

Bankwood Mill, Charlesworth

Watching Brief, Written Scheme of Investigation

ArcHeritage 2018

Bankwood, Charlesworth - Watching Brief, Written Scheme of Investigation

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. Loxley Homes are planning a residential development at the site of the former Bankwood Mill; Charlesworth, Derbyshire. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlines the method to be used in undertaking archaeological works to mitigate the impact of the development on any buried archaeological remains present within the groundworks for new build and services.
- 1.2. The current works follow on from a Heritage Assessment and Standing Buildings Appraisal undertaken by Archaeological Building Recording Services (2013). This assessed the significance of standing buildings remains and the potential for buried remains. This WSI outlines the aims and methods for a watching brief on groundworks that may impact on buried archaeological remains. Any building recording required will be subject to a separate WSI and programme of building recording.
- 1.3. The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with the WSI, and according to the principles of the Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.

2. SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

- 2.1. The proposed development area is located on the eastern fringe of the village of Broadbottom, approximately 4km south east of Stalybridge and 4km west of Glossop (**Figure 1**). The proposed development area lies within the parish of Charlesworth, Derbyshire (NGR SJ 99988 94137). The River Etherow forms the western boundary of the proposed development area.

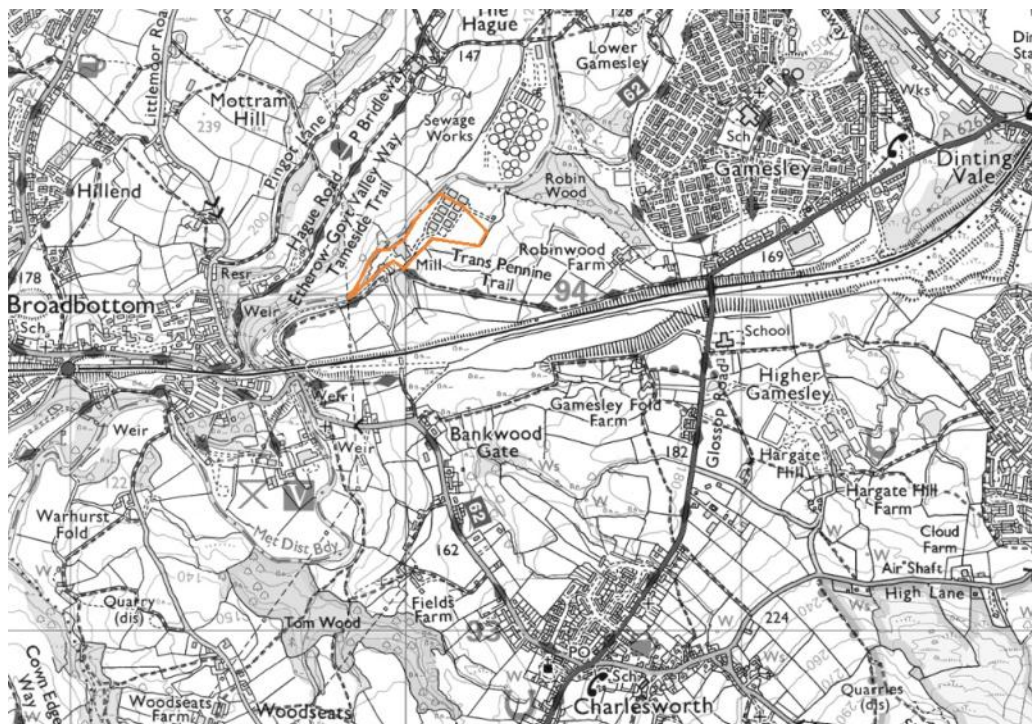


Figure 1 Site Location

- 2.2. The site contains a number of standing buildings, largely brick-built one and two storey industrial buildings and adjacent, timber-built, chicken sheds. Surrounding the buildings are areas of mixed hard standing, including poured concrete slab and rough grazing (**Figure 2**).

