



Archaeological  
Research  
Services Ltd

**Chatsworth House car park service trench.  
Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief.**



Excavated trench looking east towards  
the stables.

**ARS Ltd Report 2009/2**  
6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009

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## ***Executive Summary***

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd on behalf of the Chatsworth House Trust during the excavation of a service trench to supply a contractor's compound with power and communication cables. This required observation of ground excavation mainly within the car parking area. The trench was approximately 208m in length and extended from the power house adjacent to the stables, running north-west to the compound situated in a banked enclosure by the summer house, north of the lodge.*

*No significant archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds were located within the extent of the trench.*

## 1. Introduction

1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd on behalf of the Chatsworth House Trust. The area of ground under observation was situated in the car parking area to the north, and adjacent to the house complex. The work had been requested by the Senior Conservation Archaeologist at the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA).

## 2. Location and Geology

2.1 The Chatsworth Estate is located 8 miles north of Matlock off the B6012 and the house centred at NGR 261710.

2.2 The solid geology of the Chatsworth Estate forms part of the Millstone Grit Series. In particular, the Chatsworth Grit that can be found around Baslow and the Chatsworth Estate (Barnatt & Williamson 2005).

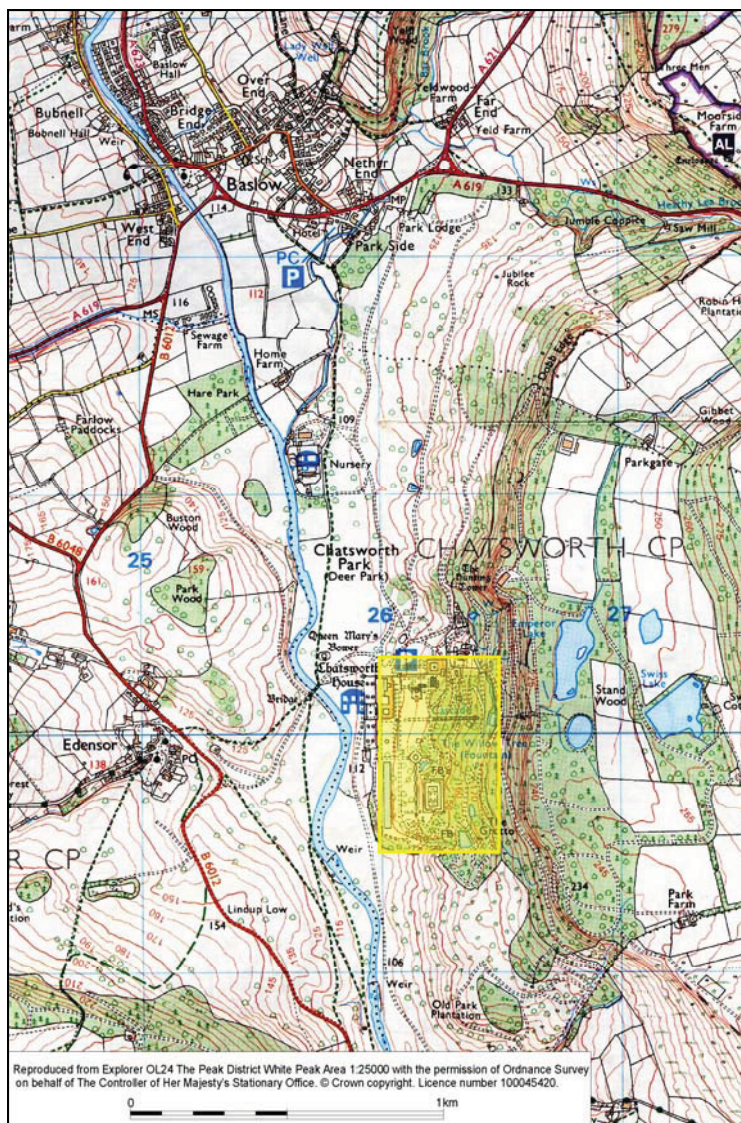


Fig. 1: Location map of Chatsworth house.

### 3. Aims of the Project

3.1 The project was an archaeological watching brief which was maintained at the request of the Chatsworth House Trust. The aim of the watching brief was to observe all ground works for the presence of archaeological remains and fully record and excavate any archaeological features encountered.

### 4. Method Statement

4.1 The excavation was undertaken by hand and machine with regard to the circumstances presented by the archaeology and also by the presence of service pipes and cables uncovered within the trench. The entire process was monitored by an archaeologist from Archaeological Research Services Ltd. All the contexts were recorded on pro-forma sheets, and a context register, along with a finds register, were produced for inclusion in the archive.

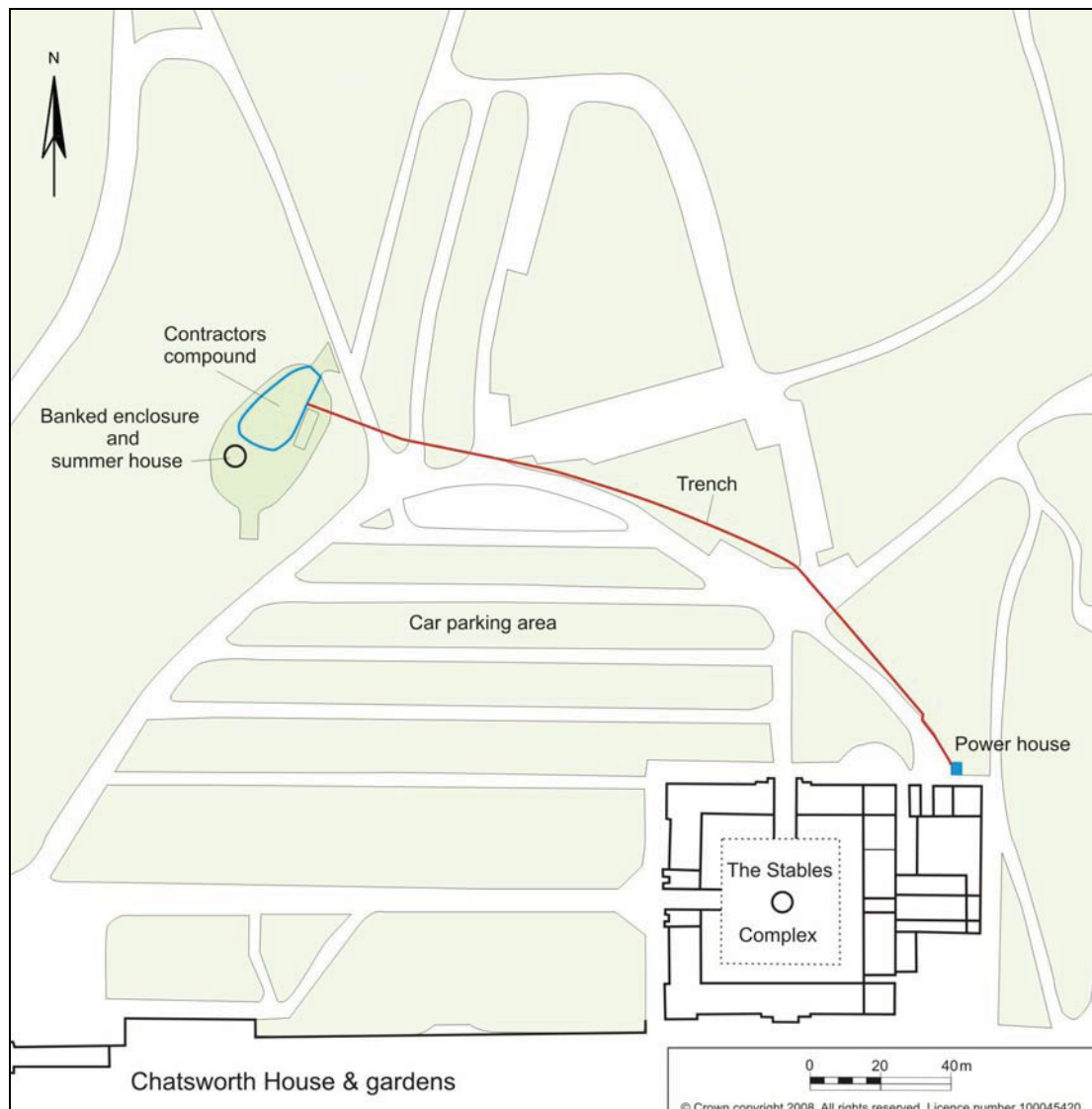


Fig. 2: Location of excavated trench



## 5. Watching Brief Results

- 5.1 A trench measuring approximately 208m in length by 0.4m wide and 0.7m deep was excavated from the powerhouse located adjacent to the north-east corner of the stable complex (Fig. 2). The first 14m of excavation was beneath a tarmac road surface (001) running north-west from the power house and abutting a stone retaining wall of a rough grassed bank to the east (Fig. 3). Underlying (001) was re-deposited clay (003). The clay layer seen at 0.1m depth overlay natural sandstone and clay (005) adjacent to the power house, the depth of the clay increased to 0.46m as the bedrock dipped away to the west.

The trench then continued north-west on the grassed bank until a road was encountered. An imported topsoil of 150mm depth (004) was removed from the bank; this directly overlay the re-deposited clay (003) which was excavated to a depth of 0.6m at this location. Excavation into the bank exposed service pipes of gas, water and communication cables running east-west across the trench.



Fig. 3: Trench initial excavation. Facing north-west.

The road crossing was 14m in width with a stratigraphy of, road surface (001) overlying a limestone hardcore (009) 0.23m deep, clay layer (003) and finally sandstone bedrock (006). A possible plastic drain pipe and eclectic cable were exposed within this section of the trench.

From the road crossing the trench continued north-west along an area of managed grassland, now excavated to a depth of 0.7m. Sandy topsoil (007) covered this area to a maximum depth of 0.2m and directly overlay natural

