

DERBYSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

BUXTON

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The assessment report

This assessment report forms part of the Extensive Urban Survey Programme, an English Heritage funded initiative to assist local planning authorities with the conservation of their urban archaeological resource. Buxton is one of a series of small towns and large villages in Derbyshire selected for such assessment.

The report is a desk-based survey, the scope of which includes both above and below ground archaeological remains of all periods, using information from the County Sites and Monuments Record, local histories, early maps and plan form analysis, with the results presented as a series of maps generated by GIS. It forms the foundation for an archaeological management strategy which can be adopted by the local planning authority as supplementary planning guidance.

As settlement in Buxton and the surrounding villages of Burbage, Fairfield and Harpur Hill has expanded and become conjoined, it was necessary to draw boundaries for the assessment which would exclude the cores of these villages. The railway line to the east of Buxton was used as the boundary between the town and the village of Fairfield, while College Road and part of the old township boundary along Macclesfield Road and the Wye were used to delineate a boundary on the west.

1.2 Overview of the town

Buxton lies in the north-west of the county, only some three miles from the county boundary with Cheshire. Situated at just over 300m altitude at the southern end of the Pennines, it was relatively isolated until the arrival of the railways. Its climate and landscape are somewhat northern in character and it tends to relate more to Manchester and the north-west than it does to Derby and the midlands.

Buxton's importance comes from its history as one of only two successful spa towns in the country with natural thermal waters. These were already appreciated by the Romans, as indicated by the extensive traces of Roman occupation and early reports of the finding of Roman baths. Later visitors came to the Holy Well, associated with St Anne, in the medieval period and continued to come after the Reformation for the medicinal properties of the water, even though no longer associated with any holy powers. Indeed, Buxton became a fashionable venue for the cream of Tudor nobility, perhaps attracted at least in part by the visits of Mary Queen of Scots to take the waters for her rheumatism.

The 18th century saw another period of growth, culminating in the fifth Duke of Devonshire's decision to acquire property in Buxton in order to develop the town as a fashionable spa. Transformation into a successful and profitable estate town began with the provision of high quality accommodation in the form of The Crescent, which included a hotel, the duke's town house and an Assembly Room. Improvements were continued by succeeding dukes, so that by the end of the 19th century the town could boast a range of facilities, from Baths, Pump Room, Pavilion Gardens and large hospital to the greatest number of water closets per head than any comparable town in Britain.

Buxton retained its importance as an inland spa during the early 20th century and flourished as such for at least the first couple of decades. However, spa treatment ceased in the 1960s and large scale limestone quarrying became increasingly important to the town's economy; indeed, it was the extent of this quarrying that caused Buxton to be excluded from the Peak National Park. It continues to support this and other

industries, while also acting as a retail focus for surrounding villages and as a centre for tourism, the latter assisted by the survival of many of the features associated with its heyday as an important spa town.

2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Buxton lies at the western edge of the carboniferous limestone at its boundary with carboniferous sandstones and shales. The early settlement developed on the top of a small plateau overlooking the valley of the River Wye to the north. At the junction of the limestone with an impervious layer, springs break out and it is to these natural thermal waters as well as to the limestone that Buxton owes its development, first as a spa and secondly as a centre for quarrying. Later development of the town took place in the valley and on the northern slopes, with the Wye being landscaped in some places and culverted in others.

Buxton Market Place on the southern side of the valley is at about 312m OD. To the north, The Crescent lies at c. 290m at the foot of a limestone cliff, now landscaped. The ground rises again on the northern side of the town, to a height of some 337m at the north-western boundary of the assessment area.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

Buxton lay in *Hamenstan* wapentake in the 11th century. This was later divided into the wapentakes of Wirksworth and High Peak, with Buxton being in the latter. A Local Board was established in 1859, prior to which local government had been by the Vestry. This was followed in 1894 by the creation of Buxton Urban District Council which continued until 1917, when Buxton and Fairfield were incorporated as a single Borough. It lost its independent Borough status in 1974 when it became part of High Peak Borough (Leach 1987).

Ecclesiastically, Buxton lay within the jurisdiction of Bakewell parish and for a time directly under Chelmorton Church. Some of the area included in this assessment lay in neighbouring parishes, however, as until 1894 all the land south and west of London Road, West Road, part of Macclesfield Road and Gadley Lane were in Hartington parish, while all land north of the Wye was in Hope, later Fairfield, parish.

4. SOURCES

4.1 Primary sources

Primary material relating to Buxton held by the Derbyshire Record Office (DRO) includes parish records, papers relating to the various non-conformist chapels and to a number of schools, a range of business records of 19th and 20th century date, records of the Buxton Gardens Co. Ltd. and the Crescent Hotel visitors' book 1868-1895. In addition there are late 18th century rentals for property belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster and the Dukes of Devonshire, records of the hospital and thermal baths, poor rate assessments from 1728 and 19th century Petty Sessions and County Court records.

A considerable amount of primary documentation regarding Buxton is held at Chatsworth, the Dukes of Devonshire having been especially associated with the town from the 1770s. A brief search of the Public Record Office's on-line catalogue indicated that some relevant documents are held there also. However, no primary documents other than maps (see below) were used for this assessment.

4.2 Secondary sources

In view of the considerable number of books, pamphlets and papers written on various aspects of Buxton, and the limited amount of time available, it was decided to base this assessment mainly on John Leach's *Book of Buxton* (1987), a thorough summary of all aspects of Buxton from prehistory to the early 20th

century, and the series of lectures given by Ernest Axon, a Buxton historian who never published, but whose lectures were reported in the Buxton Advertiser between 1934 and 1947. Mike Langham's *Buxton. A People's History* (2001) only became available after the assessment was essentially complete, but is clearly an immensely detailed and well referenced volume on the 19th and early 20th century town.

4.3 Cartographic evidence

The earliest known surviving map of Buxton was made by William Senior in 1631. Although of considerable value, it is not as useful as it could be, as he was only recording in detail the land belonging to the Earl of Newcastle. This was followed by the Parliamentary Enclosure Maps of Fairfield, Buxton and Hartington, in 1772, 1774 and 1798 respectively. Walker *et al* (1994) note that a map of Buxton dated 1775 is held at Chatsworth, although only that part of the map reproduced by them was used in this report. Tithe maps for both Fairfield and Buxton are held at the Derbyshire Record Office. Large-scale Ordnance Survey maps were published in 1879, including some areas of the town at a scale of 1:500.

4.4 Archaeological evidence

A total of 47 entries are held on the county Sites and Monuments Record for the area under consideration in this assessment. In addition, several pieces of archaeological work have been carried out, from Rooke's excavations of a building in 1787 to evaluation trenches excavated in July 2002.

5. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

5.1 Prehistoric

The county SMR includes a number of records relating to evidence of prehistoric activity, from Mesolithic to possible Iron Age, in the Buxton area. The sites are shown on Figure 1; however, in the majority of cases, they are only approximate, since many of the finds were made in the 19th century and their findspots cannot be accurately identified. Many of the artefacts are now in the Micah Salt Collection, Buxton Museum.

Some material was found in and close to the centre of Buxton. A quantity of bones, thought to be human, accompanied by several bronze objects and a small unglazed vessel, were found at a depth of *c.* 45cm by workmen constructing a new road between Spring Gardens and Silverlands, presumably in the Holker Road area, in around 1898 (SMR 2801). The bronze objects included two socketed axes and a broken leaf-shaped spearhead. Most of the finds have been lost apart from a socketed axe, now in the Salt Collection. Also in the Salt Collection are eleven waste flint flakes and a chert core for long blades which are described as having been found "in the new road, Silverlands, Buxton". This probably refers to Holker Road (SMR 2848). A perforated stone hammer of was found in 1929 in the Silverlands area (SMR 2803), while a polished stone axe was found at Dale Road in 1895 (SMR 2807). This may be a duplicate record of SMR 2847, which refers to a polished stone axe also apparently found at Dale Road in 1895. More recently, two Mesolithic microliths, a broken flint blade and two flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil of three trenches during excavations at Silverlands (Barnatt 1987, site A on Figure 1) and three pieces of flint were found in a trench in the grounds of the (now demolished) girls' school (Abbott 1994b, site B on Figure 1).

A mound, originally surrounded by a ditch, is said to have stood on the slopes facing The Crescent. It has long since been destroyed, but was believed by antiquarians to be a prehistoric burial mound (SMR 2873). However, there is now some doubt that this represents a barrow site. It was excavated by Rooke in the 18th century. His description includes note of a small wall with mortar that retained the earthen mound, the stones being dressed and resting on a plinth that protruded to the outside. This implies a later date for the structure (see SMR 2833 in section 5.2 below). Further to the west, flint flakes were found in 1929 during excavations in Buxton Gardens (SMR 2802).

One of the most important prehistoric sites lies on the western side of modern Buxton, at Lismore Fields. Archaeological excavation between 1984 and 1986 produced evidence of Mesolithic activity, in the form of Later Mesolithic flint knapping debris and a possible Mesolithic structure (SMR 2899). There was also more extensive evidence of Neolithic settlement. Three possible post-built structures were excavated, all rectangular and of similar size and internal layout, while artefacts included flintwork and sherds of Grimston ware carinated bowls (SMR 2898). Fourteen radiocarbon dates were obtained from the settlement, providing the best radiocarbon sequence for a fourth millennium settlement in Britain (Barnatt 1995). The site is now a scheduled monument (SAM 278)

At the south-western edge of modern Buxton is Poole's Cavern. It was excavated in 1854, again during the late 19th century, and more recently between 1981 and 1983. While most of the material recovered was of Roman date (see section 5.2 below), early excavations recovered some flint flakes, indicating prehistoric use of the cave (SMR 2826). A Neolithic axe, of Group VII stone, is recorded as having been found in this area, although there is no further information relating to it (SMR 2808). However, it may be a duplicate record of SMR 2864, a polished stone axe of Neolithic date and Group VII provenance recorded as found on Temple Meads Estate in 1970.

