

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

### **Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation Trenching**

October 2017



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Prepared on behalf of: Sherwood Homes

Date of compilation: October 2017

Compiled by: Adam Lodoen

Planning Reference: HPK/2015/0174

Local Authority: High Peak Borough Council

Site central NGR: SK085764

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project and Planning Background**

1.1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Sherwood Homes. It details a scheme of works for evaluation trenching in satisfaction of planning consent HPK/2015/0174 for the Proposed Development of 27 Residential Dwellings and a New Access Road between Nos 15 and 23 Batham Gate Road, NGR SK085764.

1.1.2 The proposal site is adjacent to Batham Gate (HER 6508) the route of the Roman Road between *Aquae Arnemetiae* (Buxton) and the Roman Fort of *Navio* at Brough. This road is generally thought to lie beneath the modern carriageway however, there is potential for slight differences in alignment which might bring the road or some its features (e.g. roadside ditches) within the proposed development site. There also a possibility of roadside settlement, though in any one small site the probability of this is low.

1.1.3 The proposal site is in an area of general prehistoric interest associated with the Bullring Henge monument at Dove Holes, 1.8km to the north. The distribution of prehistoric finds around the Bullring and Arbor Low (the Peak District's other henge, near Monyash) suggests they were a focus of communal, seasonal gatherings. In addition, the dry valleys between Buxton and Chapel-en-le-Frith appear to have been a route of seasonal movement in the prehistoric period. The Waterswallows Lane site excavated in 2011, c900m south-west, revealed evidence for episodic late Mesolithic and early Neolithic activity, including a rare example of an early Neolithic longhouse structure.

1.1.4 Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process. Paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012) outlines a requirement *to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.*

1.1.5 Planning permission has been granted for development of the site subject to condition, Condition 10, which requires archaeological work prior to occupancy and development.

*10 a) No development shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing, and until any pre-start element of the approved scheme has been completed to the written satisfaction of the local planning authority. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and*

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
- 2. The programme for post investigation assessment*
- 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording*
- 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*



- 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation*
- b) No development shall take place other than in accordance with the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (a).*
- c) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (a) and the provision to be made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.*

1.1.6 Attention is drawn to the fact that the archaeological evaluation specified in this document form part of pre-start works. Should significant archaeological remains be encountered further phase(s) of pre-start archaeological fieldwork, in the form of open area excavation, strip, map and sample excavation and/or supervised monitoring and recording of ground works will be required. Any such works will be subject either to a separate WSI or an addendum to this WSI (see Section 4.1 below)

1.1.7 This WSI has been prepared following consultation with Steve Baker, Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council (ADCC).

## **1.2 Site description**

1.2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the PDA is outlined in Figure 1 and encompasses an area of 0.8 ha. The site comprises a single field of grassland bounded by drystone walls. Detached and semidetached houses are located to the east and north-west of the site, along Batham Gate Road and School Lane. Also present to the east of the site is the churchyard of the Holy Trinity Church. The church was built in 1897 but is now derelict. Grassland fields border the development area to the southeast, southwest and to the south. The site is centred at SK 4085 3764 (Figure 1).

## **1.3 Geology**

1.3.1 The solid geology of the PDA comprises of limestone of the Bee Low Limestone formation, formed in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow carbonate seas. Superficial geology has not been recorded for the area (BGS 2017).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 The site is located immediately to the south of Batham Gate (HER 6508) the route of the Buxton to Brough Roman road. The road is generally supposed to lie beneath the modern carriageway, but parts of the road, associated features (e.g. roadside ditches), or roadside settlement may be present in the north part of the development area.



2.2 The development area is in an area of general prehistoric interest associated with the Bullring henge monument at Dove Holes, 1.8km to the north. In addition, the dry valleys between Buxton and Chapel-en-le-Frith appear to have been a route of seasonal movement in the prehistoric period.

