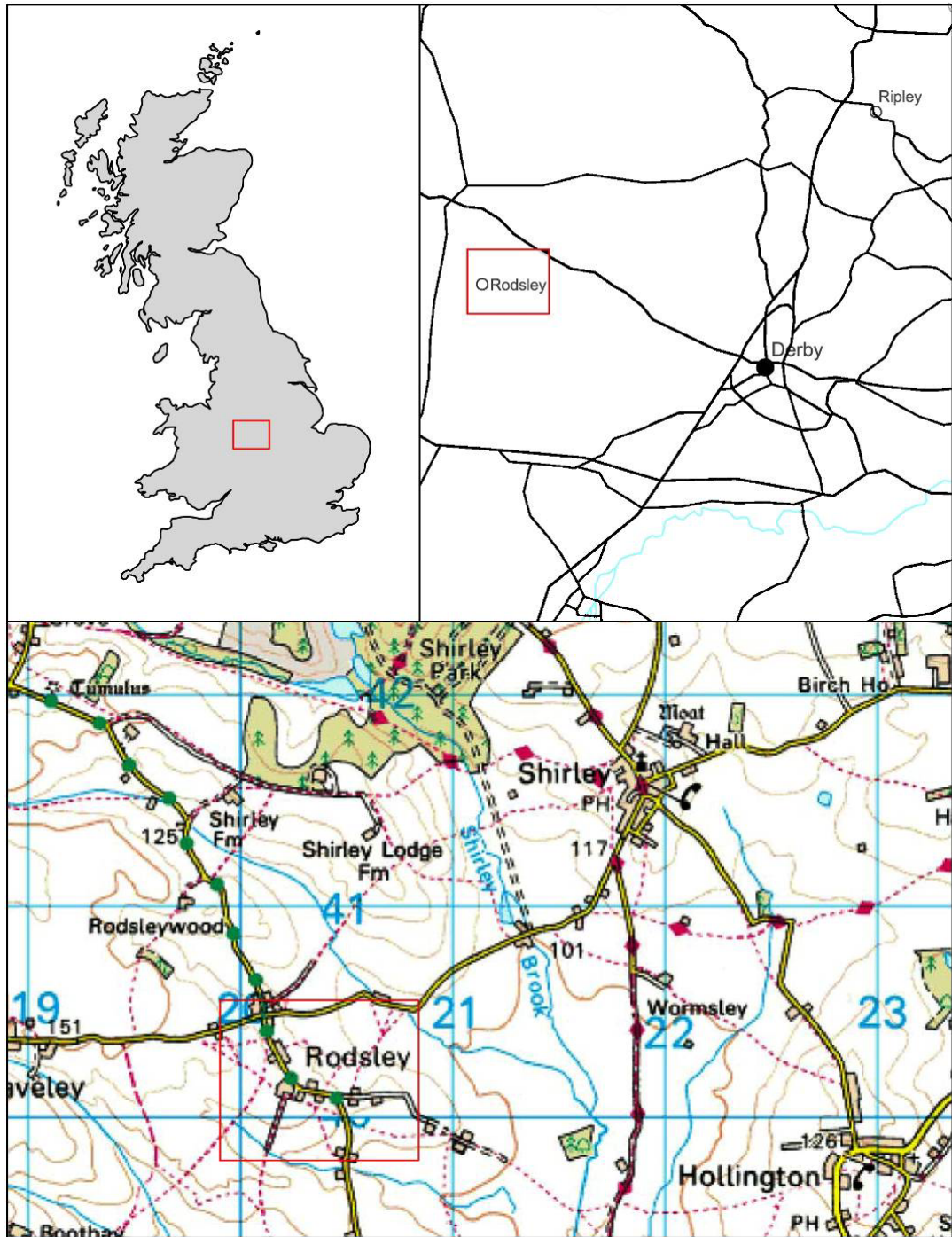


Figure 1: Site location

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2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The aim of the watching brief was to observe all groundworks for the presence of archaeology and ensure that any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered during the groundworks were fully recorded and interpreted, that any remains disturbed were preserved by record and any archaeological finds or ecofacts were recovered.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 A detailed project design was prepared by Archeological Research Services Ltd. The specification required that a watching brief should be carried out to observe any ground works taking place for the proposed development, in order to identify any potential archaeological remains. This involved monitoring the excavation of the existing floors in the interior of the farmhouse building to a level approximately 0.4m below the existing floor level. The groundworks also entailed the excavation of underpinning trenches under the partition wall composed of elements of timber frame. Furthermore, a new foundation trench was excavated at the rear of the present house which replaced a small lean-to addition (Fig. 2). The archaeological watching brief was carried out by Alvaro Mora-Ottomano and Kate Mapplethorpe in May 2011. This consisted of the following: All machine excavation on the site was observed by an archaeologist to ensure that no archaeological remains were disturbed. Any features or structures were fully cleaned and recorded in accordance with the standards stipulated by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999 and 2001). The records consisted of the following:



- Any features or structures were photographed, recorded and, where possible, fully-excavated. All the contexts were recorded on pro-forma sheets and a context register was maintained.
- Photographs were taken using a 35mm SLR camera with black and white print film, and colour transparency, as well as with a digital camera (7.1 megapixel resolution).

Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Angel House
Portland Square
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DE45 1HB

