



**Archaeological
Research
Services Ltd**

Bolsover Junior School watching brief



Remains of World War II air raid shelter

ARS Ltd Report 2006/18
June 2006

Compiled By:

Richard Chatterton
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Suite 7 Angel House
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Checked By:

Dr. Clive Waddington

Tel: 01629 814540

Fax: 01629 814657

admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

**Bolsover Junior school, Bolsover Castle, Bolsover, Derbyshire.
Watching Brief on the demolition of classrooms.**

ARS Ltd Report 2006/18

June 2006

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Contents

List of Figures.....	1
Executive Summary.....	2
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Background.....	3
3. Aims of the Project.....	5
4. Method Statement.....	5
5. Stratigraphic Report.....	5
6. Small Finds.....	6
7. Conclusion.....	8
8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright.....	8
9. Statement of Indemnity.....	8
10. Acknowledgments.....	9
References.....	9
Appendix 1: Bolsover Junior School: Watching brief Specification.....	10

List of Figures

1.	Location of Site.....	3
2.	Site Plan.....	4
3.	Picture of Second World War air raid shelter	6
4.	Plan of Second World War air raid shelter.....	7
5	Picture of Second World War air raid shelter.....	8

Executive Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd for Derbyshire County Council upon the demolition of three prefabricated classrooms to the rear of Bolsover Junior School, Derbyshire (Fig.1)(National Grid Reference SK 47129 70532), from May 15th to May 23rd 2006. This comprised observation of all groundworks and recording and excavation of any archaeological features encountered. The only archaeological feature identified was the outline of a ruined air raid shelter and the only small find was a broken clay pipe bowl from an unstratified context within the topsoil.

