

## An Archaeological Watching Brief at Park Farm Pond, Bradbourne, Derbyshire



Working shot of the topsoil strip

**ARS Ltd Report 2011/94**  
March and April 2011

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# An Archaeological Watching Brief at Park Farm Pond, Bradbourne

ARS Ltd Report 2011/94

September 2011

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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## Contents

List of Figures.....	3
Executive Summary.....	4
1. Introduction.....	5
1.1. Location and Scope of Work.....	5
1.2. Geology and preservation.....	5
1.3. Historical Background.....	6
2. Methodology.....	6
3. Results.....	8
4. Conclusion.....	9
5. Publicity, confidentiality and copyright.....	10
6. Archive deposition and publication.....	10
7. Statement of indemnity.....	10
8. Acknowledgements.....	10
9. References.....	11
Appendix I: Written Scheme of Investigation	12
Appendix II: OASIS Form	21

## List of Figures

1.	Site location.....	5
2.	Site plan.....	7
3.	Photograph showing the stratigraphy of the pond area.....	8

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*In September 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Mr. David Alsop to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Park Farm, Bradbourne, Derbyshire. The monitoring was carried out during excavations for the construction of a new pond.*

*The historical remains in the area of Park Farm include a late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century farm 100m to the west, and remains associated with the nearby medieval village of Netherton. House platforms are present as earthworks on the north-west bank of the stream, along with the remains of medieval ridge and furrow.*

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

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Location and scope of work

1.1.1. In September 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Mr David Alsop to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Park Farm, Bradbourne, Derbyshire (Fig. 1). The site is centred at SK 21935 52435.

1.1.2. The work was carried out during excavations for the construction of a new pond. The work was requested by the Development Control Archaeologist in response to an application for planning permission for the pond.



Figure 1. Site location

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### 1.2. Geology and preservation

1.2.1. The solid geology of the site suggested by the British Geological Survey (1979) consists of interbedded limestone and mudstone of the Widmerpool Formation. However, upon excavation it was found that the geology instead consisted of a shale and sandstone deposit with patches of boulder clay.

1.2.2. The close proximity of the stream and the general boggy nature of the immediate area suggested that there was the potential for water logging throughout the site as well as possible anaerobic conditions, depending on the depth of deposits and overburden.

### **1.3. Historical Background**

1.3.1 The historical remains in the area of Park Farm include a late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century farm 100m to the west, and remains associated with the nearby medieval village of Nethererton. Medieval house platforms are present as earthworks on the north-west bank of the stream, along with the remains of medieval ridge and furrow. These remains have been entered in the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (DHER 2018).

1.3.2 As part of a wider research and training project, the area of Bradbourne was subject to study, survey and targeted excavation by Sheffield University during the early 2000s. During this project, geophysical survey and excavation was undertaken on the immediate area of the proposed groundworks. An unpublished paper (Moreland 2005) outlines the findings:

“(Sheffield University) excavated parts of a late 17th to early 18th century farm in Nether Bradbourne...The buildings and yards of this complex were set within a series of old stream and ditch channels, some of which were walled perhaps suggesting the harnessing of water-power. The site seems to have been abandoned in the 18th century – when Park Farm was built 100 metres to the east. It seems that the inhabitants of Park Farm used the old farm as a rubbish dump – since the upper layers there comprise a large assemblage of 18th century pottery” (Moreland 2005, 22-3).

1.3.3 The site was also subjected to a watching brief during flood mitigation groundworks in March and April 2011. During this watching brief no finds or features of archaeological significance were uncovered, although it was found that a deep alluvial deposit was present in the area above the stream in which a tree, possibly felled by humans, was preserved (Mapplethorpe 2011, 8). The presence of the alluvium suggested that a similar stratigraphy may be present at the site of the pond. A further cultural heritage scoping assessment was undertaken prior to the commencement of the pond groundworks, and this concluded that:

“The aerial photograph assessment suggests that the proposed development is unlikely to have any direct impact on the significance of known heritage assets. The more recent aerial photograph confirms the area of the development is waterlogged and does not contain the evidence of cultivation which can be seen in the surrounding areas. Given the proximity of the brook, this area may have proved unsuitable for cultivation purposes.” (Walker *et al* 2011, 8).

