

**The Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton,
Derbyshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



External frontage of the Queen's Head Hotel

ARS Ltd Report 2014/45

March 2014

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Contents

List of Figures.....	3
List of Tables.....	4
Executive Summary.....	5
1 Introduction.....	5
1.1 Location and Scope of Work.....	6
1.2 Geology.....	6
2 Aims and Objectives.....	6
3 Methodology.....	9
4 Results.....	9
4.1 Trench 1.....	9
4.2 Trench 2.....	11
4.3 Trench 3.....	13
5 Finds Assessment.....	26
5.1 Pottery.....	26
5.2 Clay pipe.....	27
6 Conclusion.....	28
7 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright.....	29
8 Statement of Indemnity.....	29
9 Archive Deposition.....	30
10 Acknowledgements.....	30
11 References.....	30
Appendix I – Site Records.....	
Appendix II – Specification.....	
Appendix III – OASIS Record.....	

List of Figures

Figure 1. Location of site.....	7
Figure 2. Plan of the site.....	8
Figure 3. Trench 1 mid-excavation. Facing south-east.....	10
Figure 4. Cobbles (109). Scale = 1m.....	10
Figure 5. Flagged surface (103). Facing west. Scale = 1m.....	12
Figure 6. Wall (106) and limestone bedding (107). Facing west. Scale = 1m.....	12
Figure 7. Wall (106) shown in alignment with the existing stable block wall. Facing north. Scale = 1m.....	13
Figure 8. Layout of Trench 3.....	14
Figure 9. Transect 1 of Trench 3. Flagged surface (112), immediately underlying hardcore (101).....	15
Figure 10. Flagged surface (112) in Transect 2, Section 2. Facing north-east. Scale = 1m.....	16
Figure 11. Wall (111). Facing north-west. Scale = 1m.....	16
Figure 12. Flagged surface (112) abutting the inner face of wall (111). Facing north-west.....	17
Figure 13. Transect 2 of Trench 3, section 2. Flagged surface (112) (right) and wall (111) (left). Facing north-east. Scale = 1m.....	17
Figure 14. Wall (116) as observed intact before the commencement of ground works. The left hand side of the wall has clearly been subject to later repair/rebuilding works, however the foundations did not demonstrate any later alterations. Facing north-west.....	18
Figure 15. Wall (116), taken from Torr Street, before demolition. The wall clearly runs in a continuous line until it meets with the existing stable building. Facing north-east.....	19
Figure 16. Intact wall (115) (right) abutting wall (116) (left), which continues beyond the confines of the trench, and runs up to the existing stable building as demonstrated in figure 13. Scale = 1m.....	19
Figure 17. Cobbled surface (113) with wall (115) visible in the extreme right of the photograph. The red bricks (118) to the left of the picture represent a possible drain or service trench [119]. Facing north-west. Scale = 1m.....	20
Figure 18. Wall (115) continuing beyond the confines of the Trench 3 at the south-eastern end. As no front wall was present in Transect 1 of Trench 3, and wall (115) continues beyond the trench, it seems likely that the front of the stable lies just outside the trench edge. Facing south-east. Red portion of scale = 0.5m.....	20
Figure 19. Wall (115). Section 1, Transect 4. Scale = 2x1m.....	21
Figure 20. Brick lining (118) of drain [119]. Wall (122) is visible at the left of the photograph where it runs in a north-easterly directly, towards wall (106) in Trench 2. Facing north-east. Scale = 2x1m.....	21
Figure 21. Internal cobbled surface (121) of the stable. Scale = 1m.....	22
Figure 22. Cobbles (121) inside walls (115) and (116) (removed). Scale = 2x1m.....	22
Figure 23. Internal cobbled surface (121) of the stable abutting the inner face of wall (115). Scale = 2x 1m.....	23
Figure 24. Plan of Trench 3.....	24
Figure 25. Trench 3 sections.....	25
Figure 26. The existing stable in the Queen's Head car park. The walls identified during the watching brief are thought to belong to a perpendicular wing of this stable block that was demolished due to poor condition in the 1970s. Scale = 1m.....	29

List of Tables

Table 1. Pottery recovered from the Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton.26
Table 2. Clay pipe fragments recovered from the Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton.28

Executive Summary

In March 2014 Archaeological Research Services Ltd. was commissioned by Ian Howarth to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire. The scheme of works was related to the proposed construction of a two-storey rear extension comprising six hotel bedrooms and a car port, located on the site of a demolished stable building.

The archaeological watching brief monitored all ground works carried out as part of the building extension, comprising the excavation of one foundation plot and two service trenches. The archaeological watching brief identified the foundations of a number of walls along with partial flagged stone and cobbled surfaces, and nineteenth and twentieth century pottery and clay pipe fragments.

The structural remains encountered, along with the cultural material, indicate that the remains are most likely to be related to a stable structure that is known to have existed in this location until it was demolished in the 1970s. The date of construction for this building is not documented, although the pottery and clay pipe recovered from a deposit associated with the construction of the walls suggest that it was constructed in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

1.1.1 In March 2014 Archaeological Research Services Ltd. was commissioned by Ian Howarth to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire. The scheme of works was related to the proposed construction of a two-storey rear extension comprising six hotel bedrooms and a car port, located on the site of a demolished stable building. Ground works during the course of these works entailed excavating one trench for the building foundations and two trenches for associated services. The site is centred at SK0573 7305.

1.2 Geology

1.2.1 The solid geology of the site consists of the Woo Dale Limestone formation. No superficial geology has been recorded at the site (British Geological Survey 2014).

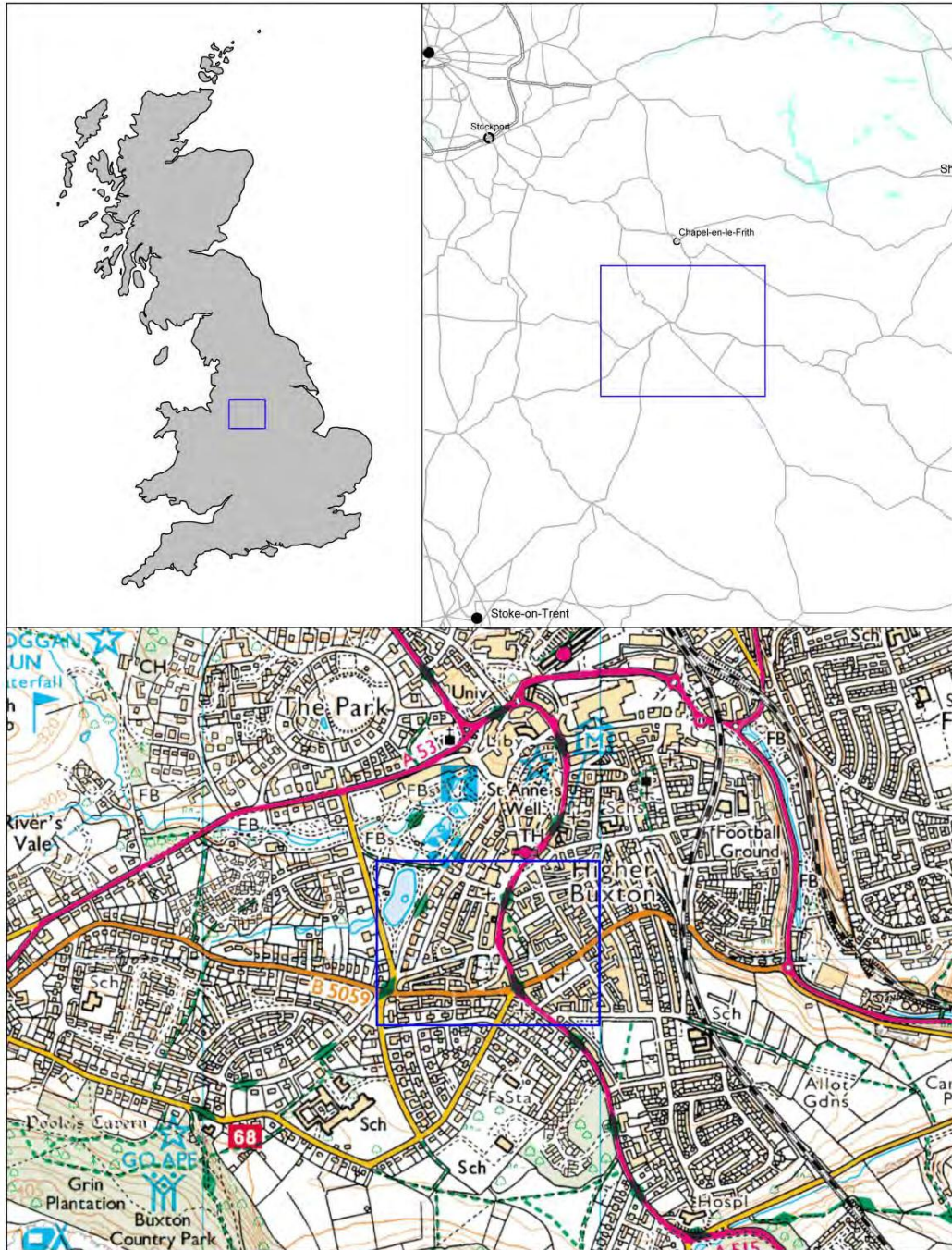
1.3 Background

1.3.1 The site lies on the west side of the High Street, Buxton just south of the town hall and market square. The area to the west of High Street is within the core of the medieval town of Buxton and also within the Area of Archaeological Interest associated with the Roman town identified in the High Peak Local Plan. Early 19th century maps indicate that the proposed extension lies on the site of a former stables/coach house, the date of which is unknown.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Consent was granted for the works on condition that a Written Scheme of Investigation, and subsequent archaeological monitoring of the ground works, was approved in writing by the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.

2.2 The objective of the watching brief was to ensure that any archaeological features encountered during the ground works in the specified area were recorded and interpreted.



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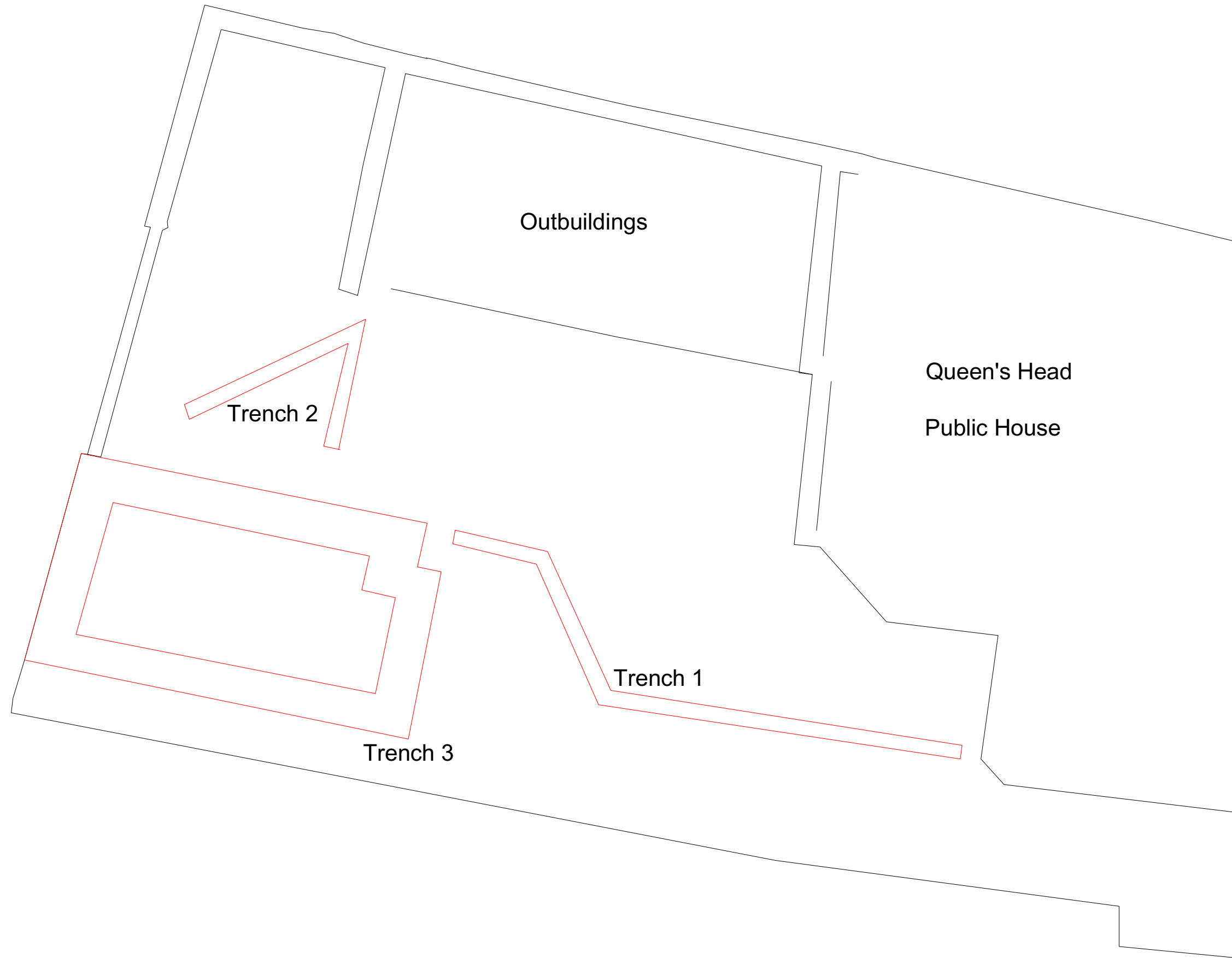
Figure 1. Location of site.

Title: Site plan
Scale : 1: 100

Drawn by: LS
Date: 12th March 2014

Figure 2

Key:  Archaeological trenches



0m  5m

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3 Methodology

- 3.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2013a) and *Code of Conduct* (2013b). The records followed standard conventions set by the Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS) (2002).
- 3.2 All relevant ground works were undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket or by hand once any overlying concrete and stone had been removed. Archaeological monitoring did not entail excavation beyond the total areas exposed by the development works. Arrangements were made to avoid any tracking of machinery across recently stripped areas until the areas were checked and cleared by a representative of Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd).
- 3.3 ARS Ltd provided a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times during all ground works on the site to undertake the watching brief. 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 such features. All upcast spoil was inspected and monitored for any archaeological remains.
- 3.4 A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained during the watching brief plus all significant archaeological remains were recorded and/or retrieved. All excavations were recorded in accordance with normal principles of archaeological evaluation upon pro forma context sheets. All significant architectural features were photographed (with scale) *in situ* and their location recorded on a plan of the site.
- 3.5 A plan of the excavated areas was maintained, features noted and section lines recorded. All drawings were carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts were recorded using a single context recording system. The site archive includes plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets.
- 3.6 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations was adhered to at all times.

4 Results

4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 comprised a service trench for electrical cables to be laid and connected to the new building. The trench measured approximately 8.6m east to west, turned a 45 degree angle on a north west to south-east alignment for 3.7m and finally turned back on an east to west alignment for a further 2.1 m. The trench measured 0.35m in width and reached a maximum depth of 0.45m, with a minimum depth of 0.2m.
- 4.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence in Trench 1 consisted of a layer of tarmac (100) which served as the surface of the current car park, measuring 0.06m in thickness. Directly underlying this was a thick layer of hardcore comprising large angular gravel, measuring 0.15m in thickness. Where the trench exceeded 0.2m in depth, underlying the hardcore was a subsoil deposit (105) of mid-brown soft and smooth silty-clay.
- 4.1.3 At the very eastern end of the trench a small spread of cobbles (109) was observed (figure 4), measuring approximately 0.6m in length and exceeding the width of the trench. These were placed on top of a bedding/levelling deposit (104) of very dark reddish-brown fine silty clay with limestone inclusions. Each cobble measured approximately 0.2m in length by

0.06m in width and was slightly rounded. It is likely that these cobbles represent part of an outdoor surface, possibly a courtyard area of the stables that are known to have existed on the site. The cobbles appeared to continue beyond the eastern end of the trench.

4.1.4 No artefacts were recovered from Trench 1.



Figure 3. Trench 1 mid-excavation. Facing south-east.



Figure 4. Cobbles (109). Scale = 1m.

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Trench 2 comprised a service drain for the connection of drainage to the new building. The trench measured approximately 3.05m in length north to south, and turned at a 45 degree angle, measuring a further 4.90m in length on a north-east to south-west alignment. The trench measured approximately 0.6m in width and reached a fairly uniform maximum depth of 0.75m.

4.2.2 The stratigraphic sequence of Trench 2 comprised a layer of tarmac (100) and hardcore (101) as seen in Trench 1. In the north/south alignment of the trench, a layer of roughly squared flagstones (103) (Figure 5) was observed, present for 1.5m in length. Each flag measured between 0.5m and 0.6m in length and were 0.1m thick, with the width exceeding the confines of the trench. These were observed to be sitting upon levelling deposit (104), as observed with the cobbles (109) in Trench 1. A small amount of 18th and 19th century pottery and clay pipe stem fragments were recovered from the levelling deposit (104) in Trench 2.

4.2.3 Upon removal of the flagged surface (103), it became clear that it was abutting the outside face of a gritstone wall (106) (Figure 6) comprising roughly squared gritstone blocks, each measuring approximately 0.4m in length, 0.2m in depth and 0.35m in width. This was constructed upon a bedding of roughly squared limestone blocks (107), approximately 0.4m in thickness, which was cut into levelling deposit (104) and subsoil (105), and sat upon the natural limestone bedrock (123). The wall measured, in total, 1.5m in length, and continued beyond the confines of the trench.

4.2.4 The north-east to south-west alignment of Trench 2 exposed the entire width of wall (106), proving to be 0.65m in width. Beyond the wall an inner floor surface (108) was observed, which was identical in material and construction to surface (103). Surface (108) abutted the inner face of wall (106), and was constructed upon the bedding/levelling deposit (104), which directly overlay subsoil (105) and the natural limestone bedrock (123).

4.2.5 The wall in Trench 2 (106) was found to be in direct alignment with the existing wall of part of the old stable block (Figure 7), hence it is highly probable that the wall (106) was once part of the stable block. Flagged surface (103) appears to be located outside the stable building, and is likely to represent a yard surface, and may be a later repair to the cobbled surface (109) observed in Trench 1. Flagged surface (108) appears to be located inside the building, and is identical in construction and material to flagged surface (103).



Figure 5. Flagged surface (103). Facing west. Scale = 1m.



Figure 6. Wall (106) and limestone bedding (107). Facing west. Scale = 1m.



Figure 7. Wall (106) shown in alignment with the existing stable block wall. Facing north. Scale = 1m.

4.3 Trench 3

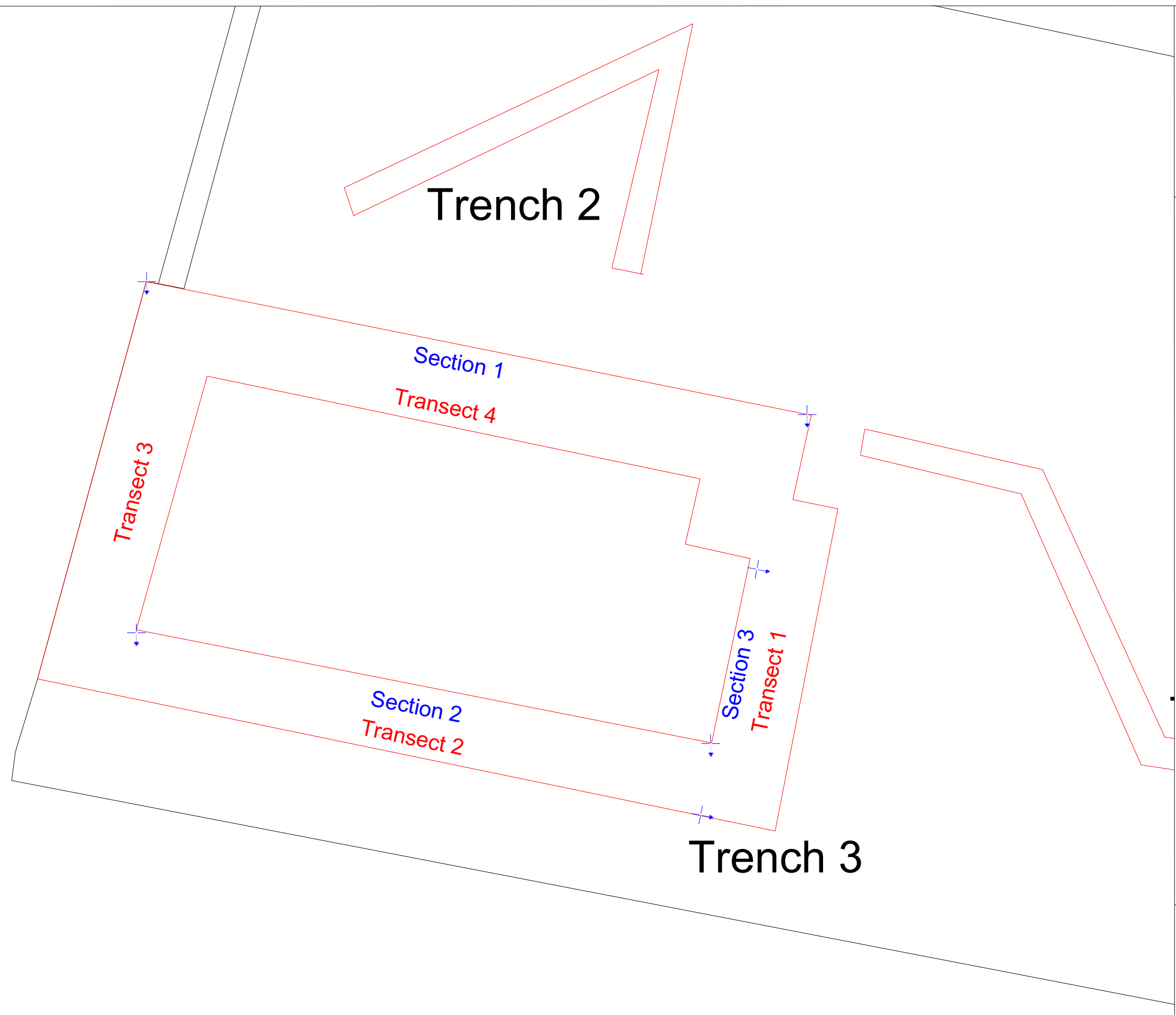
4.3.1 Trench 3 entailed digging the foundation trenches for the footprint of the new building (Figure 2). Overall the area measured 9.4m in length by 5m in width, with the trenches measuring 0.9m in width and reaching an overall maximum depth of 0.8m with a minimum depth of 0.55m (figure 23). The footprint of the new building was intentionally placed over the suspected footprint of the old stable block.

Title: Post-excavation site plan
Scale: 1: 50

Drawn by: LS
Date: 12th March 2014

Figure 8

Key:



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4.3.2 The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a layer of tarmac (100) and hardcore (101) as observed in Trenches 1 and 2. Immediately beneath the hardcore an intermittent surface of flagstones (112) was observed in the south-east facing section of Transect 1, measuring 1.30m in length. These were not present for the whole length of the transect, however in the south-west facing section of Transect 2 they were observed again, and continued for 2.2m. The flags were approximately 0.1m in thickness and were placed upon the bedding/levelling layer (104) as observed with the cobbled and flagged surfaces observed in Trenches 1 and 2. These flagstones appear to be located inside the stable building, hence are likely to represent a floor surface.



Figure 9. Transect 1 of Trench 3. Flagged surface (112), immediately underlying hardcore (101).

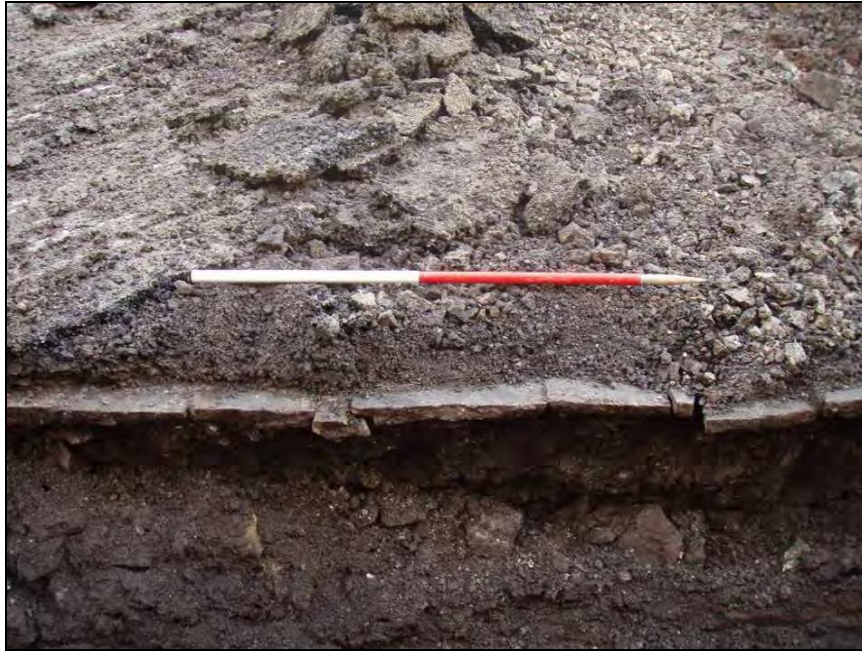


Figure 10. Flagged surface (112) in Transect 2, Section 2. Facing north-east. Scale = 1m.

4.3.3 In Transect 2 it was apparent that flagstones (112) abutted the inner face of wall (111), a north-west to south-east aligned gritstone structure measuring 0.6m in thickness and 0.65m in width, present along the entire length of the transect. The wall was cut into bedding (104) and subsoil (105), allowing the wall to sit upon the natural limestone bedrock (117). This is markedly different to wall (106) observed in Trench 2, which rested upon limestone that appeared to have been deliberately placed as a bedding.



Figure 11. Wall (111). Facing north-west. Scale = 1m.



Figure 12. Flagged surface (112) abutting the inner face of wall (111). Facing north-west.



Figure 13. Transect 2 of Trench 3, section 2. Flagged surface (112) (right) and wall (111) (left). Facing north-east.
Scale = 1m.

4.3.4 Wall (111) was found to meet wall (116) at the interface of Transect 2 and 3 of Trench 3. Wall (116) was aligned north-east to south-west. No clear relationship was apparent between the two walls but they were clearly joined, indicating that they were constructed at the same time and are part of the same structure. In addition, the construction of the two walls was identical, comprising large gritstone blocks sitting directly upon the limestone bedrock (123), and cut into levelling deposit (104) and subsoil (105).

4.3.5 At the interface of transects 3 and 4 of Trench3, wall (116) was observed to continue on a north-east to south-west alignment, beyond the confines of the trench. The course of this wall is known as it was still standing at the commencement of the site (Figures 12 and 13), but was knocked down before the ground works began.



Figure 14. Wall (116) as observed intact before the commencement of ground works. The left hand side of the wall has clearly been subject to later repair/rebuilding works, however the foundations did not demonstrate any later alterations. Facing north-west.



Figure 15. Wall (116), taken from Torr Street, before demolition. The wall clearly runs in a continuous line until it meets with the existing stable building. Facing north-east.

4.3.6 Wall (115) observed in Transect 4 was visible for the whole length of the transect and was observed to abut wall (116). These two walls were of identical construction, as with wall (111). The outer face of wall (115) was found to immediately abut a cobbled surface (113) at the south-western end of the trench, only observed in section, which presumably made up the outer courtyard of the stables and may be the same cobbled surface as observed in Trench 1 (109).



Figure 16. Intact wall (115) (right) abutting wall (116) (left), which continues beyond the confines of the trench, and runs up to the existing stable building as demonstrated in figure 13. Scale = 1m.



Figure 17. Cobbled surface (113) with wall (115) visible in the extreme right of the photograph. The red bricks (118) to the left of the picture represent a possible drain or service trench [119]. Facing north-west. Scale = 1m.



Figure 18. Wall (115) continuing beyond the confines of the Trench 3 at the south-eastern end. As no front wall was present in Transect 1 of Trench 3, and wall (115) continues beyond the trench, it seems likely that the front of the stable lies just outside the trench edge. Facing south-east. Red portion of scale = 0.5m.



Figure 19. Wall (115). Section 1, Transect 4. Scale =2x1m

4.3.7 Cut through the cobbles (113) was an apparent drain [119], lined by red bricks (118) on either side. The service pipe is no longer extant and the cut has been filled with gravel/hardcore (117), presumably when the building was destroyed.

4.3.8 Abutting the outer face of wall (115) was wall (122), a north-east to south-west aligned wall. This was on the same alignment with wall (106) observed in Trench 2, and is likely to be indeed the same wall.



Figure 20. Brick lining (118) of drain [119]. Wall (122) is visible at the left of the photograph where it runs in a north-easterly direction, towards wall (106) in Trench 2. Facing north-east. Scale = 2x1m.

4.3.9 Abutting the inner face of wall (115), a cobbled surface (121) was observed which was apparent for the entire length of transect 4 beyond wall (122), up to the inner edge of wall (116) in Transect 3. The cobbles were constructed out of red gritstone, which suggest it may have been sourced out of the immediate local area at a locality further south than Buxton, such as Leek or Ashbourne where red gritstone is common, in comparison to the pale yellow gritstone found around Buxton from which the walls are constructed. The composition of the surface was irregular, with some stones placed end on, and some laid flat.



Figure 21. Internal cobbled surface (121) of the stable. Scale = 1m.



Figure 22. Cobbles (121) inside walls (115) and (116) (removed). Scale = 2x1m.



Figure 23. Internal cobbled surface (121) of the stable abutting the inner face of wall (115). Scale = 2x 1m

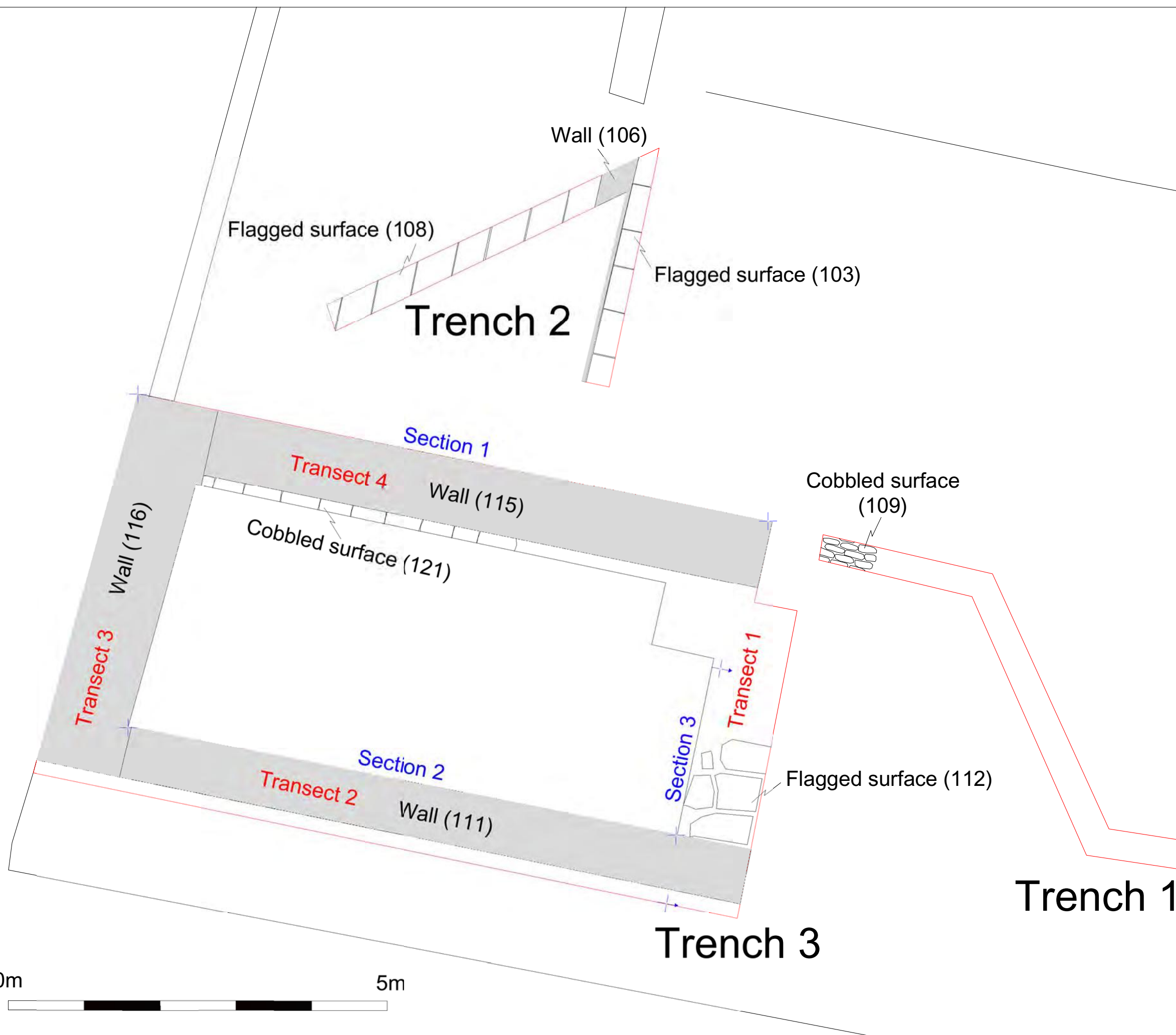
4.3.10 The arrangement of Trench 3, being in a rectangular shape with the middle remaining intact makes it difficult to fully understand the structures and surfaces observed within the confines of the trench. However, it is apparent that 3 related perpendicular walls ((111), (115) and (116)) of a substantial gritstone structure are present, with an internally flagged surface (112) and red gritstone cobbled surface (115). A further wall (122) abuts wall (115) and runs in a north-easterly direction, probably being the same wall as (106) and would have joined onto the existing stable building (figure 7).

4.3.11 The bedding/levelling deposit (104) contained frequent 18th and 19th century pottery and clay pipe stem fragments. These artefacts were present sporadically throughout the deposit across the entire trench, however they were most common in and around the walls. The presence of such artefacts in a deposit closely related the construction of the building is indicative of a late 18th century or early 19th century date of construction for the stable block.

Title: Trench 3 plan
Scale: 1: 50
Drawn by: LS
Date: 24th March 2014

Figure 24

Key:



Trench 1

Trench 3

Trench 2

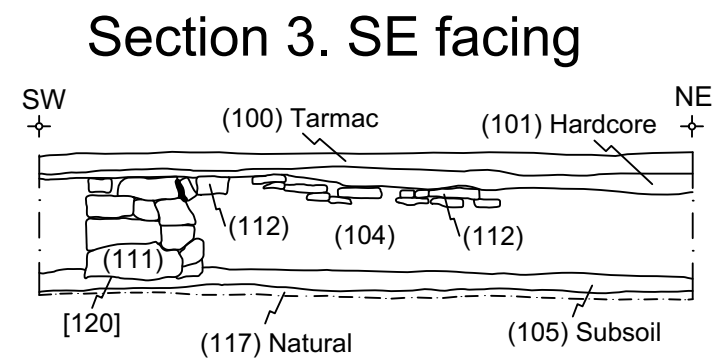
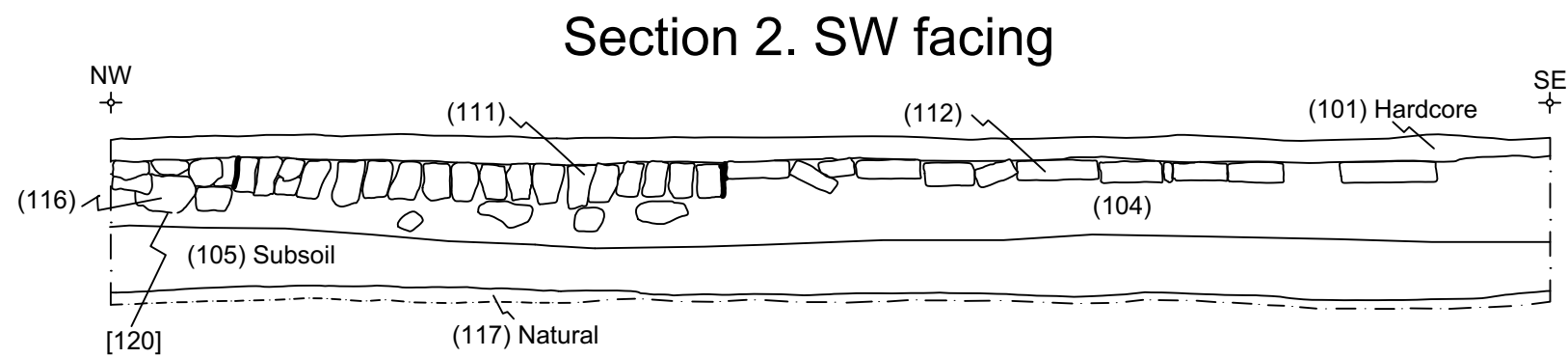
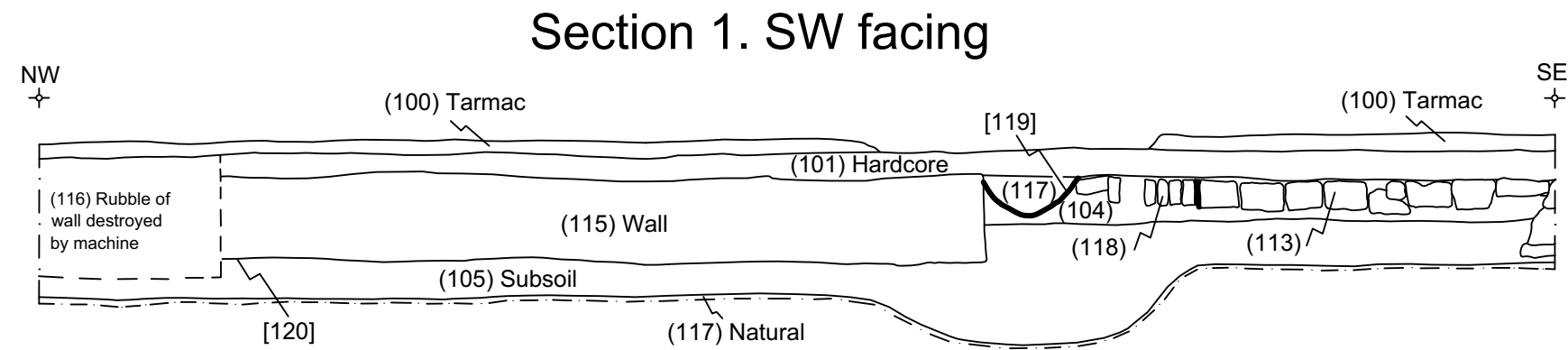
0m 5m



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Figure 25



Key:



5 Finds Assessment

All of the finds from the site came from the same deposit (104), dark reddish-brown fine silty clay with gravel, which was present across the entire site and appears to have been laid prior to the construction of the old stable building, possibly in order to level the site, before it was cut into in order for the wall foundations to be laid. As such, the finds recovered from this deposit are directly related to the date of construction of the wall.

5.1 Pottery

Dr. Robin Holgate MJA

5.1.1 Introduction

5.1.1.1 The pottery fragments from the site were examined by the author on 13th March 2014. In total 50 potsherds (table 1) were recovered from the site, all of which were recovered from deposit (104) from Trenches 2 and 3.

Context	Description	No. of fragments	Comments	Date
104 Trench 2	Black/brown-glazed ware	1	Body 'sherd	18 th – 19 th century
104 Trench 2	Brown stoneware	1	Rim 'sherd	18 th – 19 th century
104 Trench 2	Pearl-glazed earthenware	1	Tankard handle	18 th – 19 th century
104 Trench 2	Transfer-printed earthenware	4	Cup/bowl rim 'sherd	19 th century
104 Trench 3	Black/brown-glazed ware	12	Three bowl rim 'sherds	18 th – 19 th century
104 Trench 3	Brown stoneware	2	Tankard base 'sherd	18 th – 19 th century
104 Trench 3	Pearl-glazed earthenware	27	9 dish/plate rim and base s'herds with blue or green painted edges. 4 bowl/rim 'sherds with blue painted decoration	18 th – 19 th century
104 Trench 3	Slip-coated buff ware	1	Body 'sherd	Mid-18 th – 19 th century
104 Trench 3	White salt-glazed stoneware	1	Beaker rim 'sherd	18 th – 19 th century

Table 1. Pottery recovered from the Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton.

5.1.2 Discussion

5.1.2.1 The pottery represents 18th and 19th century utilitarian wares (black/brown-glazed ware, stoneware and slip-coated ware) and refined earthenwares (whiteware, both plain and transfer printed) used for the storage, preparation and consumption of food and drink. These mass-produced potsherds are in no way unusual and parallels can be found on most sites producing 18th and 19th centuries material.

5.1.3 Recommendations for further work

5.1.3.1 Post-medieval regional research objectives for 'developing further the study of ceramic assemblages' and 'exploring the evidence for continuing non-factory trades and industries' highlight relevant topics of further research as "studies of individual assemblages which offer the chance to contribute to biographies of households and individuals" (Knight et al. 2012, 119) and archaeological studies in conjunction with economic historians and geographers to "illuminate the scale and use of buildings and associated rubbish deposits, economic and demographic factors, and the topographic context" (Knight et al. 2012, 132). This assemblage, though, is small in size and not unusual in any respect for a site of this nature, and is thus of no potential for further analysis. The potsherds could, therefore, be returned to the landowner, retained in a teaching collection or archived.

5.2 Clay pipe

Mike Wood MJA

5.2.1 Introduction

5.2.1.1 In total 20 fragments of clay pipe were recovered from trenches 2 and 3 (table 2), all of which comprise stem fragments, with the exception of one bowl fragment recovered from Trench 3.

5.2.2 Methodology

5.2.2.1 The material was counted, then examined visually to identify any diagnostic pieces and the overall condition of the assemblage. Reference was made to published guidelines (Higgins & Davey 2004). Where no other identification has been possible, stems have been dated by established stem bore guidelines (Oswald 1975). It should be noted that dates provided by stem bore size can have an appreciable margin for error and are intended only as a general guide. A summary of the material is recorded in Table 2.

5.2.3 Assemblage

Context	Description	No of fragments	Stem Ø	Date
104 Trench 2	Stem fragment	1	Stem 6mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 2	Stem fragment	1	Stem 7mm, bore 1.5mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 2	Stem fragment	1	Stem 9mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 6mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 6.5mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 7mm, bore 2mm.	C18 th - 19 th

104 Trench 3	Stem fragment. Small amount of light green glaze at one end	1	Stem 6mm, bore 2.5mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment. Small amount of light green glaze at one end	1	Stem 6mm, bore 2.5mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 7mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 6mm, bore 1.5mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 7mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 7mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 8mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 7mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 9mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 9mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 8mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 5mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Stem fragment	1	Stem 8mm, bore 2mm	C18 th - 19 th
104 Trench 3	Bowl fragment. Fluted decoration	1	44mm in length by 21mm in width	C18 th - 19 th

Table 2. Clay pipe fragments recovered from the Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton.

5.2.4 Discussion

5.2.4.1 The bowl fragment has fluted decoration, which is fairly typical of very late 1700s and early 1800s pipes. The stem bores are relatively small and are typical of 18th to 19th century examples.

5.2.5 Recommendations for further work

5.2.5 No further work is recommended. All of the artefacts could be returned to the landowner, retained in a teaching collection or archived. The stems and bowl fragment by themselves are of little value.

6 Conclusion

6.2 The watching brief has identified a substantial gritstone structure with associated gritstone and flagstone inner surfaces, and cobbled and flagged outer yard surfaces. The artefacts recovered from the levelling/bedding deposit associated with the construction of the

building comprise pottery and clay pipe fragments from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, suggesting that the construction of the building may relate to this time.

6.3 It is highly likely that the structural remains and associated artefacts relate to a known stable building that once stood on the site, which was partially demolished in the late nineteenth century. The perpendicular alignment of the stable block still exists on the site (Figure 25, below), and is of identical construction to the walls identified in Trenches 2 and 3 of the watching brief. In addition, two of the walls recorded during the watching brief are in precise alignment with one of the existing stable walls, indicating that they were once joined.



Figure 26. The existing stable in the Queen's Head car park. The walls identified during the watching brief are thought to belong to a perpendicular wing of this stable block that was demolished due to poor condition in the 1970s. Scale = 1m.

7 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

7.2 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

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

8 Statement of Indemnity

8.2 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.

9 Archive Deposition

- 8.1 A digital and paper copy of the report will be submitted to the HER.
- 8.2 The OASIS record for the site will be completed and a copy of the report uploaded to OASIS.

10 Acknowledgements

10.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with the archaeological project, especially Ian Howarth and the staff of the Queen's Head Hotel, the ground workers of P and M Wright Building Services and Steve Baker, Development Control Archaeologist of Derbyshire County Council.

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Appendix I – Site Records

Context No	Context Description	Trench
100	Tarmac	All
101	Made ground	All
102	VOID	-
103	Courtyard flagstones outside stable	2
104	Bedding/levelling into which structures are cut	All
105	Mid brown soft silty clay subsoil	All
106	Gritstone NE/SW aligned wall	2
107	Limestone bedding for wall (106)	2
108	Flagstones inside structure	2
109	Cobbled yard surface	1
110	Bedding for (109) Same as (104)	3
111	Gritstone wall NW/SE aligned	3
112	Flagstone surface transect 1 and 2	3
113	Cobbled/flagged surface transect 4 section 1	3
114	VOID	-
115	Gritstone wall NW/SE aligned	3
116	Gritstone wall NE/SW aligned	3
117	Gravel fill of [119]	3
118	Brick structure of [119]	3
119	Cut of drain/service trench	3
120	Cut of walls (111), (115), (116)	3
121	Internal surface of stable transects 3 and 4	3
122	Gritstone wall NE/SW aligned. Transect 4 section 1. Same as (106)?	3
123	Natural limestone bedrock	3

The Queens Head Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief



1 Introduction

1.1 This scheme of works relates to the proposed construction of a two-storey rear extension with six hotel bedrooms and a car port on the site of a demolished stable building at The Queens Head Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire (Figure 1). Ground works during the course of these works will entail excavating trenches for the foundations and services. The site is centred at SK0573 7305.

1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the works on condition (number 7 of the planning permission) that a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring of the ground works is submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation details the programme of work to be undertaken during an archaeological watching brief at the site.

1.4 The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that any heritage assets encountered during the works in the specified area are recorded and understood.

2 Background

2.1 The site lies on the west side of the High Street, Buxton just south of the town hall and market square. The area to the west of High Street is within the core of the medieval town of Buxton and also within the Area of Archaeological Interest associated with the Roman town identified in the High Peak Local Plan. Early 19th century maps indicate that the proposed extension lies on the site of a former stables/coach house, the date of which is unknown but could be at least as early as the 18th century.