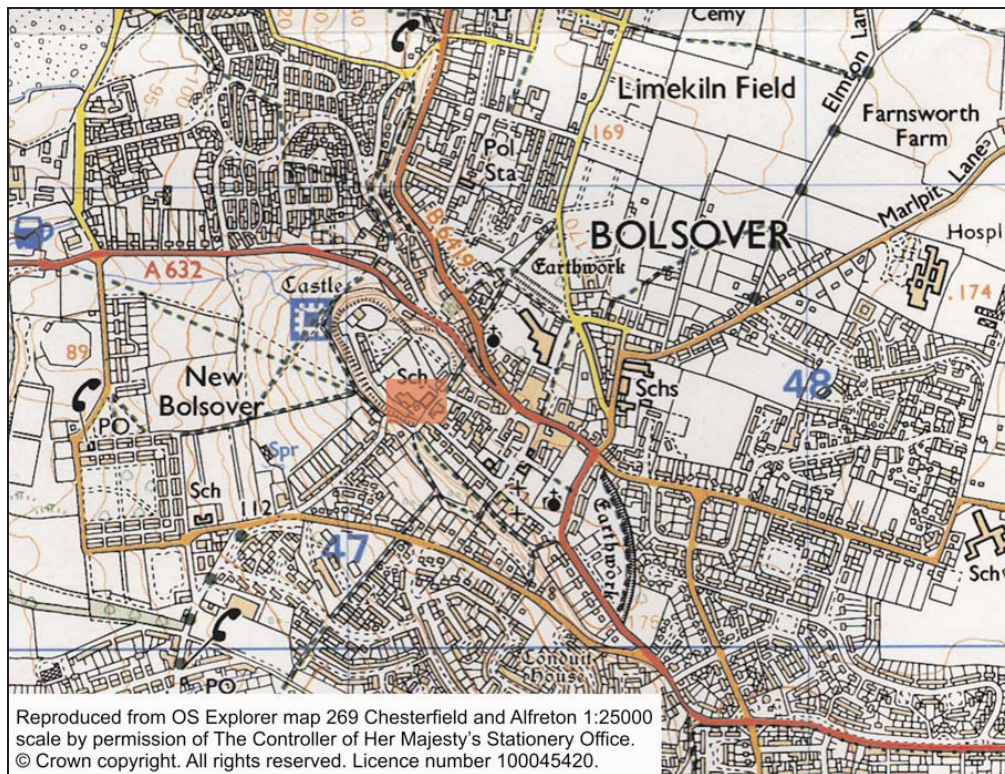


Fig. 1 Location of site.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The watching brief at Bolsover junior School (Fig.1) was undertaken by Lloyd Alan Powell and Richard Chatterton of Archaeological Research Services Ltd for Derbyshire County Council. The intention was to monitor the removal of 'brick sleeper walls, piers and floor slabs to 150mm below ground level.' Should any archaeology be discovered during this process it was to be recorded and preserved *in situ*. The watching brief was considered essential due to the location of the site adjacent to the scheduled area of Bolsover Castle and within the former castle precinct (Fig.2). As such it lies within an archaeologically sensitive area, where significant remains could well be preserved.

2. Background

- 2.1 Prior to the Norman Conquest Bolsover lay in the Earldom of Mercia and was the property of Leofric. He lost possession of the estate, as did the majority of Saxon landowners, sometime after the Conquest. Bolsover did not suffer in the harrying of the north, but did pass to a Norman lord. In 1086 it was granted to William De Peveril. The rocky ledge was an obviously defensible position and on this site he built the first castle.
- 2.2 The initial defences would probably have been of wood which would gradually have been replaced by masonry. This could be a long process. It took one hundred and fifty years for stone to completely replace wood at the castle of



Fig 2 Bolsover Junior School Watching Brief Site Plan

Tickhill in South Yorkshire. Alternatively, it could be done rapidly. Hamelin Plantagenet, the half brother of King Henry II, refortified Conisborough in a few years. What is certain is that Bolsover and Peveril became strongholds of the De Peveril family. The original mural defence is thought to follow the line of the fountain court. It has been suggested that the rooms within this wall indicate the location of former mural towers. In 1152 the castle was confiscated when the De Peverils fought against Henry II.

- 2.3 The next major family to hold the castle were the De Furnival lords of Sheffield. What is certain is that by the time of John's war with the Barons the castle was a major fortress. A letter from King John to Gerald De Furnival suggests he should leave Sheffield for the 'stronger' castle in Bolsover. This provides evidence for the existence of Sheffield's castle prior to Henry III's licence to crenellate. Gerald followed John's advice; the castle was besieged and was damaged in the process. The later medieval period showed the castle entering a decline when it was despoiled prior to its seventeenth century rebirth.

3. Aims of the Project

- 3.1 The project consisted of an archaeological watching brief as requested by the local authority. Its intention was to observe all ground works for the presence of any surviving archaeological features, record it and preserve the remains *in situ*.

4. Method Statement

- 4.1 The area concerned was located beneath hard standing which had been used as a base for temporary school buildings. Following demolition of the superstructure of the buildings all groundworks were overseen by staff from Archaeological Research Services Ltd. The groundworks entailed the removal of 150mm of rubble and topsoil. Foundations existing below that level were left *in situ* and the whole area re-covered by a deposit of soil which is to be subsequently re-seeded with grass. All groundworks were undertaken by a machine fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket.

5. Stratigraphic Report

- 5.1 Beneath the classrooms a deposit of loose rubble and brick (002) was encountered across the site. Only in a few isolated areas was the subsoil encountered beneath shallow topsoil (001). The subsoil (003) consisted of a loose matrix containing shattered sandstone typical of the Bolsover area.
- 5.2 The only archaeological feature identified during the watching brief was the remains of a World War II air aid shelter beneath the western classroom (Fig. 3). This had been constructed by the insertion of two lines of parallel iron shuttering within a trench, around and over which, earth had originally been packed and measured 12.3m in length by 1.49m in width (Fig. 4). The shelter had been infilled with rubble and earth and the roof removed prior to the construction of the classrooms. An entrance was visible on the western elevation of the shelter (Fig.3) and on the southern end was a brick feature. The brick feature is interpreted as having been an air vent because, upon examination, no steps could be identified to a depth of over 400mm (Fig.5).



