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**ARCUS**

Archaeological Research &  
Consultancy at the  
University of Sheffield

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<b>Site Name:</b>	<b>Low Matlock Mill, Loxley, Sheffield</b>
<b>Designation:</b>	<b>Scheduled Ancient Monument 28999</b>
<b>NGR:</b>	<b>SK 3082 8941</b>
<b>Client:</b>	<b>Little Matlock Hamlet</b>
<b>Works Planned:</b>	<b>Excavation of service trench</b>
<b>Project Objective:</b>	<b>Archaeological Watching Brief</b>

Dear Mr Brownlow,

### **Archaeological Watching Brief (ARCUS Project No. 597e)**

This letter comprises the formal report on archaeological works at the above site.

ARCUS were commissioned by Mr A Brownlow of Little Matlock Hamlet to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a service trench to facilitate the installation of a new high pressure gas main, in March 2002. The service trench was located in the northwest corner of the site to the north of the open mill pond and goit serving the water mill on the north wall of the present rolling mill building.

The line of the service trench ran through an area of a back-filled reservoir to the west of 'Dam House' (Aitchison, 2001) which had been sampled during the archaeological field evaluation with Trenches 1, 2 and 4 (Bell, 2002). The trench ran east-west from the west edge of Dam House for a length of 30m across an area of flat, grass lawn. The trench then turned northwards at an angle of almost 90° to run approximately north-south for a length of 10m to join the existing gas main through an area of shrubs and trees. The trench was 0.35m wide and its depth varied between 0.45m and 0.8m. The deposits exposed were very similar to those exposed during the evaluation, consisting of topsoil, overlying a subsoil which was heavily root disturbed, particularly in the wooded area. These deposits, at the east end of the trench, were seen to overlie the rubble backfill of the former reservoir. No further remains of the dressed sandstone edging to the former reservoir identified during the evaluation, were exposed. No artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered.

The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the brief issued by SYAS, with guidelines issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and with current industry best practice.



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The field archive, including photographs, will be deposited with Sheffield Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield. Copies of the report will also be deposited with the Sites and Monuments Record maintained by SYAS and with the client, Little Matlock Hamlet. The OASIS reference for this project is arcus2-36203.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Bell

ARCUS Project Archaeologist

cc. Dinah Saich, SYAS





**Plate 1:** Working shot of excavation of service trench looking south towards rolling mill, the roof of which is visible in the background.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Aitchison, K. (2001), 'Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Low Matlock Mill, Loxley Valley, Sheffield.' Unpublished ARCUS Report 597.1
- Bell, S. (2002), 'Archaeological Field Evaluation within Scheduled Ancient Monument 29989, Low Matlock Mill, Loxley, Sheffield.' Unpublished ARCUS Report 597d.2