To the east of Buxton lies Fairfield Low, a round barrow dug by Micah Salt in October 1895 and January 1896 (SMR 2813). At least three inhumations were recorded: slightly west of the centre of the mound was a decayed contracted skeleton; east of the centre another contracted skeleton, a mature male, with four large stones apparently forming a crude cist; and to the north-west of the last was the skeleton of a child. A blue glass bead or pin head was found with or near the child's skeleton. Elsewhere, several pottery sherds of what have been interpreted as 'Food Vessel' were found, although this interpretation is uncertain and they may have been Romano-British. Other finds scattered in the mound included further human bones, animal bones, antler tine, flint flakes, red ochre, a whetstone and iron fragments. The mound had clearly been disturbed before Salt's excavations, probably on more than one occasion.

To the south-east of the town a perforated sandstone hammer was recovered from Little Gib Yard and is thought to be of Bronze Age date (SMR 2871). Further south-east, scattered flints and sherds of Neolithic pottery found during excavations in the 1980s suggest early occupation in the Staden area (Makepeace 1987; site C on Figure 1). The lower half of a polished stone axe, probably Group VI, had been found during earlier excavations in 1926, although 'at some distance' from the Roman material recovered at that time. Pottery sherds of possible late Iron Age date were also found, perhaps contemporary with the fragments of beehive querns found elsewhere on the site (Makepeace 1989).

A couple of sites have been identified in Ashwood Dale, also to the south-east of Buxton. At Lovers' Leap, two flint scrapers associated with animal bones were found prior to 1900 in a 'cave-like hollow' (SMR 2825) while a little further east, a flanged palstave with a well-marked stop-ridge and one loop (broken) was found in a quarry by workmen in 1934 (SMR 2804).

A bronze dagger, of Early Bronze Age date, was found in January 1856 during the cutting of drains in land in Buxton called 'The Rake' (SMR 2806). The findspot cannot be identified and this record is not shown on Figure 1.

5.2 Roman

Reports of the finding of what may be Roman structural remains at Buxton date back to the late 17th century and the settlement has been identified as the *Aquis Arnemeze* of the Ravenna Cosmography, now interpreted and referred to as *Aquae Arnemetiae*. Unfortunately, no Roman period structures survive and it is sometimes difficult to identify within modern Buxton the site of findspots reported in the 18th, 19th and even early 20th centuries.

As Buxton's Roman name implies, the settlement was a spa and many of the early records report the finding of baths and associated structures in the area of The Crescent. For example, Cornelius White, while improving the baths in 1695, found 'a cistern of lead ... two yards square and one foot deep, being

four yards within the earth, supported by several oaken planks ...' (Axon 1938, SMR 2834). Before alterations were made to St. Anne's Well in 1709, the water is said to have risen into a stone basin built up within a Roman plastered wall (SMR 2836). During the construction of The Crescent in 1780, a Roman bath was reported to have been found some 5m from the then Bathroom, later the Natural Baths, close to St. Anne's Well, at the west end of the Crescent. A portion of The Crescent was built over them (SMR 2837). The most recent Roman finds at the baths came in 1975 when a swimming pool floor in the Natural Baths was removed during reconstruction work. The ground below was removed to bedrock around a hot natural spring. A brick structure was found, and a votive deposit of 232 Roman coins, three bronze bracelets and a wire clasp ranging in the date from the 1st century AD to c. 400 AD was revealed in a fissure at the side of the spring (SMR 2869).

In about 1883 what was thought at the time to be a Roman bath was found on a different site, at the back of Clarendon Buildings, Manchester Road by the owner, although there were later doubts as to the correct identification of this find (SMR 2835).

In 1787 Rooke uncovered the remains of a structure on the slopes to the south-east of The Crescent (SMR 2833), as already referred to above. The remains comprised a dressed stone wall enclosing a rectangular area some 7m (22.5ft) by 14m (46ft), forming a platform 1.3m (4ft) high. The only finds were 2-3 nails, a fragment of 'patera' and a tile. Surrounding the platform was a well defined ditch 2.75m (3yds) wide and, beyond this, irregular low banks. This structure has been identified as a possible Roman temple facing the baths, in the same way that the temple of Sulis faced the baths at Bath, although it should be stressed that there is no unequivocal evidence that the structure was of Roman date.

A number of finds have been reported from other parts of Buxton, in particular from the Holker Road area, where in 1903-4 Salt uncovered an area of some 27m² floored with blocks of undressed stone, packed neatly to give an even surface. There were three sandstone hearths each about 1.6m in diameter. Finds included Samian ware and coarse pottery, Roman glass, fragments of bronze and iron, and charred bones. Test trenches dug 60m away revealed similar finds (SMR 2832). Roman pottery was also found to the east of Holker Road when the Buxton and Ashbourne branch of the LNWR was built (SMR 2838). More recently, a complete pot and a Roman silver ring are said to have been found at Silverlands and a Romano-British pottery sherd was found in the topsoil of an archaeological trench (Barnatt 1987; sites A and B respectively on Figure 2).

To the south of the Holker Road area, an extensive area of limestone and gritstone cobbling was found in a garden (SMR 31101). This was sealed by a layer of clean silty brown clay containing Roman pottery. Limited excavations defined the area of cobbles to the east but not to the north or south. No other finds were recovered and no features were revealed below the cobbling. Whether this was part of a road or a building complex is uncertain. Further south still, Roman pottery and other material has been found in Bennett Street and the surrounding area, including an amount of coins found in 1891, although nothing more is known about these (SMR 2839).

Other finds from the town include the foundations of a possible Roman building found at a depth of 1.6m near the vicarage in Lismore Road. Dressed sandstone blocks were noted as well as a piece of a circular column (SMR 2852). A bronze coin of Gallienus, c. 218 AD, was found at Park Road in 1976 (SMR 2863). Another coin, a sesterius of Antonius Pius, AD 138-161, was found on Fairfield Common, but as the findspot is not known, it is not marked on Figure 2 (SMR 31106).

It has long been assumed that there would have been an auxiliary fort at Buxton. Tristram (1916) suggested that, on topographical grounds, it lay in the Bath Road area, although no Roman material appears to have been reported from there. An alternative suggestion has been that it was at Silverlands, situated on a prominent spur of land. An aerial photograph showed possible archaeological features within some school playing fields, and a geophysical survey of a small area of waste at the east end of Silverlands by Bradford University produced evidence of a linear anomaly running east-west, matched by a similar anomaly running north-south. However, archaeological evaluation established that the anomalies were geological and firm evidence for a fort on this site has yet to appear (SMR 2840, SMR 31110).

The location of the fort, if it existed, would have had a bearing on the course of the Roman roads within the town. Several are thought to have approached Buxton from various directions although their routes through the modern built-up area are generally not known. Three roads have been identified with certainty. One runs north out of Buxton (SMR 2844, 2845), approximately along the western side of Fairfield Common, a little way beyond which it divides, one branch continuing north to Melandra, the other north-east to Brough-on-Noe. Two others leave the south side of the town, one running south-east to Little Chester, the other south-west, probably to Chesterton. Other probable routes include a road going west to Northwich and another north-west to Manchester (Wroe 1982). Within the town, the identification of reported traces of Roman roads are difficult to verify, not least because any road surface discovered at some depth below present ground level may automatically have been assumed to be Roman. Records include the following (with approximate locations shown on Figure 2):

- Traces of a paved road were found at a depth of 1.6m (5ft), in South Street in 1949 (SMR 2849)
- Traces of a paved road were found at a depth of 600mm (2ft) at the junction of London Road with the Leek road (SMR 2850)
- During the construction of Lismore Road in c. 1892 an 'old pitched road' was reported to have been found a few feet below the surface, some 250-350m (300-400yds) from Burlington Road. A broken piece of dressed Millstone grit was recovered, with a hole drilled in one end (SMR 2851). Wroe (1982) considered that this was some 24m from the Roman road and more likely to represent the foundation for a funerary monument or paving outside a building.
- Traces of a Roman road were revealed at the rear of Heath House, London Road, Buxton (SMR 2854)
- In about 1889 pipe-laying near Sycamore Cottages revealed a possible road surface of "pitched" stone. A jar of coarse pottery was found embedded alongside (SMR 2860)
- On the line of the Roman road into Buxton from the south-west, a 'large hump and dip' was reported in the front wall of a garden on the north side of the road (SMR 2866)
- In about 1892, when laying pipes in Macclesfield Road, an area of pitched road was found, at a site which cannot be identified at present (SMR 2883)

In addition, a couple of milestones were found in the 19th century. The first was found in 1856 in what was at that time a garden. In 1913 the findspot was pointed out by the finder as just inside the gateway leading to the upper Buxton Railway station. The milestone is now in Buxton Museum (SMR 2841). The second was found in c. 1878 while digging up a piece of pitched road opposite the Bull's Head Inn at Fairfield, on the main road (SMR 31199). It was said to have been incorporated in the foundation walls of some stables, although more recent examination of the stables, then in use as a warehouse and workshops, failed to locate the stone.

Roman material has also been recovered from the periphery of the modern town of Buxton and the nearby area. Nineteenth century excavation had already indicated the presence of Roman material, including human burial remains, in Poole's Cavern at the south-western margin of Buxton (SMR 2827). Controlled archaeological excavation took place between November 1981 and March 1983. Pottery sherds from some 97 vessels were recovered, including Derbyshire ware, Black Burnished ware and Samian, as well as sherds of a Spanish amphora. These dated predominantly from the 2nd century AD, although ranging from the late 1st to the early 3rd centuries AD. Eight Roman coins were found, of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, as well as a number of Roman brooches, assorted objects of bronze, lead, iron and bone/antler, and a number of isolated human teeth. Analysis of the finds, in particular the large number of brooches and the 'striking diversity' of pottery, together with an absence of common domestic rubbish, led the excavators to suggest the cave had contained a small shrine or sanctuary during the 2nd and early 3rd centuries

(Bramwell *et al* 1983). However, more recent analysis of the excavated material has disputed this interpretation, suggesting instead that there was a domestic aspect, and that this was directly related to the use of the cave for metalworking. One of the products was clearly brooches, with pins and rings also possibly being produced. It was suggested that the burials formed part of an early Roman phase of activity in the cave, followed by a phase of domestic/ metalworking usage (Branigan & Bayley 1989). This second phase may have been relatively short-lived and seasonal, the attraction being the cavern's stable temperature in the winter, which would have been an advantage when casting bronze (Smithson & Branigan 1991).

To the south-east, extensive earthworks near Staden indicate the site of a Romano-British settlement. It was surveyed in 1976 and found to consist of probable field enclosures and building platforms (SMR 31118). Bridge ramparts have been tentatively identified on either side of the nearby stream in the past (SMR 2811). The Staden site was excavated in 1926 and again between 1981 and 1986. Features uncovered included the remains of a building, a possible pen for livestock and a house platform (Makepeace 1983, Makepeace 1987, Makepeace 1989). Finds from all the excavations indicated that the site was occupied in the first half of the 2nd century AD, possibly extending into the second half of that century. Finds of animal bones and querns were taken to indicate intensive mixed farming, probably responding to the needs of nearby Buxton (Makepeace 1983).

Also to the south-east, a small cave on the north side of Ashwood Dale and about a mile from Buxton was excavated in 1895 with one of the reported finds being an iron buckle 'of Roman type' although later reassessment has cast some doubt on the Roman attribution (SMR 2823). Beyond this, a large earthwork enclosure with a double bank and ditch at its eastern boundary has been identified as being of probably Romano-British date (SMR 8815).

Fairfield Low round barrow to the west of Buxton has been referred to in section 5.1 above. However, Roman pottery in the form of an oviform jar was excavated from the barrow in 1895 and other Romano-British sherds were also found. It is possible that the infant burial, with the blue glass bead, and the adult interment with nearby iron objects are in fact Roman burials (SMR 2814).

5.3 Early Medieval

In contrast with earlier periods, artefactual evidence of early medieval date is limited to a single record, namely that of a Saxon iron horse shoe found 1929 in Green Lane, Buxton, at a depth of 2ft 6 ins. The present whereabouts of the horse shoe is unknown (SMR 2829). However, the continued use of Roman roads in the post-Roman period - for example, the existence of 'The Street', the Buxton to Little Chester road, is known from as early as the 10th century (Guilbert & Challis 1993) - suggests some form of occupation may have continued at Buxton, although its location, extent and nature is completely unknown.

5.4 Medieval

5.4.1 *The manor*

At some point, probably within a few years of the conquest, Buxton became part of the estates of William Peverel. Following the forfeiture of the Peverel estates in *c.* 1152, Buxton came to the crown, and was then leased to a succession of tenants before finally being granted, together with the rest of the Peverel estates, to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, in *c.* 1362. After this time it formed part of the Duchy of Lancaster (Leach 1987).

5.4.2 *Place-name evidence*

Sometime between 1101 and 1108 William Peverel gave land to found Lenton Abbey in Nottinghamshire, and the earliest reference to Buxton comes in the foundation charter, when it is written as *Buckestanes*. Two possible meanings have been suggested, either 'rocking stone(s)', from **būg-stān**, or 'buck stone(s)',

from **bucc, stān**, perhaps relating to its location at the margins of one of the county's medieval hunting forests (Cameron 1959).

5.4.3 Communications

The Roman road system almost certainly continued to be an important route into the High Peak in the medieval period. In addition, Buxton lay on one of the routes by which salt was carried across the moors from the wiches of Cheshire to the medieval market towns of Yorkshire and Derbyshire. Three saltways are known to have crossed the Peak from Macclesfield, two of which joined in Buxton and continued to Tideswell before dividing again, to head for Sheffield and for Chesterfield. One came via the Saltersford (mentioned in 1452) near Goyt's Bridge and then climbed the Long Hill to Buxton; the other via the Cat and Fiddle Inn, a route later turnpiked (see below). The route eastwards from Buxton is no longer in use, but passed through Fairfield and Hargatewall before crossing the Saltersford immediately to the south of Tideswell (Hey 1980).

5.4.4 Buxton and its environs

Medieval Buxton lay just outside the Royal Forest of the Peak, as the River Wye formed one of the Forest boundaries. In the foundation charter of Lenton Priory in or before 1108, William Peverel granted two parts of the tithes of his demesne pastures in the Peak, one of these being at Buxton. In 1305 it appears that Buxton was one of the grazing places for the Earl of Lancaster's livestock and Axon (1934a) concluded that Buxton was 'evidently a cattle pasturing place primarily'. However, accounts and rentals from the 14th and 15th centuries show that The Green, immediately to the south of Buxton (between Macclesfield Road and Green Lane) was one of twelve bercaries being rented out, the large areas of relatively poor pasture being ideal for the establishment of sheep farming. In addition, extrapolation from Senior's 17th century map of Buxton makes it clear that there was arable land also, cultivated on the open field system.

In the Poll Tax of 1380, Buxton was assessed for 126 people, although this may have included Chelmorton, in addition to Staden, Cowdale and King Sterndale (Leach 1987).

By the mid-15th century it appears that Buxton was already known for the curative properties of its waters, as it was visited in around 1460 by William Worcester, who wrote:

'Memorandum that Holywell, the source of the waters of Wye ... makes many miracles, making the infirm healthy, and in winter it is warm, even as honeyed milk' (quoted in Leach 1987).

This suggests that the village must have been able to cater for visitors, or pilgrims, at certain times of the year.

5.4.5 Religious buildings

Buxton chapel

Buxton lay in Bakewell parish, but at some point in the medieval period it acquired a chapel associated with the warm springs. Cox (1877) had 'little doubt' that the chapel was in existence by 1280, although he has no evidence for this. References to the Holy Well in around 1460, as mentioned above, indicate it was already present then, however, with the first known direct reference coming in c. 1489. Slightly later, in 1494, money is left to Buxtonford Chapel in the Peak for yearly obits (Leach 1987). Early 16th century documents indicate that the chapel was dedicated to St Anne, while a later 16th document refers to 'the vayne invencions about S. Anne found in the well'. St Anne was commonly linked with wells and with chapels associated with wells in England, this association being documented from the 12th century onwards (Morris 1989).

5.4.6 Trade and industry

In the early 13th century a water-powered corn mill was erected at Buxton, called at different times Buxton or Fairfield mill (Leach 1987).

Occupations recorded in Buxton's Poll Tax of 1380 included 40 cultivators, one cooper, two carpenters, two masons, one draper and one weaver although, as noted above, some of these may in fact have lived elsewhere (Leach 1987). Nevertheless, the economy is likely to have been essentially agricultural, possibly boosted at certain times by visitors to the holy well.

5.5 Post-medieval (16th - 18th century)

5.5.1 The manor

The manor remained with the crown and was leased out during this period.

5.5.2 Communications

Buxton was reached by an extension of the Manchester to Stockport turnpike in 1724, making it the first turnpike road in any part of Derbyshire. Five years later, the trustees noted that, whereas previously carriage along the route had been by packhorse, 'by the great amending and widening of the said road it is of late changed to wheel carriage'. This brought its own problems, however, in the formation of deep ruts and a decrease in profits. In 1749 this early turnpike was extended south-eastwards from Buxton to Hurdlow. In 1758, the road running north-east from Buxton to Tideswell and Ringinglow was turnpiked, and in 1759 the first road between Macclesfield and Buxton was built, over the Cat and Fiddle Inn route. The Buxton to Flash (Leek) road was turnpiked in 1765 (Radley & Penny 1972).

It appears that there were coaches running between London and Liverpool via Buxton in as early as 1740, while by 1768 there was a coach, *The Buxton Flying Machine*, travelling to London three times a week (Leach 1987).

5.5.3 The settlement and its environs

In 1631 William Senior drew a map of Buxton showing the land belonging to the Earl of Newcastle. From this it is clear that a considerable amount of enclosure had already taken place, with approximately half the open arable fields already enclosed by that time. Buxton's remaining arable, commons and wastes were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1774, while the land to the north of the Wye, in Fairfield, was enclosed two years earlier.

Buxton waters continued to attract pilgrims, with offerings being made at the chapel in return for 'cures'. This raised the question of who should receive these, and in the early 16th century there were a number of cases brought in Chancery, as the owners of the land upon which the chapel stood attempted to prevent various vicars of Bakewell from having their full rights in the chapel (Leach 1987). Immediately following the dissolution, however, the baths and wells were closed. The 'ymage of Sentt Anne of Buxstone' was sent to Lord Cromwell, and other items were removed so that there would be no more 'idollatre and supersticion' (Leach 1987).

Despite this, it appears that the chapel was soon functioning again (see 5.5.5 below) and the waters and baths did not lose their attraction once disassociated with the saint. In 1558-9, for example, Belvoir accounts show that 4s 4d was paid 'for cariage of Bukstons water sent to my Lord of Pembroke', while the Queen herself is said to have requested 'a tun of Buxton water' to be sent to her in 1577 (Axon 1934a).

Chancery papers indicate that a single inn stood in near the well in the early 16th century. However, in 1571 the sixth Earl of Shrewsbury purchased 'The Chapel in Buxton County Derby and the Chapel Yard and also one Croft called the Bath Croft also Bath Flatt as it was then inclosed ... and all and singular

Baths, Springs, Waters and Watercourses ...' and began the following year to build a new house adjacent to the baths and springs (Thornes and Leach 1994, 29). The two inns, the 'Auld Hall' and Shrewsbury's 'New Hall', ran contemporaneously until 1578. Shrewsbury had been given custody of Mary Queen of Scots in 1569 and it has been suggested that his 'New Hall' was constructed at least in part to provide secure accommodation which would enable her to take the waters for her rheumatism. She is known to have made at least five such visits between 1573 and 1584 (Thornes and Leach 1994).

In 1577 it was recorded that there were two inns and eight alehouses in Buxton, the only two inns recorded in the Peak (Hart 1879). Camden, who compiled his *Britannia* at around that time, mentioned nine fountains of hot water at Buxton well, and referred to the fact that the Earl of Shrewsbury had recently 'beautified with buildings' the baths so that they were again being visited by the nobility. Buxton at this time was a fashionable venue for 'the highest Tudor nobility', perhaps as much the result of Mary's visits as the benefits of the waters and the baths. Visitors included the Earls of Essex, Sussex and Leicester, leading politicians such as Burghley and Cecil, as well as Richard Topcliffe, the Catholic persecutor (Leach 1987).