Site Code: BTF11
Date: 22/06/2011
Drawn: KM

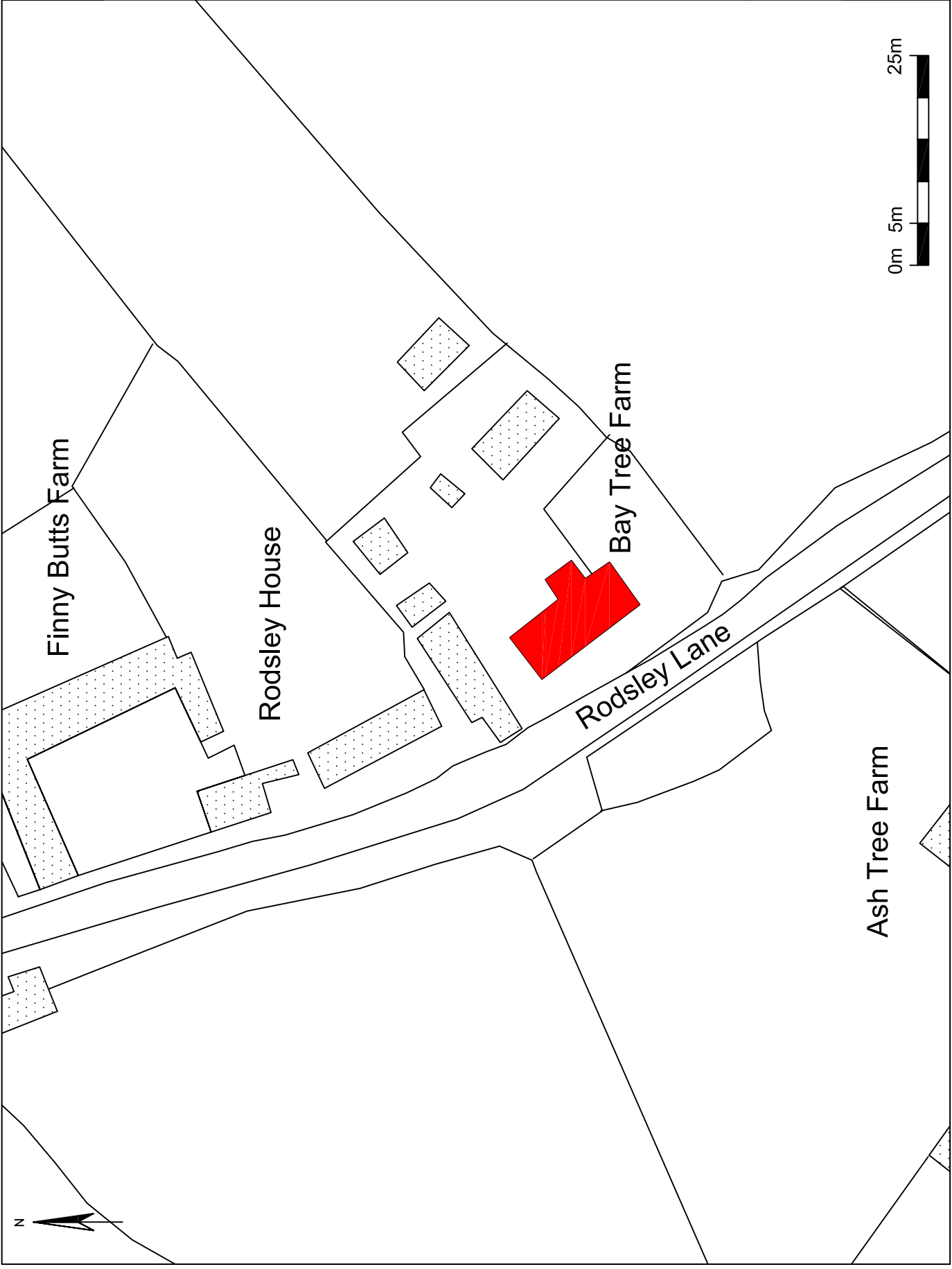
Figure 2: Site Plan

Key:

-  Buildings
-  Bay Tree Farm area of excavation

Notes:

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Ordnance Survey data if applicable
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4 Results

- 4.1 The new foundation trench excavated at the rear of the house, for the proposed extension, measured *c.* 6 metres in length (N/S) with two returns (E/W) of approximately 3 metres in length (Figs 3 – 5). The trench reached an overall depth of 1.20 metres.
- 4.2 The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a thin layer of topsoil, which in turn overlay a subsoil layer composed of sand and gravel with an overall thickness of *c.* 200-300mm. The subsoil overlay the underlying geology consisting of Mercian Mudstone. No archaeological features or deposits were present within the excavated area.
- 4.3 The underpinning trenches beneath the timber-framed partition revealed an equivalent stratigraphy with no archaeological remains or former plinth of the timber sill plate (Fig. 6).
- 4.4 The general floor level reduction exposed a thin sandy made-ground layer beneath the tiles, and the subsoil previously identified within the site (Figs 7 and 8). No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.



Figure 3: Excavation of the foundation trench for the new extension



Figure 4: Foundation trench of the new extension, looking north-west



Figure 5: Detail of the foundation trench, looking west (scale 1m)



Figure 6: Underpinning trench beneath the timber-framed partition, looking south (scale 1m)



Figure 7: Made-ground layer beneath the former tile floor in the southern room G-4 (scale 1m)



Figure 8: Subsoil layer exposed following general floor level reduction in the central room G-3