Fig. 3. Outline of Second World War Air raid shelter looking south

- 5.3 The Air raid shelter could have been built for the protection of the children from the school or the occupants of the castle. During the Second World War the castle was the headquarters of the Local Defence Volunteers from 1940 and the school itself was used for meetings of the Defence force (Haigh 1998: 110). The castle was also used as an ammunition dump during the war had a large *Smith* gun for local area defence and slit trenches were dug in the castle grounds. Joyce Leeming describes a typical air raid shelter of the time.

‘The shelter was basically trenches and they covered them with corrugated iron, earth and sods and we had long benches with a bucket at the end with a curtain.’ (Haigh 1998: 116)

- 5.2 Robert Lewis Robinson attended the school during the Second World War and reports that for a six month period the children were kept away from school whilst air raid shelters were built. When the air raid shelters for the children were constructed they were built at Welreck road school and, as a result, the children were moved away from the castle school in the castle grounds. This could have been part of an intentional policy to move the children away from the castle as Robinson records:

‘During World War 2 the home guard and the ARP used the dome and the flag tower as observation posts. The Home Guard had a machine gun posted up there and the ARP a fire spotter in case incendiary bombs were dropped’ (Robinson undated: 4).

6. Small finds

- 6.1 Other than 20th century pottery the only find identified from the trench was a piece of clay pipe which dates to the 18th/19th century. The find was located in the topsoil (001).



Fig. 4
Plan of remains of air raid shelter

On behalf of
Derbyshire County Council

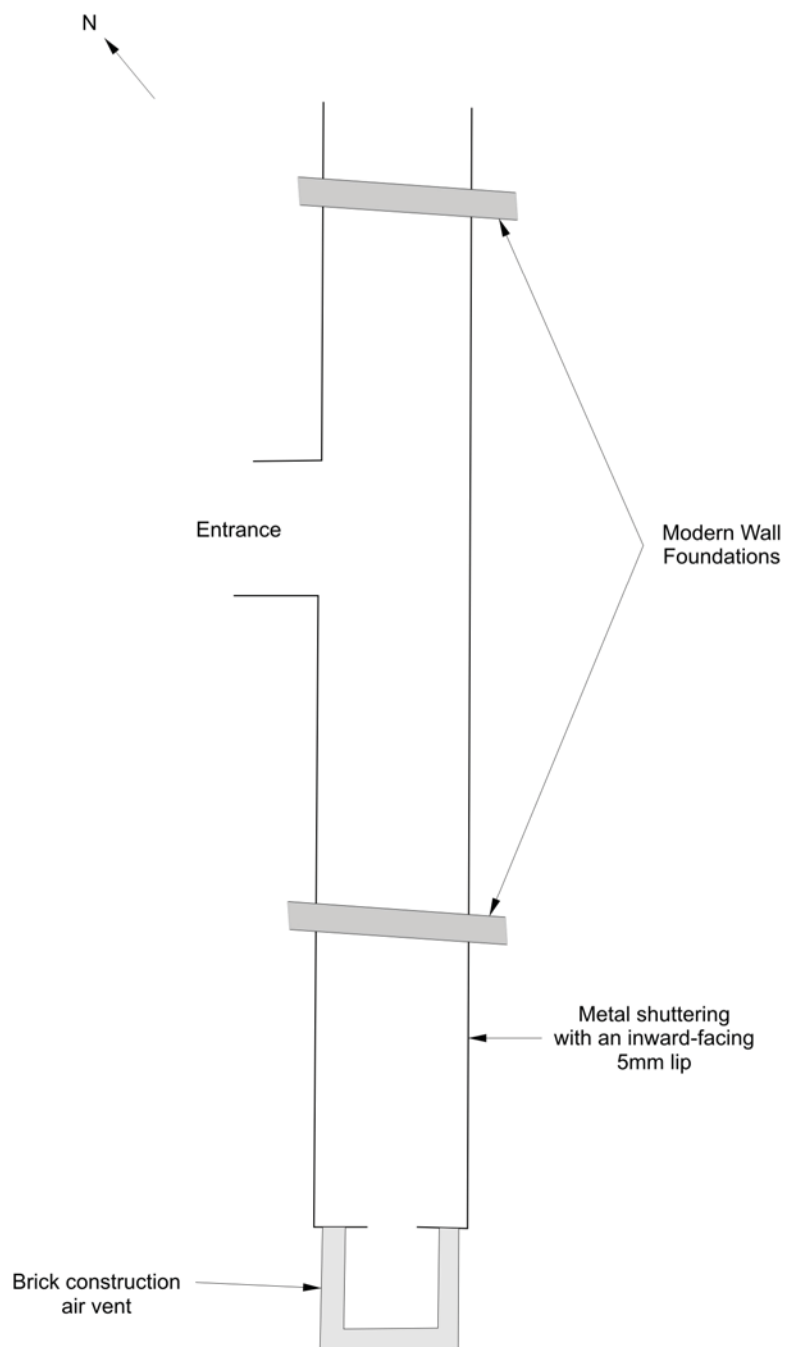
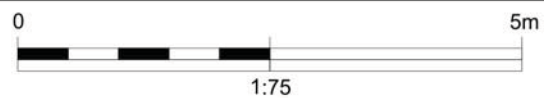