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

2.1. 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 levelling of the area immediately north of the stream bank to a width of approximately 10 metres (varying depending on the location) and the chamfering of the subsequent slope that was created by the removal of the excess ground.

2.2 The area was excavated by machine, using a back-acting toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The machine removed the topsoil (001) in spits until the first potential archaeological horizon (003) was exposed. The surface was then cleaned using hand tools in order to expose any archaeological features. On finding no archaeological features the machine continued to excavate to the required depth.

2.1 A single context recording system was employed. Each layer encountered was given a unique context number and a full written description. Photographs were taken in black and white print and colour transparency in order to record the ground work, and plans and section drawings were also created.

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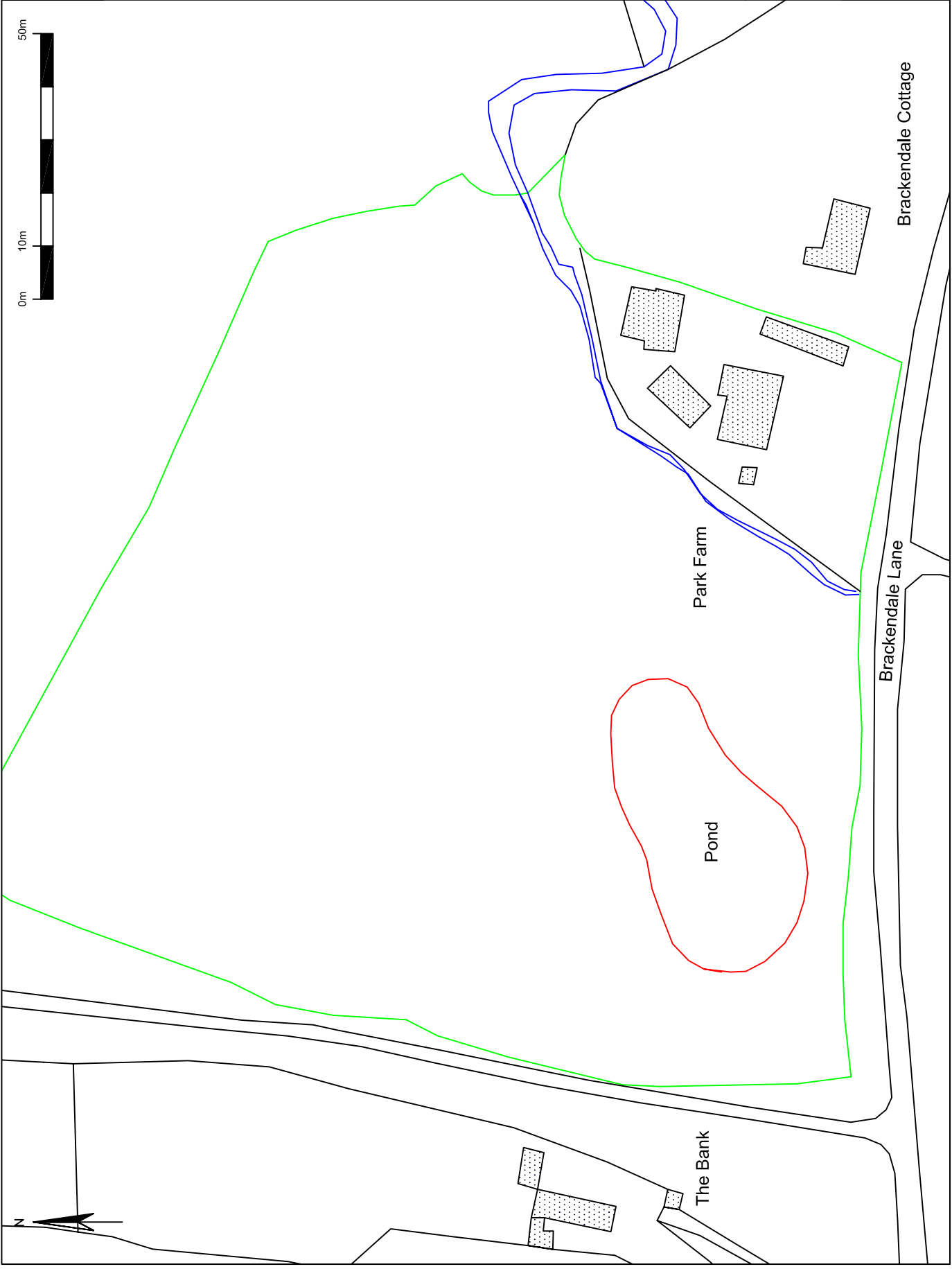
Site Code: PFP11  
Date: 29/09/11  
Drawn: KM

Figure 2  
Site plan showing area of  
groundworks

- Key:
- Site boundary
  - Stream
  - Buildings
  - Area of excavation

Notes:

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### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 *Topsoil*

The topsoil (001) covered the whole of the excavated area and was an average depth of around 0.3m. It consisted of fine dark greyish brown slightly peaty silt with inclusions of small stones. There were several areas of large sandstone debris throughout the topsoil, indicating that the area had been used for refuse dumping at some point. Modern pottery and concrete was found within these deposits.

#### 3.2 *Alluvium*

Throughout the excavated area an alluvial clay deposit (002) was present directly beneath the topsoil layer, indicating that during the past this area was part of a flood plain. There is a stream situated less than 30 metres south of the pond area at the bottom of the valley which is likely to be the origin of the flooding. The area of the pond is likely to have been very waterlogged in the past, with mitigation work evidenced by the presence of several drains (both ceramic and plastic).

#### 3.3 *Natural substratum*

Directly below the alluvial layer the natural substratum (003) was observed. (003) consisted of a shale deposit of an unknown depth that extends across the entirety of the area that was excavated to this depth. The shale deposit begins approximately 1.5m below ground level.



Figure : Photograph showing the stratigraphy of the pond area. Note the deep alluvial layer overlying the natural shale substratum.

3.4 No other features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the excavation process.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

There were no archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds located within the area. The presence of the alluvial layer in this area suggests that this was, and still is, a flood plain. Therefore, any features related to the medieval occupation of the area (evidenced by the house platforms to the west of the field) may be located further up the slope, away from the stream. It is obvious that efforts were undertaken to drain the pond area in the past as there are several land drains present, however there appears to be no other disturbance to the alluvial layer indicating that the area was not used for habitation due to its boggy nature.

## **5. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT**

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

## **6. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION AND PUBLICATION**

6.1 A digital and paper archive will be prepared and deposited with Buxton Museum by December 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 Buxton Museum and this is DERSB 2010.62.

6.2 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.

## **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. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

8.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular Mr David Alsop and Steve Baker of Derbyshire County Council.

## 9. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey (1979). *Geological Survey 1:50000 Map*. Third Edition (Solid). Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Mapplethorpe, K. (2011) *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Park Farm, Bradbourne, Derbyshire*. Archaeological Research Services Ltd, unpublished.

Moreland, J. (2005) *Bradbourne. Closing the Gaps in the History of a Peakland Landscape*. Paper presented at the Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester 20th January 2005.

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/content/1/c6/01/77/29/bradbourn.pdf>

Walker, A., Knight, D. and Brightman, J. (2011) *Park Farm, Bradbourne, Derbyshire. A Cultural Heritage Scoping Assessment*. Archaeological Research Services Ltd, unpublished.

**APPENDIX I: Written Scheme of Investigation**

## Park Farm, Bradbourne, 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 Park Farm, Bradbourne, which has been requested prior to the excavation of a new pond. The site is located at National grid reference SK 4032 2835.

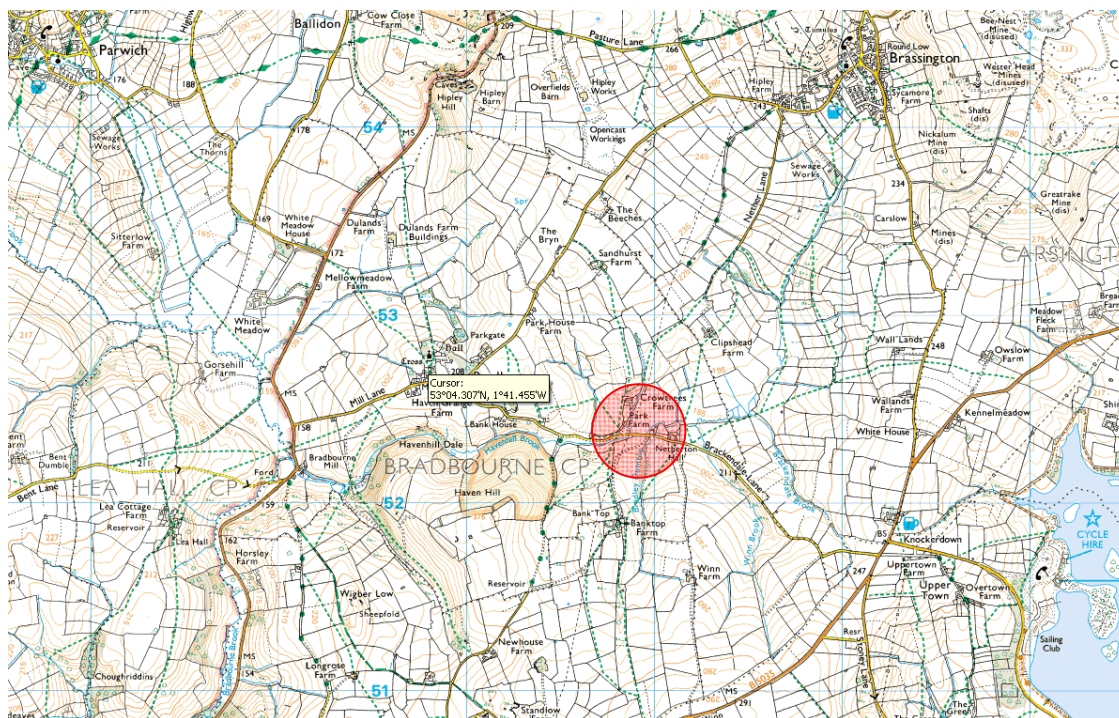


Fig 1 Site location

- 1.2 A previous scoping assessment for the pond area has been undertaken (Walker *et al* 2011) and highlighted a few issues relating to potential impacts upon cultural heritage. An assessment of aerial photography revealed no heritage assets in the area of the proposed pond, and the assessment also noted that the land appears to have been deliberately set aside from the historical use of the landscape due to being unsuitable for agriculture. Examination of unpublished archive material relating to a

University of Sheffield excavation in the immediate vicinity of the proposed work has shown that there are known late medieval structural remains. Geophysical survey undertaken during this work showed extensive remains to the east of the proposed pond location, and a small number of more ephemeral and scattered anomalies to the west, though no survey was undertaken in the waterlogged area proposed for the construction of the pond.

- 1.3 Negotiations between the landowner and the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Development Control Archaeologist (DCA) have resulted in amendments to the proposed plan, relocating the pond away from the known archaeological remains and deposits (see Appendix I).

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The historical remains in the area of Park Farm include a late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century farm 100m to the west, and remains associated with the nearby medieval village of Netherton. House platforms are present as earthworks on the north-west bank of the stream, along with the remains of medieval ridge and furrow. These remains have been entered in the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (number 2018). As discussed above, late medieval structural remains and associated yards/enclosures were excavated immediately to the east of the proposed pond by the University of Sheffield.

## **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. If significant archaeological features are identified the 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. The attending archaeologist will supervise mechanical excavation to ensure maximum archaeological visibility.
- 4.3 Archaeological Research Services 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:

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

steve.baker.@derbyshire.gov.uk  
Tel: 01629 539773  
Mob: 07781 850742  
Fax: 01629 585507

- 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 Buxton Museum). The archive from this project will be combined with the archives for previous work on the site (Mapplethorpe 2011; Walker *et al* 2011). The archive will be deposited within two months of the completion of the fieldwork. The Buxton Museum accession number for the project is DERSB 2010.62. 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.

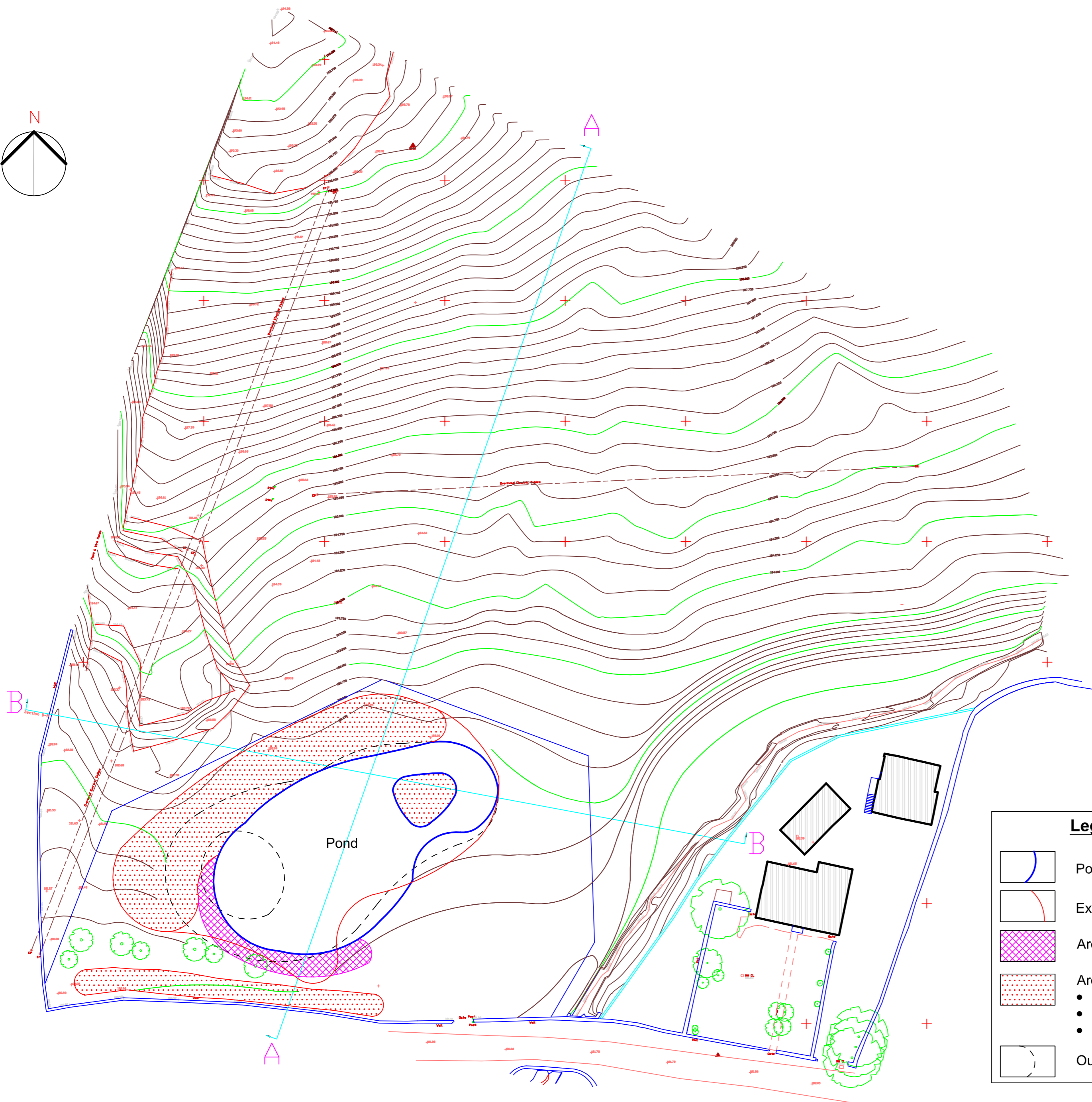
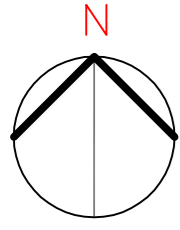
## **11. References**

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

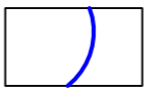

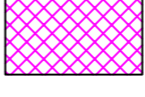
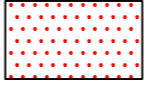
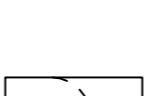
Mapplethorpe, K. 2011. *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Park Farm, Bradbourne, Derbyshire*. Unpublished report prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

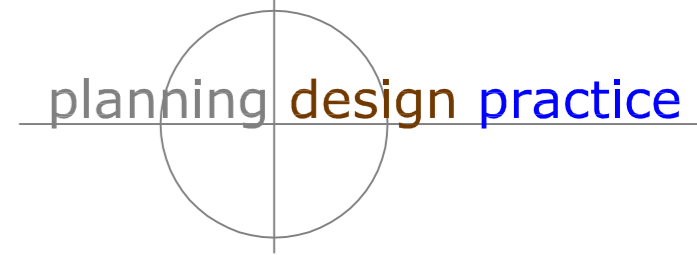
Walker, A., Knight, D. and Brightman, J. 2011. *Park Farm Pond, Bradbourne, Derbyshire. Cultural Heritage Scoping Assessment*. Unpublished report prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

**Appendix I – Plan of proposed pond excavation.**



**Legend**

-  Pond outline
-  Extent of existing marshy vegetation
-  Area to be raised
-  Areas to be subject to:
  - Re-instated marshy vegetation
  - Re-instated top soil
  - Nature scape NV8 (Waters Edge) seed mix.
-  Outline of previously proposed pond



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 Vernon Gate  
 Derby  
 DE1 1UL

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 Fax: 01332 347 555  
 E-mail: info@planningdesign.co.uk

CLIENT ADDRESS  
 Mr & Mrs D. Allsop  
 Brookdale House  
 Brackendale Lane  
 Bradbourne  
 Derbyshire

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:  
 Proposed Wildlife Pond

DRAWING TITLE:  
 Proposed Block Plan

DRAWN BY:  
 Philip Bonner

DRAWING NUMBER: 005	REVISION: -
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SCALE: 1:500 @ A2	DATE: June 2011
----------------------	--------------------

DRAWING REF:  
 704

**APPENDIX II: 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](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archaeol5-110720**

### Project details

Project name	Park Farm Pond, Bradbourne
Short description of the project	In September 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Mr. David Alsop to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Park Farm, Bradbourne, Derbyshire. The monitoring was carried out during excavations for the construction of a new pond. The historical remains in the area of Park Farm include a late 17th to early 18th century farm 100m to the west, and remains associated with the nearby medieval village of Netherton. House platforms are present as earthworks on the north-west bank of the stream, along with the remains of medieval ridge and furrow. No features of archaeological significance or buried land surfaces were revealed.
Project dates	Start: 22-09-2011 End: 22-09-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ARS 2011/94 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	FARMHOUSE 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 BRADBOURNE Park Farm, Bradbourne
Study area	2500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 21935 52435 53.0684022363 -1.672600728480 53 04 06 N 001 40 21 W Point

### 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	Mr David Alsop

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Archive ID	DERSB 2010.62
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Archive ID	DERSB 2010.62
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Report','Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Park Farm Pond, Bradbourne, Derbyshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mapplethorpe, K.
Other bibliographic details	ARS 2011/94
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Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bakewell
Entered by	Kate Mapplethorpe (kate@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	29 September 2011



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