Large numbers of the poor also visited the town. In 1572 a description by Dr John Jones of Buxton and the New Hall stated 'Yea, the porest shal have lodgings and beds hard by, for their uses only', but it appears that this was just a pious intention, attributed to Bess of Hardwick, but never apparently carried out (Axon 1934a). Such were their numbers that in the late 16th century an Act of Parliament was passed which stated that 'no diseased or impotent poor person, living on alms', should be allowed to visit either Buxton or Bath in Somerset unless they were licensed to do so and could be provided for by the parish in which they lived (Axon 1934b). The impact of these poor and ailing visitors may have affected nearby Fairfield also, although it could also have been a convenient excuse. When their church was in disrepair in the later 16th century, they pleaded extreme poverty, in part because of the

'... frequent access of divers poor, sick and impotent persons repairing to the fountain of Buxton for whose maintenance and relief the inhabitants aforesaid were daily charitably moved to apply their own goods ...' (Mycock 1970, 29).

The baths at Buxton were improved by Cornelius White in 1695 and 1696. He repaired and paved the 'antient bath' and built a new open-air bath for the poor and impotent. A sough was built to drain the baths, to permit their daily cleaning. In the early 18th century the bathhouse was demolished and a new one erected over the existing bath; new stables were also built adjoining the Hall in the same style as the bathhouse. In 1709, St Ann's Well was rebuilt, housed in an ornamental arched building 12ft square and surrounded by seats (Leach 1987). Despite these improvements, Buxton does not appear to have particularly impressed early 18th century visitors. One described it as 'a poor little Stony Town, only famous for the Wells' while Defoe, who visited Buxton in 1712 to take the waters, expressed his surprise that

'as there are several hot springs in this village of Buxton ... they are not built into noble and convenient bathing places; and, instead of a house or two, a city built here for the entertainment of company' (quoted in Axon 1934a).

He described the Duke of Devonshire's 'handsome house at the bath, where there is convenient lodging' but noted that, while some other houses in the town took in lodgers 'on occasion', these were neither particularly convenient nor suitable for 'the Nobility and Gentry'. Later editions of Defoe's tour, such as that of 1748, omitted some of the less favourable references, and by the early 1770s there were several other inns near the bath.

5.5.4 Population

Some estimate of population during this period can usually be calculated using the returns to ecclesiastical enquiries. Many of the returns for Derbyshire survive, for example the enquiry of 1563 (Riden 1978) and the Compton census of 1676 (Cox 1885). Unfortunately, neither of these provides a separate figure for

Buxton. The former, however, does give a figure for Fairfield of 80 households. This is almost as high as the number of households recorded at Fairfield in the 1801 census, and Riden (1978) speculated that the figure could perhaps include Buxton also, although the two were in different parishes.

Rough population estimates can also be calculated from the Hearth Tax returns for 1662, 1664 and 1670, although these can provide no more than a very approximate figure, particularly since only the 1664 returns include non-chargeable hearths. Figures for Buxton show 17 entries in 1662, 13 in 1664 (with none recorded as exempt) and 19 entries in 1670. Assuming entries to be the equivalent of households, and using a multiplier of 4.5 to convert households into individuals, Buxton's permanent population in the third quarter of the 17th century may have been little more than 60 to 90 people, although this figure would have been increased by visitors to the baths. Figures for Fairfield, if correct, indicate a considerably larger settlement, with 43 entries in 1662, 40 chargeable entries in 1664 and 54 entries in 1670, almost three times those of Buxton (Edwards 1982).

5.5.5 Religion

Anglican

As noted above, the chapel was closed in 1538 but was soon functioning again, as indicated by a claim in c. 1558-69 from the vicar of Bakewell over access. In 1569 Shrewsbury purchased certain properties including the 'chappell' with a well called 'Buxtonewell' and the 'springe grounde and soil'. The chapel was recorded in around 1580 as being 'sometime dedicated to St Anne', perhaps indicating an attempt to dissociate the healing powers of the waters from what was seen as idolatry. At some point the old chapel was demolished and a new church built (the present St Anne's Church). The earliest references indicate it was dedicated to St John and it was in existence before 1625, despite its datestone (Leach 1987). There is a reference to a curate of Buxton in 1609 who was recorded as guilty of manslaughter and perjury at that time (Clark 1984). It was a chapel of ease, but was created a parish in 1659; however, it lost this status following the Restoration in 1660 (Leach 1987). A visitor two years later noted

'I think there's a true chapel of ease indeed here for they hardly ever go to church' (quoted in Clark 1984, 61).

Non-conformist

In 1725 the first non-conformist chapel in Buxton was built at the top of Hall Bank by a Presbyterian congregation, referred to at the time as the 'Protestant Dissenters' (Leach 1987).

5.5.6 Education

The grammar school at Buxton was founded in 1647 by George Spateman of Rodenoak and enlarged by Anthony Wooley of Riber in 1655. It was then refounded in 1674 with a sum of £300. This was used to purchase land which would provide a rent income for the schoolmaster's salary (Leach 1987).

5.5.7 Trade and industry

Agriculture

Agriculture continued to form the base of the economy at Buxton. Leach (1987) noted that it was possible through 'a large number of deeds' to trace individual farms and farmers, some of the farms still being identifiable within the town. Corn milling continued to be carried out at Buxton mill, while a second mill, Otterhole mill, was recorded at Burbage in 1617 and again in 1640.

General trade and retail

The lack of a market was noted by visitors in the 18th century, who commented on the high price of meat, fish and vegetables. The importance of the Buxton trade is illustrated by the number of licences granted to dealers (badgers, swailers or hucksters), permitting them to trade. Most Derbyshire villages and towns for which there is information relied on the services of only one or two badgers, but Buxton had the third greatest number in the county, having five licensed dealers in 1746 (Hey 1980). Buxton was said to be entirely dependent on itinerant higglers who ‘ransack the country for 40 miles around for such articles as will afford them the greatest profit’, with goods being brought in from Macclesfield, Stockport, Sheffield, Chesterfield and even Mansfield (Axon 1940b).

Lime manufacture

Lime was an important commodity from at least the early 17th century, and began to be produced commercially as demand grew. Leach (1987) suggests that quarrying at Grin, just to the south of Buxton, probably began in earnest in the early 18th century. A visitor of 1704 noted that the hill beneath which Poole’s Cavern lies ‘is call’d Buxton-Green which is covered with lime-kilns, and furnishes the hither parts of Cheshire with that commodity’ (quoted in Axon 1934a). Pilkington (1789) implied it was a seasonal activity, stating that a large quantity of lime was burnt every summer. There were about eight limekilns, each of which employed five hands.

Coal mining

Coal mining was definitely in operation just to the west of Buxton by the early 18th century and probably in the late 17th century, extracting coal initially from surface outcrops and bell pits, with later shafts extracting the coal from deeper levels (Leach 1987). Although the coal was of poor quality, it was worth exploiting due to the transport costs of bringing better quality coal overland to Buxton.

Other

Within the limestones a number of other mineral veins can be found which yield barytes, fluorspar and lead. Lead mining is recorded at Buxton in 1734 (Leach 1987).

5.6 The Spa Town, c. 1775-1900

5.6.1 Communications

Roads

Around 1800 there were an increasing number of diversions to existing turnpike roads, sometimes the result of the lengthening of older routes to give them a better gradient, thanks to improved techniques of construction which allowed roads to be cut into hillsides on terracing or to follow the banks of rivers in deep valleys. These improvements included sections of road leaving Buxton, while a new route between Buxton and Tideswell, via Blackwell, was made in 1810 (the section from Buxton to Blackwell, as part of the Ashford-Buxton turnpike road) and in 1812 (the Blackwell-Tideswell turnpike road).

Railways

The earliest railway to be constructed in the Buxton area was the Cromford and High Peak railway which opened in 1831, with a station at Ladmanlow. This formed a focus for goods traffic, permitting easier transport of lime from Grin, as well as bringing in new building materials, furnishings and general merchandise. A passenger service came into operation in 1833.

Although a section of the Manchester, Buxton, Matlock and Midland Junction Railway was opened in 1849, the extension of the line as far as Buxton did not take place immediately. It finally opened in 1863, at the same time as an LNWR line between Buxton and Whaley Bridge. In 1892 the LNWR opened a line

linking Buxton with the Cromford and High Peak Railway, following the construction of two viaducts and a tunnel.

Communications improved still further in 1899 with the opening of the Ashbourne (for London) railway line (Leach 1987).

5.6.2 *The settlement and its environs*

From the late 1770s the fifth Duke of Devonshire set about acquiring property and land in Buxton. This policy of acquisition was clearly in order to develop the town as a fashionable spa and to profit from the substantial income this would generate. It was evident that the shortage of quality accommodation was a major obstacle and it was therefore decided that the first building to be constructed would be a large new hotel. The new building was in the form of a crescent containing a hotel at the west end, the Duke's town house in the centre and lodging houses at the east end, where there was also an Assembly room. Shops stood at ground floor level. Building on the Crescent began in 1780 and was completed in 1788. The Great Stables were also constructed, with a colonnade where visitors could ride in wet weather and the slopes of St Ann's Cliff were landscaped and planted. The Duke is also thought to have built a new Poor Bath and possibly four other baths also, as well as spending further amounts on improving other property in the town (Leach 1987). According to Jewitt (1811, 24-25)

Every inn that could be purchased, he has since rebuilt; and is now giving Buxton a church worthy to be ranked amongst its other buildings'

Other early 19th century improvements to the town included, between 1803 and 1806, redesigning the baths, a rear ancillary complex for the Crescent, a new group of houses to the east of the Crescent known as the 'Square' and the creation of a new hotel in place of the Duke's town house in the Crescent. The sixth Duke of Devonshire continued the improvement of the town's facilities begun by his predecessor, including the acquisition of a charter for markets and fairs (see below), the provision of thermal baths in 1818 and their extensive rebuilding in 1852-53. He also gave half the Great Stables to a charity for the poor, so establishing the Devonshire Hospital. The seventh Duke of Devonshire gave 12 acres of land to be managed as a 'Winter Garden', so allowing the extension of the season, and in 1871 the Pavilion Gardens were opened to the public. In 1894 the Duke had a Pump Room built and presented to the town (Leach 1987).

A water supply was provided to the town by the sixth Duke of Devonshire in 1840, with water being piped to the market place from a reservoir on Manchester Road. Further reservoirs were built elsewhere in the second half of the century. A sewage works was provided in 1860 and further improved in 1885. By the end of the century Buxton was using more water per head of the population than anywhere else, due to the popularity of hydropathy, and also had a greater number of water closets per head than any comparable town in Britain. Gas began to be supplied to the town following the formation of The Buxton Gas, Coke and Coal Company in 1851 (Leach 1987). Other facilities included the provision of a market hall in 1857 although this burnt down in 1885. Two years later, work commenced on a Town Hall on the same site.