Fig.5 Brick built air vent of shelter looking north

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 No small finds or structures of medieval date were discovered during the watching brief. The archaeological sensitivity of the site has already been referred to and the need for the watching brief self evident from the proximity of the scheduled ancient monument. However, the discovery of the air raid shelter was an interesting find when coupled with the oral testimonies of those who lived in Bolsover during the war. The supervised excavation of the air raid shelter, at some stage in the future, would provide an interesting and educational project for the present day schoolchildren of Bolsover, should the Council consider this possible.

8 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

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

9. Statement of Indemnity

- 9.1 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.

10. Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with the smooth running of the project, especially John Eade of Derbyshire County Council.

References

Haigh, B. 1998. *Bolsover Voices – Recollections of Local People*. Tempus: Stroud.

Robinson, R.L. Undated: *My Bolsover*. Bolsover: unpublished.

Appendix 1

Brief for an archaeological watching Brief

Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Name: Bolsover Church of England Junior School,
Castle Street, Bolsover, Derbyshire.

Planning Reference: 05/00784/CONSOS

Grid Reference: SK 47129 70532

Area of Site: c. 0.04ha

Issued to: Mr John Eade (Property Division, Derbyshire County Council)

Issued by: A. Myers (Development Control Archaeologist (DCA) for Bolsover District Council)

Date: 9th March 2006

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The development involves the demolition of the existing Medway timber buildings. The timber buildings are supported on low brick sleeper walls, floor slabs and piers surrounded variously by concrete slab paving, concrete access ramps and steps and hard playground surfacing. The intention is for all building structures and hard surfaces to be removed and the area of demolition reinstated with topsoil and grass.

1.2 The development lies within the castle yard of Bolsover Castle (SMR 11212). Although most of the castle is a scheduled monument (Mon13270) the buildings to which the application for demolition relates stand on ground that is just outside of the scheduled area. The buildings do however fall within The Old Bolsover Area of Archaeological Interest (AAI), as reviewed by ARCUS in 1995 on behalf of Bolsover District Council, and defined in the adopted Local Plan (2000). The Local Plan contains specific planning policies designed to ensure that the archaeological interest within the AAI receives all due consideration.

1.3 The planning consent requires that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the demolition work.

1.4 This document is a brief for an archaeological watching brief from which a written scheme of investigation (WSI) will be prepared by the appointed archaeological contractor.

1.5 The WSI will be submitted by the appointed archaeological contractor in advance of the commencement of work to the Development Control Archaeologist for approval.

