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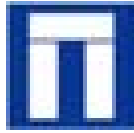
Cow Close Farm, Ballidon, Derbyshire

Scheduled Monument no. 33886

Watching Brief Report



Ref: 83631.01
July 2013



**COW CLOSE FARM, BALLIDON, DERBYSHIRE
SCHEDULED MONUMENT NO. 33886**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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COW CLOSE FARM, BALLIDON, DERBYSHIRE SCHEDULED MONUMENT NO. 33886

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Front cover Machine excavation

Plate 1 Representative section in Trench 1

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a new milking parlour at Cow Close Farm, Ballidon, Derbyshire. Two areas to the north and east of the current silage clamp were excavated to allow for the construction of the milking parlour.

The site lies directly south of Cow Close farm, to the east of Roystone Lane and south of Ballidon village at NGR 442042 335451. The development area lies within Scheduled Monument 33886; a medieval settlement and associated field system.

The work was carried out in response to a planning condition (planning ref. NP/DDD/1210/1286, Condition 3) and Scheduled Monument Consent.

Two trenches were excavated but no archaeological deposits, features or finds were identified. The results suggest that the medieval settlement did not extend as far north as Cow Close Farm.

The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **83631**.

The report will be submitted to English Heritage and the Peak District National Park Authority. The archive will be deposited with Buxton Museum and Art Gallery under an accession number to be confirmed. An OASIS form will be completed and submitted to the Archaeological Data Service.



COW CLOSE FARM, BALLIDON, DERBYSHIRE SCHEDULED MONUMENT NO. 33886

Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mr Froggatt, on behalf of Mr Stafford, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful in this regard.

The fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Reid. The report was prepared by Andrew Reid with illustrations by Chris Swales. Richard O'Neill managed the project on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



COW CLOSE FARM, BALLIDON, DERBYSHIRE SCHEDULED MONUMENT NO. 33886

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a new milking parlour at Cow Close Farm, Ballidon, Derbyshire (hereafter 'the Site'). Two areas to the north and east of the current sileage clamp were excavated to allow for the construction of the milking parlour. The development area lies within Scheduled Monument 33886; a medieval settlement and associated field system immediately south of Ballidon village.

1.1.2 The Peak District National Park Authority granted planning permission for the construction of a new milking parlour and roofing over a slurry store and collecting yard with an archaeological condition attached (planning ref. NP/DDD/1210/1286, condition 3):

"An archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken during the course of excavations for the extended sileage clamp and any other excavations which are associated with the project (i.e. on the route of the new track should they be necessary)."

1.1.3 As the development lies within a Scheduled area, Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was also required. The SMC states:

"No development shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before the development in accordance with a written scheme of survey which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by English Heritage."

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 Cow Close Farm lies on the southern side of the village of Ballidon. The development area lies to the east of Roystone Lane and immediately east of the buildings of Cow Close Farm, centred on NGR 442042 335451 (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The works comprised the excavation of two trenches. Prior to development the ground cover was mainly low grass with some areas of concrete. The underlying geology of the Site is mapped a mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Bowland shale formation (Geology of Britain viewer, 1:50,000).



2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Summary

- 2.1.1 The scheduled remains of Ballidon medieval village (SM 33886) are located directly south of the present village either side of Roystone Lane. The following information is derived from English Heritage's (2004) listing for the Scheduled Monument.
- 2.1.2 The remains of the medieval settlement and associated field system are well preserved. In addition, an Anglo-Saxon charter, which defines land at Ballidon granted by King Edgar in AD963 to one Aethelferth, and other medieval documents, have provided the historical context for these remains.
- 2.1.3 There was a substantial population of farmers at the time of the Domesday survey of 1086, with land for four ploughs valued at 60 shillings before the assessment. By 1563, a census shows as many as 90 inhabitants in the village. It is believed that the monastic grange at Roystone had partly supported this population through their hire of labour from the 12th century up until the Dissolution. Evidence of medieval farming practices is seen in the ridge and furrow which survives within the Scheduled area.

