

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Ivy House, Chelmorton, Derbyshire



ARS Ltd Report 2011/29
March 2011

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Executive Summary

A planning application for the erection of two local needs houses and two garages within a strip field (NP/DDD/0408/0362) has been approved by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) on condition that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundworks and topsoil stripping.

The site of the proposed development corresponds to an area of land within Chelmorton village which was the subject of a rapid archaeological survey in 1999 in connection with an agri-environment scheme. It was also the subject of geophysical survey in connection with the current application. The results of the geophysics were inconclusive and it was decided that the archaeological mitigation here could adequately be covered by a watching brief. This was carried out in March 2011.

The topsoil within the footprint of the proposed houses site was systematically stripped in narrow strips during which the topsoil was found to be approximately 0.3m thick and consisted of a dark brown loam. There was no visible subsoil, the bedrock being present immediately below the topsoil. The total area excavated was approximately 500 square meters. The site was undulating and some material had collected within shallow depression within the bedrock. This was approximately 4m in diameter and consisted of a compact orange silty/clay layer which was approximately 100mm thick.

The results of the watching brief revealed that no archaeological remains were present within the site. The results of the geophysical survey appear to suggest that the anomalies are due to natural geological variations and this is borne out by the results of the watching brief. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the field supplied building stone for the adjacent houses (client pers. comm.) and the shallow depression within the bedrock may be a borrow pit which has subsequently silted up. There is no other evidence to support this however and it may equally be a natural feature. Due to the bedrock being so close to the surface over the whole of the site it is unlikely that any archaeological remains await discovery and as such further archaeological intervention is considered unnecessary.

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope of Work

- 1.1.1. A planning application for the erection of two local needs houses and two garages within a strip field (NP/DDD/0408/0362) has been approved by the Peak District National Park Authority on condition that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundworks and topsoil stripping.
- 1.1.2. The Senior Conservation Archaeologist at the Peak District National Park Authority has indicated that there is the potential for archaeological features associated with lead mining or quarrying, to be present within the development area.
- 1.1.3. The site of the proposed development corresponds to an area of land within Chelmorton village which was the subject of a rapid archaeological survey in 1999 in connection with an agri-environment scheme. It was also the subject of geophysical survey in connection with the current application. The results of the geophysics were inconclusive and it was decided that the archaeological mitigation here could adequately be covered by a watching brief.
- 1.1.4. There was a possibility that works within this area may have disturbed archaeological features associated with the existence of lead mining or quarrying on the site. These may have included waste heaps and shafts. In order that any remains which were affected could be recorded and/or retrieved, it was agreed that a scheme of archaeological works be implemented to record any features which may be revealed by the works.
- 1.1.5. The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that any such archaeological features exposed by the development works are recorded and interpreted.

1.2 Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 Chelmorton is situated approximately 6.5km to south east of Buxton, Derbyshire and is one of the highest villages in Derbyshire. The site is situated near the village centre, just off High street (NRG SK11191 69938 Figure 1)
- 1.2.2 The solid geology of the site consists of the Bee Low Limestone Formation and there is no recorded drift geology. (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/>). The soils are classified as brown loams (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>). The site is undulating, lies around 400m above ordnance datum (AOD) and slopes gently to the south west.