Entertainment was also particularly important for the success of the town. There was a theatre by the 1780s, although it moved to a number of different sites. There was no theatre building for some years in the mid 19th century, but companies acted in any large room. After 1871 there was a new purpose-built theatre in the Pavilion. Outdoor activities, in addition to the various landscaped walks, included tennis, curling and roller-skating, while kennels in the Pavilion Gardens kept hounds for hunting (Leach 1987).

5.6.3 *Population*

Pilkington (1789) records about 63 houses and 274 inhabitants in Fairfield and about 77 houses and 238 inhabitants in that part of Buxton that lay within Bakewell parish. However, he estimated that visitors to the 'medicinal waters' caused the population to more than double at certain times of the year.

The 10-yearly census, which commenced in 1801, provides the following figures for Buxton:

Year	Population
1801	760
1811	934
1821	1036
1831	1211
1841	1569
1851	1235
1861	1877
1871	2531
1881	4110
1891	4658
1901	6480

These show a dramatic increase in population, particularly over the course of the second half of the century.

5.6.4 Market and fairs

The 6th Duke of Devonshire obtained a market grant in 1813, although it may never have been particularly large or important. In addition, five cattle fairs could be held annually, on the Monday preceding February 3, on April 1, May 2, September 8 and October 28 (Leach 1987). The markets were still being held in the mid-19th century but were only small. During the season the farmers would supply visitors daily with butter, eggs, poultry and other provisions (White's Directory 1857).

5.6.5 Religion

Anglican

Due to limited space, Anglican church services were transferred to the Assembly Room following the construction of the latter in 1788. A new church was constructed and opened in 1812, taking its dedication, St John's, from the church it replaced. The old church was restored in 1841 and briefly brought back into use, with a new dedication to St Anne, although it soon went out of use again. By the 1860s it was clear that further church accommodation was required. Two schemes were proposed for different sites and, although one was chosen, both finally went ahead. As a result, the Church of St James was built in 1870-71 on Bath Street and the Church of Holy Trinity was built on Hardwick Mount in 1873, initially as a chapel of ease. In addition, the old church, St Anne's, was reopened again in 1885, this time more successfully (Leach 1987).

Roman Catholic

A Roman Catholic church was opened in 1861 and a school built behind it some time after 1885. The church was extensively enlarged in 1895 to include a sanctuary and two chapels (Leach 1987).

Non-conformist

Over the course of the late 18th and 19th centuries existing non-conformist congregations expanded and new ones were established. The Wesleyan Methodists opened their first chapel in 1797. However, they later required a more central site, with the result that a new building was opened in September 1849, followed by a Sunday School in 1851. In 1873 a second chapel was built in the newly expanding area of Devonshire Park. A Congregational chapel was built in 1810, while the Primitive Methodists were meeting in Buxton by around 1840, becoming fully established in the 1860s (Leach 1987).

5.6.6 Education

Buxton grammar school was placed in Chancery between 1791 and 1816, during which time its original premises probably became unusable. After 1817 it was held in several different locations until 1881 when it moved, as Buxton College, to its present site (just to the south of the assessment area). The first elementary education in Buxton was provided by Hardwick Square School, which opened in 1875. In addition to these, there were a number of private schools in the 19th century, as well as the schools associated with the various non-conformist chapels (Leach 1987).

5.6.7 Trade and industry

General trade and retail

The *Universal British Directory* of the 1790s stated that the principal trade at Buxton was the manufacture of cotton, but this is presumed to be a mistake. Forty firms are listed in the directory, engaged in 22 different trades, including the commonly found trades such as baker, blacksmith, grocer, saddler, shoemaker and tailor. However, there were also jewellers, perfumers, petrificationers, linen-drapers and a toyman. The petrificationers would cut, turn and polish Derbyshire fluorspar into items such as vases, columns, eggs, pears and pyramids to sell to visitors. It is clear that much of the retail business was seasonal, aimed at summer visitors to the baths, and that shops could be hired for the season only. This is clear from an advertisement of 1797 for such a shop which had been in use as 'a lady and gentleman's boot and shoe warehouse', next to a shop to which a milliner came for the season only. The advert suggested it was 'suitable for a silversmith, or any kind of genteel business' (Axon 1934a).

The retail trade expanded in three directions in the 19th century, thanks to the increasing numbers of visitors. The first direction was in the supplying of hotels and lodging houses, for example the provision of laundry services and stables. One of the stables had accommodation for 120 horses and for 60 carriages. Second were the trades which specifically supplied the visitors, in particular with the provision of souvenirs (see also below). Third was the provision of basic goods to the resident population. The market place was the traditional retail focus, with shops also along High Street and some on Church Street and West Road. Retail development in Lower Buxton began with the opening of shops in the Crescent (Leach 1987). However Axon (1940b) suggested since the shops were so rarely mentioned by visitors, they must have made little impression and were probably nowhere near the standards of those in London or Manchester.

Fluorspar and marble working

The working of fluorspar into items mainly for the souvenir business continued to be a local craft, with all the Buxton manufacturers. In the early 19th century there was a white marble quarry at Mill Dale and Lovers' Leap, although it appears that most Buxton artists preferred black marble from Ashford. Marble inlay became increasingly popular from around the middle of the century. Jewitt listed ten petrification shops in 1811, and by 1837 there was a Spar Museum nearly opposite the Crescent entrance. By 1846 there were 14 fancy spar and marble repositories and manufacturers, although most if not all of these would probably have had a second occupation, in addition to offering lodgings.

Coal mining and lime manufacture

The lime industry continued to expand in this period, thanks to the continuing availability of local coal. Considerable amounts were already being produced in the early 19th century and transported to Cheshire and Staffordshire (Leach 1987). Over 100 families were said to be working in the lime quarries at Grin, many of them living in 'rude habitations' dug or hollowed out of the huge mounds of limestone refuse, the only means of light being the doorway and chimney (Weir 1895). As noted above, both coal and lime were boosted by the arrival of the Cromford and High Peak Railway, branches of which ran to the colliery and into the quarries at Grin.

The local coal industry declined over the course of the century, however, as the railways enabled the cheaper transport of better quality coal, with Goyt colliery closing in 1893. The lime industry, on the other hand, continued to expand. With the arrival of main line railways in the 1860s, there was still further growth, with the opening of new quarries and the construction of new kilns (Leach 1987).

Other

As in the post-medieval period, there was continued mining of other minerals at this time also. At least five lead veins were worked in the area, while barytes, used in the paint and paper industries, were being mined in the 1840s (Leach 1987).

The construction of new housing in Buxton led to the establishment of several brick and tile works in the area. In addition, mineral water was produced at a number of places (Leach 1987).

5.7 20th century

Spa treatment was popular in the first couple of decades of the 20th century, and Buxton continued to flourish in this period. The Thermal Baths were rebuilt in 1900, and the Empire Hotel and the Opera House were constructed in 1903. Indeed Leach (1987) suggests Buxton was probably at its busiest in the Edwardian period, with a visit by the King himself in 1905. Spa treatment ceased in the late 1950s and 60s, however, by which time the Devonshires had sold off the entirety of their Buxton estate.

As the importance of the waters declined, so limestone quarrying experienced considerable expansion over the course of the 20th century, although increasing mechanisation and rationalisation led to job losses. A number of light industries became established, however, while tourism is increasingly important. The Opera House reopened in 1979, providing a venue for the successful Buxton Festival. The former Thermal Baths were restored for retail use in 1986 and a new shopping precinct was opened on the north side of Spring Gardens. This has been accompanied by considerable residential expansion, extending to encompass the previously separate villages of Burbage and Fairfield.

6. THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUXTON

The town has been divided into plan elements, or components, based on map evidence and documentary sources. These plan elements have been subdivided below according to the earliest date of their assumed occurrence, although these divisions are tentative only, and need to be confirmed by further work. Subsequent major changes are briefly summarised, together with the degree of survival of early features to the present day.

6.1 Medieval components

Seven components have been tentatively identified for the medieval period, as shown on figure 3. Their identification is based mainly on evidence from historic maps, in particular William Senior's map of 1631.

Component 1 *Probable site of medieval holy well and chapel, plus later buildings associated with the waters*

This component has been drawn to include not only the probable sites of the medieval holy well and chapel, the exact sites of which are not known, but also a range of features associated with the Roman baths (SMR 2837, SMR 2869), the various sites of the later St Ann's Well (SMR 2836), the Bingham Well, The Crescent (SMR 31116) and the Natural Baths (SMR 2870) as well as the pre-1781 Manchester Road and bridge across the Wye. The wells and baths are discussed in detail by Walker *et al* (1994) and by Leach (1999). Other elements in this area include the 16th century New Hall (now the Old Hall Hotel,

SMR 2875), built in 1572. As its name indicates, it replaced an earlier inn which became known as the Old Hall, later in use as a farm. Leach (1987, 57) shows it standing a little to the north-west of the New Hall, closer to the Wye. The New Hall was described in 1572 as:

‘a very goodly house, four square, four stories high, so well compact, with houses of office beneath and above, round about, with a great chambre, and other goodly lodgings, to the number of thirty’ (quoted in Thornes & Leach 1994).

By the mid 17th century it had become very dilapidated and was believed to have been rebuilt in 1670. However, in 1990 substantial remains of the earlier building of 1572 were discovered within it, indicating the 1670 works were more reparations than rebuilding. It received further additions in the 18th and 19th centuries. In addition to the hall there would have been lodging ranges for the retainers of important guests, stabling for horses and other service buildings (Thornes and Leach 1994). The Crescent itself was built in 1780 and is a Grade I listed building. The component also includes the Hot Baths, a flat-roofed building constructed at the eastern end of The Crescent in 1817 and later rebuilt, and the Old Courthouse to the rear of the Crescent. A number of stone heads of unknown date are said to have been built into the walls of the Old Courthouse (SMR 2897).

