

From: [Steve Baker \(Place\)](#)
To: [Planning \(HPBC\)](#)
Cc: [Rachael Simpkin](#)
Subject: PK/2023/0192 - Land at Hogshaw, Buxton - archaeology
Date: 23 April 2025 17:31:18

Dear Rachael,

Thank you for re-consulting on the above planning application following submission of an archaeological field evaluation to address the site's location partially astride the conjectural line of the Buxton to Melandra Roman road (Derbyshire HER MDR343 and 11199) as traced by Wroe and Mellor between 1971 and 1999.

No clear evidence of archaeological significance was identified in any of the trenches, although it should be noted that it proved difficult because of existing boundaries and services to access the suggested Roman road line at the site's eastern side, and in no location was it possible to obtain a recorded section across the full line. Trench 18 made perhaps the closest approach and did encounter a rise in subsoil thickness although this could simply be due to accumulation of sediment through plough action at a long-standing field boundary.

The trenching within the site therefore found no evidence for the Buxton-Melandra Roman road or any other connected or unconnected archaeological remains. This echoes the findings of the interventions along the water pipeline through this site in 2011 which again identified no evidence for the supposed road. The road alignment is one fairly well fixed by observable earthworks and excavated sections however, so the absence of evidence thus far may be a result of differential survival and the difficulty in locating trenches close to the line of the road, rather than suggesting it was not on this alignment at all.

The development south of Nunsfield Farm spans the conjectured Roman road line, and north of the farm any boundary works to the east side of the development might also impact this line. While we can rule out the need for any archaeological work in any other part of the site I recommend that archaeological involvement is needed in these two limited areas in line with NPPF para 218, to record any surviving remains of the Roman road thus impacted. The nature of this archaeological work would depend on the nature of proposed groundworks in these areas but might involve scalable monitoring during stripping or boundary works as appropriate.

The following condition should therefore be attached to any planning consent:

"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 publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured."

Regards

Steve Baker MA MCIFA | **Archaeologist** | Conservation, Heritage and Design | Place |
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