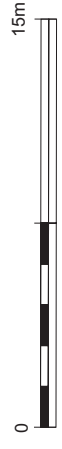
Figure 1: Site Location



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Services Ltd

Ivy House, Chelmorton

Trench Plan

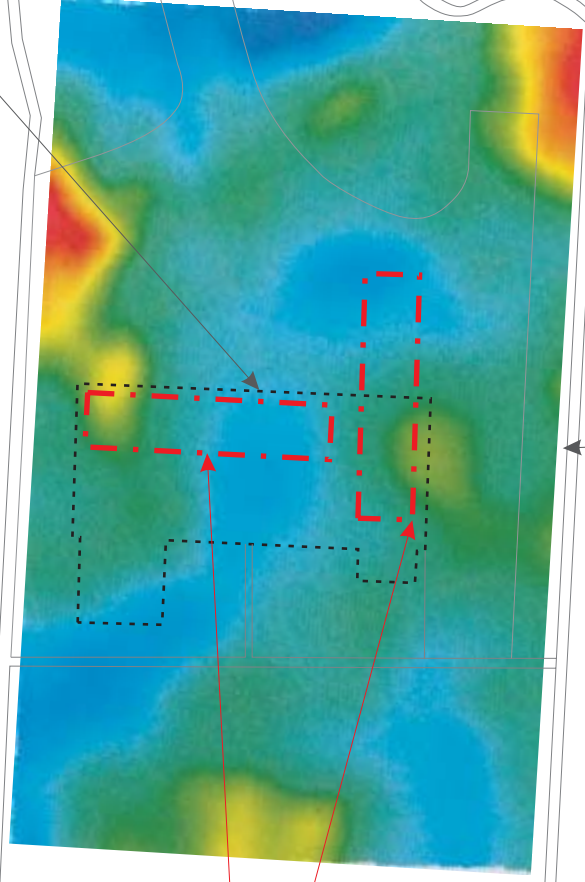


1:250



Main Road

Proposed Houses



Trenches

Resistivity Survey

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 machine excavation of groundworks and topsoil stripping within the footprint of the proposed houses and driveway. The work was carried out in March 2011 when the weather was fine and dry.
- 2.2 The trenches were machine excavated under continuous supervision by an archaeologist from ARS Ltd, according to the methodology outlined in Section 4 of the written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by ARS Ltd (Appendix II). The archaeologist responsible for the supervision was conversant and experienced with machine excavation in order to ensure that the overburden was removed in level spits down to any *in situ* archaeological horizons. ARS Ltd ensured that a toothless ditching bucket was employed at all times
- 2.3 A written, and photographic record was maintained during the watching brief. SLR cameras were used for the record photography using black and white print. Digital images were also captured using a 12.8 megapixel full frame DSLR camera. A photographic register was maintained (Appendix III) and the photographic archive will be deposited at the Buxton Museum and Art Gallery.
- 2.4 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with government guidance on archaeology and planning (PPS 5) and 'The Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief' (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 and 2008).

3 Results

- 3.1 The topsoil within the footprint of the proposed houses (Figure 2) site was systematically stripped commencing from the north west side of the site in narrow strips working towards the gate on Main Street (Figure 3). The topsoil (1001) was found to be approximately 0.3m thick and consisted of a dark brown loam. There was no visible subsoil, the bedrock (1003) being present immediately below the topsoil. The total area excavated was approximately 500 square meters (Figure 2).
- 3.2 The bedrock consisted of very fragmented limestone blocks of variable size (from approximately 100mm to 250mm). The site was undulating and some material had collected within shallow depression within the bedrock. This was approximately 4m in diameter and consisted of a compact orange silty/clay layer (1002) which was approximately 100mm thick. A trench approximately 1.2m wide by 4m long was excavated through this deposit which was found to be approximately 100mm thick with bedrock immediately below (Figure 4).
- 3.3 During excavation of the driveway, hardcore and then bedrock were revealed to be situated just below the very thin topsoil which was approximately 100mm thick (Figure 5).
- 3.4 No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the excavation process.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The results of the watching brief reveal that no archaeological remains are present within the site. The results of the geophysical survey appear to suggest that the anomalies are due to natural geological variations and this is borne out by the results of the watching brief. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the field supplied building stone for the adjacent houses (client *pers. comm.*) and the shallow depression within the bedrock may be a borrow pit which has subsequently silted up. There is no other evidence to support this however and it may equally be a natural feature.
- 4.2 Due to the bedrock being so close to the surface over the whole of the site it is unlikely that any archaeological remains await discovery and as such further archaeological intervention is considered unnecessary.



Figure 3: General view of the site



Figure 4: Excavated Trench through depression



Figure 5: Hardcore and bedrock

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, in the first instance, like to thank the client for commissioning the work. The watching brief was carried out by Karl Taylor who also compiled the report and illustrations. The project was managed by Jim Brightman who also edited the report. Archaeological Research Services Ltd. would also like to thank Sarah Whiteley at the Peak District National Park Authority.

8 References

www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience

www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes

Institute for Archaeologists. 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008). *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). 2010. *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*. London, The Stationery Office.

APPENDIX I: Photographic Register

Film One: 35mm Black and White

Photograph No.	Direction	Scale	Description	Date
1			ID Shot	14/03/2011
2	N		General working shot	14/03/2011
3	N		General working shot	14/03/2011
4	SW		General working shot	14/03/2011
5	N	2m, 1m	View of the bedrock	14/03/2011
6	E		View of the excavation area	14/03/2011
7	W	1m	Example section	14/03/2011
8	W	2m, 1m	Trench through slight depression	14/03/2011
9	W	2m, 1m	View of the drive area	14/03/2011
10	SW		General view of the site	14/03/2011
11	NE		General view of the site	14/03/2011
12	NW		Entrance to the site	14/03/2011
13	N		Main Street Chelmorton	14/03/2011
14	E		General view of the field	14/03/2011

APPENDIX II: Context Register

Context	Description	Provisional date	Interpretation
1001	Dark brown loam		Topsoil
1002	Orange silty clay		Natural infill
1003	Fragmented Limestone		Natural bedrock

APPENDIX III: Written Scheme of Investigation

IVY HOUSE FARM, CHELMORTON, DERBYSHIRE

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.



Archaeological Research
Services Ltd

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A planning application (NP/DDD/0408/0362) for the above development has been approved by the Peak District National Park Authority but an archaeological Watching Brief has been requested by the Senior Conservation Archaeologist for the Peak District National Park Authority as a condition of planning permission. Ivy House Farm, Chelmorton is located at SK11191 69938.
- 1.2 The site comprises an area of grassed paddock 0.007ha in size and a watching brief is required on groundworks and topsoil stripping associated with the construction of 2 local needs houses and 2 garages.
- 1.2 This document is a written scheme of investigation confirming the nature of the works to be undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

2.0 Objective

- 2.1 The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks in the area of Figure 2 are recorded and interpreted.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The site of the proposed development corresponds to an area of land within Chelmorton village which was the subject of a rapid archaeological survey in 1999 in connection with an agri-environment scheme. It was also the subject of geophysical survey in connection with the current application. The results of the geophysics were inconclusive and it was decided that the archaeological mitigation here could adequately be covered by a watching brief.
- 3.2 There is a possibility that works within this area may disturb archaeological features associated with the existence of lead mining or quarrying on the site. These may include waste heaps and shafts. In order that any remains which are affected may be recorded and/or retrieved, it has been agreed that a scheme of archaeological works be implemented to record any features which may be revealed by the works.