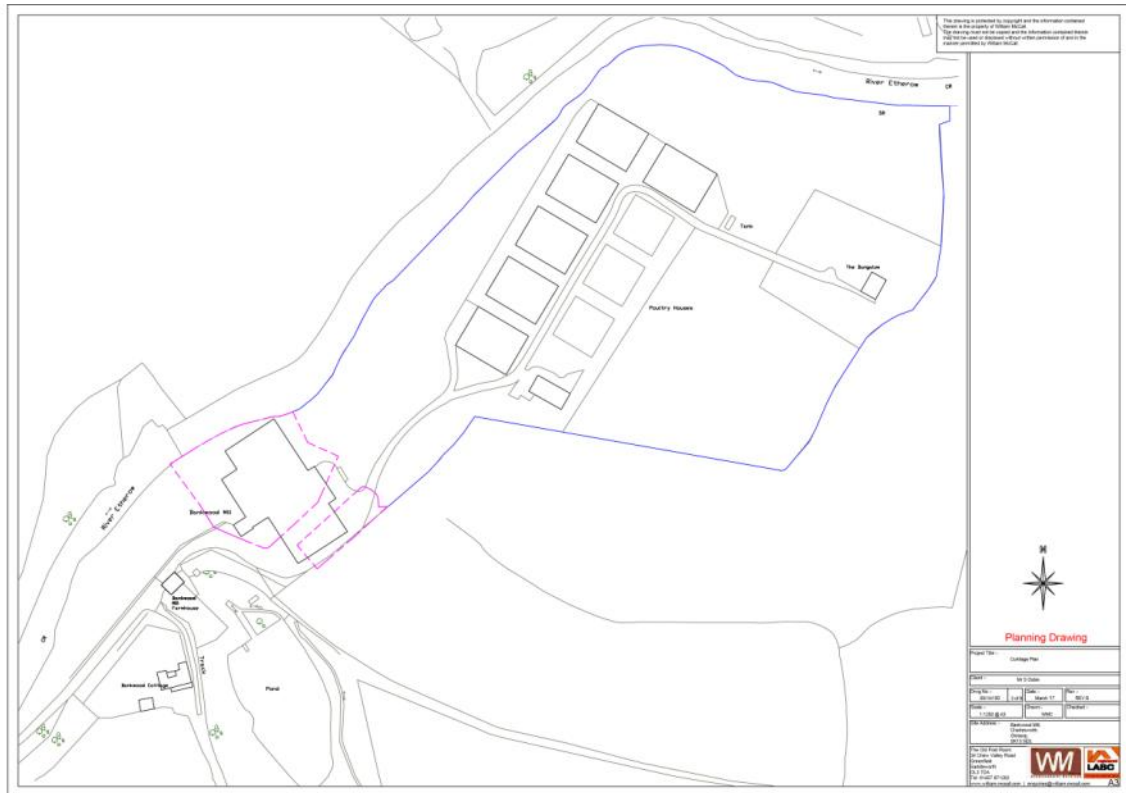


Figure 2 Location Plan

- 2.3. The British Geological Survey identifies that superficial, Quaternary till deposits cover much of the site and that these overly mudstones and sandstone of the Carboniferous Lower Coal Measures (BGS bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

3. DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

- 3.1. The site does not contain any designated Heritage Assets.

4. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

- 4.1. As previously noted the site was subject to a Heritage Assessment (Archaeological Building Recording Services 2013). The following summary of the heritage potential is based on the Heritage Assessment.
- 4.2. Bankwood Mill originated in the late 18th century as a cotton mill. Following a fire in 1855 the mill was re-built and back in production by 1857. During the late 19th century the site was converted to use as a print works.
- 4.3. During its life the mill has changed hands on a number of occasions with new buildings being added to the complex of buildings on site. The print works closed in 1941 and through the later 20th century a number of buildings were used as chicken sheds. The Buildings assessment (Archaeological Building Recording Services 2013) identified that the remaining buildings on the site, which are scheduled for conversion and demolition are later buildings added to the complex and not part of the original 18th/19th century mill. The existing buildings date to at least 4 different phases of construction, all with the exception of one are 20th century in date.
- 4.4. The assessment reviewed the potential for buried archaeological remains within the site. It identified that any such remains present may have been disturbed by the former mill complex and later buildings that were added to the site.

8. MONITORING GROUNDWORKS

- 8.1. Proposed developer activities relate to the excavation of foundations and services on the site (Figure 2). Soil stripping and foundation groundworks will be required.
- 8.2. The monitoring of groundworks will comprise a **continuous/comprehensive** watching brief on the excavation of all groundworks. The watching brief will monitor the removal of soil/deposits down to the base of the foundations.
- 8.3. All earth-moving machinery must be operated under archaeological control at an appropriate speed to allow the archaeologist to recognise, record and retrieve any archaeological deposits and material.
- 8.4. It is not intended that the archaeological monitoring should unduly delay site works. However, the archaeologist on site should be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate hand excavate, sample and record any exposed features and finds. In order to fulfil the requirements of this WSI, it may be necessary to halt the earth-moving activity to enable the archaeology to be recorded properly. This may involve all site construction works ceasing until excavation and recording has been completed.
- 8.5. All archaeological deposits or features identified will be investigated and recorded following the methodology outlined in Section 9.
- 8.6. Excavation should be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to leave a clean surface, this will enable any archaeological remains to be observed. Plant or excavators shall not track over clean surfaces or operate in the vicinity of archaeological remains, until they have been checked and cleared of archaeology and the archaeologist on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

9. RECORDING METHODOLOGY

- 9.1. The area of groundworks that is monitored will be planned to Ordnance Survey grid, relative to existing structures and plotted on an OS map at a scale of 1:1250.
- 9.2. Unique context numbers will be assigned to all archaeological deposits or burials. Where assigned, each context will be described in full on a *pro forma* context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions.
- 9.3. All archaeological features will be recorded using standardised *pro forma* record sheets. Plans, sections and elevations will be drawn as appropriate and a comprehensive photographic record will be made where archaeological features are encountered.
- 9.4. Archaeological deposits will be planned at a basic scale of 1:20. Cross-sections of features will be drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20, depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation.
- 9.5. Each context, where assigned, will be described in full on a *pro forma* context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions. Each context will be given a unique number. These field records will be checked and indexes compiled.
- 9.6. Photographs of work in progress and post-excavation of individual and groups of features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. All site photography will be in line with the requirements set out in the Derbyshire HER model brief, which specifies:
 - All record photographs will be on black and white film.

- Digital photography will only be used to supplement the photographic record; it will not form any part of the primary archive.
- 9.7. Areas which do not contain any archaeological deposits will be photographed and recorded as being archaeologically sterile. The natural stratigraphic sequence within these areas will be recorded.
- 9.8. All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the ClfA guidance (2014) and the Historic England guidance (2017). Recovered artefacts will only be removed from the consecrated area, or processed and assessed, under Ministry of Justice and Historic England Guidelines.
- 9.9. Finds of particular interest or fragility will be retrieved as Small Finds and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.
- 9.10. All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.
- 9.11. Where suitable deposits (e.g. the fills of discrete cut features) are identified, an environmental sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains. The collection and processing of environmental and soil samples will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (English Heritage 2011; Historic England 2017). Soil samples will be removed from the consecrated area, processed and assessed, in accordance with Ministry of Justice guidelines and Church of England/Historic England guidance (2017).
- 9.12. Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the excavation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. The sampling regime will include samples of the four types of deposit sample as appropriate. These are described below:
 - **Bulk-sieved Sample (BS).** Sample size will depend upon the context/feature size, but should be up to 40-60 litres in size (if the context size allows). They are taken for the recovery of charcoal, burnt seeds, bone and artefacts. The samples will be processed (flotation) on site where possible with 1mm and 500micron sieves on a rack to collect the carbonised washover. The retents and flots will then be dried, sorted and assessed to advise the potential for further analysis.
 - **General Biological Sample (GBA):** These are only taken if a deposit is waterlogged. A 10 litre sample size will be used (if the context size allows). These samples will be processed in the laboratory, to recover macrofossils and microscopic remains such as pollen and insects.
 - **Column monolith:** Kubiena tin samples may be taken for soils and pollen analysis and to determine soil accumulation processes.
 - **Spot samples:** these samples are taken as required. they may be contexts or material not suited to sieving, such as caches of seeds, pieces of eggshell or any specific finds of organic material. They may also be specialist samples (e.g. charcoal for radiocarbon dating).
- 9.13. Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with ArchHeritage specialists and the Historic England Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating

where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.

- 9.14. In the unlikely event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of the Ministry of Justice.
- 9.15. Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, ClfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and Historic England guidance.

10. SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT

- 10.1. The stratigraphic information, artefacts, soil samples, and residues will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study. The material will be quantified (counted and weighted). Specialists will undertake a rapid scan of all excavated material. Ceramic spot dates will be given. Appropriately detailed specialist reports will be included in the report.
- 10.2. Materials considered vulnerable should be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures (e.g. glass composition studies, residues on or in pottery, and mineral-preserved organic material). Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilization of all objects and a written assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs will be produced. Once assessed, all material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, in accordance with Watkinson and Neal (1998), ClfA (2007) and Museums and Galleries (1992).
- 10.3. All finds will be cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate, prior to assessment. For ceramic assemblages, any recognised local pottery reference collections and relevant fabric Codes will be used.
- 10.4. Allowance will be made for the recovery of material suitable for scientific dating and contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating, if necessary. This will be decided in consultation with Derbyshire HER.

11. REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

- 11.1. Upon completion of the site work, an assessment report will be prepared to include the following:
 - A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
 - An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
 - An account of the methodology and detailed results of the operation, describing, archaeological features, associated finds and any environmental data, and a conclusion and discussion.
 - A selection of photographs and drawings, including a detailed plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored, trench locations, selected feature drawings, and selected artefacts, and phased feature plans where appropriate.
 - Specialist artefact and environmental assessment reports with recommendations for further work if appropriate, and a context list/index.

- Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a context list and catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
 - A copy of the key OASIS form details
 - Copies of the Brief (if applicable) and WSI
 - Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report.
- 11.2. A digital copy of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body. A bound and digital copy of the report will be submitted to Derbyshire HER for inclusion in the Sites and Monuments Record.
- 11.3. A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs will be produced. Prior to the commencement of works Buxton Museum will be contacted and project initiation forms submitted deposition of the archive. The Buxton Museum curator would be afforded access to visit the site and discuss the project results.
- 11.4. The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the Local Authority and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.
- 11.5. Upon completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

12. POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION

- 12.1. The information contained in the assessment report will enable decisions to be taken regarding the future treatment of the archaeology of the development site and any material recovered during the evaluation.
- 12.2. If further analyses as recommended by the specialists is required, and following agreement with Derbyshire HER this will form a new piece of work to be commissioned.
- 12.3. Further analysis may include preparation and publication in a local and/or national journal of a short summary on the results of the works and of the location and material held within the site archive.
- 12.4. The results of the work may be publicised locally, e.g. by undertaking talks to local societies, as appropriate.

13. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 13.1. Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 13.2. A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

14. PRE-START REQUIREMENTS

- 14.1. The client will be responsible for ensuring site access has been secured prior to the commencement of site works and that the perimeter of the site is secure.

- 14.2. The client will provide ArcHeritage with up to date service plans and will be responsible for ensuring services have been disconnected, where appropriate.
- 14.3. The client will be responsible for ensuring that any existing reports (e.g. ground investigation, borehole logs, contamination reports) are made available to ArcHeritage prior to the commencement of work on site.

15. STAFFING

- 15.1. Specialist staff available for this project are:
- Human remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd)
 - Palaeoenvironmental remains - Sheffield Archaeobotanical Consultancy
 - Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
 - Medieval pottery - Anne Jenner
 - Post-medieval pottery –Richard Jackson
 - Post-medieval glass - Karen Weston
 - Finds Officers - Nienke Van Doorn
 - Conservation - Ian Panter
 - Worked wood - Steve Allen
- 15.2. Other specialist staff may be commissioned as necessary.

16. MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

- 16.1. As a minimum requirement, Derbyshire HER will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works, so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed and to discuss the requirement any further phases of archaeological work. ArcHeritage will notify Derbyshire HER of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with the Derbyshire HER.

17. COPYRIGHT

- 17.1. ArcHeritage retain the copyright on this document. It has been prepared expressly for the named client, and may not be passed to third parties for use or for the purpose of gathering quotations.

18. KEY REFERENCES

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Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM). 2007. *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology*

See also the website of the ClfA for all Guidance and Standards documentation.
<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

See also the Historic England website for a full list of guidance documents.
<http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/recording-heritage/>

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