1.6 All archaeological work should be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Details of staff and their relevant experience should be included in the WSI.

2.0 Background

2.0 Watching Brief: Approach

2.1 The General Specification for the demolition work states that:

“The contractor is to ensure that unnecessary disturbance to the site is not caused.”,

and

“Redundant drains are to be suitably plugged, and redundant gullies, inspection chambers etc., are to be carefully broken out and surfaces made good”.

2.2 The development Schedule of Work includes:

“3. Demolish the Medway buildings...removal of brick sleeper walls, floor slabs and piers to 150mm below ground level. The foundations are to be left in-situ so as to not disturb any archaeology beneath”,

and

“4. Remove the concrete steps, ramps, paths and tarmac paved areas etc., around the buildings”

and

“With care excavate area for top soiling to reduced level (150mm below existing ground level) as necessary” .

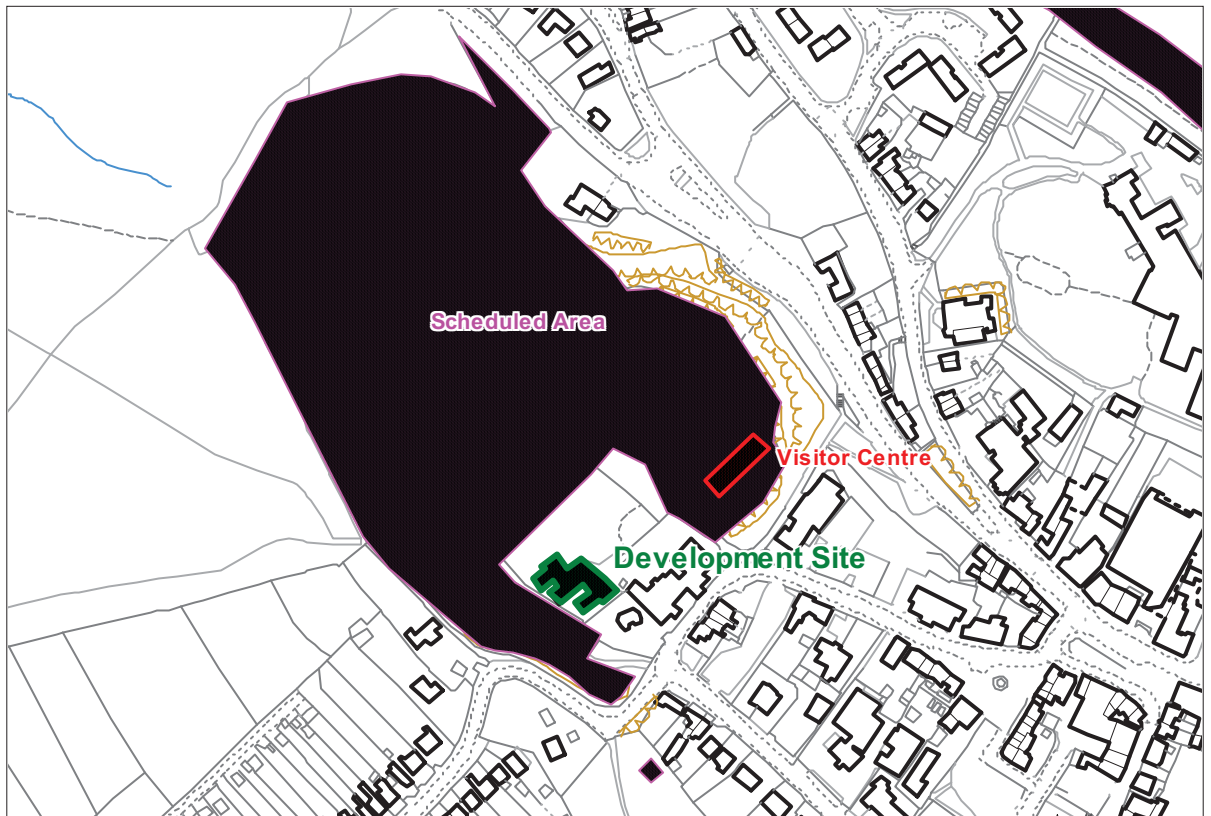


Fig 1: The development site

2.3 The demolition work also requires the removal of demolition waste from site, while the reinstatement requires that new topsoil be transported onto the site and spread.

