

**An Archaeological Watching Brief.
23 Holker Road, Buxton, Derbyshire.**



Site looking east towards Trinity Church

ARS Ltd Report 2015/66

May 2015

Planning ref:

Oasis no: archaeol5- 211194

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief.
23 Holker Road, Buxton, Derbyshire.**

ARS Ltd Report 2015/66

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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 23 Holker Road, Buxton, Derbyshire. Archaeological monitoring was requested as the proposed development area (PDA) falls within the adopted Buxton Area of Archaeological Interest, which is thought to indicate the likely area of Roman settlement within Buxton. The monitoring was carried out during ground works for the demolition of a garage and erection of a house extension. Footings were dug for a 5.8x9.3m extension to the north-east of the house. No features of archaeological significance or buried land surfaces were revealed. Two 20th century pottery fragments were recovered, along with one fragment of green bottle glass.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Location and scope of work

1.1.1. In May 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 23 Holker Road, Buxton, Derbyshire (Figure 1). The work was carried out during ground works for the demolition of a garage and erection of an extension on the north-east side of the existing building. The archaeological monitoring of the ground works was undertaken on the 13th May 2015.

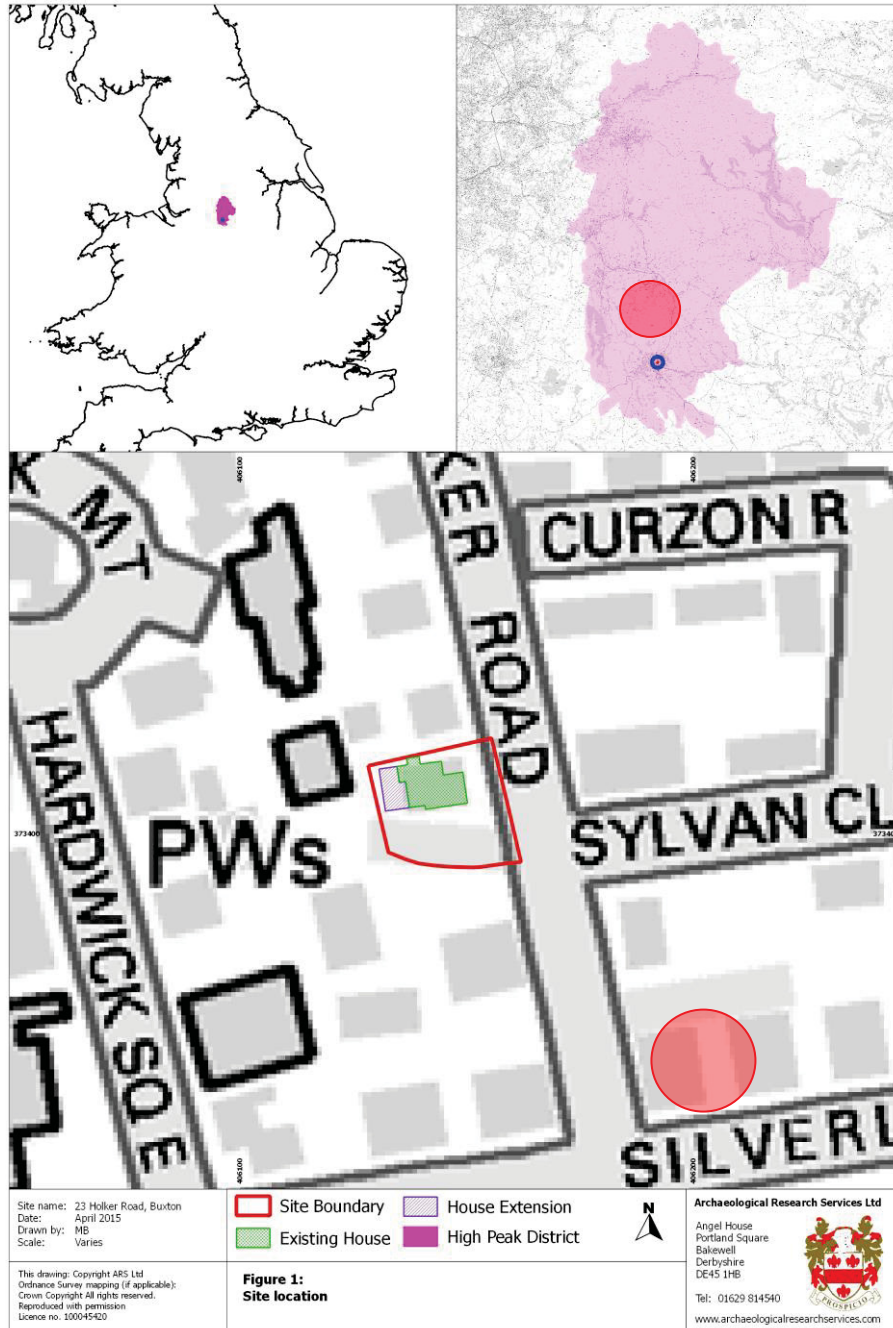


Fig. 1 Site location

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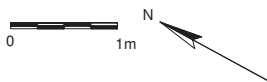
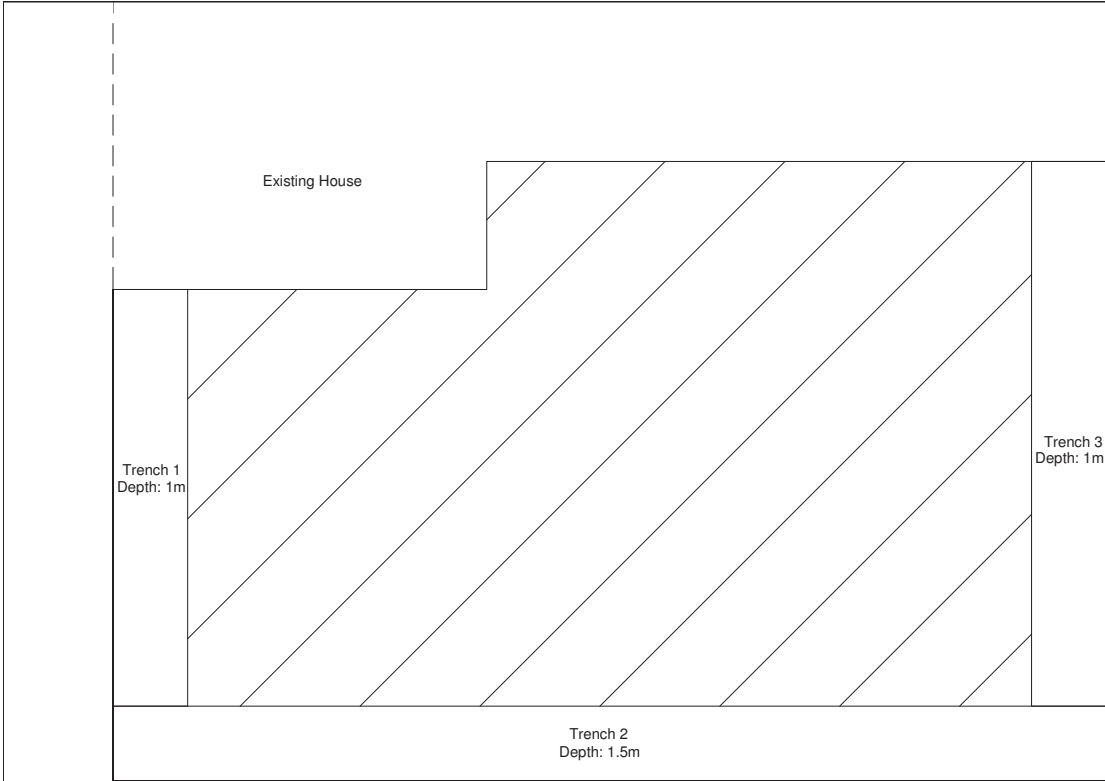


Figure 2. Site Plan.
Scale: 1:50

Key:

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- 1.1.2. The site is centred at NGR SK 06144 73410, within the likely area of the Roman settlement at Buxton and near the sites of several roman finds. The site is also directly west of Trinity Church, Buxton.
- 1.1.3. A 0.7m wide trench was dug on three sides of a 5.8x9.3m area to pour concrete footings for a house extension (Figure 2).

1.2. Geology

- 1.2.1 The solid geology of the site consists of limestone of the Monsal Dale Limestone Formation (British Geological Survey 2015).
- 1.2.2 The soil cover for the site consists of made ground and dark clay and silt deposits.

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 excavation of three trenches for wall footings, each to a depth of 1.0-1.5m (Figure 2).
- 2.2 The trenches were excavated by machine, using a 0.6m wide toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The tarmac surface (101) was removed prior to archaeological monitoring. The machine removed subsequent deposits in level spits to reach the depth required for the building foundations.
- 2.3 A single context recording system was employed. Each layer encountered was given a unique context number and a full written description (a Harris matrix is shown in Appendix I and a full context register is shown in Appendix II). Digital colour photographs were taken in order to record the ground work. A photographic register can be found in Appendix III.

3. RESULTS

- 3.1 Three trenches were dug along the perimeter of the building site. Trenches 1 and 3, along the south-east and north-west sides were dug to a depth of 1.0m. Trench 2, along the north-east side, was dug to a depth of 1.5m (Figure 2).
- 3.2 The same stratigraphic sequence was observed across all trenches (Figures 3 and 4). The surface of the site was covered by a layer of tarmac (101); all depths were recorded from the surface of the tarmac layer. Below the tarmac surface was a levelling deposit of yellow-grey sand (102) with sub-angular gravel inclusions and maximum depth of 0.34m. Beneath the made ground of contexts (101 and 102) was a dark grey clay (103) deposit containing two pottery sherds and one glass fragment. Context (103) was roughly 0.15m deep, with a minimum depth of 0.31m and a maximum depth of 0.48m. Beneath this was a 0.55m thick deposit of mid-brown loamy silt (104) with some inclusions of large, sub-rounded stones. Beneath this, at a depth of 0.86m was a mid-yellow-brown clay (105) which continued to the maximum observed depth (1.5m). All contexts were observed in the same sequence in all three trenches.



Figure 3. Soil profile of south-west facing section. Trench 2. Scale 1m.



Figure 4. Soil profile of south-east facing section. Trench 3. Scale 1m.

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

4. FINDS REPORT

4.1 Two fragments of pottery and a fragment of glass were recovered from context (103). The pottery comprises a whiteware handle and base fragments of a blue glazed mug, whilst the fragment of glass is from a light green bottle. All finds date to the 20th century. All the finds recovered represent mass-produced items that are in no way unusual and parallels can be found on most sites in the region yielding 20th century material.

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 There were no archaeological features, deposits, or buried land surfaces located within the trenches. The three finds recovered date to the 20th century.



Figure 5. The excavation facing south. Scale 1m.

6. ARCHIVING AND PUBLICATION

- 6.1 Digital and paper copies of this report have been submitted to the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 6.2 A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record.

7. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

- 7.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 7.2 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

- 8.1 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.

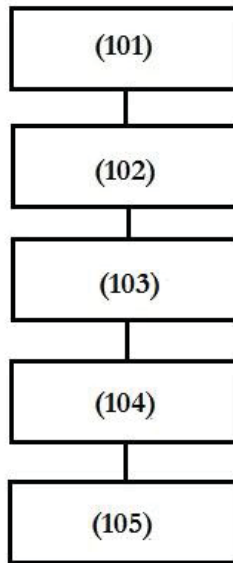
9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular Jonathan Paul for commissioning the watching brief and providing access; and Steve Baker, the Derbyshire Development Council Archaeologist, for his assistance and advice.

10. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX I: HARRIS MATRIX



APPENDIX II: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Trench	Description	Finds
101	1, 2, 3	Tarmac surface.	
102	1, 2, 3	Yellow-grey sand. Levelling deposit.	
103	1, 2, 3	Very dark grey clay.	Pottery, Glass
104	1, 2, 3	Mid-brown loamy soil.	
105	1, 2, 3	Mid-yellow-brown clay.	

APPENDIX III: Photograph Register

Shot No.	Direction	Scale	Context No.	Description	Photo By	Date
1	E	-	(101)(102)	Pre-excavation	EM	13/05/2015
2	NW	-	(101)(102)	Pre-excavation	EM	13/05/2015
3	E	-	-	Location of site and Trinity Church	EM	13/05/2015
4	NE	1m	(101)(102) (103)(104) (105)	Soil profile south-west facing section. Trench 2.	EM	13/05/2015
5	NE	1m	(101)(102) (103)(104) (105)	Soil profile south-west facing section. Trench 2.	EM	13/05/2015
6	NE	1m	(101)(102) (103)(104) (105)	Soil profile south-west facing section. Trench 2.	EM	13/05/2015
7	S	1m	(101)(102)	Post-excavation	EM	13/05/2015
8	S	1m	(101)(102)	Post-excavation	EM	13/05/2015
9	SE	1m	(101)(102)	Post-excavation	EM	13/05/2015
10	E	1m	(101)(102)	Post-excavation	EM	13/05/2015
11	E	-	-	Location of site and Trinity Church	EM	13/05/2015
12	NW	1m	(101)(102) (103)(104) (105)	Soil profile south-east facing section. Trench 3.	EM	13/05/2015
13	NW	1m	(101)(102) (103)(104) (105)	Soil profile south-east facing section. Trench 3	EM	13/05/2015



Archaeological Research
Services Ltd

23 Holker Road, Buxton, Derbyshire

Written Scheme of Investigation

April 2015

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This scheme of works relates to the proposed development at 23 Holker Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6QN, which consists of the demolition of an existing garage and construction of a two storey side extension. The site is centred at NGR SK 06144, 73410 (Figure 1). The underlying geology of the site is Limestone of the Monsal Dale Limestone Formation (dark Lithofacies) (BGS 2015).
- 1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the works through a successful appeal (Application Reference: HPK/2014/0457) made by Mrs Linda Paul on behalf of Mr & Mrs J Paul of Buxton. Condition numbers 4, 5 and 6 of the planning permission requires that:

“4. No development shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
- b. The programme and provision to be made for post investigation analysis and reporting*
- c. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- d. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- e. Nomination of a competent person or persons/ organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation*

5. *No development shall take place other than in accordance with the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 4 above.*

6. *The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation reporting has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 4 above and the provision to be made for publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured”.*

- 1.3 The document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) confirming the nature of the archaeological monitoring to be undertaken during a watching brief by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) at 23 Holker Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, in accordance with guidance from Steve Baker, the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.
- 1.4 The aim of the programme of works is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 141 (CLG 2012), to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archived generated) publically accessible.

2 Background

- 2.1 There have been a great number of prehistoric finds around Buxton, including at one of the most important prehistoric sites within Britain, Lismore Fields (SAM 278). Evidence of both Mesolithic and Neolithic activity has been uncovered, including a Mesolithic settlement and a Neolithic village. Additionally, within the Holker Road area, a quantity of bones, thought to be human, two bronze socketed axes and a broken leaf-shaped spearhead have been unearthed in around 1898 (HER 2801).
- 2.2 The proposed development area (PDA) falls within the adopted Buxton area of Archaeological Interest, which is thought to indicate the likely extent of Roman settlement within Buxton. Due to the natural thermal waters of the area, the Romans referred to Buxton as *Aquae Arnemetiae* or ‘the spa of the goddess of the grove’. A number of baths and associated structures have been found during construction works in the area of The Crescent, though no Roman period structures currently survive. A number of Roman finds have also been noted around the PDA on Holker Road. These include a stone-floored Roman building, found 60m north-west of the PDA with Samian ware and coarse pottery, Roman glass, and fragments of bronze, iron and charred bones found 60m north-west (HER 2832), pottery uncovered 150m to the east (HER 2838) and a Roman milestone to the south of the PDA (HER 2841).
- 2.3 Although the soils and sub-soils of the PDA have likely been disturbed by previous construction works, given the number of Roman remains unearthed in Buxton and particularly in the vicinity of Holker Road, there is a good chance for Roman remains surviving within the PDA.

3 Objectives

- 3.1 The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that any archaeological remains encountered during the course of the groundwork are not destroyed without first being recorded and interpreted.
- 3.2 The watching brief will involve continuous monitoring during ground works, to be re-assessed, and potentially to take place on an intermittent basis, depending upon the nature of the deposits encountered on site, with visits to be agreed on site, and in discussion with the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, in order to monitor an appropriate proportion of groundwork elements or focused upon areas of identified potential. This will generally be at the beginning of each operation, at agreed points throughout the operation, and in response to any significant deposits being unearthed.