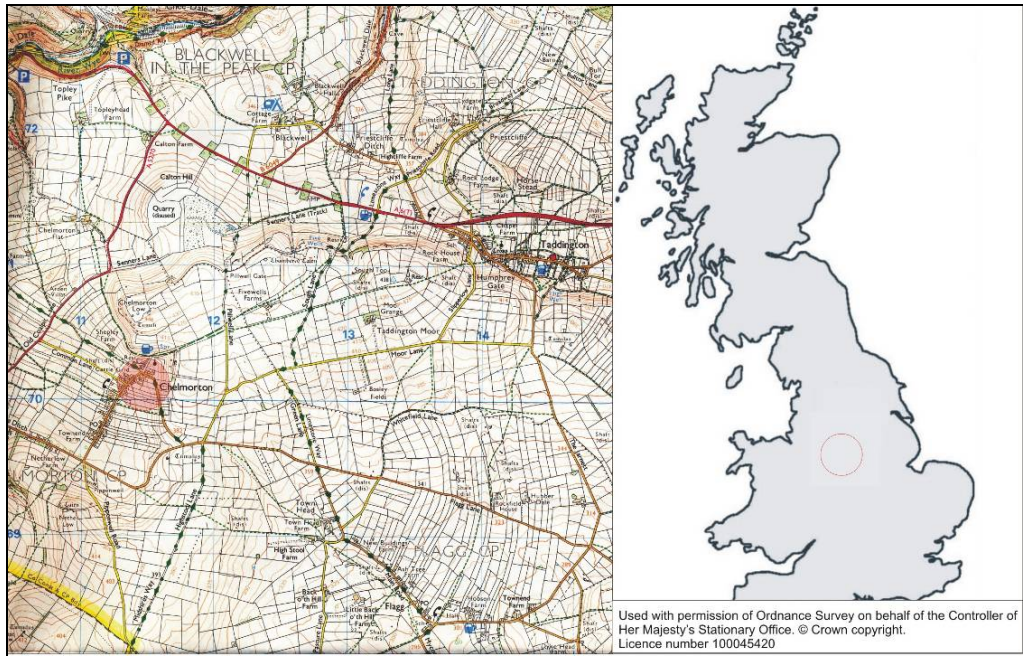


Fig. 1 Overall Site Location

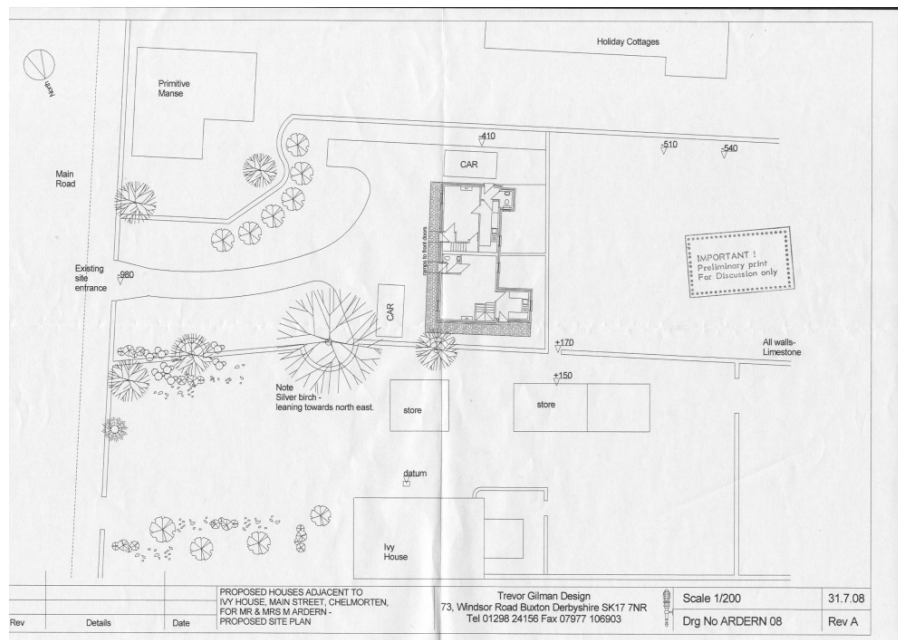


Fig 2: Detailed site plan showing area of proposed development

4.0 Fieldwork Methodology

- 4.1 A representative from Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) will supervise and observe the excavations during the groundworks in accordance with the IfA 'Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs' (2001). Any earth-moving machinery will be fitted with a toothless bucket and will proceed at a pace which will allow the Field Archaeologist to observe any archaeological remains which are uncovered and rescue any artefacts which are revealed.
- 4.2 All archaeological contexts and remains will be fully recorded in accordance with normal principles of archaeological evaluation upon pro forma context sheets. 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.
- 4.3 Heavy plant machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of the archaeological remains until recording has been completed and the Field Archaeologist has given permission for operations to recommence. Any archaeological remains observed by the contractors of plant operators will be reported to the archaeological contractor immediately.
- 4.4 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).
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 A risk assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.

5.0 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. 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 8. 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).
- 5.4 Collection 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.
- 5.5 It is not considered likely that waterlogged, palaeoenvironmental or human remains will be encountered at any stage of this project. However, should such remains be identified work will cease and a meeting arranged between Archaeological Research Services Ltd, the landowner and the Archaeology Planning Officer to discuss further procedures.

6.0 Monitoring Arrangements

- 6.1 Notice of the commencement of the project has been given to the Peak District National Park Authority. The Senior Conservation Archaeologist contact will be:

Sarah Whiteley,
Senior Conservation Archaeologist
Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Baslow Road
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1AE
Tel: 01629 816200

- 6.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will liaise with the Planning Archaeologist at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

7.0 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 with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections (illustrating height AOD)
- 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

- 7.2 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record.

8.0 Archive Deposition

- 8.1 A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by Archaeological

Research Services Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by the repository museum which in this case will be Buxton Museum and Art Gallery). Contact will be made with the Museum and an accession number obtained prior to the commencement of fieldwork (see Appendix 1).

- 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).

9.0 Changes to Methodology or Work Programme

- 9.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with the prior written approval of the Planning Archaeologist.

Appendix I Accession form (in process)

Notification Form – Archive Transfer

Buxton Museum and Art Gallery

Notification of Fieldwork/ Transference of Archaeological Archive

Field Unit:.....Archaeological Research Services.....

Anticipated Start Date:.....14/3/2011.....Anticipated Deposition
Date:.....25/3/2011.....

Type of Fieldwork (*please circle*): watching brief

Site Manager:.....Jim Brightman.....English Heritage
Code:.....N/A.....

Site Name:.....Ivy House Chelmsorton.....Civil
Parish:.....Chelmsorton.....

Unit Reference Code...ARS...Ltd..... National Grid Ref: ... SK11191
69938.....

Type of Site Expected Medieval/ Post-Medieval

Quantity of Material Expected (boxes): <10

Conservation Problems Anticipated:.....None.....

Waterlogged Material Anticipated: NO

To be Completed by the Museum on Notification

Site Accession Number:..... Signed:.....
Labels despatched:..... Date:.....

To be Completed by the Field Unit on Transference of Archive

Archive for Site Transferred (see attached sheets)
Number of Boxes..... Signed:.....
Date:.....

Landowner(s):.....
Address(es):.....
.....

Consent Request Letter Sent (date):..... Consent Received: YES/ NO
Developer (Contact name and address):.....
.....

The excavating unit must also send a copy of this form to Derbyshire Archaeological Services for addition to the SMR at the time of deposit.

To be Completed by the Museum on Receipt of Archive

Archive received in Satisfactory Form

Signed:.....Date:.....

Notes - Field Unit

Notes - Museum