

BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND
AT : Burbage Hall, 95 & 97 Macclesfield Road, Buxton

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: HPK/2004/0186

ISSUED BY: A. M. MYERS
(DEVELOPMENT CONTROL ARCHAEOLOGIST FOR HIGH
PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL)
ISSUED TO: Joe Oldfield (Oldfield Design)
DATE: 25/10/2004

1) Introduction

1.1 This document is a brief for a programme of archaeological evaluation to be undertaken in connection with a planning application to convert an existing dwelling and develop the grounds to form 7 apartments, 7 detached dwellings, 5 social houses and 4 town houses at Burbage Hall, 95 & 97 Macclesfield Road, Buxton.

1.2 From this brief a written scheme of investigation (WSI) will be produced by the archaeological contractor. The WSI will be submitted for final approval to the Development Control Archaeologist for High Peak Borough Council.

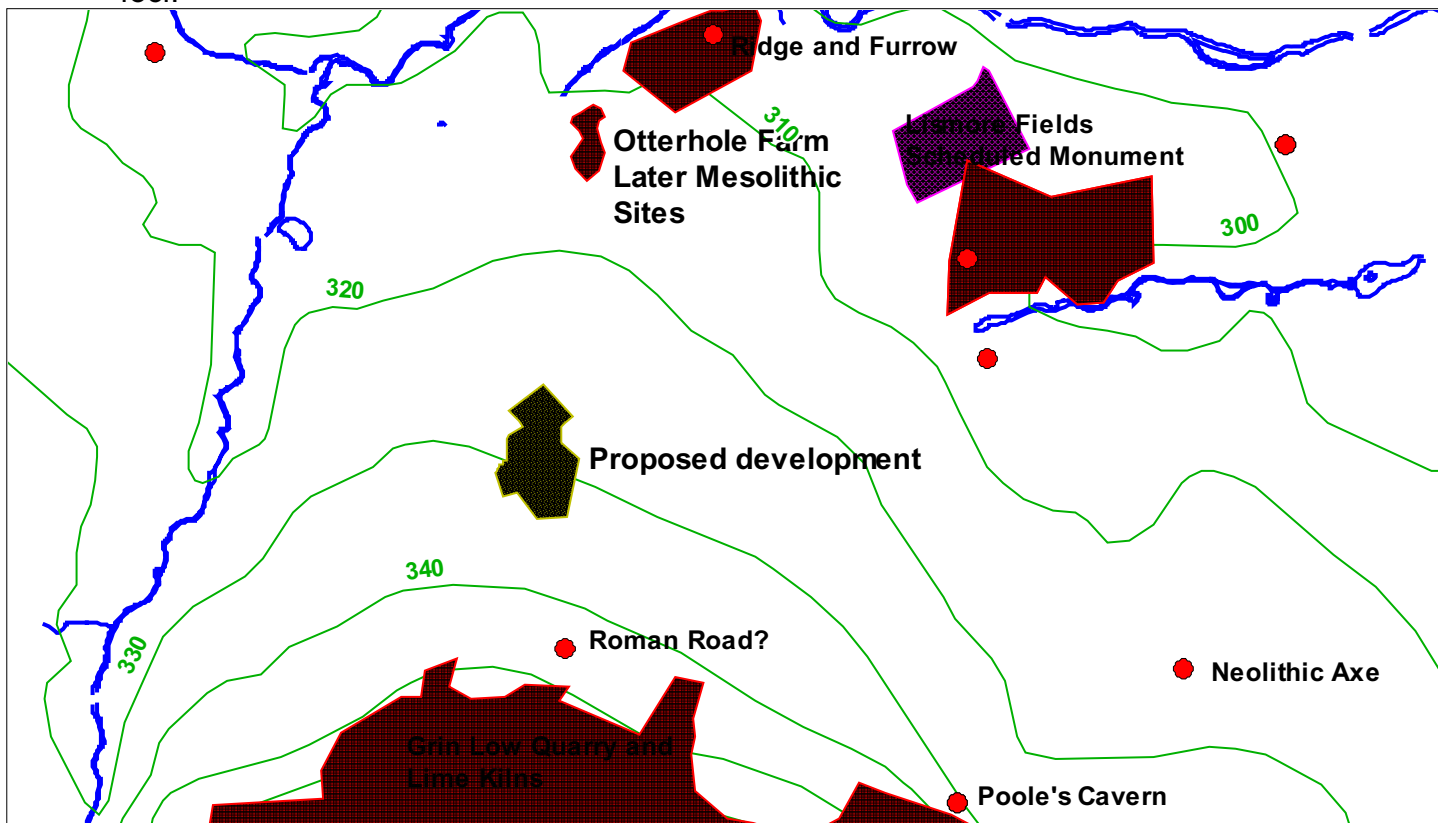
1.3 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide sufficient information for an assessment of the archaeological potential and the impact of the proposed development upon that potential to be made, for the importance of any such remains to be evaluated using the criteria set-out in annex 4 of PPG16, and for an informed decision to be taken regarding the need or otherwise for further archaeological intervention and/ or mitigation.

