

**Curzon Road, Buxton, Derbyshire.
Report on a Watching Brief**



Foundation trench looking north

ARS Ltd Report 2006/41
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

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Executive Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd for Mr and Mrs P. Featherstone at their premises at Curzon road Buxton (National Grid Reference SK 06199 73450) during the excavation of foundations for an extension to the property on 28th and 29th September 2006. This comprised observation of all groundworks and the recording and excavation of potential archaeological features. No significant archaeological features were encountered.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The watching brief at 9 Curzon Road Buxton was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd for Mr and Mrs P. Featherstone in advance of the construction of an extension to his property. The site is situated within the adopted Buxton Area of Archaeological Interest, as defined in the High Peak Borough Council Local Plan (Fig. 1). This area is believed to have been the area of the Roman settlement in Buxton and in the vicinity of the development site numerous finds dating from the Roman period have been identified. In 1903 a stone floored Roman building was discovered 50m north - west of the site. In association with this floor were finds including Roman Samian Ware pottery and coins (SMR 2832). 100 metres to the south-east of the site similar Roman material was discovered (SMR 2838). Furthermore, it is also believed that a Roman road was situated only 50m to the south of the development site (SMR31117).

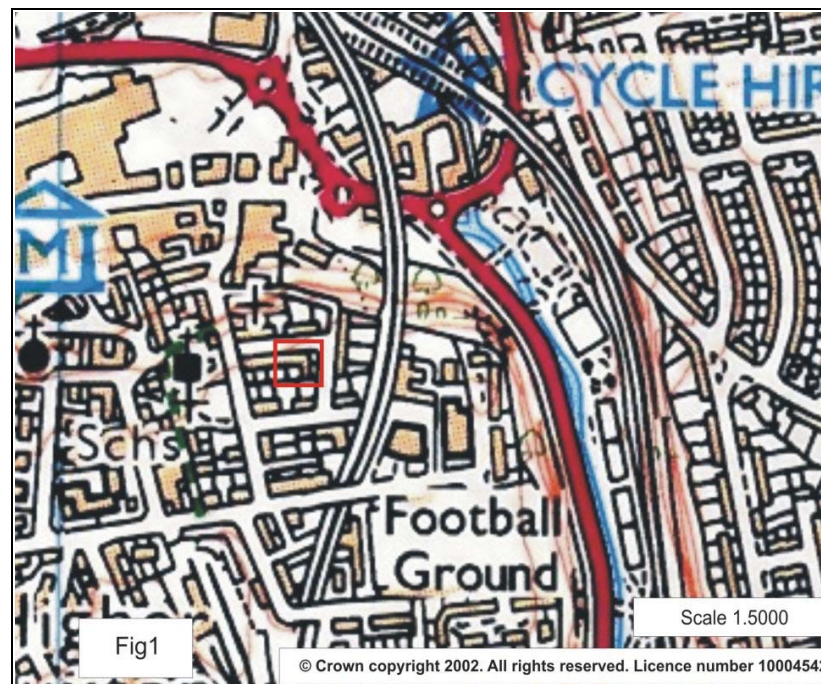


Fig. 1 Location of Curzon Road Buxton

2. Background

- 2.1 Buxton is situated on the River Wye in an area where the solid geology consists of carboniferous limestone (Ford 2002: 10) and the development site is situated on the Bee Low limestone formation (Aitkenhead *et. al.* 1978).

3. Aims of the Project

- 3.1 The project was an archaeological watching brief as requested by the Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council. The aim of the watching brief was to observe all ground works for the presence of archaeology and fully record and excavate any archaeological features encountered as set out in the WSI (Appendix 1).

4. Method Statement

- 4.1 The overburden was removed to the natural substrate by a mini excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench was excavated by the removal of level spits and a check was made at all stages for archaeological features. The resultant trench was 0.7m in width and sub-rectangular in shape (Fig. 2). The entire process was monitored by an archaeologist from Archaeological Research Services Ltd.
- 4.2 No archaeological features were encountered and no archaeological small finds identified.

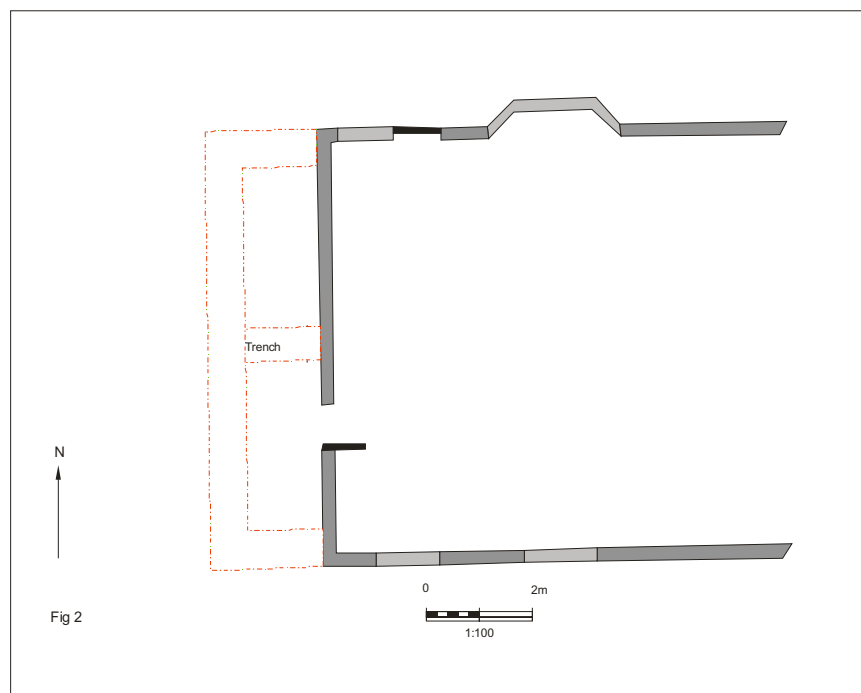


Figure 2: plan of foundation trench (edged red)

5. Stratigraphic Report

- 5.1 The trench excavated for the foundations of the extension can be seen edged red in figure 2. The excavation revealed topsoil (001) of a variable depth but most frequently of a depth of between 0.2m and 0.25m. The topsoil consisted of a brown (5YR/5/3) loam that contained no finds of an archaeological nature. Beneath the topsoil a uniform orange/brown (5YR/5/6) sandy clay (002) was encountered with a depth of 0.55m which again was found to be archaeologically sterile. The final context encountered (003) was a layer of frost shattered limestone (2.5Y/6/1) which extended beyond the depth of the excavated trench (which reached a depth of 1.3m). The general stratigraphy within the trench can be seen in figure 3 below.

6. Small finds

- 6.1 There were no small finds associated with this site other than modern material of no archaeological interest.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 This watching brief has revealed no significant discoveries of an archaeological nature. However, the discovery of so many finds of Roman date in the vicinity confirms that all groundworks in the area should be accompanied by a watching brief as there is a good possibility of damage to such archaeological features.



Figure 3: Foundation trench looking south. Scale: 2m

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 ARS Ltd would like to thank all those involved with the running of the project, especially Mr and Mrs Featherstone and the contractors working on the site.

11. References

Aitkenhead, N., Stevenson, I.P., Chisholm, J.I., Price, D., Francis, E.A., Eden, R.A. and Smith, E.G. 1978. *The geological survey of Great Britain (England and Wales): Buxton*. British Geological Survey.

Ford, T.D. 2002. *Rocks and Scenery of the Peak District*. Ashbourne, Landmark.

Appendix 1

9 Curzon Road, Buxton, Derbyshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief



1. Introduction

- 1.1 Planning application HPK/2006/0089 has received planning consent to construct a two storey side extension. The permission is for the construction of a two storey side extension covering an area 8m x c.2.2m (c.18m²). At present there is a small (2.5m x 1.75m) single storey lightweight porch extension and a path in this area. The consent may also require establishing an area of hard standing for off-road parking.
- 1.2 A condition of the planning consent requires that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the development.
- 1.3 No archaeological desk-based assessment has been produced.
- 1.4 This document is a written scheme of investigation for the conditioned watching brief.