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief undertaken at Bay Tree Farm, Rodsley, Derbyshire establish that there were no archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds located within the trenches or reduced soils. It is possible that archaeological remains are still present beneath the subsoil sandy layer, but these will not be impacted upon by the current works.

6 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

- 6.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 6.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

7 Statement of Indemnity

- 7.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

8 Archive Deposition

- 8.1 A digital and paper archive will be prepared and deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery by September 2011. This will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data associated with the project. An accession number has been requested from Derby Museum and Art Gallery. A request was submitted prior to commencement for an accession number and this is DBYMU 2009-218.
- 8.2 A summary of the project, with selected drawings, illustrations and photographs will be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication. The results of the work will be published at least in summary form in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.

9 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular Jim and Kate Bates, and Steve Baker of Derbyshire County Council.

10 References

British Geological Survey (2007). *Geological Survey 1:50000 Map*. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Institute for Archaeologist (revised 1999). *Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

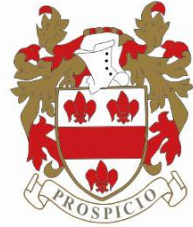
Institute for Archaeologist 2001. *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Mora-Ottomano, A. (2010) *An Archaeological Building Recording at Bay Tree Farm, Rodsley, Derbyshire*. Unpublished report 2010/11.

APPENDIX I
SPECIFICATIONS AND RECORDS

Bay Tree Farm, Rodsley Lane, Rodsley, Derbyshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.