2) Background

2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has not been submitted.

2.2 The general area retains some evidence for medieval and post-medieval agriculture, industry and communications. Similarly, it is thought that a Roman road followed part of the line of Green Lane 60m south of the proposed development. About 500m to the south-east is Poole's Cavern where in the second-fourth century AD metal workers appear to have produced a variety of Bronze goods. The main concern of the evaluation however is the possible presence of evidence for prehistoric activity. Some 400m to the north-east is the Scheduled Monument (DR 278) "Lismore Fields – Mesolithic and Neolithic Settlement". This nationally important site produced evidence for Later Mesolithic and Earlier Neolithic settlement activity, and included physical evidence for Earlier Neolithic houses. A recent archaeological project at Otterhole Farm identified a general low density (<3 artefacts per m²) Later Mesolithic flint scatter. The same project recognised, just 200m from the proposed development, two small (c. 5m diameter) concentrations of Later

Mesolithic flintwork. The latter are probably indicative of short-term activity foci.



3.0 Evaluation Fieldwork

3.1 Whilst it might be possible to employ geophysical it is not clear that such techniques would identify the small pits, postholes and house floors of the kind encountered at Lismore Fields. The most appropriate initial course of action is to adopt an approach that will allow the best opportunity for evidence of artefact scatters to be recognised.

3.2 The following method was applied successfully at Otterhole Farm. A 10 m² survey grid should be established across the site and a regularly spaced series of m² test pits at 1 per 10m² hand excavated and sieved (mesh size < 8mm) . Where artefact densities equal or exceed 3 per m² further intermediately spaced 1m² test pits should be excavated to establish if a scatter concentration can be defined.

3.3 The presence of Mesolithic and/ or Earlier Neolithic scatter concentrations, once established, would subsequently need to be investigated using open area techniques of excavation and recording.

3.4 The excavation of features identified in evaluation test pits should be limited to that which is necessary to meet the overall objectives of the evaluation.

4.0 Monitoring

4.1 During the course of the fieldwork it is anticipated the curatorial staff at Derbyshire County Council – either the County Archaeologist or the Development Control Archaeologist – would undertake monitoring visits. In particular, should significant archaeological deposits be encountered the contractor should contact the curatorial staff and arrange a convenient date and time for a site visit.

5.0 Finds & Palaeo-Environmental Samples

5.1 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. Retained artefacts should be cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials, as appropriate, for long term storage under optimum conditions following methods detailed in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

5.2 Given the focus of the project the fieldwork team should include at least one member with a demonstrable competence/ specialism in the study and handling of worked lithic assemblages. They should be named in the WSI.

5.3 The sampling and analysis of sediments for palaeoenvironmental evidence will be undertaken, as necessary, by or under the guidance of a suitably qualified specialist. The palaeoenvironmentalist should be named in the WSI.

6.0 Human Remains

6.1 In the event of human remains being encountered site works will cease and the Coroner's office notified (see Notes below). Such remains will remain *in situ* until authorised to continue by the Coroner.

6.2 Burials should be recorded *in situ* and subsequently lifted, washed in water (free of additives), marked and packed in accordance with *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains* (McKinley and Roberts 1993).

6.3 The analysis of any human remains will be undertaken, as necessary, by a suitably qualified specialist who should be named in the WSI.

7.0 Report, Archive & Publication

7.1 The preparation of the report should follow the guidelines published by the Institute of Field Archaeology.

7.2 Upon completion of the fieldwork a full report will be produced and copies submitted. Recipients should include Ian Shore (High Peak Borough Council), Gill Stroud (the County Council SMR Officer), and Andy Myers (the Development Control Archaeologist for High Peak Borough Council).

7.3 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, including a confidence statement
- Supporting illustrations at appropriate scales
- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices, including as a minimum a basic quantification of all artefacts, ecofacts, palaeo-environmental data and structural data.
- Supporting specialist reports including written assessments, positive or negative, of palaeoenvironmental potential by named specialists.
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References

7.4 Arrangements should be made from the outset of the project for the archive, consisting of artefacts, record sheets, original drawings, drawn plans, photographs, notes, copies of the final report along with an index to the archive to be deposited in Buxton Museum (see Notes below).

7.5 The archive should be prepared for transfer to Buxton Museum in accordance with the document “Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives” (2003) prepared by Museums in Derbyshire. A copy can be obtained from Buxton Museum or from the Development Control Archaeologist.

7.6 A summary or full report of the project, with selected drawings, illustrations and photographs, should be submitted to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal for publication. A sheet of guidance notes has been attached for your information.

NOTES

Coroner Contact Details:

T. Kelly,
69 Saltergate,
Chesterfield,
Derbyshire,
S40 1JS
Tel: 01246 201391

Buxton Museum Contact Details:

Buxton Museum and Art Gallery,
Terrace Road,
Buxton,
Derbyshire,
SK17 6DA
Tel: 01298 24658

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 attached pages from ‘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, County Offices, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG.