



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

44 – 46 Town Lane, Charlesworth

Written Scheme of Investigation

January 2024

1: Introduction

Steven Price of The Archaeology Co. has been commissioned to prepare a WSI for a formal watching brief on the site. Condition 20 for planning application HPK/2022/0536 states:

No excavation works shall commence within the application site until a written scheme of archaeological investigation ('the Scheme') has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Scheme shall provide details of an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during all groundworks associated with the scheme and a programme of archaeological works to be carried out within the site along with details of post-excavation reporting and appropriate publication. The development shall thereafter be undertaken in accordance with the approved scheme which shall be implemented in full prior to the first occupation of the development.

Reason: To enable the recording of matters of archaeological interest as the site is in an area of archaeological potential, in accordance with Policy EQ7 of the High Peak local Plan and the NPPF.

The works are for "Construction of a new 2 storey, 3 bedroom detached dwelling with associated landscaping and car park". This document forms the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which outlines the program of work required to undertake this survey.

2: Site Location

The site lies to the south side of Town Lane, accessed via an unnamed track from Chapel Brow. It lies between 42 and 48 Town Lane, as well as to the rear of them. The site comprises agricultural fields with an approximate area of 0.14ha. The solid geology comprises Rough Rock Sandstone. The postal address is 44 – 46 Town Lane, Charlesworth SK13 5HQ and the NGR is SK 00894 92882.

3: Historical Background

In 1086 the Domesday book notes that Charlesworth (“Cheveneswrde”) belonged to Luinor Leuinic. Peter de Charlesworth, died in 1294, and in 1308 one of his descendants, Robert de Charlesworth, gave land in Simmondley and Chunal, and 80 acres of arable land in Charlesworth to the Abbot of Basingwerke. This gift caused the Abbot to build a granary, to hold the tithes and rents of the tenants, which were mostly paid in corn and other kinds of produce, and necessitate the residence of one or two monks as caretakers. In 1309 the Abbot was granted a charter to hold a market at Charlesworth on Wednesdays, and a yearly fair to be held on the festival of the patron saint of St. Mary Magdalene’s Chapel (Hamnett 2020).

At the dissolution of the monasteries the chapel escaped being seized, but in 1559 Queen Elizabeth had become possessed of it, with the lands belonging to it, but neglected the chapel, which came into the hands of the Independents. The chapel appears to have been transferred with the land to the Howards, although it is probable that no effect was made either to preserve the fabric or to provide for the performance of the reformed service. The Parliamentary Commissioners of 1650 report of Charlesworth ‘that it is fit to be disused, and the place united to Glossop’ (Hamnett 2020).

Burdett’s map of Derbyshire from 1791 shows ‘Charlsworth’ at this time, with several buildings shown along Town Lane. By the time of the Derbyshire 1880 OS map Charlesworth is shown to have had many houses in the village, with houses along both sides of Town Lane. The site itself is shown as open field and relatively straight and rectangular, suggesting it was formed as part of the inclosure act in the 18th century. However, others further afield to the north and south appear long and narrow, suggestive of Medieval strip fields. The site remained undeveloped through the 19th and 20th centuries.

4: Watching Brief

Aims

The purpose of a watching brief is to allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of

development or other potentially disruptive works. It also provides an opportunity for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

The East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework was reviewed for relevant research objectives. The following question may also be relevant:

7.7.1: Can we shed further light upon the origins and development of the open-field system and its impact upon agricultural practices?

Where the project results contribute towards these objectives, the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework wiki shall be updated accordingly.

Method

An archaeologist shall be present during groundworks associated with the development. This shall include any excavations undertaken as part of the proposed works, including foundations, service trenches and landscaping. All groundworks are intended to be monitored initially but if during the course of the programme of monitoring sufficient evidence is identified to demonstrate the low archaeological interest of the site (or parts of site) or the complete absence of archaeological features, deposits etc. then, with consultation and written approval by the PDNPA archaeologist, the watching brief could be reduced to focus on particular parts of the site, become intermittent, or even stopped completely. Conversely, if archaeological remains of high significance are uncovered which cannot be dealt with within the scope of the watching brief, works shall cease and consultation will take place with the PDNPA archaeologist. Should more detailed work be required, this shall be covered by an additional WSI.

Ground excavation is to be carried out with a toothless bucket or toothless ditching bucket in level spits, with opportunities for archaeological observation. The attending archaeologist will be given opportunity to direct the machine to stop to allow inspection, excavation and/or recording of potential archaeological features. Where archaeological features are deemed to be present, they shall be archaeologically exposed and recorded.

All possible features and deposits will be examined and tested. Any encountered archaeological remains will be cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form, condition and, where possible, date. Hand excavation will be undertaken by trained professional archaeologists. Discrete features shall be half sectioned and linear features 10% sampled (at least). Where there are intersecting features, these intersections shall be targeted.

Context sheets shall be used for recording on site features. Photographic recording shall take the form of digital photography (DSLR 10 Megapixel minimum). An appropriate photo scale shall be present in each of the shots and a photo register compiled, recording the direction and subject of each shot. Features shall be located in plan at 1:50 scale. If the features warrant it, details will be drawn at 1:20 and sections also produced.

Finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (following Campbell *et. al.* 2011 and Historic England “Geoarchaeology” 2015) with Headland Archaeology used for analysis and advice. Random bulk sampling of the lower contexts shall be performed. All well sealed and datable contexts shall be sampled (up to 40L). Features identified to be associated with specific activities will be prioritised, such as cesspits, kilns, corn driers, etc. Once the nature of the archaeology is known a site specific strategy will be adopted. All finds are to be recorded by context. Significant “small finds” should be located within three dimensions to the nearest 10mm and bagged and labelled separately, numbered and a simple description made so that they can be identified within the assemblage. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC). Any single find or finds assemblage that can be classified as Treasure under the Treasure Act 1996, will be reported as required by the provisions of that Act.

Those involved with recovery, treatment, packing and subsequent analysis of archaeological material will be familiar with accepted methods for its care and storage. All finds and samples shall be collected, processed and sorted. They shall then be quantified and recorded for the report. Finds shall be labelled, packed and stored in accordance with Buxton Museum Guidance as set out in “Procedures for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives from Derbyshire” (Buxton Museum 2021; Derbyshire Record Office 2021) and

retention of material that needs further conservation must be agreed with Buxton Museum in advance. The retention policy agreement template shall also be completed.

Human remains are not expected to be present, but if they are found they will, if possible, be left in-situ covered and protected. 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. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately. 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 ClfA “Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains” (2017) and Historic England guidance (2017).

Post excavation shall involve the digitisation of drawings and the compilation of a report. Finds shall be cleaned and processed in accordance with ClfA “Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials” (2020). Where the assemblage is large, a sample of finds should be photographed for the report purposes. Any special finds should be photographed separately. The finds assemblage shall be assessed by a finds specialist as appropriate (Rob Philpott for ceramics and Roderick Mackenzie for metalwork) to give an overview of its potential to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the archaeological material for research and/or educational use will also be recorded.

Artefact disposal strategy shall follow the advice set out in section 3.4.2 of ClfA (2020) “Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials”. Disposed artefacts shall be reburied on site. High priorities for disposal are unstratified material (unless rare or dateable) and intrusive artefacts. A site-specific strategy will be developed based on the periods present and the priorities of Buxton Museum, with reference to the retention policy agreement template form.

Reporting

The results will be presented within a fully illustrated report, which will include the following:

- A non-technical summary of the survey's findings;

- Introductory statements;
- Aims and objectives;
- The background to the survey, which will include an outline of the planning context, the survey dates and location details;
- An outline of the survey methodology;
- Results of the watching brief;
- Conclusions;
- A location plan at 1:10,000 and site plan at 1:2500 or 1:1250
- A set of measured scaled drawings;
- A photograph register including the direction of shot as well as details of the subject;
- A copy of the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations form (OASIS);
- A catalogue of photographs and other archive items;
- Archive location; and
- Appendices containing a copy of the WSI and other essential technical and supporting detail.

The work will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists “Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief” (2020).

6: Archive

The results of the survey will form a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with ClfA Archives Selection Toolkit, Archaeological Archives Forum (2011) Archaeological Archives, and current ClfA “standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive” (published October 2020) Additionally, specific advice for deposition of a physical archive with Derbyshire Record Office and Buxton Museum shall be taken from Derbyshire Record Office 2021, “Procedures for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives from Derbyshire”. Advice for the deposition of the digital archive shall be taken from their “Guides to Good Practice” (2023). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material

gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the ClfA in that organisation's code of conduct.

All documents and project files will be reviewed by Steven Price throughout the project lifespan. Material will be selected on the basis of its contribution to the overall aims of the project as set out in sections 4 and 5. The selection of the archive will be undertaken by Steven Price with advice from Peak District National Park Authority if important architectural features are encountered. The selection process will be a single phase following the approval of the final report by the Senior Conservation Archaeologist at the Peak District National Park Authority.

All digital data created over the course of this project will be collected, stored, and selected for final deposition. Only final copies of any born digital data will be deposited in the final project archive. Deselected material is expected to include duplicates and any non-final versions of data. In terms of photographic images, this would include blurred or light imbalanced images. Deselected material will be deleted following acceptance of the archive.

The project Initiation form shall be completed prior to the project start. The archive will comprise the report as well as any artefacts worthy of museum deposition. These shall be placed with Buxton Museum, within a reasonable time of completion of the project, and the project completion form filed. The digital archive, comprising the photographs, shall be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), with a secondary digital archive provided on a PC compatible CD-ROM offered to the Museum. The primary digital archive, comprising the digital photographs shall be saved as tiff files following ADS guidance, and deposited with them, along with a digital copy of the report. A digital copy of the report will also be sent to Derbyshire Historic Environment Record and the Peak District National Park Authority. Should the results warrant it, a summary report, or detailed article on the work shall be submitted for publication in a regional or national journal, appropriate to the significance of the results and findings of the project, as well as being uploaded to the OASIS database. This shall be done no later than one year after the completion of the work.

Should the watching brief produce negative results no archive will be prepared, although the OASIS database will still be completed.

7: Staff

Steven Price of the Archaeology Co. is nominated to carry out the works. All fieldwork will be undertaken by Steven Price BA (Hons.) MA, MPhil, PCIfA as well as other trained staff under his guidance. Steven has carried out many watching briefs of a variety of periods across the north west and the Peak District. Dr. Robert Philpott of Specialist Archaeological Services will be contacted for ceramic advice. Headland Archaeology shall be contacted for sample analysis and advice.

8: Timetable

Two weeks' notice prior to commencement of the works shall be given. It is anticipated that the historic building assessment will be undertaken over a period of one week, and a report will be produced within six weeks of completion of fieldwork.

9: Health and Safety

Health and Safety regulations and requirements cannot be ignored no matter how imperative the need to record archaeological information. Hence health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters.

Full regard will be given to all constraints during the course of the project. A Health and Safety Statement, along with a risk assessment, will be provided. All site procedures shall be in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.

10: Monitoring



Monitoring shall follow the guidelines set out in the ClfA's "Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief". Monitoring will be undertaken against the WSI by the Development Control Archaeologist, and visits will be documented. Non-compliance with the agreed WSI or project design must be pointed out by the monitor to the archaeologist undertaking the work, and their client if appropriate, at the earliest opportunity. The Local Planning Authority and Development Control Archaeologist will be notified in advancement of the commencement of the works and will be kept informed of developments during the scheme, and it is recognised they may visit the site during the fieldwork element to monitor the archaeological work.

12: Insurance

Steven Price maintains Professional Indemnity Insurance to £1,000,000

13: Copyright

Full copyright shall be retained by the author until project completion, at which point it shall be transferred to Derbyshire Record Office. The Project Completion form shall be submitted along with a full transfer of title and the Assignment of Copyright for the Archives.

Bibliography

ADS 2023 “Guides to Good Practice”. Accessed online at:

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/help-guidance/guides-to-good-practice/>

Buxton Museum 2021 “Procedures for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives from Derbyshire at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery”

CIfA 2020 “Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures”

CIfA 2020 “Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief”

CIfA 2020 “Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials”

Derbyshire Record Office 2021 “Procedures for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives from Derbyshire”

“East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework” Accessed online at:

<https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/research-agenda/8-post-medieval/>

Hamnett, Robert 2020 “The Hamlet of Charlesworth” Accessed online at:

glossopheritage.co.uk/ghtarchive/charsham

Historic England 2016 “Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice”

“National Planning Policy Framework” 2021 accessed online at:

<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>

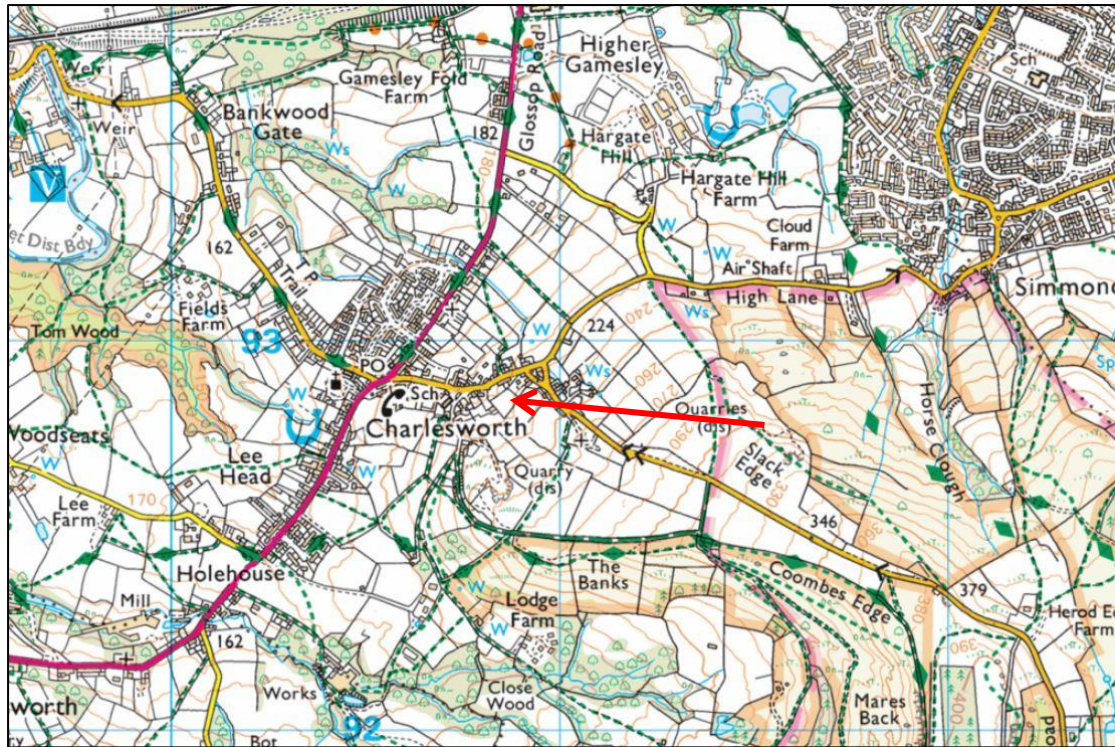


Figure 1: Location Plan (OS Licence Number: 100057911)

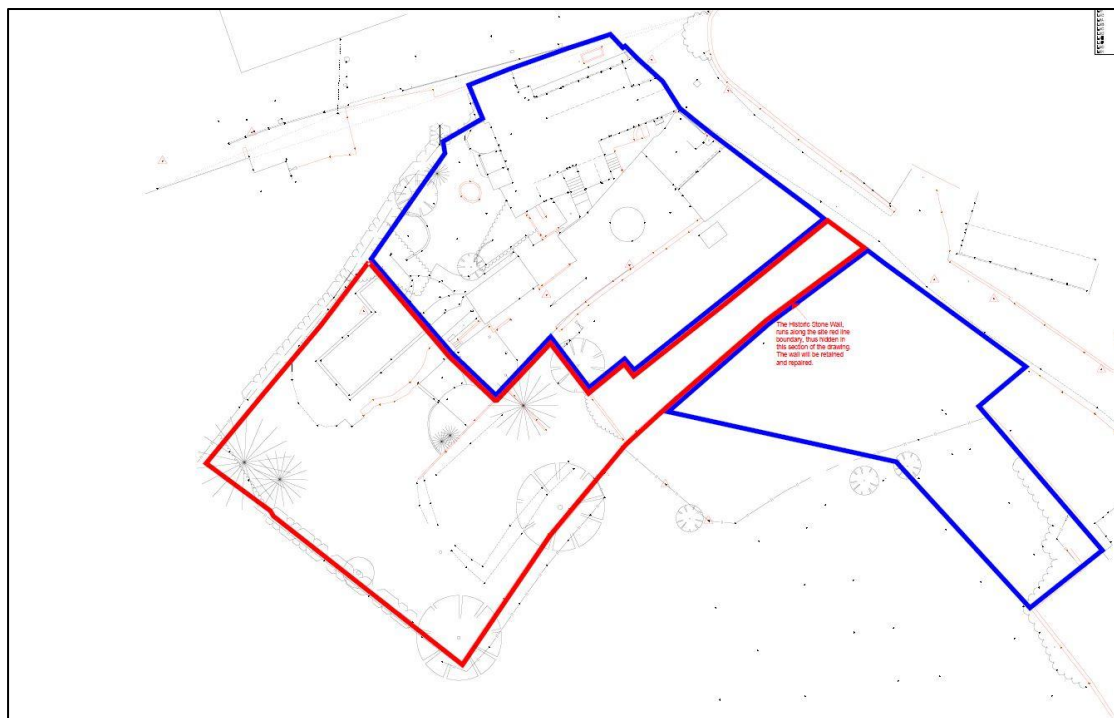


Figure 2: Site Plan (Courtesy of client) showing building to be demolished

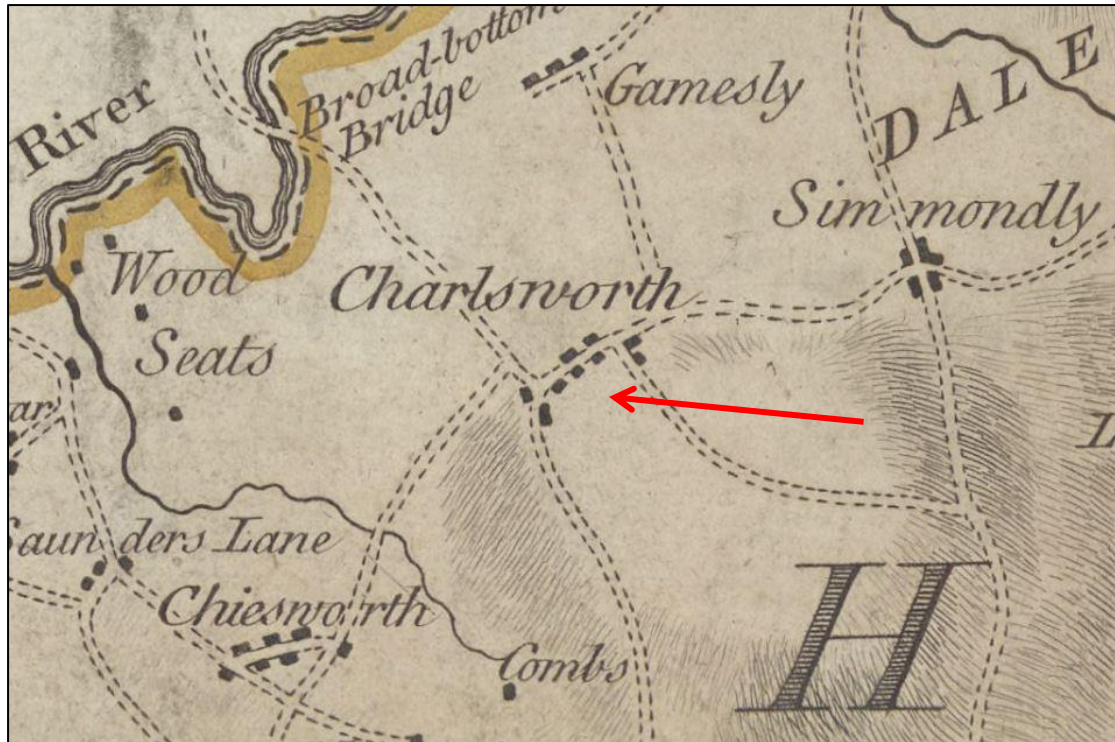


Figure 3: 1784 Burdett's' map of Derbyshire showing approximate site location

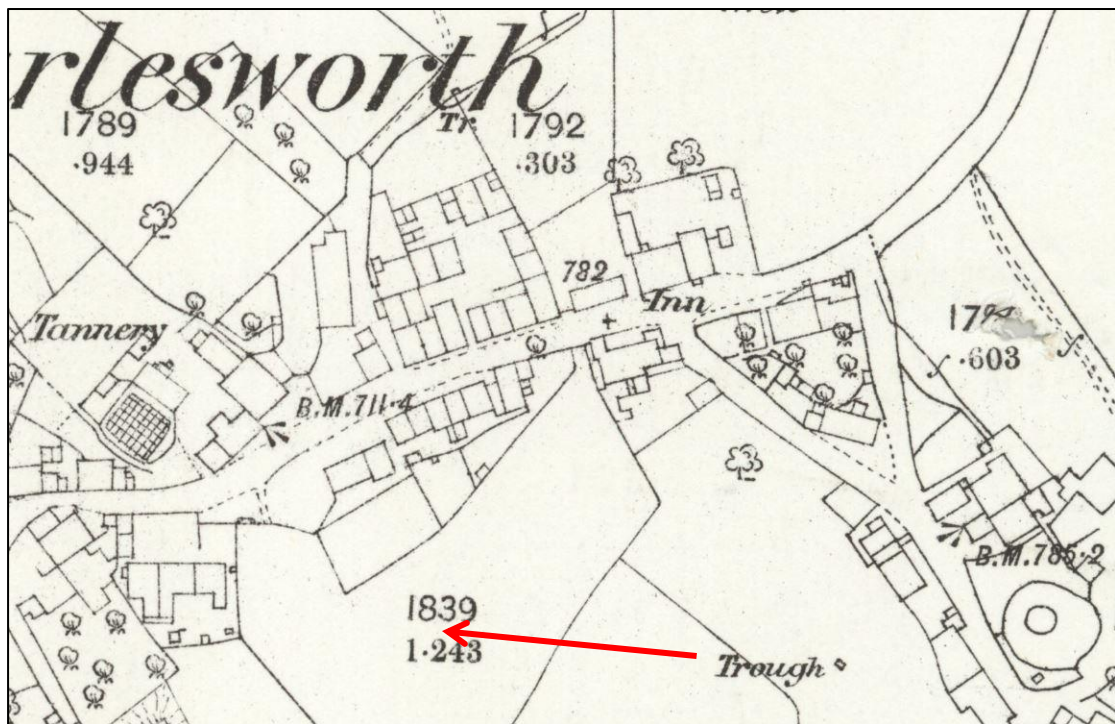


Figure 4: 1880 OS map Derbyshire Sheet II.15

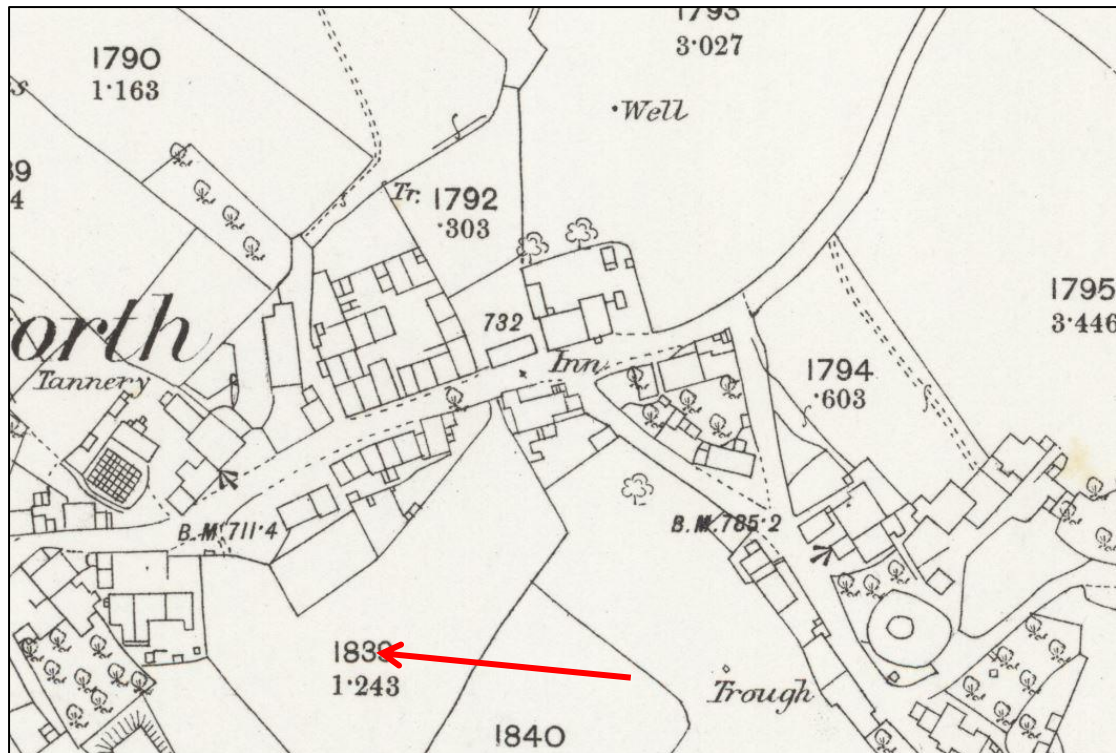


Figure 5: 1893 OS map Cheshire Sheet XI.8



Figure 6: 1898 OS map Cheshire Sheet XI.8

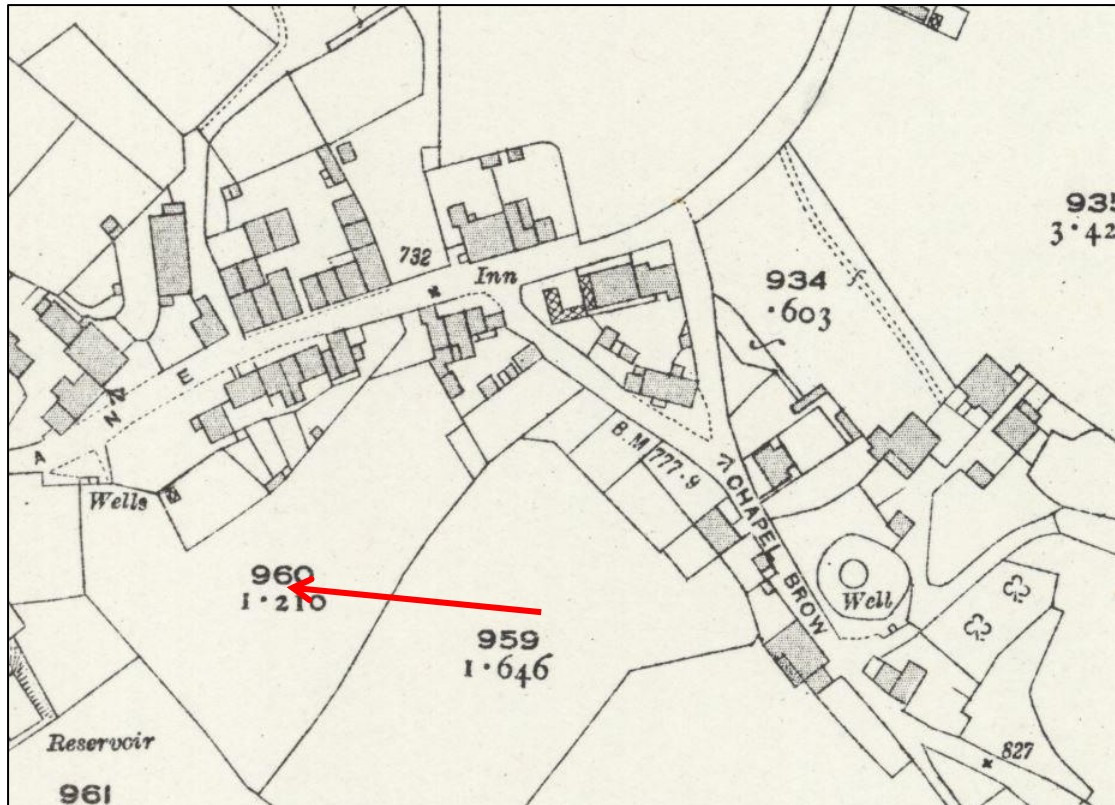


Figure 7: 1921 OS map Derbyshire Sheet II.15