2.4 The appointed archaeological contractor shall maintain a watching brief during all ground works and activity that may cause disturbances to the ground surface or expose buried archaeological features. Should conditions deteriorate to the point where vehicle movements threaten to disturb/ churn the soils the appointed archaeological contractor should immediately advise their client, the on-site demolition contractor and the DCA.

2.5 During the watching brief should any potential layers, features, structures or finds be exposed the archaeological contractor should be afforded sufficient time to clean, excavate, sample and record the archaeology. The watching brief will not entail archaeological excavation beyond the areas exposed by the demolition and reinstatement process.

2.6 Where it becomes evident that *in situ* archaeological features or layers might benefit from physical protection prior to reinstatement the appointed archaeological contractor should raise the matter with the DCA. The watching brief would then include monitoring and reporting upon (see 8.2) the implementation of any such measures.

2.7 All archaeological excavation, whether by machine or by hand, and all recording of archaeological features and deposits, should be carried out to acceptable archaeological standards. The contractor will be expected to abide by the Code of Practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

3.0 Monitoring

3.1 During the course of the watching brief DCA may wish to undertake a monitoring visit. The WSI should include contact names and mobile telephone numbers for arranging visits.

3.2 The appointed archaeological contractor will need to provide at least one week's advanced warning to the DCA concerning when the fieldwork will commence.

3.3 Should *in situ* archaeological deposits be exposed the appointed archaeological contractor should immediately contact the DCA and arrange a site visit. Contact details are,

**Andrew Myers BA (Hons) MSc PhD MIFA,
Development Control Archaeologist,
Conservation and Design Group,
Derbyshire County Council,
Environmental Services Department,
Shand House,
Dale Road South,
Matlock,
Derbyshire,
DE4 3RY.**

**Tel: 01629 580000 (3358)
DDI: 01629 585146
Fax: 01629 585507 / 585146
Mob: 07881 850742**

4.0 Finds

4.1 Artefact collection policy should be concerned with the provision of adequate samples for meeting the objectives of the work. Discarded artefactual materials should be described and quantified through assignment to broad categories in the field.

4.2 Analysis of finds will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists.

4.3 Retained finds should be cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials, as appropriate, for long term storage.

5.0 Human Remains

5.1 In the event of human remains being encountered site works will cease and the Coroner's office notified. Such remains will remain *in situ* until authorised to continue by the Coroner and a licence obtained from the Home Office.

5.2 The relevant Coroner's contact details are:

Mr T. Kelly,
65 Saltergate,
Chesterfield,
Derbyshire,
S40 1JS

Tel: 01246 201391
Fax: 01246 222332

5.3 Analysis of any human remains will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists.

6.0 Previous Fieldwork/ Recording

6.1 There has been no desk-based assessment.

6.1 As far as the Development Control Archaeologist is aware there has been no other previous archaeological research or field investigations *within* the proposed development site.

6.2 Recent archaeological investigations within the castle yard at the site of the visitor centre revealed extensive archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric, Romano-British, late Saxon and early Norman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The main discovery was a series of features relating to a medieval aisled hall. Within the investigated area the surfaces of *in situ* features and layers generally lay quite shallow to the ground surface, with many features cutting between 50cm and 1m into the sub-soil.

