

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Castlefield, Bretby, Derbyshire



ARS Ltd Report 2011/73

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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2009 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned to supervise ground works in relation to the construction of an extension to the side of the property Castlefield, Mount Road, Bretby.

The work had been requested by the Development Control Archaeologist of Derbyshire County Council and required an archaeologist from Archaeological Research Services Ltd to be on site to observe all ground works and to ensure preservation by record of any archaeological deposits discovered.

The work took place between the 27th and 28th of July 2011 and observed groundworks in a small area to the NW of the house. The area was cleared of trees and topsoil and levelled to a suitable height before trenches for the new footings were excavated. The area will form a new exercise room.

The matching brief did not identify any significant archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds within the extent of excavation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned to supervise ground works relating to the construction of an extension to the North West side of Castlefield, Bretby. Initial ground works consisted of clearing and levelling an area of ground to the side of the house and excavation of trenches for the new footings.



Figure 1. Site Location

2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site is situated along Mount Road, which runs through the village of Bretby (SK 2963 2333) (Fig. 1).

2.2 Bretby is situated North of Swadlincote and East of Burton on Trent in an area where the solid geology consists of Bromsgrove Sandstone formation (British Geological Survey 2007).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Castlefield sits adjacent to the earthwork remains of Bretby Castle. The castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No 23306) and was subject to an evaluation in 2006 by Birmingham Archaeology (Event No: EDR2277). Bretby became a separate manor in the early 13th century and in 1300 Edward I granted a licence to crenellate, the earliest remains on site may therefore date to the mid 13th to early 14th century (English Heritage 1994, Scheduling Record). The majority of the earthwork remains, however, are those of a late-medieval castle or fortified manor dating to the late 16th century. It was been built

around two courtyards, a smaller one to the south with a large one to the north (HER No 17501). There are reputedly remains of a chapel and outbuildings in the vicinity of the castle and these are thought to lie somewhere to the north or northeast (English Heritage 1994 Scheduling Record). This area is not included as part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, as the remains are currently ill understood, but the potential exists for significant buried remains in the area of the present development. A map showing the extent of the Scheduled area is included as Appendix II of this document.

4. AIMS OF THE PROJECT

4.1 The project was an archaeological watching brief and the aims of the project were as follows:

- To observe all groundwork for the presence of archaeology.
- To alert all interested parties to the possible destruction of archaeological features.
- To fully record and excavate any archaeological features encountered.

5. METHOD STATEMENT

5.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd provided an archaeological officer at all times during any ground works within the specified area. A mechanical excavator was used for the ground works and the archaeologist on site ensured that a toothless ditching bucket was used. The on site archaeologist was given the opportunity to stop site work in order to investigate potential archaeological features and adequate time was allowed for recording any such features.

5.2 A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained during the watching brief plus all significant archaeological remains, if discovered, were to be recorded and/or retrieved. All excavations were recorded in accordance with standard principles of archaeological evaluation upon *pro forma* context sheets. Any significant architectural features discovered were to be photographed (with scale) *in situ* and their location recorded on a plan of the site. A plan of the excavated area was maintained and carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts were recorded using a single context recording system.

5.3 If any archaeological features and/or deposits were identified during the watching brief, then a sufficient quantity of the said features were to be investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed. Any features thus investigated were to be recorded in plan and section and significant archaeological finds recovered were to be retained for analysis. Any archaeological features identified were to 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, was recorded within the area of the excavation.

5.4 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. (2001).