2.2 Recent investigations in the area

- 2.2.1 A topographic survey was carried out on the 29th November 2011 by Wessex Archaeology in order to record the existing area in advance of the construction of an access road and to identify and record any archaeological earthworks.
- 2.2.2 No archaeological features were observed within the survey area. The remains of landscaping associated with existing structures and disturbance through farming practices were identified (Wessex Archaeology 2011).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:
- to identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits within the Site;
 - to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any archaeological posits encountered;
 - to accurately record any revealed archaeological deposits;
 - to recover artefacts and environmental samples as appropriate;
 - to prepare a comprehensive archive, record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the Site works;
 - to aid in the production of a mitigation strategy for the Site (if necessary).



3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with industry best practice as outlined in guidelines issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a, 2008b and 2010).
- 3.2.2 The watching brief monitored two trenches which were surveyed by hand and tied into the Ordnance Survey base map with reference to existing farm buildings (**Figure 1**).
- 3.2.3 Topsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothed bucket, working under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Overburden was removed down to the upper archaeological horizon or the level of the natural geology, whichever was reached first. Any potential archaeological deposits were hand cleaned, excavated and recorded in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's standard guidelines.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 The trenches were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A photographic record was maintained.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following is a summary of the information held in the archive. The trench locations are shown on **Figure 1** and the complete stratigraphic sequence for each trench is summarised in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 measured between 2.8m and 3.6m wide by 18.7m long. Excavation revealed naturally occurring deposits of light grey clay across the entire trench from a depth of 0.92m below ground level (**Plate 1**). A layer of shale was visible beneath the light grey clay.
- 4.2.2 Above the natural deposits was a light brown silty clay subsoil that was present across the entire trench from a depth of 0.35m. Above this was a layer of topsoil in the northern part of the trench and, in the south, a levelling deposit of crushed gravel topped by a thin layer of concrete.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological features or finds were recovered during excavation.

4.3 Trench 2

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 5.6m wide by 10.7m long. The excavation of Trench 2 revealed a similar soil profile to Trench 1 with light grey clay natural deposits encountered at a depth of 1.1m below ground level and light brown silty clay subsoil (**Plate 2**). Above the subsoil was a layer of topsoil that contained stone inclusions derived from a former track leading from the shed to an animal pen to the northwest.
- 4.3.2 No archaeological features or finds were recovered during excavation.



5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Conclusions

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the watching brief.
- 5.1.2 The absence of archaeological features in the two trenches indicates that either the medieval village of Ballidon did not extend as far as Cow Close Farm, or the construction of the current farm has disturbed any features that were present. The lack of finds from the trenches suggests that the former is likely to be the case.

6 STORAGE AND CURATION

6.1 Archive and curation

- 6.1.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with national guidelines (UKIC 2001; Brown 2007).
- 6.1.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **83631** and will be deposited with the Buxton Museum and Art Gallery in due course.
- 6.1.3 The report will be submitted to English Heritage and the Peak District National Park Authority. An OASIS form will be completed and submitted to the Archaeological Data Service.

6.2 Copyright

- 6.2.1 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.
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7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