7.0 Health and Safety

7.1 The archaeologists operating on site will naturally operate with all due regard to health and safety regulations.

8.0 Report Preparation

8.1 The preparation of the report should follow the guidelines published by the Institute of Field Archaeology.

8.2 The report should include as a minimum,

- Summary of background, observations and conclusions
- Statement of intention regarding publication (see 10.1)
- Site NGR (to at least 8 figures), site name
- Name of Archaeologist(s) who undertook the fieldwork
- Report Author(s), report date
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the project
- Watching Brief Methodology
- Observations
- (Account of Pre-reinstatement protection measures for buried archaeological features/ layers)
- Site plans at appropriate scale identifying the location, direction and reference for each photograph.
- Illustrations: drawings/ photographs suitably annotated
- All photographs printed and suitably annotated
- Record of all sources consulted and references used
- Copy of this brief

8.3 The report illustrations should include: a location map at not less than 1:25000 and a site plan at not less than 1:500; copies of all historic map extracts consulted (where possible), with the boundary of the site clearly depicted. All illustrations need to be suitably labelled or captioned.

9.0 Archive

9.1 Arrangements should be made from the outset of the project for the archive, consisting of original drawings, drawn plans, photographs, notes, copies of the final Watching Brief report along with the finds and an index to the archive to be deposited in the relevant museum. In this case your contact details are,

Gill Woolrich,
Sheffield City Museum and Mappin Art Gallery,
Weston Park,
Tel: 0114 2782600
Fax: 0114 2750957

9.2 The archive should be prepared in accordance with the document "Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives", prepared by Museums in Derbyshire. A copy is available either from the Development Control Archaeologist or from Sheffield City Museum and Mappin Art Gallery.

10.0 Publicity

10.1 A short summary report (see notes attached) should be supplied as hard copy and a PDF to the Development Control Archaeologist along with the evaluation report. The appointed archaeological contractor should also provide the Development Control Archaeologist with a written statement on how the project is to be published. Where no further publication is envisaged then the short report will be published in an annual round-up on Developer Funded Archaeology in Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.

10.2 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

H:\Environment\Environmental_Design\HERITAGE\ANDREW\DCWORK\BDC\Bolsover Castle\WB BRIEF
090306.doc

Notes for contributors to the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* of interim and short reports on developer funded archaeology:

The aim is to publish annual compilations of short reports on developer funded archaeology in the county on a regular basis in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, in order to better inform the public of the results of the work being undertaken.

It is envisaged that the reports will take one of two forms;

- 1 Interim reports – short interim descriptions of an excavation or survey that will eventually be subjected to fuller publication.
- 2 Definitive reports – summaries of archaeological work which will not be pursued further. Note that even if the results were negative, if valid questions were posed then a brief explanation will be worthwhile.

MODEL – see attached pages from ‘Some Fieldwork in Derbyshire by the Trent & Peak Archaeological Unit in 1998-9’ edited by Graeme Guilbert and Daryl Garton, *DAJ* vol. 121 (2001): 223-5. Number 18 is an example of an Interim report and numbers 19 to 20 are examples of definitive reports.

DETAILED NOTES

Set individual reports out in alphabetical order of site names.

NGR should follow site name, followed by names of those responsible for the report and/ or fieldwork.

Give due acknowledgement to sponsors of project within text.

Definitive reports should include whereabouts of the related written, drawn and photographic archive, as well as any artefacts.

Illustrations – include line drawings and/or photographs if appropriate.

References – include where appropriate at the end of each report.

FUNDING

The Derbyshire Archaeological Society will require an offer of grant-aid towards the printing costs of short reports submitted in order to guarantee publication. Costs will be determined from the printer’s estimate. A contribution towards these costs of around 60% will be sought from the relevant contracting archaeological organisation. For further information contact Pauline Beswick (Hon. Editor), 4 Chapel Row, Froggatt, Calver, Hope Valley, S32 3ZA or tel. 01433 631256.

DEADLINE

Reports received by the end of July will be considered for inclusion in *DAJ* in the year following. If too late they will be saved for consideration for the succeeding year.

Reports to be submitted in hard copy and on disc to:

Andy Myers at Environmental Services Department, Derbyshire County Council, County Offices, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG.