

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
23-26 Meadow Close, Dove Holes,
Buxton, Derbyshire**



ARS Ltd Report 2008/45

June 2008

Planning ref: HPK/2007/0429

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2008 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Connaught Partnership Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 23-26 Meadow Close, Dove Holes, Buxton, Derbyshire. The work was requested by the Development Control Archaeologist (DCA) for Derbyshire County Council and consisted of monitoring ground works during the building of a semi detached property.

Work commenced with the opening of a trench to accommodate the diversion of an electrical supply cable away from the area of excavation. The site was then prepared through ground reduction to create a level working area. Trenches for the foundations of a semi detached house were then excavated, followed by drainage trenches, ground reduction to the front of the properties was undertaken in the construction of a parking area.

The work required an archaeologist from Archaeological Research Services Ltd to be on site to observe all ground works and to ensure preservation by record of any archaeological deposits discovered. Despite the development falling very close to the location of an entry on the Sites and Monuments Record relating to a Roman road which ran between Buxton and Melandra Castle Roman Fort, Glossop, no archaeological features were encountered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Location and scope of work

1.1.1. In June 2008 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Connaught Partnerships Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 23-26 Meadow Close, Dove Holes, Buxton, Derbyshire (Fig. 1). The work was carried out during groundworks for the development of a semi detached property.

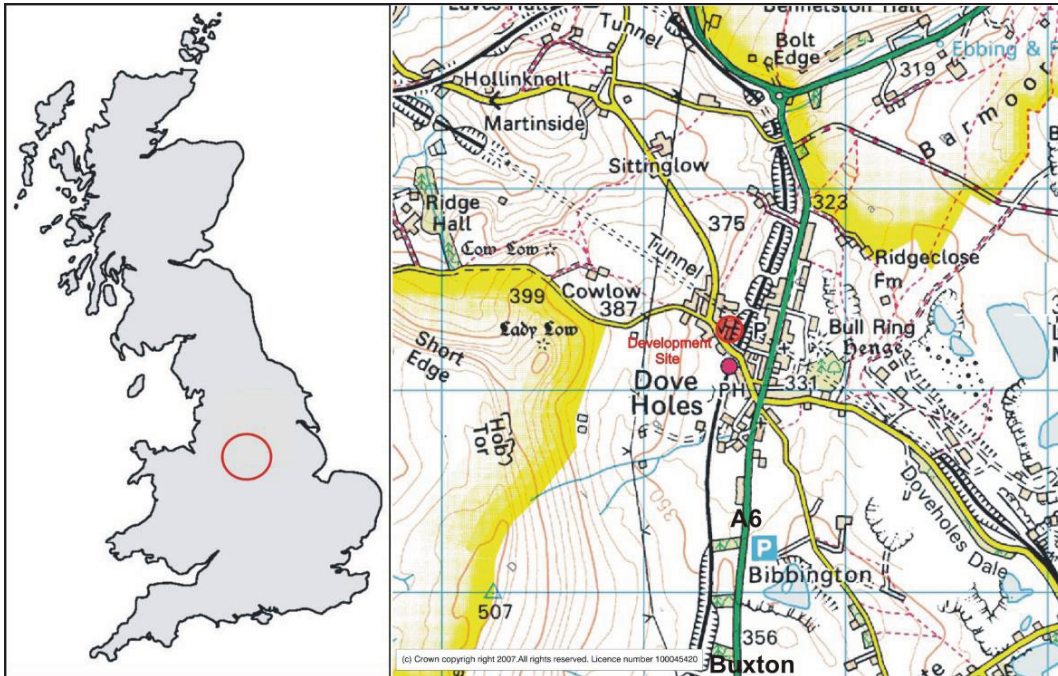


Fig. 1 Site location

1.1.2. The site is centred at NGR SK 07443 78284, adjacent to the A6 road 35km east of Manchester and 5.5km west of Buxton. Meadow Close consists of seven semi detached properties built in the early 1970's, each consisting of four flats, the development site is located on a plot of land at the northern limit of the close. Dove Holes sits on a plateau of mainly pasture land at approximately 350m OD.

1.1.3. An entry on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR 99028) reveals that earthworks observed close by the site are possible evidence of a Roman road which linked the Roman settlement of Buxton with the fortification and settlement at Melandra, Glossop. Analysis of the evidence by the DCA suggests that the road may have turned north-north-west somewhere within 100m of the development site. The construction of houses and roads around the site will probably have disturbed any above ground evidence; however it is possible that traces of the road and especially of roadside ditches will survive below ground.

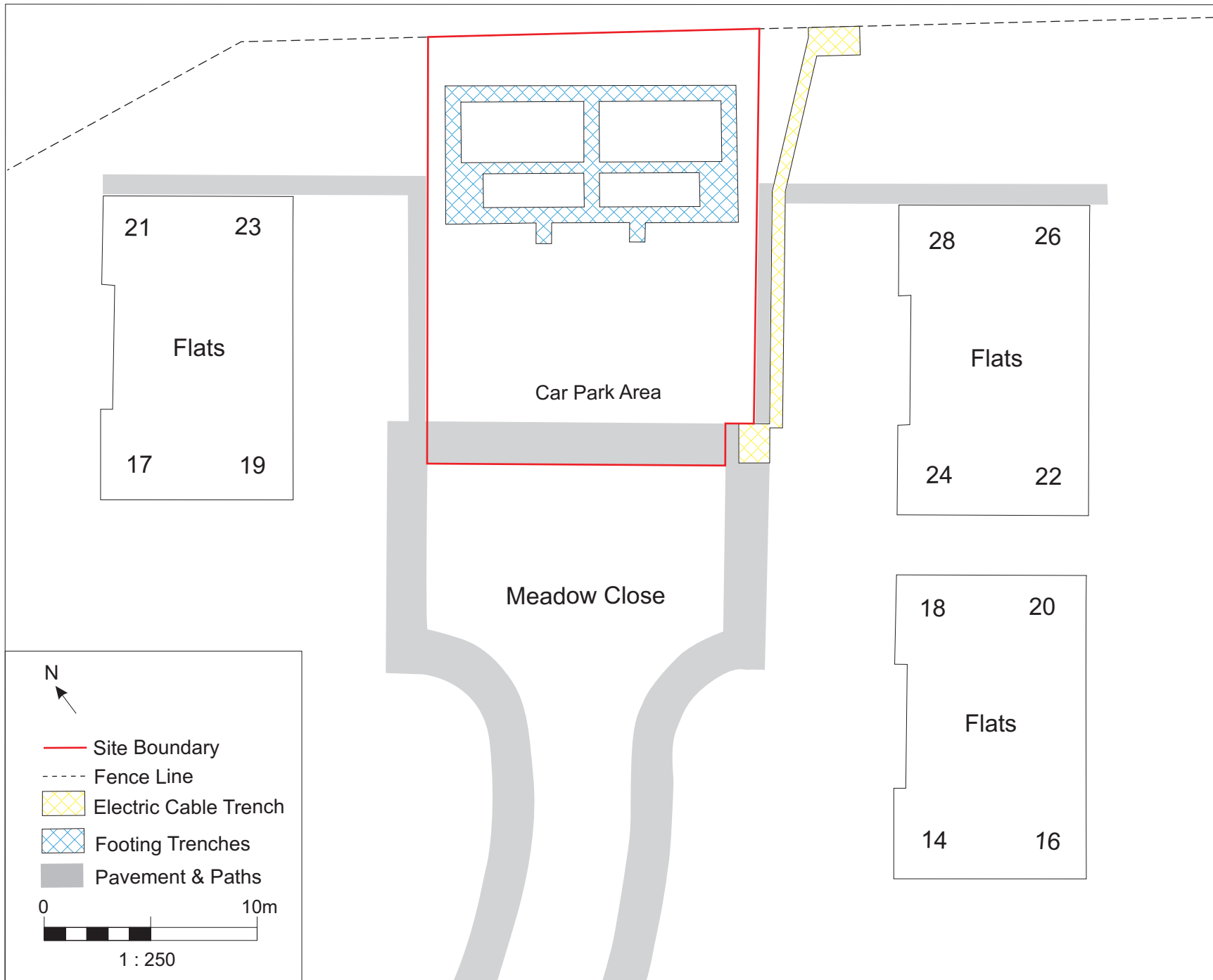


Fig. 2: Site Plan

1.2 Geology and preservation

- 1.2.1 The solid geology of the site consists of Millstone Grit shale of the Upper Carboniferous period 315 – 325 million years ago overlying the limestone dome of the Peak District which outcrops nearby (British Geological Survey 2002). Drift geology consists of sandy clay Glacial Till and the surface cover for the site consists of a grassed area and made up ground.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The specification required that a watching brief be carried out to observe any ground works taking place for the proposed development in order to identify any potential archaeological remains. This involved an archaeologist from Archaeological Research Services Ltd monitoring and supervising ground reduction and the excavation of foundation trenches and service trenches on the site. (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 All excavations were undertaken by machine under continuous archaeological supervision.

3. RESULTS

- 3.1 The initial work required the diverting of an electric cable which lay below ground within the area of excavation. The work was undertaken outside the eastern boundary of the site (Fig. 2) and required two pits to be excavated which revealed the in situ cable (Fig. 3). This work was undertaken by employees of the electrical supplier with a connecting trench between the pits excavated by the constructor's ground team.



Fig. 3: Pit excavated to expose electric cable. Facing east

3.2 The pit excavated to the north abutted a boundary fence and was 2.3m long x 1.3m wide. Turf was removed to reveal context (001) loose dark brown sandy topsoil; this was approximately 0.24m in depth and overlay a fine black loose silty soil (002). Context (002) was observed with differing thickness of layers and at differing depths as it intermingled with a deposit of loose fine red clay (003) (Fig. 4). This stratigraphy was consistent through out the connecting trench, although an increase of deposited building debris was noticed as it travelled south. The pit and trench were excavated to a depth of 0.8m, with the base alternating between (002) and (003) with patches of underlying dark grey silty clay (004) noticeable. The pit at the southern extent was excavated into the existing pavement and road; this was an area of various utility pipes and cables and was totally made up ground (Fig. 5).



Fig. 4: Stratigraphy seen in the northern pit. Facing south



Fig. 5: Southern pit showing utility cables and pipes. Facing north

- 3.3 The site which sloped west to east and north to south was then levelled, the eastern boundary accepted as the required level. When debris from earlier work in Meadow Close was removed (Fig. 6), ground reduction up to 0.55m in the north-west corner was undertaken (Fig. 7). Turf was removed from across the



Fig. 6: Pre excavation conditions on site. Facing west.



Fig. 7: Ground reduction completed. Facing west.

site leaving a topsoil covering (001) across the eastern half. The northwest corner, from which the greatest depth was excavated, revealed a topsoil covering of 0.3m deep which overlay yellowish/brown clay recognized as the natural horizon (005). This natural horizon was noticeable on the ground for approximately 8m south and 7m east (Fig. 8) & (Fig.9).



Fig. 8: Foundation trenches marked out. Facing north.



Fig. 9: Completed trenches. Facing north.

- 3.4 The trenches were excavated to a depth of 1m x 0.5m to 0.75m wide, the western trenches being excavated directly into the natural stratum (005). From the centre of the site (005) dipped gradually to the east until it was 0.8m below ground level then continued into unexcavated ground. Overlaying (005) was made up ground consisting of (001) and building debris (bricks & wood etc). The amount of building debris increased as (001) was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m as it progressed east (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10: Trench excavated into (001) revealing addition of building debris. Facing east.



Fig. 11: Stratigraphy of a section of the foundation trench

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1. Ground reduction of the car park area to accommodate a sub base and the excavation of sewerage pipe trenches was undertaken without archaeological supervision. In the trenches that were supervised there were no archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds located within the trenches.

5. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

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

6. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

- 6.1 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.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular Connaught Partnership Ltd the ground workers of Eastwood Buildings & Civil Engineering and Andrew Myers, Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

APPENDIX II.
WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATION

8. REFERENCES

Aitkenhead, N., Barclay, W.J, Brandon, a, Chadwick, R.A, Chisholm, J.I, Cooper, A.H & Johnson, E.W. 2002. *The Pennines and adjacent areas*. Nottingham, British Geological Survey.