4 Fieldwork methodology

- 4.1 All relevant ground works will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. If significant archaeological features are identified, the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist will be notified and a decision taken as to the best method of proceeding.
- 4.2 ARS Ltd will provide a suitably qualified archaeologist during ground works on the site to undertake a watching brief. The on-site archaeologist will be fully apprised of the archaeological potential of the site. The 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.
- 4.3 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 and the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance upon pro forma context sheets (this will include at a minimum context record sheets, an accurate site plan and record photography where no archaeological features are present).
- 4.4 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. All significant archaeological features will be photographed (with scale) *in situ* and their location recorded on a plan of the site.
- 4.5 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). Brick samples will be taken for structures likely to pre-date the mid-19th century.

- 4.6 Site photography will be in high resolution (7 megapixel or greater) colour DSLR photography. Photography will include general site shots, shots of the excavation area and shots of individual features and groups of features. All photographs will include a suitable photographic scale (where appropriate) and will be recorded on a photographic register with the subject and direction of each shot.
- 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. Sample representative levels will be taken to record the maximum depth of excavation and /or natural should no archaeological features be uncovered. 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014b).
- 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 and in discussion with the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.
- 4.10 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act procedures.
- 4.11 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. Regular contact will be ensured between ARS Ltd. and the site project manager to ensure that ARS Ltd. is kept up to date with site works and given the chance to respond appropriately and in line with the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist requirements.
- 4.12 A risk assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.

Finds Processing and Storage

- 4.13 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the CIFA (2014c) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.
- 4.14 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 4.15 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. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

- 4.16 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.
- 4.17 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.
- 4.18 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and Buxton Museum and Art Gallery prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.
- 4.19 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

5 Monitoring Arrangements

- 5.1 At least one week prior notice of the commencement of the ground works will be given to the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist:
Steve Baker
Derbyshire County Council
Shand House
Dale Road South
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3RY
Tel: 01629 539773.
- 5.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.
- 5.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, or his representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation.

6 Staffing

- 6.1 The Project Manager for the watching brief will be Christ Scott BA MA MCIfA, Operations Manager at ARS Ltd. The Fieldwork Project Officer will be Ben Dyson, Assistant Projects Officer at ARS Ltd.
- 6.2 Finds analysis will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.
- Flint and prehistoric pottery: Dr Clive Waddington MCIfA

- Romano-British pottery: Ruth Leary
- Samian ware: Gwladys Monteil
- Roman small finds: Lisa Watling
- Medieval and post-medieval pottery: Dr Chris Cumberpatch or
Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
- Clay pipes: Mike Wood MCIfA
- Industrial Remains: Chris Scott MCIfA
- Plant macrofossils and charcoals: Elise McLellan
- Molluscs: Dr Andy McWilliams
- Human and animal bone: Milena Grzybowska
- Radiocarbon dating: SUERC
- Finds conservation: Dr Jenny Jones,
Durham University

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 OASIS form

7.2 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report should be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see 8.5 below).

8 Archive Deposition

8.1 Should the project produce no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with the repository museum, which in this case is the Buxton Museum and Art Gallery. This is in line with the Museums of Derbyshire (2003) *Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives* and its 2014 addendum.

8.2 If the project produces archaeologically significant finds, then the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist and Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity, and an accession number will be produced for the site. In

addition, 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 the Buxton Museum and Art Gallery). The archive will be deposited in line with the CIFA (2013c) *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* and Museums of Derbyshire (2003) *Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives* and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report. The 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 Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

- 8.3 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see 4.13-4.19 above).
- 8.4 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM.
- 8.5 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 General Items

Health and Safety

- 9.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all out workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork. ARS Ltd retains Peninsula as its expert health and safety consultants.

Insurance Cover

- 9.2 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability public liability, professional indemnity and all-risks cover.

10 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

- 10.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist.

11 Publication

- 11.1 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.

12. References

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OASIS ID: archaeol5-211194

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief. 23 Holker Road, Buxton, Derbyshire.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of ground works to demolish an existing garage and excavate footings for a house extension.
Project dates	Start: 13-05-2015 End: 13-05-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE HIGH PEAK BUXTON 23 Holker Road, Buxton
Postcode	SK17 6QN
Study area	0 Kilometres
Site coordinates	SK 06144 73410 53.257381674 -1.90789180539 53 15 26 N 001 54 28 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Dr. Robin Holgate

Project supervisor Elise McLellan

Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Derbyshire HER

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Derbyshire HER

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report"

Entered by Elise McLellan (elise@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)

Entered on 14 May 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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