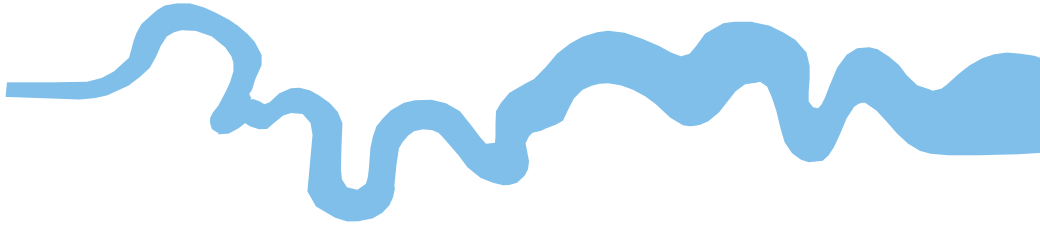


T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

**Land at Batham Gate Road,
Peak Dale, Derbyshire**

Archaeological Excavation

by Garreth Davey

Site Code BBD 18/107

(SK 0860 7644)

Land at Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale, Derbyshire

**An Archaeological Excavation
For Southworth Construction Ltd**

by Garreth Davey
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BBD 18/107

August 2018

Summary

Site name: Land at Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale, Derbyshire

Grid reference: SK 0860 7644

Site activity: Archaeological Excavation

Date and duration of project: 9th - 23rd July 2018

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Garreth Davey

Site code: BBD 18/107

Area of site: 2495 sq m excavated within site of c. 0.8ha

Summary of results: Two areas of investigation were opened with the intention of enhancing understanding of features identified in previous trial trenching evaluation. Unfortunately, neither area confirmed the evaluation results. The only features identified consisted of a modern hollow way, a modern rubbish pit, an undated charcoal-rich post hole, and an undated elongated pit.

Location of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent . As there were no finds, Museums of Derbyshire do not require museum deposition but this report will be deposited with Derbyshire HER and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), a digital archive of the site records will be prepared for the ADS and a copy for the Historic England Archive.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford	✓ 12.09.18
	Steve Preston	✓ 12.09.18

Land at Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale, Derbyshire An Archaeological Excavation

by Garreth Davey

Report 18/107

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out at Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale, Derbyshire (SK 0860 7644) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Lisa Shaw of Southworth Constuction Ltd, Commercial Road, Darwen, Lancashire.

Planning consent (HPK/2015/0174) for a housing development has been approved by High Peak Borough Council, subject to a condition which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. Previous phases of investigation on the site had suggested the existence of features thought to relate to a Roman road, and as a result, targetted excavation was required to satisfy the condition. The field investigation was carried out to a Written Scheme of Investigation supplied by ArcHeritage (2018) and TVAS project specification, both approved by Mr Steve Baker, Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Garreth Davey and Helen Daniel, between 9th – 23rd July 2018, and the site code is BBD 18/107.

The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent . As there were no finds, Museums of Derbyshire do not require museum deposition but this report will be deposited with Derbyshire HER and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and a digital archive of the site records will be prepared for the ADS with a copy for the Historic England Archive.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located south of Batham Gate Road, 4km north-east of Buxton, Derbyshire (Fig. 1). The development area is centred on NGR SK 0860 7644 and comprises a single field of grassland approximately 0.8 ha in area, sloping gently from *c.* 342m to *c.* 338m aOD south to north. Residential housing lies to the north and east, with open fields to the west and south. The bedrock is composed of a pale brownish grey to grey, fine to medium-grained Carboniferous limestone (BGS 2018). Sondages were dug in both areas to confirm the interpretation of the geology (Pls 5 to 8).

Archaeological background

The site is located immediately to the south of the projected route of a Roman road, between *Aquae Arnemetiae* (Buxton) and the Roman fort *Navio* at Brough-on-Noe (HER 6508), which may lie underneath the modern Batham Gate Road. It is considered possible that parts of the road, and associated features (such as roadside ditches) or structures, may have extended into the northern extremities of the development area. The surrounding landscape of the Peaks is characterised by extensive prehistoric activity exemplified by the presence of Neolithic henge monuments Bullring Henge, 1.8km north and further afield at Arbor Low Henge, 15km south-east. Further prehistoric activity was recorded during excavations in 2011 at Waterswallows Lane, 900m south-west, which included the excavation of an early Neolithic long house.

Previous archaeological investigations at the site include an earthwork survey and a trial trenching programme (ARS 2018). The earthwork survey identified possible ditch and bank features whilst the trial trenching (Fig. 2) identified a possible quarry and *agger* alongside the road as well as ditch and bank features. A watching brief on a topsoil strip at the northern end of the site identified several features, believed to be prehistoric.

Objectives and methodology

Based upon the results of the trial trenching evaluation, two areas of open area excavation were proposed. Area 1 was an approximately square area of 1080 sq m (34m by 31m), located to the south of the site to target ditch features identified in the trial trenching and earthwork survey. Area 2 was an irregularly shaped trench located north of the site, encompassing 1415 sq m intended to target the potential *agger*, ditches and pits previously identified.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to trace the bank/ditch features within the site;
- to investigate the *agger*/quarry and any buried land surface at the roadside; and
- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of the archaeological remains previously identified,

Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed by a 360⁰-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision, to expose the relevant archaeologically sensitive levels. Archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to an agreed sample fraction depending on the nature and significance of the feature, to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

Each of the areas was excavated as intended (Fig. 3). The stratigraphy of the site primarily consisted of loose, mid-brown, sandy loam topsoil (50), over a loose mid grey orange sand interfacing subsoil (51) above the natural sandy clay geology with patches of angular, blocky limestone, surrounded by cleaner red and yellow clay (Pl. 1).

Area 1 contained a single pit and hollow way but no further features were identified. The hollow way (1) was a linear feature approximately 1m wide and 0.18m deep extending through the entirety of Area 1 (Figs 3 and 4, Pl. 4). The hollow way continues south of the site into the adjoining cemetery and can be seen running to the crest of the hill for approximately 200m north of the site. The only finds recovered from the hollow way were modern glass items. An isolated pit (2) was 0.45m in diameter (Figs 3 and 4, Pl. 2) and contained a large volume of charcoal but no datable artefacts.

Area 2 contained a large modern pit (3) and a shallow elongated pit (4). Pit 3 (Figs 3 and 4) was very irregular, approximately 8.8m long and 2.5m wide and contained a high quantity of late post-medieval and modern glass and pottery including substantial fragments of a commemorative plate for Queen Victoria's golden jubilee of 1887. Pit 4 was approximately 1.42m long, 0.34m wide and just 0.04m deep with near vertical sides (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3) but contained no finds.

Due to the variance between the outcome of the evaluation trenches and that of this open area excavation (ie the absence of features reported from the evaluation), two sondages were dug to ensure that the interpretation here was correct. Sondage A (Pls 5 and 6), 7.7m long by 2m wide, located within Area 2, was excavated to confirm the interpretation of the geology and to check for the position of the 'quarry pit' located in evaluation Trenches 9 and 10 and a 'platform' in Trench 10, interpreted as the 'agger' for the Roman road. This sondage confirmed the interpretation of the geology. The highly fragmentary and 'blocky' nature of the limestone could easily give the impression that it had been deliberately laid rather than naturally formed.

A further sondage, B (Pls 7 and 8), was dug in Area 1 to confirm the interpretation of the geology and served to discount the existence of another hollow way which was previously recorded in this location. It is considered that the true nature of the observed anomalies as natural variations in the geology, would only become apparent from inspection of the wider areas that were opened for this excavation.

Samples taken from features 2 and 4 were processed by standard water flotation techniques and failed to produce any archaeological artefacts, dating evidence or charred plant remains. The charcoal in pit 2 was too small and brittle for species identification.

Finds

Only late Victorian and modern finds were recovered. These were not retained.

Conclusion

Despite the site's location within an area of elevated potential for prehistoric and Roman archaeology, neither features nor finds of archaeological interest were present. Features that had been interpreted as of possible archaeological interest recorded within the trial trenching evaluation could not be identified in this fieldwork. It is considered that the true nature of the features observed, as natural variations in the geology, was only to become apparent from inspection of the wider areas opened for this excavation.

References

- Botturi, C and Lodoen, A, 2018, 'Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale, Buxton, Derbyshire', ARS Limited, Bakewell
- Davey, G, 2018, 'Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale, Derbyshire: Project specification for an archaeological evaluation', TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London
- Strafford, L, 2018, 'Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale, Buxton, Derbyshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation', ArcHeritage, Sheffield

APPENDIX 1: Trench Details

<i>Area</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	32	34	1.0	0-0.35m loose, mid brown, sandy loam topsoil, 0.35-1.00m lose mid grey orange sand interfacing subsoil, 1.00m+ sandy clay with patches of limestone surrounded by cleaner red and yellow clay.
2	60	45	1.1	0-0.40m loose, mid brown, sandy loam topsoil, 0.40-1.10m lose mid grey orange sand interfacing subsoil, 1.1m+ sandy clay with patches of limestone surrounded by cleaner red and yellow clay.

APPENDIX 2: Feature Details

<i>Area</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i> Finds</i>
		50	Topsoil		
		51	Subsoil		
		52	Natural		
1	1	53	Hollow way	Modern	Modern glass
1	3	54	Modern pit	Modern	Modern glass, pottery and metals
2	2	55	Posthole	Undated	None (PI 2)
2	4	56	Pit	Undated	None (PI 3)

Appendix 3: OASiS data collection form

(/over)

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: thamesva1-326724

Project details

Project name	Land at Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale, Derbyshire
Short description of the project	The only features identified in two small areas excavated consisted of a modern hollow way, a modern rubbish pit, a single charcoal-rich post hole, and an undated pit.
Project dates	Start: 09-07-2018 End: 23-07-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	BBD18/107 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	HPK/2015/0174) - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE HIGH PEAK WORMHILL Land at Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale
Study area	350 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 0860 7644 53.284586593844 -1.870990627462 53 17 04 N 001 52 15 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 338m Max: 342m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	TVAS North Midlands
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	ArcHeritage
Project director/manager	Steve Ford
Project supervisor	Garreth Davey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Southworth Construction Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive notes	Modern materials not retained.
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	ADS
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Microfilm","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

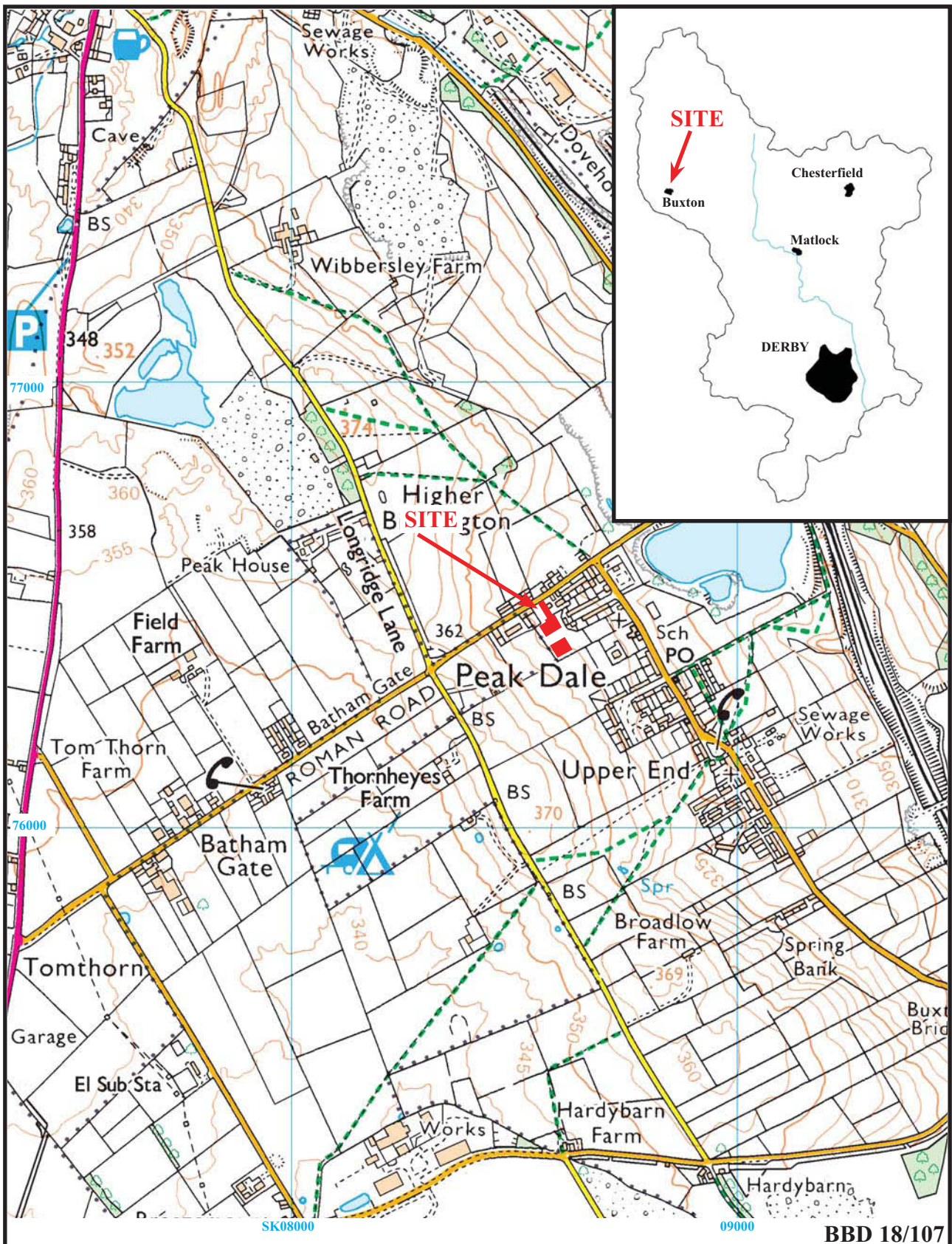
Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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**Land at Batham Gate Road,
Peak Dale, Derbyshire 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Peak Dale and Derbyshire.

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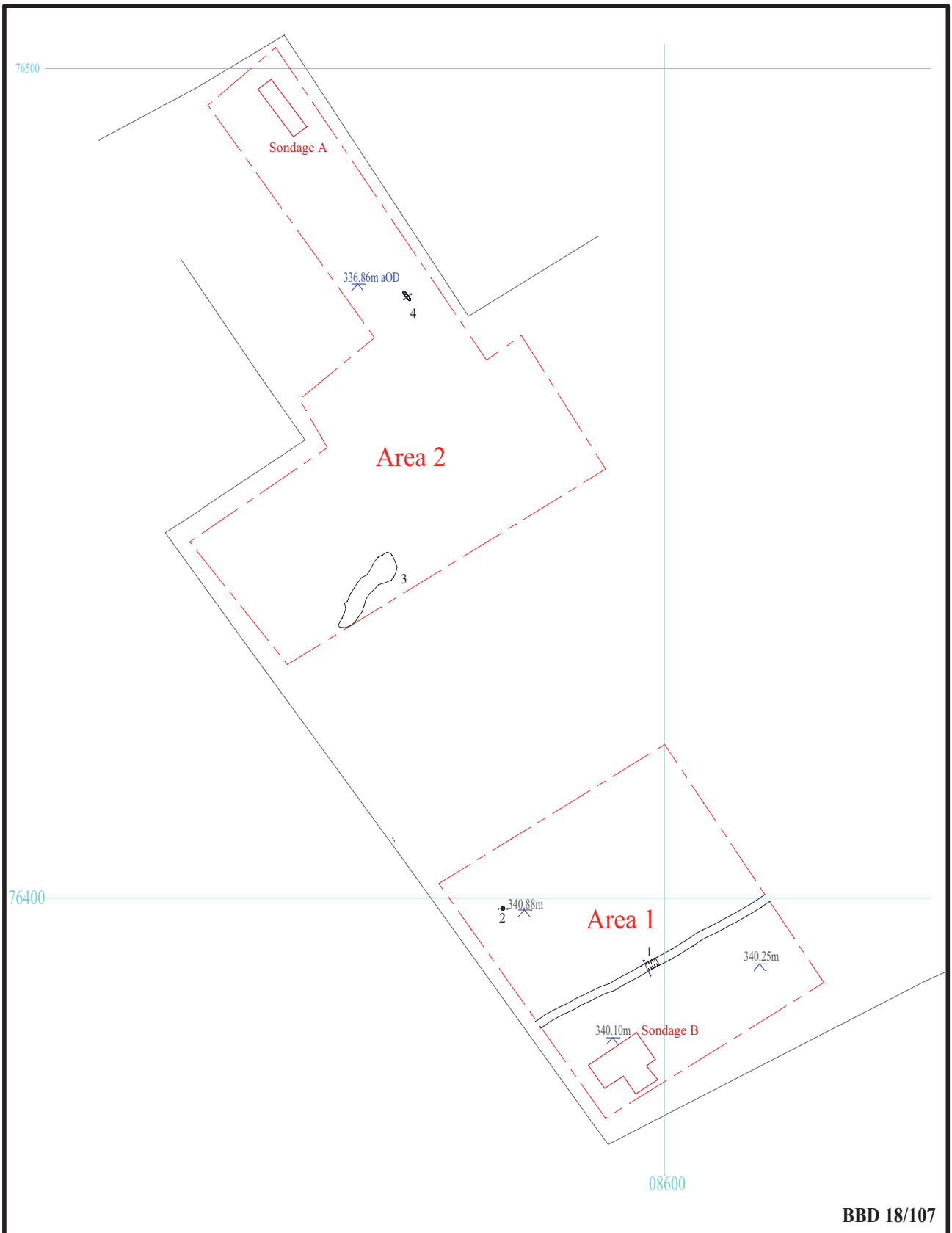
BBD 18/107



**Land at Batham Gate Road,
Peak Dale, Derbyshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 2. Location of excavation areas within the site,
in relation to previous evaluation trenches.

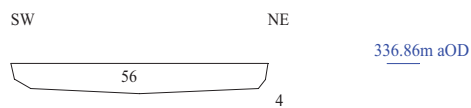
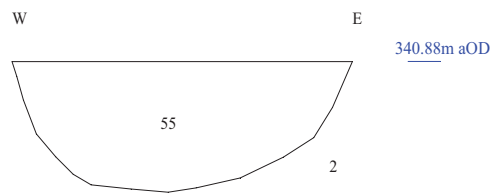
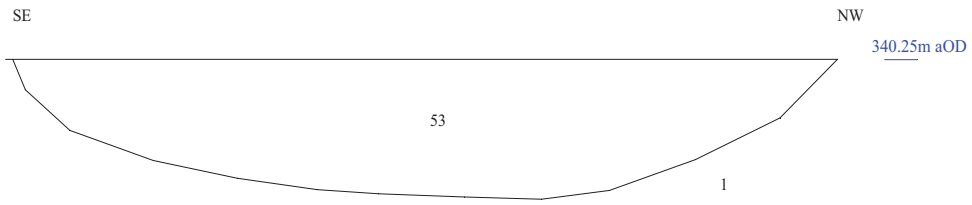




**Land at Batham Gate Road,
Peak Dale, Derbyshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 3. Plan of all excavated features.





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**Land at Batham Gate Road,
Peak Dale, Derbyshire, 2018
Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 4. Feature Sections





Plate 1. General view of site conditions, south of area 2, looking north.



Plate 2. Pit 2, looking north-east,
Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 3. Pit 4, looking northeast,
Scales: 0.m.



Plate 4. General view of holloway, within site and continuing uphill, looking west, (with evaluation trench to south).

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**Land at Batham Gate Road,
Peak Dale, Derbyshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 to 4.**





Plate 5. Sondage A, looking north,
Scales: 2m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Sondage A, looking south-west,
Scales: 2m and 0.3m.



Plate 7. Sondage B, looking north-east,
Scales: 2 x 2m.



Plate 8. Sondage B showing natural geology, looking
north-west, Scales: 2 x 2m.

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**Land at Batham Gate Road,
Peak Dale, Derbyshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Plates 5 to 8



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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