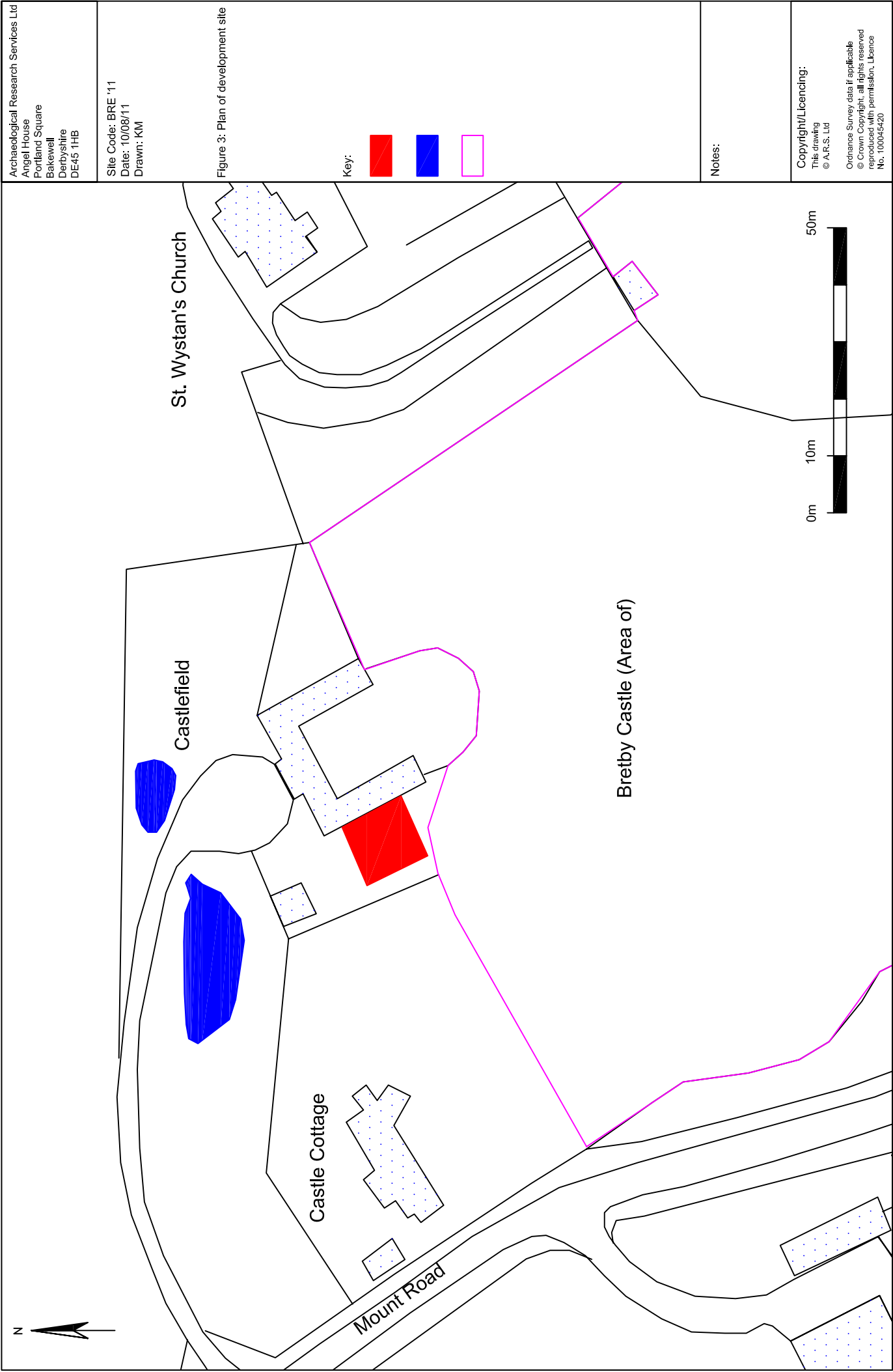
5.5 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.