Component 2 *Development along the west side of High Street and the Market Place*

Senior’s map of 1631 shows settlement along the full length of this area and it is assumed that medieval settlement would have covered approximately the same area. Building plots appear to have been relatively short - there is no evidence for the long narrow plots often found in medieval villages and towns. The component includes St Anne’s Church (SMR 2879, SMR 31114) near the southern end. Although the church has a datestone of 1625, the building is believed to be older. Research has indicated that the date was not on the chapel until the 19th century. The original dedication was to St. John and its relatively small size indicates its status as a chapel-of-ease within Bakewell parish. It appears to have been disused in the late 18th century, due to its relatively small size. It lay empty until 1817, when it was used as a schoolroom until 1840 (Leach 1987). After 1871 it was used as a mortuary chapel and a Sunday School (Cox 1877), then restored to use as a church in 1885 when it was dedicated to St Anne (Axon 1941). It was extensively restored in 1956-7. The churchyard continued to be used on occasions after the church itself had gone out of use even though

‘it is a complete rock and requires considerable labour, and even blasting, to obtain a sufficient depth for the purpose’ (Orme c. 1820, 34).

Buxton grammar school is believed to have stood next to the church following its foundation in 1647. It was enlarged in 1655. It may have become unusable during a period of closure between 1791 and 1816 (Leach 1987).

Towards the centre of the component is a Methodist chapel. The Wesleyan Methodists sought a more central site in the mid-19th century and the present site was provided by the Duke of Devonshire, having previously been used for cock-fighting. Some materials from the old chapel were used in the construction of the new one. Tradition has it that timber from the old race course grandstand at Fairfield was also used. The new building was opened in September 1849; it now forms the nave of the present church, the chapel having been extended in 1880 with the addition of transepts and chancel. A Sunday School was erected in 1851 (now under the present south transept). The front gable was rebuilt in 1901, and the name and datestone of the 1849 chapel became part of a summerhouse in the manse garden (Leach 1985). The component also includes the Eagle, previously the Eagle and Child, known to have been an inn by 1592 (Leach 1987).

A carved sandstone head of unknown date and now in the possession of Buxton Museum was found in Torr Street which runs to the rear of the southern part of this component (SMR 31104).

Component 3 *Development along the east side of High Street and Scarsdale Place*

Senior's map shows several buildings along High Street and on the northern side of South Street. South Street appears to have been known as Back Lane for a time. House plots in this component do not appear to show any particular regularity of form.

At the end of the century the Wesleyan Methodists acquired land for their chapel, which opened in 1797. It stood just south of the Cheshire Cheese Inn on High Street and had a minister's house adjoining it to the north. In 1867 Buxton grammar school moved to a building newly constructed on the corner of the present Market and South Streets, where it remained until 1881.

A watching brief was undertaken in 1997 at the rear of the Sun Inn, High Street, Buxton during groundworks conducted in association with the refurbishment of the property. However, finds from the site generally dated to the 19th century, and included an inscribed millstone grit block of possible 18th or early 19th century date and another millstone grit block into which an iron ring was set. Two small cellars lay below the inn, the northernmost of which may have been the earliest structure on the site (Walker 1998). Further north, an evaluation took place in July 2002 at the south-western end of South Street, but nothing of archaeological interest is thought to have been recovered (D Barrett pers. comm.).

Component 4 *Development at the northern end of the market place*

Senior's map shows a row of four buildings on this approximate site in 1631, all apparently fronting the market place, and it has been assumed here that they had medieval origins. By the 1770s, buildings on the eastern side of the component faced Hall Bank and only a couple of buildings remained along the market place frontage. There was just a single small building in the mid-19th century, with what had been the area of the plots on Senior's map having been incorporated into the landscaped walks on The Slopes. The area was redeveloped in the second half of the 19th century and included a market hall, built in 1857. However this burnt down in 1885. Two years later, work commenced on a Town Hall on the same site, which opened in 1889 (Leach 1987).

In 1725 the first non-conformist chapel was built at the top of Hall Bank by a Presbyterian congregation, referred to at the time as the 'Protestant Dissenters'. Buxton Presbyterian chapel struggled financially so the trustees leased the manse in front of it as an inn, the King's Head (Leach 1987).

Component 5 *The market place*

This component has been drawn based on Senior's map of 1631 and on a map of 1775 in Chatsworth (Walker *et al* 1994). Both of these suggest that High Street opened out to an almost rectangular area which by 1631 had a building or row of buildings towards its south-eastern side and by 1775 had a number of buildings constructed at its north-eastern end. From their appearance on the plan, they may have originated as encroachments. Although now known as the market place, the earlier function of this area is not known, as Buxton has only officially had a market since 1813. It is quite possible, however, that the space was used for trading before a market charter was acquired. If so, the buildings now standing in this area may have resulted from the permanent construction of previously temporary stalls, as has often occurred on medieval market places elsewhere. It has been suggested that the Roman fort may lie in this area, although inspection of holes dug for services has not revealed anything of archaeological interest (David Barrett pers. comm.).

A cross shaft stands in the market place (SMR 2842). It was brought from elsewhere and was probably a wayside or sanctuary cross. According to Leach (1987) the cross has been moved several times.

Component 6 *Possible peripheral green*

High Street widens at its southern end, possibly forming a triangular green or area of waste at the limits of the village. Assuming this to be the case, at least some of the buildings in this area may have had their

origins as encroachments. Axon (1942) suggests that a building on Senior's map could represent a forerunner of the White Swan.

Component 7 *Buxton Mill*

There was a water corn mill at Buxton in the early 13th century, presumably on the site of a later mill shown on Senior's map of 1631, on Burdett's map of Derbyshire of 1791 and on the Fairfield Enclosure map, when it appears to have stood on a leat taken off the eastern side of the river. The mill was maliciously damaged in the 1490s, and was recorded as being without a roof in 1497, although since it was being let for 20 years at that time, presumably it was repaired. It is not known when it went out of use. The site is now at the bottom of Ashwood Park where, according to Leach (1987), there is still a noticeable drop in the river level.

6.2 Post-medieval components (c. 1500-1779)

Six components have been tentatively identified for the period 1500 to 1779, and are shown on figure 4. Their identification is based mainly on late 18th century maps.

Component 8 *The George Hotel*

The George was probably built in the early 1770s, perhaps following Parliamentary Enclosure of Fairfield in 1772, although a building could still have been in existence on the site at an earlier date. It stood fronting the old Manchester Road, just on the Fairfield side of the crossing point of the road over the Wye. The road was diverted in 1781; however, the George continued in existence.

Component 9 *Development along Spring Gardens*

Buxton Enclosure Map of 1774 shows a number of buildings in this area on either side of the road, some in rather irregular shaped enclosures. Part of this area was allotted at that time, and it is likely that at least some of the settlement in this area, particularly towards the eastern end, had its origins as encroachments. The north-westernmost building was the Grove, thought to have been built in the 1770s, while next to it was Angel, first recorded in 1773 (Leach 1987). (Axon 1942) suggested that a small building shown on Senior's map of 1631 standing in the valley a little distance from the well 'is a house, no doubt an inn, and probably the forerunner of the Angel', although in fact it is impossible to estimate where exactly the building stood. The Angel was demolished in 1849, to be replaced by Winster Place/the Royal Hotel. On the south side of the road stood the Shakespeare Inn, built in 1711 and the principal commercial hotel in the town. It was converted into shops in 1926 (Leach 1987). At the eastern end of the component, Buxton Independent Chapel was open in 1810 at the southern end of what became Holker Road. It had a number of uses following its closure, including a theatre and stables (Leach 1987). Spring Gardens itself had gradually developed after 1810 as the principal retail street, a function it still fulfils, having been pedestrianised.

Component 10 *Buildings at the north-eastern end of Terrace Road*

A couple of buildings are shown in this approximate area on the 1775 map of Buxton, at a time when Terrace Road was considerable broader at its southern end.

Component 11 *Buildings at the junction of Macclesfield Road and Wye Head Close*

A couple of small buildings are shown at this junction on the Hartington Enclosure Map of 1798 and may have had earlier origins as roadside encroachments.

Component 12 *Development along the southern side of West Road*

A number of buildings are shown scattered along the roadside on the Hartington Enclosure Map of 1798 and may have had earlier origins as roadside encroachments. One exception is a building standing well back from the road within a plot of land. This could be the same as a building shown on Senior's map of 1631 in this approximate area.

Axon (1934b) records the tradition that an old chapel once existed on the south side of West Road, 'behind the cottages'. The bronze lid of an incense burner had apparently been found on a site opposite the 'present' Buxton Creamery, and was taken to confirm that a chapel had existed in Higher Buxton long before St Ann's Church, which was considered to be early 17th century. It is not clear exactly where he means, but the find may have been made in this area.

Component 13 *Development along the north-eastern end of London Road*

Land in this area was allotted following Buxton Parliamentary Enclosure in 1774. A number of buildings are shown along the roadside on the Hartington Enclosure Map and it is possible therefore that settlement in this area had its origins as roadside encroachments. The frontage became increasingly occupied during the 19th century.

6.3 1780-1900 components

Thirty-eight components have been identified for this period, based mainly on a comparison of maps of the 1770s with the OS map of 1899.

Component 14 *Site of buildings*

Approximate site of buildings shown on Fairfield Tithe Map. They were no longer present by the end of the 19th century.

Component 15 *Development between St John's Road and Manchester Road*

This area was mostly fields in the mid-19th century, having been enclosed in 1772 following Fairfield Parliamentary Enclosure Act. Plans for the development of the area, as 'Buxton Park', were made by Joseph Paxton in the early 1850s, although they were not completed in their original form. A much revised development, which included the cricket ground, took place in the 1870s (Langham 2001). Late 19th century buildings were largely residential, set in relatively spacious gardens, and included the vicarage and a hotel. Further building took place in the 20th century, although a considerable number of the Victorian buildings survive, including several which are listed. A bronze 3rd century coin was found in Park Road in 1976 (SMR 2863).

Component 16 *St John's Church and graveyard*

St John's Church was built by John White in 1811-1812, with entrance doors at the east end on either side of the altar (Leach 1987). The graveyard was extended in the later 19th century but was disused by 1899.

Component 17 *Great Stables, later the Devonshire Hospital*

The building housing the Great Stables was built as an irregular octagon between 1780 and 1788 and contained an open circular area around which was a colonnade under which visitors could ride when the weather was wet. It provided accommodation for 120 horses. Part of the stables became a hospital in 1857. The building was later extended. In 1881 the then largest ever unsupported dome was put over the open internal courtyard. The clock-tower was added in 1882. Baths were built in the grounds to the south of the main hospital building in 1914, with mineral waters being piped from George Street (Leach 1987). The hospital is now a listed building.