2.3 The Waterswallows Lane site excavated in 2011, lies c.900m to the south-west. This site revealed evidence for episodic, late Mesolithic and early Neolithic, activity including a rare example of an early Neolithic longhouse structure.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives**

3.1.1. There is potential for research topics identified in *East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012) to be addressed namely:

6.2 Mesolithic (Knight *et al.* 2012. 34-35)

- Investigate the transition from the later Mesolithic to the earlier Neolithic
- Investigate the size, shape and locational characteristics of lithic scatters

6.3 Neolithic (Knight *et al.* 2012. 46-47)

- 3.5.1 Better characterise structural traces relating to settlement activity
- 3.5.4 Investigate the relationship between lithic scatters and developing settlement patterns

6.5 Romano-British (Knight *et al.* 2012. 70-71)

- 5.7.1 Investigate the chronology of road construction
- 5.7.3 Investigate the influence of Late Iron Age settlement patterns and routes of movement on communication routes
- 5.7.4 Investigate how roads have impacted upon established communities

#### **3.2 Evaluation Objectives**

3.2.1. The aims and objectives of the trial trenching will be to

- ♦ Identify the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits within the site.
- ♦ Record all archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- ♦ Sample sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.
- ♦ Gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological deposits with a view to evaluating their significance and potential to inform the aims and objectives outlined in section 3.1 of this document.

### **4 METHOD STATEMENTS**



## **4.1 Coverage**

4.1.1 The evaluation trenches will be strategically located to examine the footprint of the proposed buildings, as well as the access road and the frontage on to Batham Gate to the west and will, in total, examine up to 195m<sup>2</sup> of the proposed development area.

4.1.2 The location of the trial trenches has been discussed with the ADCC as sufficient to cover the proposed works.

4.1.3 The archaeological evaluation specified in this document is part of pre-commencement archaeological works required as part of condition 6a on planning consent. Should significant archaeological remains be encountered during the evaluation trenching, further phase(s) of pre-start archaeological fieldwork will be required by the Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council. These works may take the form of additional trenching, open area excavation, strip, map and sample excavation and/or supervised monitoring and recording of ground works. Should these works be required they may be subject to a separate WSI or an addendum to the existing WSI. Once works are completed and subject to discoveries, the Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council will require an interim summary statement of findings, along with a post-excavation proposal and timetable for analysis and appropriate publication, to be agreed between the client, their archaeological contractor and the Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council to be formally agreed before discharge of condition.

## **4.2 Standards**

4.2.1 All elements of the archaeological evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and will follow the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014b).

## **4.3 Excavation and Sampling**

4.3.1 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of archaeological excavation and recording.

4.3.2 All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification.

4.3.3 Each member of staff will be fully conversant with the aims and methodologies of the evaluation and will be given a copy of this WSI to read.

4.3.4 All trenches will be opened by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

4.3.5 Trenches will be excavated to the upper interface of the archaeological horizon, the depth of development or to the level of the geological natural, whichever is the highest.



- 4.3.6 Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately if necessary. Spoil will, in all circumstances, be stored at least 1m away from the trench edges.
- 4.3.7 All trenches will be appropriately cleaned by hand, where safe to do so, in order to expose the nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.3.8 All archaeological features will be identified and recorded and this record will be augmented with appropriate measured plans and sections, if trenches are within safe working depth.
- 4.3.9 Isolated, discrete features such as non-structural pits or features representing industrial activities will be 50% sampled, if they produce artefacts then provision is made for full excavation.
- 4.3.10 All hand excavated spoil will be visually scanned to recover small finds. Any finds recovered in this way will have their provenance from within the site recorded in three dimensions. The finds will be retained and recorded.
- 4.3.11 For sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits that have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or landuse regime, a minimum of 40 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller.
- 4.3.12 In the case of waterlogged or anaerobic deposits a minimum sample size of 20L will be taken.
- 4.3.13 Should a sequence of superimposed deposits of note be present column sampling may be considered.
- 4.3.14 In all instances sampling strategies will be in accordance with guidelines issued by Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation* (Campbell *et al.* 2011) and will be targeted in order to provide an evaluation of the type of preservation that may be present.
- 4.3.15 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.3.16 Any human remains will be left in-situ and, if deemed necessary, removal will only be undertaken once a Coroners licence has been obtained. This is in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations and in discussion with the Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.
- 4.3.17 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer will also be notified

**HM Coroner**  
*Dr. Robert Hunter*  
*St Katherine's House*

**Finds Liaison Officer**  
*Alastair Willis*  
*Museum and Art Gallery*



St. Mary's Wharf,  
Mansfield Road  
Derby  
DE1 3TQ  
Tel: 01332 613014

The Strand  
Derby  
DE1 1BS  
Tel: 01332 641 903  
e-mail: [Alastair@derbymuseums.org](mailto:Alastair@derbymuseums.org)

4.3.18 In the event of Treasure finds the Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council will be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the find spot is required.

#### **4.4 Recording**

4.4.1 In general all recording will follow the letter, spirit and practice outlined in *Site Recording Manual* (DUA 1990, MOLA 2004) and in ARS Ltd recording and procedures manual.

4.4.2 All archaeological deposits, features and structures will be recorded in plan at 1:20 and/or in section at 1:10 or other suitable and appropriate scale.

4.4.3 A plan of the excavation areas will be maintained, all features noted and all section lines recorded.

4.4.4 All archaeological features will be tied into the National Grid and the Datum of the Ordnance Survey.

4.4.5 The written record will be compiled on pre-printed recording forms and will be compiled for all archaeological entities. The base unit of recording will be the *context* an individual/indivisible unit of stratigraphy. Each unit of stratigraphy will be individually and uniquely identified and individually interpreted by processual association.

4.4.6 All records sheets, plans, photographs will have full indices prepared for them.

4.4.7 Site photography will be in high resolution (7 megapixel or greater) colour DSLR photography. Photography will include general site shots, images of the excavation area and photographs of individual features and groups of features. All photographs will include a suitable photographic scale (where appropriate) and will be recorded on a photographic register with the subject and direction of each shot.

4.4.8 The site archive will include plans and sections, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records (or their electronic equivalent).

#### **4.5 Finds Processing and Storage**

4.5.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA (2014c) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

4.5.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.



4.5.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

4.5.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper).

4.5.5 Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

4.5.6 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

4.5.7 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and Buxton Museum and Art Gallery prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.

4.5.8 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

## **5 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

5.1 At least two weeks prior notice of the commencement of the ground works will be given to the Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council:

Steve Baker  
Derbyshire County Council  
Shand House  
Dale Road South  
Matlock  
Derbyshire  
DE4 3RY  
Tel: 01629 539773.

5.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

5.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, or his representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation

## **6 STAFFING**

6.1 The Project Manager for the watching brief will be Reuben Thorpe FSA, MCIfA, Project Manager at ARS Ltd. The Fieldwork Project Officer will be Adam Lodoen, Assistant Project Officer at ARS Ltd.



6.2 Finds analysis will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

♦ Flint and prehistoric pottery:	Dr Clive Waddington MCIfA / Dr Robin Holgate
♦ Romano-British pottery:	Dr Phil Mills
♦ <i>Terra Sigillata</i> :	Gwladys Monteil
♦ Medieval and post-medieval pottery:	Dr Chris Cumberpatch
♦ Clay pipes:	Mike Wood MCIfA
♦ Industrial Remains:	Chris Scott MCIfA
♦ Plant macrofossils and charcoals:	Luke Parker
♦ Molluscs:	Dr Andy McWilliams
♦ Human and animal bone:	Milena Grzybowska
♦ Radiocarbon dating:	Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)
♦ Finds conservation:	Vicky Garlick, Durham University

## **7 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 and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- ♦ Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections
- ♦ 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



- ♦ Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- ♦ A copy of the OASIS form

7.2 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report should be uploaded as part of the OASIS record.

## **8 PUBLICATION**

8.1 If significant archaeological remains are recorded a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs will be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to Derbyshire Archaeological Journal or another appropriate archaeological journal for publication.

## **9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

9.1 Should the project produce no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with the repository museum, which in this case is Buxton Museum and Art Gallery. This is in line with the Museums of Derbyshire (2016) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage and Procedures for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives from Derbyshire at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery*.

9.2 Should the project produce archaeologically significant finds, a digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by ARS Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed with Buxton Museum and Art Gallery). The archive will be deposited in line with the ClfA (2013e) *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* and Museums of Derbyshire (2016) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage and Procedures for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives from Derbyshire at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery* and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report. The digital archive, in discussion with Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist, may be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) digital archive repository with the associated photographic registers and metadata. The digital archive will be prepared in line with current best practice outlined in *Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice* (ADS/Digital Antiquity 2011). The Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist and Museum Curator will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive. The date for deposition of the archive will be confirmed in the report and Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

9.3 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive.



9.4 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM.

9.5 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).

9.6 Depending on the requirements of the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist the results of the work or a synthesis of them will be published in an appropriate archaeological journal.