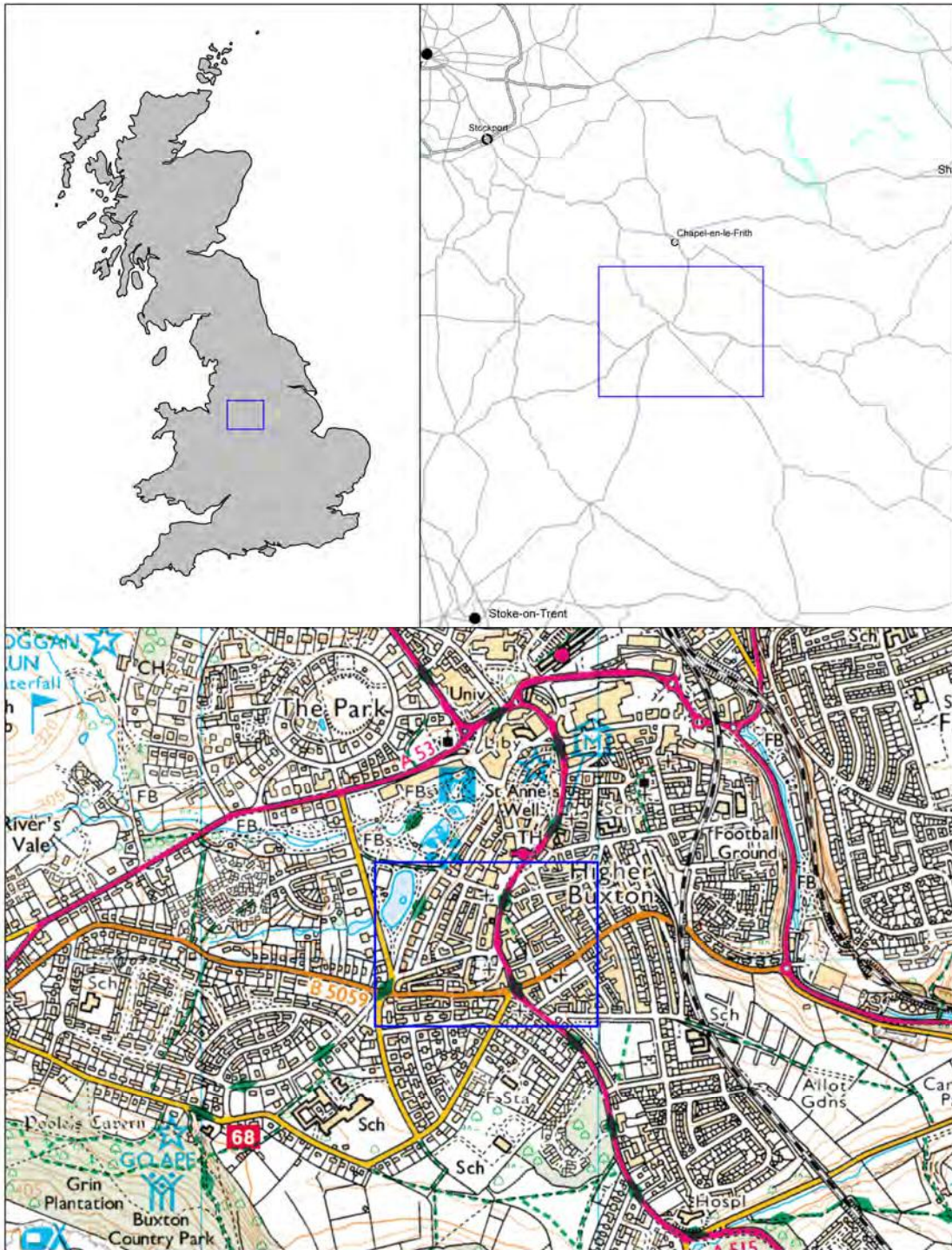


Figure 1. Location of site (highlighted in blue)
(Ordnance Survey Data © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence No. 100045420)

3 Objectives

3.1 The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that any archaeological features encountered during the ground works in the specified area are recorded and interpreted.

4 Fieldwork methodology

4.1 Watching brief

4.1.1 All relevant ground works will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket or by hand once any overlying concrete and stone has been removed. Archaeological monitoring will not entail excavation beyond the total areas exposed by the development works. 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 Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist will be notified and a decision taken as to the best method of proceeding.

4.1.2 ARS Ltd will provide a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times during any ground works on the site to undertake a watching brief and, if appropriate, a strip-and-record. 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.

4.1.3 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.

4.1.4 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.

4.1.5 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).

4.1.6 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.

4.1.7 The watching brief will be undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008) and *Code of Conduct* (2012). The records will follow standard conventions set by the Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS) (2002).

4.1.8 In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered, they 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.

4.1.9 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 archaeologist on site.

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

4.1.11 Should archaeological remains be encountered for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard, then work on site shall cease and the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist shall be notified immediately. Site works will not recommence until resources are in place to secure preservation *in situ* or adequate archaeological treatment of the relevant remains.

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 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 ARS Ltd will inspect and monitor the upcast spoil from the site investigations.

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

6 Monitoring arrangements

6.1 At least one week prior notice of the commencement of the ground works will be given to the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.

Steve Baker
Derbyshire County Council
Shand House
Dale Road South
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3RY
Tel: 01629 539773

6.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

7 Report

7.1 Within two months of the 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 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
- Recommendations for the retention or discard of archive material
- 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 approved scheme of works (WSI)
- A copy of the OASIS form.

7.2 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

7.3 If the watching brief is blank, then the report to the HER will be the only record required, and needs to include a good selection of photos.

8 Archive deposition

8.1 Should significant finds or stratigraphy be generated, then an accession number will be requested from Buxton Museum, and a digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by ARS Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections,

photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by Buxton Museum). The archive will be deposited in line with *Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives: Museums in Derbyshire* (2003), and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report.

8.2 The Derby and Derbyshire 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 Derby and Derbyshire 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 Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.

10 Publication

10.1 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs, will be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication.

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OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: archaeo15-174842

Project details

Project name	The Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire. An Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	In March 2014 Archaeological Research Services Ltd. was commissioned by Ian Howarth to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire. The scheme of works was related to the proposed construction of a two-storey rear extension comprising six hotel bedrooms and a car port, located on the site of a demolished stable building. The archaeological watching brief monitored all ground works carried out as part of the building extension, comprising the excavation of one foundation plot and two service trenches. The archaeological watching brief identified the foundations of a number of walls along with partial flagged stone and cobbled surfaces, and nineteenth and twentieth century pottery and clay pipe fragments. The structural remains encountered, along with the cultural material, indicate that the remains may be related to a stable structure that is known to have existed in the location, until it was demolished in the 1970's. The date of construction for this building is not documented, although the pottery and clay pipe recovered from the foundation cut of these walls suggest that it was constructed in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.
Project dates	Start: 05-03-2014 End: 07-03-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE HIGH PEAK BUXTON The Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire
Postcode	SK17 6EU
Study area	40.00 Square metres

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	Chris Scott
Project supervisor	Laura Strafford
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Queen's Head Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire. An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Strafford, L
Other bibliographic details	ARS Report no: 2014/45
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	ARS Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bakewell
Description	A\$ colour spiral bound
Entered by	Laura Strafford (laura@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	17 March 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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