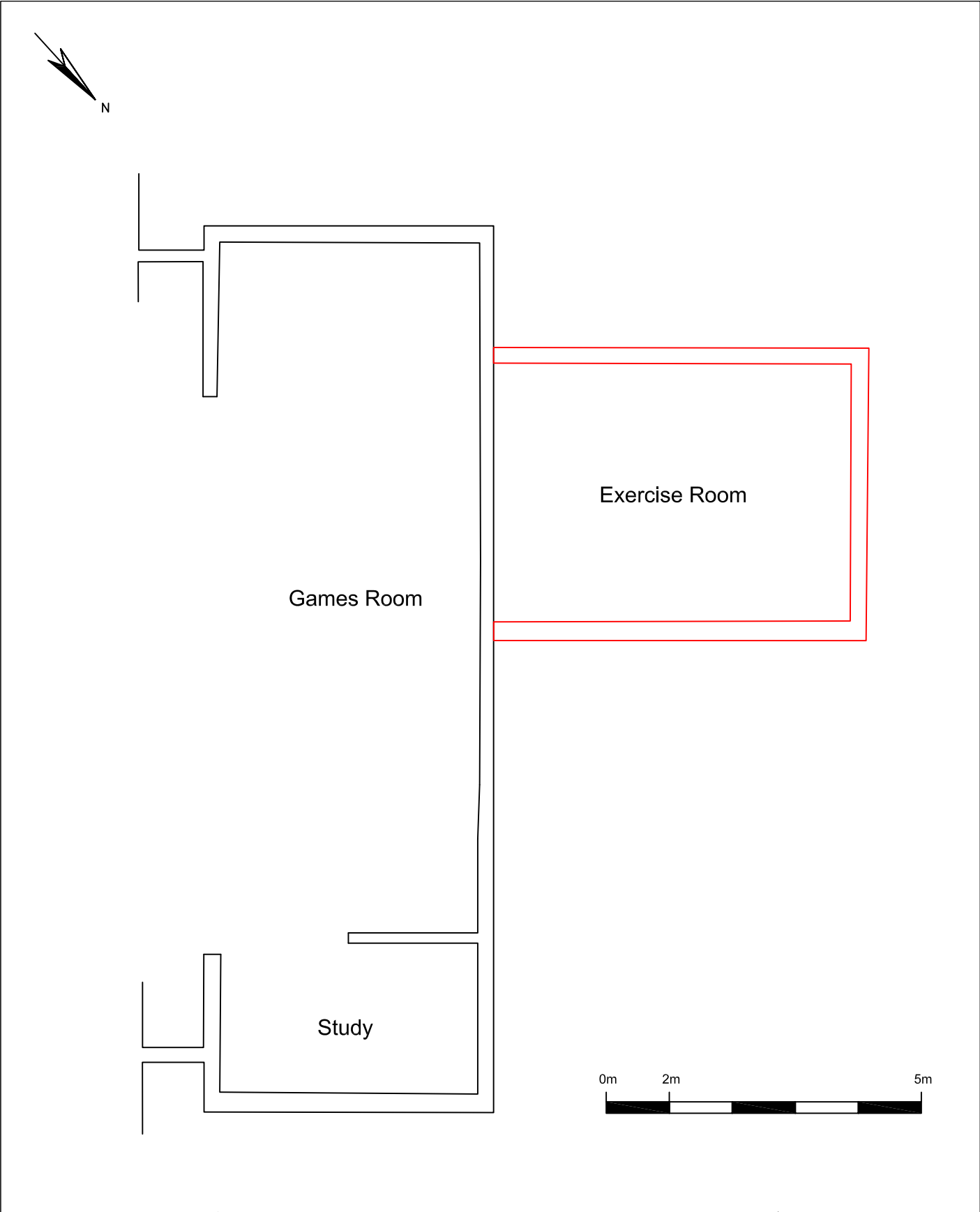
6. RESULTS

6.1 The area to be stripped and levelled in preparation for the entrance to the driveway measured approximately 5.7m by 4.1m and was located at the North West of the current house building. (Fig. 2)



Fig. 2 View of the area prior to stripping (looking South West).





Archaeological Research Services Ltd Angel House Portland Square Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1HB	Figure 4: Detailed site plan	Key: <div><div></div> Location of trenches for new footings</div>	Copyright/Licencing: This drawing © A.R.S., Ltd Ordnance Survey data if applicable © Crown Copyright, all rights reserved reproduced with permission. Licence No. 100045420
Site Code: BRE '11 Date: 10/08/11 Drawn: KM	Notes:		

6.2 The area contained three fruit trees with substantial root systems. There was also a flagstone pathway running around the house which had to be lifted. The topsoil (001) was a loosely compacted clayish silt which was a dark grey brown in colour and approximately 0.4m in depth. Throughout the area the topsoil had been heavily disturbed through root action and modern activity.



Figure 5. Area with the strip underway.

6.3 Below the topsoil was the upper horizon of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil (002). The area was levelled off at this depth before deeper excavations to a depth of approximately 0.7m (the lower extent of the deposit) commenced. This showed that the deposit was made ground relating to the construction of an earlier extension (the area of the house that the current extension was to be built on to) and garden wall. An electricity cable was found approximately 50cm in depth at the South Western corner of the excavated area. Below this deposit lay the natural substratum – in this case a dark reddish brown clay of unknown depth.



Figure 6. Working shot showing the extent of the excavations.



Figure 7. Section of the North Eastern-most trench showing the footings of the previous extension and the typical stratigraphy of the site (scale = 1m).

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 There were no archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds revealed during the ground works for this project. On the basis of this work, remains relating to the Castle must lie elsewhere.

8. ARCHIVING AND PUBLICATION

8.1 A digital and paper archive will be prepared and deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery by October 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 and this is DBYMU 2011-62.

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. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

9.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

9.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

10. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

10.1 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.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular the landowners and Dave Barrett of Derbyshire County Council.

12. REFERENCES

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

APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Castlefield, Bretby, Derbyshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief



Archaeological Research
Services Ltd

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a written scheme of investigation for a watching brief at Castlefield in Bretby, near Burton on Trent, which has been requested prior to a house extension at the site. The site is located at National grid reference SK 2963 2333.

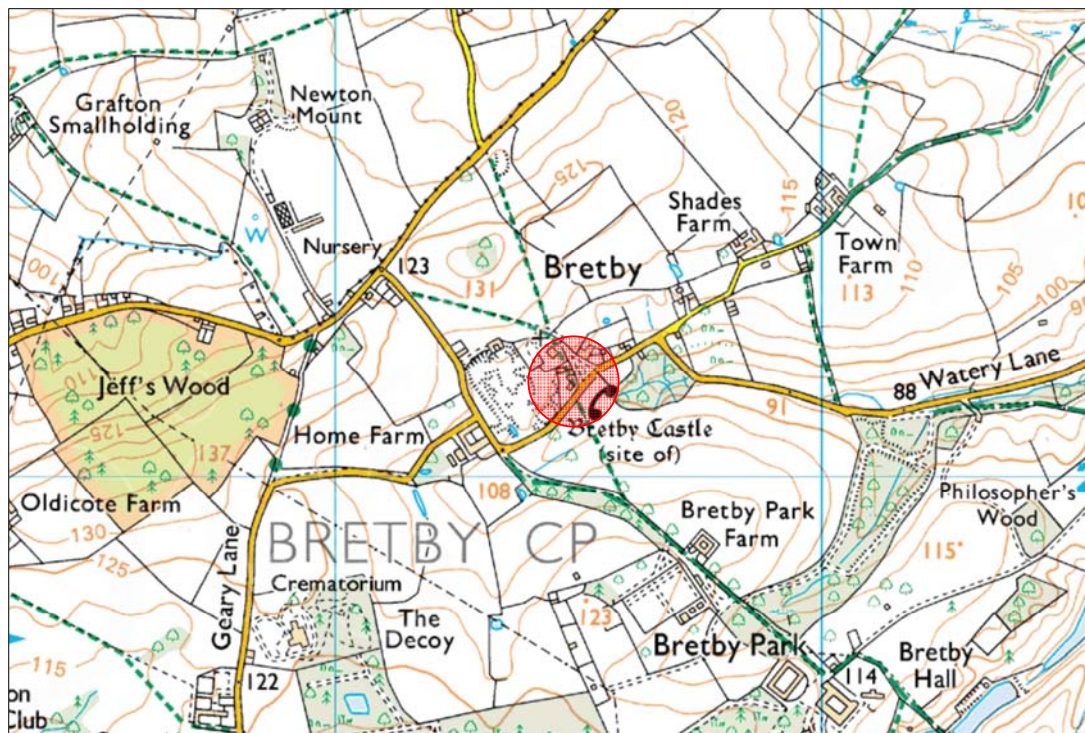


Fig 1 Site location. (Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420).

2. Background

- 2.1 Castlefield sits adjacent to the earthwork remains of Bretby Castle. The castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No 23306) and was subject to an evaluation in 2006 by Birmingham Archaeology (Event No: EDR2277). Bretby became a separate manor in the early 13th century and in 1300 Edward I granted a licence to crenellate, the earliest remains on site may therefore date to the mid 13th to early 14th century (English Heritage 1994, Scheduling Record). The majority of the earthwork remains, however, are those of a late-medieval castle or fortified manor dating to the late 16th century. It was built around two courtyards, a

smaller one to the south with a large one to the north (HER No 17501). There are reputedly remains of a chapel and outbuildings in the vicinity of the castle and these are thought to lie somewhere to the north or northeast (English Heritage 1994 Scheduling Record). This area is not included as part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, as the remains are currently ill understood, but the potential exists for significant buried remains in this location. A map showing the extent of the Scheduled area is included as Appendix 1 of this document.

3. Objectives

- 3.1 The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that any archaeological features encountered during the course of the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.

4. Fieldwork Methodology

- 4.1 The groundworks will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Arrangement will be made to avoid any tracking of machinery across recently stripped areas until the areas have been checked and cleared by a representative of Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd). If significant archaeological features are identified the Archaeological Development Control Officer of Derbyshire Dales District will be notified and a decision taken as to the best method of proceeding.
- 4.2 Excavation will be carried out in spits. This will provide the maximum visibility of cut features such as postholes and pits and will allow for minimum disturbance of buried masonry structures. The attending archaeologist will supervise mechanical excavation to ensure maximum archaeological visibility.
- 4.3 ARS Ltd will provide a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times during any ground works on the site to undertake a watching brief. 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.
- 4.4 A written, drawn and photographic record will be maintained during the watching brief plus all significant archaeological remains will be recorded and/or retrieved. 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.
- 4.5 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.

- 4.6 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).
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 The watching brief will be undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 Archaeological Research Services 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 archaeologist on site.
- 4.11 A risk assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.

5 Artefact and Ecofact collection and Recording

- 5.1 Artefact collection policy will be concerned with the provision of adequate samples for meeting the objectives of the work. All finds of medieval and earlier date will be collected as a matter of course. 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 8 Archive Deposition below).
- 5.2 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).
- 5.3 Collection and 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.
- 5.4 The representative from Archaeological Research Services Ltd will inspect and monitor the upcast spoil from the site investigations, and unstratified pottery will be retained only if it is of early post-medieval date, or earlier.

- 5.5 If significant waterlogged deposits are found, which are judged to be of palaeoenvironmental significance in relation to archaeological deposits, then contingency will be set aside to allow for retrieval and assessment of such samples.

6 Monitoring Arrangements

- 6.1 Reasonable prior notice of the commencement of the ground works will be given to the Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist. The DCA contact will be:

Dave Barrett,
Derbyshire County Council,
Shand House,
Dale Road South,
Matlock,
Derbyshire DE4 3RY
Tel: 01629 539774

- 6.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd. will liaise with the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist at regular intervals throughout the course of the work

7. Report

- 7.1 Following completion of the watching brief Archaeological Research Services 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 and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections.
- 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 DCA brief

- A copy of the OASIS form
- 7.2 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record.
- 8. Archive Deposition**
- 8.1 A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd, consisting 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 is the Derbyshire City Museum and Art Gallery). The archive will be deposited within two months of the completion of the fieldwork, an accession number has been requested. The Development Control Archaeologist and Museum Curator will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive. The date for deposition of the archive will be confirmed in the report and the Development Control Archaeologist informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.
- 8.2 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see above).
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields 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).
- 9. Changes to Methodology or Work Programme**
- 9.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Development Control Archaeologist.
- 10. Publication**
- 10.1 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.
- 11. References**

IFA. 2001. *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs, Revised edition*

**APPENDIX II: MAP SHOWING THE EXTENT OF BRETBY CASTLE
SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT**


Heritage Category: Scheduling
List Entry No : 1011443

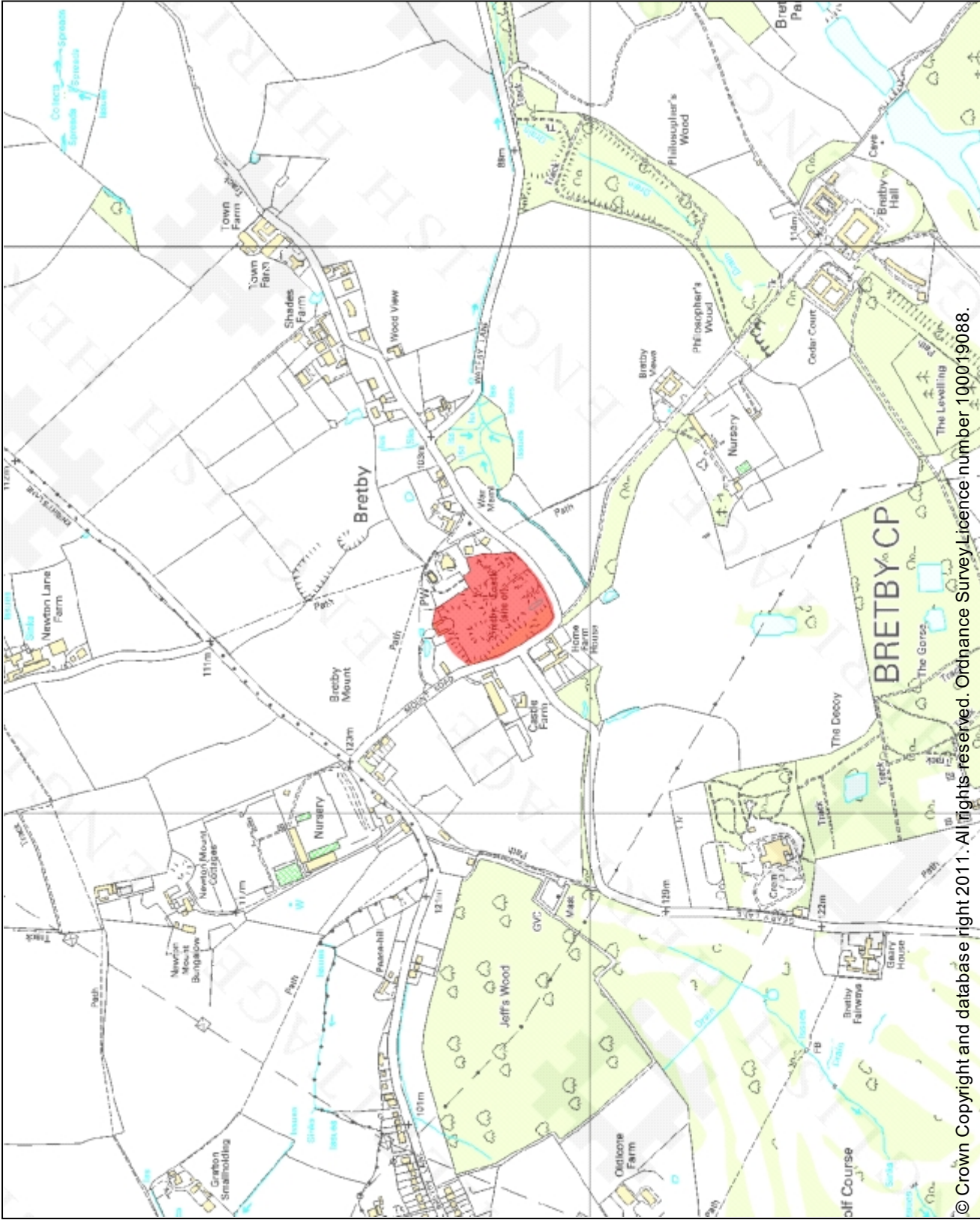
County: Derbyshire
District: South Derbyshire
Parish: Bretby

Each official record of a scheduled monument contains a map. New entries on the schedule from 1988 onwards include a digitally created map which forms part of the official record. For entries created in the years up to and including 1987 a hand-drawn map forms part of the official record. The map here has been translated from the official map and that process may have introduced inaccuracies. Copies of maps that form part of the official record can be obtained from English Heritage.

This map was delivered electronically and when printed may not be to scale and may be subject to distortions. All maps and grid references are for identification purposes only and must be read in conjunction with other information in the record.

List Entry NGR: SK 29359 23169
Map Scale: 1:10000
Print Date: 20 July 2011


ENGLISH HERITAGE
1 Waterhouse Square, 138 -142 Holborn, EC1N 2ST
Tel: 020 7973 3000 www.english-heritage.org.uk



Name: Bretby Castle fortified manor

APPENDIX III: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

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OASIS ID: archaeol5-107519

Project details

Project name	Castlefield, Bretby
Short description of the project	In October 2009 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned to supervise ground works in relation to the construction of an extension to the side of the property Castlefield, Mount Road, Bretby. The work had been requested by the Development Control Archaeologist of Derbyshire County Council and required an archaeologist from Archaeological Research Services Ltd to be on site to observe all ground works and to ensure preservation by record of any archaeological deposits discovered. The work took place between the 27th and 28th of July 2011 and observed groundworks in a small area to the NW of the house. The area was cleared of trees and topsoil and levelled to a suitable height before trenches for the new footings were excavated. The area will form a new exercise room. The watching brief did not identify any significant archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds within the extent of excavation.
Project dates	Start: 27-07-2011 End: 28-07-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ARS 2011/73 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 10 - Orchard
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE BRETBY Castlefield, Bretby

Postcode	DE15 0RA
Study area	12.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 2963 2333 52.8063755009 -1.560408889230 52 48 22 N 001 33 37 W Point

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Derby Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Archive ID	DBYMU 2011-62
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Derby Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Archive ID	DBYMU 2011-62
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Castlefield, Bretby, Derbyshire
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Mapplethorpe, K.
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