sandstone bedrock (006) (Figs. 4 & 5). Made ground was excavated above the bedrock approximately 60m from the compound, through two metalled tracks (009), a road (001) and banking (008) of the enclosure which housed the compound.



Fig. 4: Trench in managed grassland  
Facing west.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 There were no significant archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds located within the trench

## **8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright**

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

## **9. Statement of Indemnity**

- 9.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

## **10. Acknowledgements**

- 10.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank Sean Doxey and the Chatsworth House Trust for commissioning this work. Also the ground workers of I.D. Fencing for the smooth running of the project, and in addition Sarah Whiteley, Senior Conservation Archaeologist at the Peak District National Park Authority.



## 11. References

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## APPENDIX I

### Context Registers

Context No.	Size	Colour	Description
001	The surface area of the roads within the car park, 60mm to 100mm deep.		Tarmac road surface with an outer surface of small sub rounded pebbles.
002	Underlying (001) by the stables, 180mm deep.	Brownish/Yellow	Sandstone sub base below (001).
003	Section of trench from road to power house. 460mm deep.	Mottled grey/blue/yellow clay	Redeposited clay layer, with inclusions of red building brick and overlaying drainage and gas pipes plus communication cable.
004	Overlaying (003), max depth 150mm.	Dark brown	Fine silty clay imported topsoil supporting turf.
005	Underlying (003) adjacent to power house. 400mm deep.	Brownish/Yellow	Fine clayey sand with inclusions of sandstone boulders <400mm x 260mm. Maximum depth observed 400mm then merging into (003)
006	From the road crossing north of the stables to the compound.	Brownish/Yellow	Natural sandstone bedrock with boulders < 1.3m x 0.5m x 0.5m extracted. Larger unmovable bedrock broken with a jack hammer at a number of locations.
007	Surface cover of car parking spaces, max 0.2m deep.	Brown to light brown	Topsoil cover of an area used for car parking space, which is a heavily sanded soil.
008	In the banking of the enclosure area. Max depth excavated 400mm.	Dark brown	Imported topsoil with red brick inclusions, used to construct the banking of an enclosure.
009	Underlying (001) at road crossings and used as upper surface for metalled roads.	Grey	Limestone hardcore and rubble used as a sub base and also for the upper surface of metalled tracks.