Component 18 *Development on Water Street*

A building, currently The Old Clubhouse, was erected on an island of ground between St John's Church and The Pavilion towards the end of the 19th century.

Component 19 *The Quadrant and Cavendish Circus*

The Quadrant, a curving terrace of nine 3-storeyed buildings, was built after 1842 and before 1879. The Devonshire Hospital had its own baths in George Street after 1882, restricted to its patients, although they closed in 1914. However the buildings still stand, with 'Drinking Well AD 1882' over one entrance and 'St Ann's Well Water Pump Room' over the other. Further buildings were constructed to the north, now known as Cavendish Circus.

Component 20 *The Palace Hotel and grounds*

Possibly built as a speculative development, the building was auctioned in 1867 and opened as the Palace Hotel in 1868 providing luxury room and with basement accommodation for servants. It was used as an annexe to a military hospital in the First World War (Leach 1987).

Component 21 *Development to the east of Manchester Road and south of Corbar Road*

In 1842 there was only a single building in this area; however, by 1879 a number of villas had been erected in relatively large gardens as part of the fashionable development in this area. A Methodist chapel was built on the corner of Devonshire and Marlborough Roads in 1873. It was demolished in c. 1969/70 (Leach 1985). At the southern end of this area what was thought at the time to be a Roman bath was found in 1883 (SMR 2835). The component lies within the Park conservation area and much of its Victorian housing survives.

Components 22 & 23 *Development to the north-east of Manchester Road and north of Corbar Road*

A number of relatively large buildings and gardens had been constructed in component 22 by 1879. It includes Corbar Hill House which began as a home for the treatment of alcohol abuse, became a hydropathic establishment and was then sold in 1931 for nurses' accommodation (Leach 1987). It currently appears to be unused and boarded up. Further east along Corbar Road, a row of smaller villas were constructed on narrow regular plots in the later 19th century (component 23). These still stand but are outside the conservation area.

Component 24 *Wye House and grounds*

Wye House was a private asylum by 1879. Buxton Curling Club, founded in 1895, formed their first pond in the grounds. The building was given to the Cavendish School in 1912, receiving grammar school status in 1945. The house has since been demolished and the whole area of the grounds has been developed for housing.

Components 25 & 26 *Development to the north of the railway station*

These areas had been developed by 1879, and included livery stables in component 25 and a terrace in component 26. Both survive, with the stables having been converted for use by Buxton Press.

Component 27 *Railways*

Component 27a, the L & NW Station and the Midland Station with goods sheds and engine sheds. There were originally two almost identical stations at Buxton with overall roofs, positioned either side of a common forecourt. The MR station was opened 1 June 1863 and closed in 1967; the LNWR station was opened 15 June 1864. The booking office block of the former LNWR station survives, as does the end

wall of the train shed with its giant fan window (SMR 2885). However, only a fragment of end wall survives of the MR station.

Component 27b, the Midland Railway Buxton Branch opened in 1863, connecting the town with Matlock and a few years later with Manchester.

Component 27c, the L& NW Buxton and High Peak Railway, built in 1892, to link Buxton with the Cromford and High Peak Railway. The component includes Higher Buxton station, sidings and goods shed, as well as the Hogshaw Lane Viaduct (SMR 2890), a listed structure. A Roman milestone was found in this area in 1856, before the development of the railway (SMR 2841) and Roman pottery was found during its construction (SMR 2838).

Components 28 & 29 *Serpentine Walks, Buxton Gardens and Pavilion* (SMR 31107)

Walks were already being laid out at the end of the 17th century for visitors. Serpentine Walks were at least partly formed and landscaped by 1840, when it was noted that the stream had been

‘... deepened in places to give a greater expanse of water and banked up in others to form cascades ... seats, alcoves or rustic summer houses are made ... The whole is admirably laid out and enriched with shrubs and luxuriant plantations’ (quoted in Leach 1987, 132).

The gardens and walks were extended in the 1870s. By 1879 Buxton Gardens included a roller skating rink at their north-western corner, the site of the present swimming baths. By the end of the century the Gardens included tennis courts and a bowling green. Flint flakes were found in 1929 during excavations in the Gardens (SMR 2802). Recent work has been carried out in the gardens, but nothing of archaeological importance was found (David Barrett pers. comm.).

The Pavilion was built of glass and iron to accommodate a ‘Winter Garden’ and was opened in 1871. It was later extended and a large octagonal concert hall opened in 1876 followed by a tea kiosk in 1877 and further extensions in 1880. A theatre was opened in 1889 adjoining the Pavilion and fronting St John’s Road. A new and larger theatre, called the Opera House, was opened in 1901. These buildings underwent various refurbishments and changes of use. In 1983 part of the Pavilion burnt down. It was rebuilt and reopened in March 1985 (Leach 1987).

Component 30 *Development to the south of the Serpentine Walks*

The two westernmost buildings had been constructed by 1879, the easternmost, a nursery, by 1899.

Component 31 & 32 *Development to the east of Burlington Road*

A number of buildings had been constructed along the east side of Burlington Road and the east side of its junction with St John’s Road and Macclesfield Road by the end of the 19th century. At the south-eastern corner of component 32 a Tonic Bath was built in c. 1788, following the discovery of new springs which issued at 17.7 degrees centigrade. The bath was 30ft by 12ft and had been divided by 1797 into two, for males and females. The water was further heated by means of flues. It must have closed for a time, as it was reopened in c. 1842. It is shown as ‘Tonic Bath’ on the 1879 OS map and as ‘Swimming Bath’ on the 1899 edition. The building is now Grade II listed. Also within this component is Lismore Road near the eastern end of which traces of a supposed Roman road were found in c. 1892 (SMR 2851) and the foundations of a possible Roman building were discovered near the vicarage (SMR 2852).

Component 33 *Development to the east of Broad Walk*

Land to the east of Buxton Gardens had been almost fully developed by 1879, with a series of particularly fine Victorian villas along Broad Walk and others along parallel streets behind it. On Hartington Street the Malvern House Hydropathic and Homeopathic Establishment opened in 1879. Other buildings included a

Unitarian chapel on Hartington Street, built for the Presbyterians in 1875 and St James's Church, built on Bath Street in 1870-71. The latter's tower and spire became unsafe and were removed in 1896. Following declining congregations, the church was closed and was demolished in the 1950s. The site is now occupied by a health clinic (Leach 1987).

Component 34 *Development to the south of Macclesfield Road and London Road*

This area is bisected by Green Lane (previously Leek Road), an early route leading to Burbage. Development along the southern side of West Street and London Road was already underway by the 1840s, probably having largely replaced earlier encroachments (component 12). College, Spencer and Compton Roads had been laid out by the end of the century and development was beginning along Robertson Road. The Primitive Methodists opened a chapel on London Road in 1869. A minister's residence and a Sunday School were also built. However, the chapel was not sound and in 1890 a new chapel was built, using some of the materials from the old chapel (Leach 1985). Immediately to the west of the chapel was a tollhouse and weighing machine, the tollhouse having a projecting polygonal bay (photograph in Leach 1987, 114). Much of the late Victorian housing in this area appears to have survived. An undated bell-shaped piece of enamelled bronze was found 1.1m down in footings for houses on Leek Road in 1894, presumably in this area (SMR 2831). Axon (1934b) records the tradition that an old chapel once existed on the south side of West Road, 'behind the cottages'. The bronze lid of an incense burner had apparently been found on a site opposite the 'present' Buxton Creamery, and was taken to confirm that a chapel had existed in Higher Buxton long before St Ann's Church, which was considered to be early 17th century. It is not clear exactly where he means, but the find may have been made in this area.

Component 35 *The Slopes* (SMR 31108)

In 1787 a mount surrounded by a ditch and thought at the time to be a burial mound, was excavated by Hayman Rooke on what was then St Ann's Cliff. Excavations uncovered a structure which has been interpreted as a possible Roman temple (SMR 2833, 2873). The present Slopes have their origin in the landscaping of St Ann's Cliff in the late 18th century. The ground was described in 1795 as

'a fine rising ground, laid down with grass and planted with trees, round which are led agreeable walks' (quoted in Leach 1987).

Three obelisks stood at the bottom by the Crescent. The Slopes were re-landscaped in c. 1818 and enclosed by a wall with gates at top and bottom. At that time the landscaping extended further south than the present area. The walls were removed in c. 1851-56 (Leach 1987). The gardens were modified in 1894 when the pump house was built at the bottom. The layout is formal, with intersecting paths and linking flights of steps flanked by large urns brought from Lord Burlington's Yorkshire estate of Landseborough. A war memorial was later erected.

Component 36 *Site of brickworks*

Between 1849 and 1851 a brickyard was established behind Spring Gardens to supply bricks for Winstler Place and the original gas works (Leach 1987). It had gone out of use by 1879.

Component 37 *Development to the west of Bridge Street*

Buxton Gas, Coke and Coal Company, formed in 1851, built their first gas works in this area. By 1879 buildings included coal sheds, retort house and two gasometers. Gas production had moved elsewhere by the end of the century, by which time there was a laundry on the Bridge Street site. The component is now part of a road junction.

Components 38 & 39 *Development to the east of Bridge Street and along Spring Gardens and Fairfield Road*

Development in component 38 in 1879 included a large livery stables and the Railway Hotel with bowling green to the rear. Many of the 19th century buildings appear to survive, including the stables, albeit converted to other uses. Wye Bridge House originally stood in component 39, which later opened as the Midland Hotel in the 1870s, also with a bowling green to the rear. The hotel was purchased by the Buxton Corporation in 1921 when it began to develop Ashwood Park (Leach 1987).

Component 40 *Sylvan Gardens, cliff and nearby buildings*

Sylvan Gardens was a late 19th century public recreation ground, including bandstand, with the river running along its northern side, between it and the road. A couple of buildings had been constructed near its western end by the end of the century. The river has since been culverted and the area of the gardens is now used as a carpark. Along its southern side is a cliff, shown on the 1879 map as containing several old quarries. It has been suggested that a Roman road crossed this area and ran up the steep hillside to Silverlands, along the line of a track still visible today. Excavation at the top of the track found no evidence of such early origins, however (Barnatt 1987).