British Geological Survey. 2008. Foundations of the Peak. <http://194.66.252.141-FoundationsofthePeak>. [Accessed 23 June 2008]

APPENDIX I: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Type	Description
001	Deposit	Dark brown (7.5YR 2.5/2) imported topsoil supporting surface turf. Deposited across the site.
002	Deposit	Fine black silty soil (10 YR 2/1), generally loose composition but with pockets of compacted soil. Made up ground found within the electric cable trench
003	Deposit	Loose fine orange/red clay (2.5YR 4/8). Made up ground found within the electric cable trench and intermingled with 002.
004	Deposit	A localised deposit of very dark grey silty clay (5YR 3/1). Made up ground found within the base of the electric cable trench.
005	Deposit	Yellow/Grey (10YR 3/4) clay with pockets of sandstone cobbles and boulders evident. Natural deposit of boulder clay materializing at the western boundary and dipping towards the east.

SITE NAME: Land between 23-26 Meadow Close, Dove Holes

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: HPK/2007/0429

NGR: SK 07443 78284

ISSUED BY: A. M. Myers (Development Control Archaeologist)

ISSUED TO: Stan Bowley

DATE: 8th November 2007

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Planning application HPK/2007/0429 has received planning consent for a residential development of "Two no. two and half storey semi detached 3 bed 4 person affordable homes" on the site at land between 23-26 Meadow Close, Dove Holes



Fig. 1: Location of the development site

1.2 Condition 12 of the planning consent requires that,

"No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has made arrangements for the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted by the applicant and approved by the Development Control Archaeologist acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority".

1.3 No archaeological desk-based assessment has been produced.

2.0 Background

2.1 The development is c.500m south of the Roman fort and civilian settlement at Melandra which is a scheduled monument (SM 20872). The fort was established at around 80AD and abandoned at around 140AD. Current evidence suggests the civilian settlement that grew up alongside the fort grew from about 0.65ha in the first century to c.1.5ha by the time of the fort's abandonment. The settlement clusters along the eastern and south-eastern sides of the fort. However, traces of buildings have been found to the south and east of the civilian settlement defences. Similarly, evidence for industrial activity has been claimed to the north of the fort. A Roman cremation cemetery is recorded some distance to the south of the fort. Various Roman finds are entered on the SMR from along the local river valleys that were discovered early in the 20th century. They tend to be indicative of religious offerings and funerary activity, rather than a spread of day-to-day material resulting from settlement activity.

2.2 Although the development falls well outside the area we currently think was occupied by the civilian settlement there has been no archaeological investigation on this side of the Gamesley estate. Certainly, evidence for funerary and ritual activity does appear to come from several locations in the landscape surrounding the fort and settlement.

Objective

3.1 The watching brief should provide for achieving an appropriate level of *preservation by record* for any archaeological deposits exposed during the development groundworks.

Fieldwork

4.1 The appointed archaeological contractor shall maintain a watching brief during all groundworks relating to the development.

4.2. 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.

4.3 The watching brief will not entail archaeological excavation beyond the areas exposed by the development works.

4.4 All archaeological fieldwork, recording of archaeological features and deposits and post-excavation analysis 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, and to follow the guidance provided in "Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions" (English Heritage 2003).

4.5 The appointed archaeologists should undertake a site risk assessment and operate at all times with due regard to health and safety regulations.

5.0 Monitoring

5.1 During the course of the fieldwork the Development Control Archaeologist (DCA) may undertake monitoring visits.

5.2 Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered the archaeological contractor should contact the DCA and arrange a convenient date and time for a site visit. Your 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

6.0 Finds

6.1 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. Analysis of finds will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists. Retained finds should be cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials, as appropriate, for long term storage (see **9.0 Archive Deposition** below).

7.0 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 is,

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

Tel: 01246 222332

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

8.0 Report

8.1 The preparation of the report should 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 DCA and the Derbyshire SMR.

8.3 The report should 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 (see 8.5, 10.1)
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements (see 9.3)
- Copy of this brief

8.4 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts should 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 (see notes attached) should be supplied as hard copy and a PDF to the DCA along with the evaluation report. The appointed archaeological contractor should also provide the DCA 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.

9.0 Archive Deposition

9.1 Arrangements should be made from the outset of the project for the full and final archive to be deposited in Buxton Museum and Art Gallery in accordance with their deposition and archiving standards. Your contact will be:

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/> 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).

9.3 Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, must be included as part of the final report.

10.0 Publication

10.1 A summary of the project, with selected drawings, illustrations and photographs, should 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 should be published at least in summary form in Derbyshire Archaeological Journal. A sheet of instructions for contributors is attached.

Guidance 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 ‘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, Shand House, Dale Road South, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RY.