Archaeological Research
Services Ltd

1. Introduction

- 1.1. A Listed Building application (DD/08/00226/LBALT) was submitted in May 2008 for a single storey extension to the rear of Bay Tree Farm, Rodsley. The proposed re-development work also includes internal alterations to the Listed Building.
- 1.2. This Written Scheme of Investigation has been requested by the Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire Dales District Council.
- 1.3. The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that any archaeological features encountered during the conversion works in the specified area are recorded and interpreted and, if at all possible protected.

2. Background

- 2.1. Prior to this work, a level 2 building recording was undertaken at the request of Derbyshire County Council (DCC) (Mora-Ottomano 2010). The building recording noted the development of the building from the 16th-17th century to the present day and noted the existence of fabric from the early phases of the building's use. The report based on this work noted that the building was of potential regional significance, and that the building recording represented a full preservation by record of all existing visible fabric (Mora-Ottomano 2010, 52).

3. Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) will provide a suitably qualified archaeologist to observe groundworks relating to the ground reduction in the interior of the building and to any external groundworks. A watching brief will also be maintained on any exposed building fabric relating to the 16th and 17th century original farmhouse, in order that these be recorded and added to the existing record noted in 2.1 above. If a mechanical excavator is used for groundworks then the archaeologist on site will ensure that a toothless ditching bucket is used. The on site archaeologist will be given the opportunity to stop site work in order to investigate potential archaeological features and adequate time will be allowed for recording any such features.
- 3.2. A written, drawn and photographic record will be maintained during the watching brief plus all significant archaeological remains will be recorded and/or retrieved. The onsite drawings will follow the archaeological drawing conventions in MoLAS' Archaeological Site Manual (2002). All excavations will be recorded in accordance with normal principles of archaeological evaluation upon pro forma context sheets. All significant architectural features will be

photographed (with scale) in situ and their location recorded on a plan of the site.

- 3.3. Where archaeological features and/or deposits are identified during the watching brief, then a sufficient quantity of the said features will be investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed. All features thus investigated will be recorded in plan and section and significant archaeological finds recovered will be retained for analysis. Any archaeological features identified will be photographed and drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10. The stratigraphy, where relevant and apparent, will be recorded within the area of the excavation.
- 3.4. For brick structures, the record will include details of brick dimensions and type (handmade/machine-made, plain/frogged), mortar (colour, composition, hardness) and the extent of structures (number of courses, thickness in skins).
- 3.5. A plan of the excavated areas will be maintained, features noted and section lines recorded. All drawings will be carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts will be recorded using a single context recording system. The site archive will include plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets or their electronic equivalent. Should archaeological features be present then the locations and height AOD of the features will be accurately fixed, surveying in either the planning baselines or the features themselves.
- 3.6. The watching brief will be undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs.(2001).
- 3.7. Any human remains discovered will initially be left in-situ and, if removal is deemed necessary, this will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations.
- 3.8. ARS Ltd will ensure that heavy plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded. Contractors and plant operators will be notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeological officer on site.
- 3.9. A risk assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.

4. Artefact and Ecofact Collection and Recording

- 4.1. Artefact collection policy will be concerned with the provision of adequate samples for meeting the objectives of the work. Discarded artefactual materials will be described and quantified through assignment to broad categories in the field. Analysis of finds will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists. Retained finds will be cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials, as appropriate, for long term storage (see 7. Archive Deposition below).
- 4.2. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (1996).
- 4.3. Collection policies for structural remains and industrial residues have been set out by the

Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA, 1993). The presence of such materials within a context will be recorded even where comprehensive retention is not considered appropriate.

- 4.4. It is not considered likely that waterlogged, palaeoenvironmental or human remains will be encountered at any stage of this project. However, should such remains be identified work will cease and a meeting arranged between ARS Ltd, the landowner and the Development Control Archaeologist to discuss further procedures.

5. Monitoring Arrangements

- 5.1. Reasonable prior notice of the commencement of the project is to be given to the Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist:

Steve Baker,
Development Control Archaeologist,
Derbyshire County Council,
Shand House,
Dale Road South,
Matlock,
Derbyshire DE4 3RY

steve.baker.@derbyshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01629 529773

- 5.2. ARS Ltd will liaise with the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

6. Report

- 6.1. Following completion of the watching brief ARS Ltd will produce a report which will include:

- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the project
- Methodology
- A location plan showing all excavated areas with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections (illustrating height AOD)
- An objective summary statement of results
- Conclusions
- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References
- Statement of intent regarding publication
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- A copy of the DCC brief

- A copy of the OASIS form
 - The proposed date of deposition of the archive
- 6.2. Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record, and will be submitted to the Development Control Archaeologist within six weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

7. Archive Deposition

- 7.1. A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared and deposited according to *Procedures for the transfer of archaeological archives* (Museums in Derbyshire 2003), and will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data in a format to be agreed by the repository museum, which in this case will be:

Derby Museum and Art Gallery
 The Strand
 Derby
 DE1 1BS
 Tel: 01332 641901
 Fax: 01332 641910
 Email: museums@derby.gov.uk

- 7.2. An accession number has been allocated to the archive by Derby Museum and Art Gallery and this will be marked on the contents of the archive. The accession number is DBYMU 2009-218.
- 7.3. All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see above).
- 7.4. A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be supplied to the HER and deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM along that will be attached with the report.
- 7.5. Both the Development Control Archaeologist and the museum curator will be notified on completion of fieldwork, with a timetable for reporting and archive deposition.
- 7.6. Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, will be included as part of the final report.
- 7.7. An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> has been initiated for the building recording phase of this project, and the watching brief data will be added to this record. Key fields will be completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).
- 7.8. The Development Control Archaeologist will be notified of the final deposition of the archive.

8 Changes to Methodology or Work Programme

- 8.5 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with the prior

written approval of the Development Control Archaeologist.

9 Publication

9.5 A summary of the project, with selected drawings, illustrations and photographs, will be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication. The results of the work will be published at least in summary form in Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.

10 References

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). 2008. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS). 2002. *Site Manual*. London, Museum of London.

Mora-Ottomano, A. 2010. *An Archaeological Building Recording at Bay Tree Farmhouse, Rodsley, Derbyshire*. Unpublished Archaeological Report prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

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OASIS ID: archaeol5-103698

Project details

Project name	Bay Tree Farm Watching Brief
Short description of the project	In May 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Jim and Kate Bates to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Bay Tree Farm, Rodsley, Derbyshire. The monitoring was carried out during ground works for the refurbishment of the farmhouse building and the construction of a new extension. The work involved the excavation of the farmhouse floor to a level approximately 0.4m below the original floor level and the downward extension of the existing internal wall footings. No features of archaeological significance or buried land surfaces were revealed.
Project dates	Start: 07-03-2011 End: 20-05-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ARS 2010/11 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	Archaeol5-72283 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	DD/08?00226/LBALT - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	FARMHOUSE Post Medieval
Monument type	BARN Post Medieval
Monument type	PIG STY Post Medieval
Monument type	WATER PUMP Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE DERBYSHIRE DALES RODSLEY Bay Tree Farm, Rodsley

Study area 64.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates SK 20194 40236 52.9588009988 -1.699349465340 52 57 31 N 001 41 57 W
 Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 127.00m Max: 128.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Research Services Ltd
 Project brief originator Derbyshire County Council
 Project design originator Archaeological Research Services Ltd
 Project director/manager James Brightman
 Project supervisor Kate Mapplethorpe
 Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner
 Name of sponsor/funding body Jim and Kate Bates

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Derby Museum and Art Gallery
 Digital Archive ID DBYMU 2009-218
 Digital Contents 'none'
 Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
 Paper Archive recipient Derby Museum and Art Gallery
 Paper Archive ID DBYMU 2009-218
 Paper Contents 'none'
 Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at Bay Tree Farm, Rodsley, Derbyshire
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Mapplethorpe, K.
 Other bibliographic details ARS 2011/53
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 Issuer or Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

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Place of issue or
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Entered by Kate Mapplethorpe (kate@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)

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