2. Background

- 2.1 The application falls within the adopted Buxton Area of Archaeological Interest, as defined in the High Peak Borough Council Local Plan. This area is thought to indicate the likely extent of Roman settlement within Buxton. Archaeological remains could survive anywhere within this area.
- 2.2 Specific previous finds in the general area include SMR 2832, 50m north-west of the application site, where in 1903-4 a stone-floored Roman building was discovered which produced a range of Roman finds including Samian and coarse pottery, glass, coins, metalwork and charred bone. Similar finds were made at another site on Holker Road, while Roman pottery was also recovered 100m to the south-east (SMR 2838). A Roman milestone (SMR 2841) was also recovered from a garden on Silverlands to the south of the application site. It has also been suggested a Roman road ran 50m to the south of the development site (SMR31117).
- 2.3 The construction of the house, the porch, path and boundary wall will have disturbed much of this area. However, previous discoveries in the area have shown that Roman remains can survive surprisingly close to the nineteenth/twentieth century houses.

3. Objective

- 3.1 The conditioned watching brief will provide for achieving an appropriate level of *preservation by record* for any archaeological deposits exposed during the development groundworks relating to the side extension and the off-road parking.

4. Method

- 4.1 A representative of ARS Ltd will maintain a watching brief during all ground works and activity that may cause disturbances to the ground surface or expose buried archaeological features.
- 4.2 During the watching brief should any potential layers, features, structures or finds be exposed ARS Ltd will 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 development works.
- 4.3 All archaeological fieldwork, recording of archaeological features and deposits and post-excavation analysis will be carried out to acceptable archaeological standards. ARS Ltd will abide by the Code of Practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and will follow the guidance provided in “Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions” (English Heritage 2003).
- 4.4 ARS Ltd will undertake a site risk assessment and operate at all times with due regard to health and safety regulations.
- 4.5 All archaeological work will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced staff.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 In the event that the DCA wishes to undertake a monitoring visit the contact details of ARS Ltd are:

Suite 7, Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB
Tel: 01629 814540
Fax: 01629 814657

The on-site archaeologist undertaking the fieldwork will be Jim Brightman who can be contacted on: 07736 276694

- 5.2 It is intended that fieldwork will commence on Thursday 28th September 2006.

- 5.3 Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered the representative of ARS Ltd will contact the DCA and arrange a convenient date and time for a site visit. The DCA contact will be:

Dr. Andrew Myers,
Development Control Archaeologist,
Derbyshire County Council,
Shand House,
Dale Road South,
Matlock,
Derbyshire DE4 3RY

Andy.myers@derbyshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01629 585146
Mob: 07781 850742
Fax: 01629 585507

6. Finds

- 6.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the IFA guidelines for Finds Work (2001) and those set out by UKIC (1990).
- 6.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 6.3 All bulk finds, which are not discarded, will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded.
- 6.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated. Prehistoric pottery will not be cleaned or be subject to any abrasion or loss of adhering residues.
- 6.5 An approved specialist will carry out assessment and analysis of artefacts and environmental samples.
- 6.6 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (inc. controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).
- 6.7 All storage will have appropriate security provision.

- 6.8 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum (Buxton Museum and Art Gallery).

7. Human Remains

- 7.1 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 Home Office licence obtained. The Coroner for Derby and South is:

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

Tel: 01246 201391

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

8. Report

- 8.1 The preparation of the report will follow the guidelines published by the Institute of Field Archaeology.
- 8.2 Upon completion of the fieldwork a full report will be produced and copies submitted to the Local Planning Authority, the CA and the Derbyshire SMR.
- 8.3 The report will include as a minimum,
- Non-technical summary
 - Introductory statement
 - Aims and purpose of the project
 - Methodology
 - An objective summary statement of results
 - Conclusion
 - Supporting illustrations at appropriate scales
 - Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices, including as a minimum a basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts and structural data.
 - Index to archive and details of archive location
 - References
 - Statement of intent regarding publication
 - Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
 - Copy of the brief supplied by the DCA

- 8.4 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be supplied to the SMR and deposited with the archive either as colour slides, or as digital images on a CD ROM.
- 8.5 A short summary report will be supplied as hard copy and a PDF to the Development Control Archaeologist along with the evaluation report. ARS Ltd will 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.*

9. Archive Deposition

- 9.1 Arrangements will be made at the outset of the project for the full and final archive to be deposited in Buxton Museum and Art Gallery.

Buxton Museum and Art Gallery,
Terrace Road,
Buxton,
Derbyshire,
SK17 6DA

Tel: 01298 24658

- 9.2 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 SMR. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).
- 9.3 Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, will be included as part of the final report.

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 (see 8.5). The results of the work will be published at least in summary form in Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.