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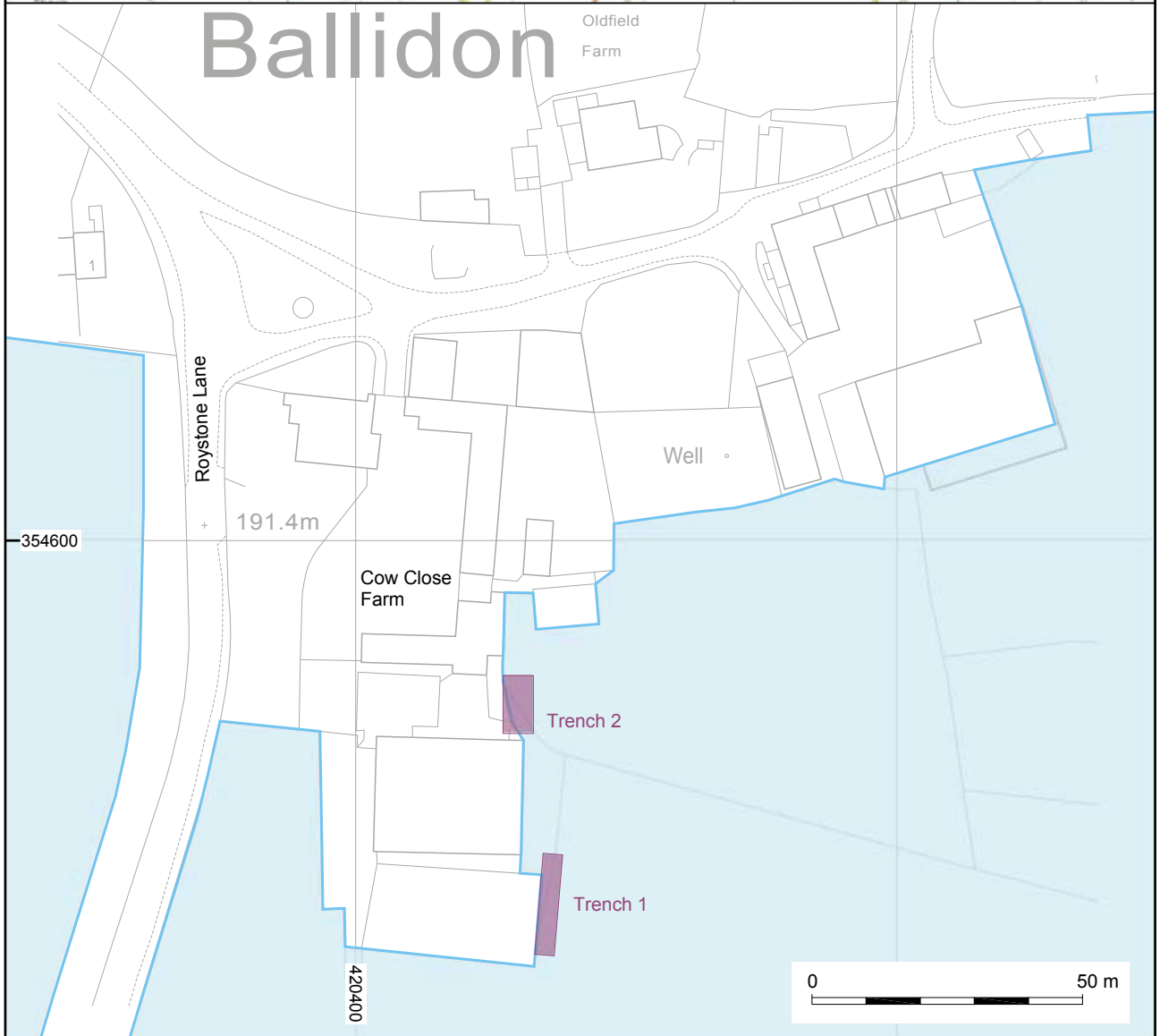
British Geological Survey. Geology of Britain viewer. Online at <<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>>



APPENDIX 1

Context data

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
Trench 1 (18.7m x 3.63m)		Max Depth:
101	Topsoil: Light brown loam with mixed stone inclusions. Present from end of existing shed 8.12m south	0-0.35m
102	Subsoil: Light brown silty clay containing >1% small sub-rounded alluvial gravel pebbles.	0.35-0.92m
103	Natural: Light grey clay with no inclusions	0.92m+
104	Levelling Layer: Yellow sandstone gravel crush. Angular inclusions 0.01-0.15m approx. Present only below (105)	0.08-0.76m
105	Concrete: Present from 8.12m to 18.70m.	0-0.08m
Trench 2 (10.7m x 5.6m)		Max Depth: 1.09m
201	Topsoil: Light brown loam with mixed stone inclusions. Large stone inclusions present to the northern end of the trench (>0.15m) forming part of an disused animal track.	0-0.26m
202	Subsoil: Light brown silty clay containing >1% small sub-rounded alluvial gravel pebbles.	0.26-1.09m
203	Natural: Light grey clay with no inclusions	1.09m+



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Site location and plan


Figure 1



Plate 1: Representative section in Trench 1



Plate 2: Representative section in Trench 2

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