## **10 GENERAL ITEMS**

### **10.1 Health and Safety**

10.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all out workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork. ARS Ltd retains Peninsula as its expert health and safety consultants.

### **10.2 Insurance Cover**

10.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability (£10 million) public liability (£5 million), professional indemnity (£2 million) and all-risks cover.

### **10.3 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation**

10.3.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

### **10.4 Publicity and Copyright**

10.4.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

## **11 REFERENCES**

British Geological Survey 2017. Geology of Britain viewer. Available online at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home/html> [Accessed 11th October 2017].

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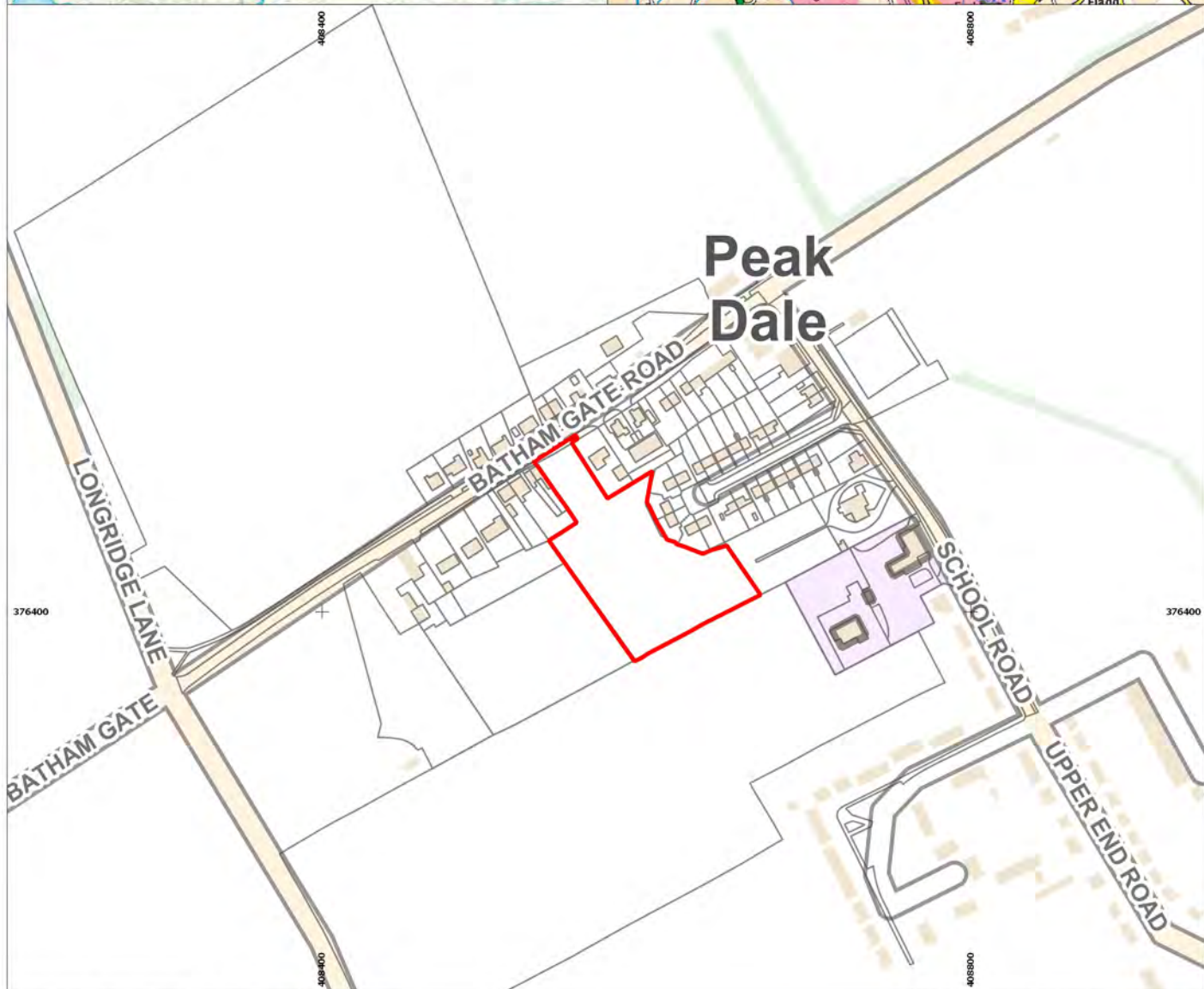
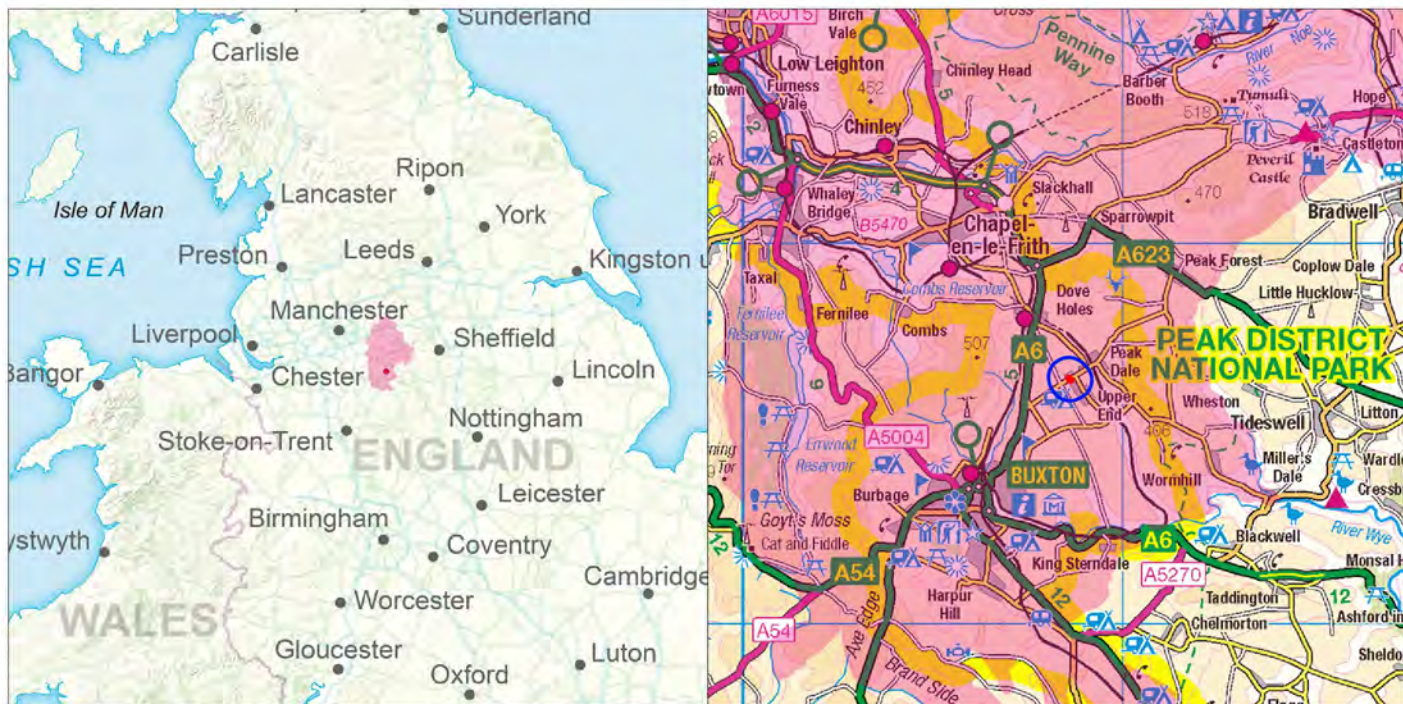


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## FIGURES





Site name: Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale  
 Date: October 2017  
 Drawn by: MB  
 Scale: Varies

**Figure 1:  
 Site location**



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Contains Ordnance Survey data.  
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 Site Boundary

 High Peak District Boundary



**Figure 2: Trench Location Plan**

Site Boundary

Route of Batham Gate Roman Road

**Evaluation Trenches**

- Trench 1: 20m x 2m
- Trench 2: 20m x 2m
- Trench 3: 35m x 2m
- Trench 4: 18m x 2m
- Trench 5: 18m x 2m
- Trench 6: 28m x 2m
- Trench 7: 14m x 2m
- Trench 8: 17m x 2m
- Trench 9: 10m x 2m

0 5 10 15 20 25 m



Site name: Batham Gate Road, Peak Dale  
 Date: October 2017  
 Drawn by: MB  
 Scale: 1:750 @ A4

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