Component 41 *Development west of Terrace Road and north of Hardwick Square South*

Development in this area was underway by the late 1870s, mainly along Terrace Road, Hardwick Street and Hardwick Terrace. Further roads and buildings were constructed by the end of the century. Buildings included Hardwick Square School, the first elementary school in the town, opened in 1875 and severely damaged by fire in 1930. A Congregational Church was opened in this area in 1861, with a Sunday School to the rear. It was demolished in 1983 and flats then built on the site. St Ann's Roman Catholic Chapel was also opened in 1861. A school was later built behind the church and extended some time after 1900. The church was extensively enlarged in 1895. The Chapel of Holy Trinity was opened in 1873, initially as a chapel of ease. It was enlarged in 1882 and 1894 (Leach 1987). A recent watching brief during the installation of a pipeline along three sides of Hardwick Square failed to record any features of archaeological interest (Caldwell & Garton 1998).

Component 42 *Development along Silverlands*

Houses were built along Silverlands and Clifton Road after 1879 and before 1899.

Component 43 *Football ground, Silverlands*

Buxton Football Club have played at Silverlands since 1895 (Leach 1987). It has been suggested that a Roman fort may have stood in this area. There is currently no evidence for such a fort, although a couple of Roman artefacts are said to have been found in the allotments to the east of the football ground (Barnatt 1987).

Component 44 *Mill Cliff, Silverlands*

Two rows of terraced housing were built here after 1879 and before 1899. They still stand.

Component 45 *Development between Hardwick Square South and South Street*

Development in this area postdates 1879. Some of the late 19th century housing still stands, although there has also been some redevelopment.

Component 46 *Development between South Street and Byron Street*

Development in this area was underway by the 1870s, when it included a cattle market and a timber yard, the latter later expanding into more extensive saw mills. A small quarry shown on the 1879 OS map was later built over. A circular pinfold stood at the north-eastern corner of this component in 1879 but had

gone by 1899, probably owing to the construction of the L & NW railway. Much of the housing in this area was originally for the Victorian working class, consisting of rows of relatively small terraced houses, their lines to some extent reflecting the boundaries of earlier strip fields. An Anglian chapel was built on Dale Road in 1897 to serve the new area, but was replaced by St Mary's Church in 1917. Much of the terraced housing survives.

Archaeological finds in this area include a site on Darwin Avenue, where an area of cobbling was sealed by a layer containing Roman pottery (SMR 31101). Roman pottery and other material, including coins, has been found further south in Bennett Street and the surrounding area (SMR 2839) while a 'large hump and dip' reported in the front wall of a garden on the north side of Byron Street was thought to represent the line of a Roman road entering the town from the south (SMR 2866) and which could run across this component. However, a recent watching brief during the installation of a pipeline along the length of Darwin Avenue failed to record any features of archaeological interest (Caldwell & Garton 1998).

Component 47 *Limekiln, quarry*

An old limekiln and quarry are shown at this approximate location on the 1879 OS map. They are not shown in 1899, possibly destroyed by the construction of Dale Road.

Component 48 *Development on the east side of the town*

Buildings are shown on these sites on the 1899 OS map. Those on Dale road survive, those by the river do not.

Component 49 *Recreation ground*

The recreation ground was established after 1879 but before 1899 and is still in use.

Component 50 *Court Heath*

This large house stood in extensive wooded grounds, with outbuildings and with a lodge on London road. Part of the grounds was developed for housing in the 20th century.

Component 51 *Development along the south-east side of London Road*

Development in the northern half of this area was underway by the 1840s. Buildings include Heath House, at the rear of which traces of a Roman road were said to have been revealed in the late 19th or early 20th century (SMR 2854). Further south by the end of the 19th century was Haddon Grove Hydro, a hotel and bathing establishment. The building later became a training centre for the Electricity Board (Leach 1987).

6.4 20th century development

Twentieth century development is represented by a single un-numbered component. These areas may still contain archaeological remains and the SMR should be consulted regarding any finds which may have been made in the past.

6.5 Discussion

Mesolithic, Neolithic and later prehistoric material has been recovered from a wide variety of locations within the modern town of Buxton and around its outskirts, including the important site of Lismore Fields on the west side of the town. This, as noted in section 5.1, provides evidence of Mesolithic activity and possible settlement, followed by more extensive signs of Neolithic settlement, but is at some distance from the later core of the town. Although there is currently no evidence of prehistoric settlement on the site that developed into the later village of Buxton, its Roman name of *Aquae Arnemetiae* has been taken to suggest

that there was a pre-Roman religious cult centred on the natural hot and cold springs and dedicated to the Celtic goddess Arnemetia.

In the Roman period it seems that a spa town developed around the springs, possibly with a classical temple overlooking a set of Roman baths, very similar to the situation at Bath although smaller in scale (Walker *et al* 1994). Finds of the period range from the 1st to the 4th centuries and have come from a number of sites in the modern town, although tending to be concentrated either around the sites of the baths and temple (The Crescent and Slopes respectively) or from the area of Holker Road and the Silverlands plateau to the east and south-east. Features such as the apparent convergence of Roman roads on the town, the finding of a milestone recording the distance to Navio (Brough-on-Noe) and 1st century pottery led to early suggestions that there was a fort at Buxton, particularly since there is very little evidence, and none of it certain, for civilian settlement in the region in the late 1st century AD (Branigan & Bayley 1989). There has consequently been considerable speculation as to the location of such a fort within the modern town. Watkin (1885) stated that it was 'generally supposed to have been on the "Stane Cliffe"', presumably meaning at the top of The Slopes, while Tristram (1916) suggested it lay to the south-west of the market place, bisected by Bath Street. The site which received the most support from the 1940s to the 1980s was the eastern part of the Silverlands area, where the plateau with its wide-ranging views would have been suitably defensible. However, work in this area in the 1990s found little in the way of Roman material and certainly no evidence of structures or defences. The earlier finds of Roman material from Silverlands (in the Holker Road area, the railway line, Bennett Street and Darwin Road) are all in approximate alignment and Caldwell & Garton (1998) have suggested that this may represent ribbon development along a road. If indeed there was a fort at Silverlands, therefore, it should lie to the west of the railway line. It has been noted that the shape and size of the market place are, in the broadest possible terms, similar to that of some Roman military sites (Walker 1998) and this area is therefore also offers a possible location for the fort, assuming it exists at all.

Roman period evidence from the White Peak, such as it is, suggests that there was considerable colonisation of the area in the 2nd century, with a number of new settlements being established. At this time there is evidence of the usage of Poole's Cavern for metalworking, possibly on a seasonal basis, with the suggestion that the metalworkers 'found a ready market for their trinkets' at the nearby spa, and that this proximity could also account for the richness of the assemblages found in the cave (Branigan & Bayley 1989). Buxton may also have owed some of its wealth in this period to a role as a local market in the Peak, although there are indications that the economy of the region may then have suffered a reverse in the 3rd century (Bramwell *et al* 1983). However, a votive deposit at the springs of 232 Roman coins, three bronze bracelets and a wire clasp ranging in date from the 1st century AD to about AD 400, suggests that offerings continued throughout the Roman period although the fortunes of the settlement itself are unknown at present.

For the post-Roman period, Hart (1981) has suggested that barrow evidence shows the continued importance of the road from Little Chester to Buxton and that the construction of the Grey Ditch to the north-east shows that the builders regarded the Roman road from Brough to Buxton 'as a vital route into the Peak'. The implications of this could be that Buxton itself continued to function in some way although there is currently no evidence for its use as a spa or cult centre. Morris (1989) suggests that dedications of well chapels to St Anne are relatively late (12th century onwards) and could indicate that those particular wells were not centres of heathen water cults of major significance. Similarly, there is little evidence for the medieval use of Buxton waters, but indications are that they had a religious value rather than a medicinal one. Unequivocal evidence finally comes in the mid-15th century, when Buxton was clearly being visited as a spa and when the 'Holywell' was said to be the site of miraculous cures. By that time, therefore, in addition to the village with its rural economy based at least in part upon extensive pasturage and in part upon open field agriculture, there must have been a chapel associated with the holy well and some sort of accommodation for pilgrims or visitors.

Nothing of the layout of medieval Buxton is known, however, and has to be based on extrapolation from the earliest map, that produced by William Senior in 1631, and on later historic maps. Roads from the south-east and south-west funnelled into the settlement to form the later High Street, which narrowed

considerably before opening out into a large, almost rectangular space (Market Place). A lane curved away from its southern end (South Street) while at its northern end two routes led down to the springs and the holy well, one on either side of the cliff that later became The Slopes. Late 18th century maps suggest that Hall Bank was narrow, whereas Terrace Road was relatively broad in places, only becoming a uniform width at a later date. A relatively regular row of settlement lay along the western side of the main road (component 2), with rather more haphazard development on the eastern side. Here, some buildings were aligned on High Street, others on the curve of South Street (component 3), while yet others may have had their origins as encroachments (component 5). A short regular row of buildings stood along the northern side of the open space at the top of the slope (component 4).

The fame of Buxton's waters was spreading from the mid-16th century, having been referred to by John Heywood, playwright, in 1569. In 1572 Dr John Jones wrote about the benefits of the waters, *The Benefit of the auncient Bathes of Buckstones, which cureth most greevous Sickneses, never before published*. Various books and poems published in the 17th century added to Buxton's fame, including Hobbes's *De Mirabilibus Pecci*. (Axon 1934a). Using the War Office returns of 1686, which recorded the country's available guest beds and spare stabling facilities, Hey (1980) noted that Buxton could be included in the second highest tier, smaller than the five largest places, but still clearly distinguishable from smaller market centres and stopping places. Whether the settled area expanded very much during this period is uncertain, however, and such expansion as did take place probably did so within the bounds of the medieval village in Higher Buxton, settlement in the valley probably still being confined to the Old and New Halls and their outbuildings.

This situation began to change in the early 18th century, with the building of the Shakespeare Hotel in 1711. Between 1724 and 1765 a number of roads running through Buxton were turnpiked and this too stimulated growth, confirming Buxton as the natural focus of the western part of the Peak. By the mid-1770s, further development had taken place along the present Spring Gardens (component 9). Nevertheless, the main business and residential area was still on the higher ground. By the mid to later 18th century this also included some expansion along the roads leading into Buxton from the south-west and the south-east, possibly originating as roadside squatter settlement (components 12 and 13).

The focus changed with the construction of the Crescent and associated buildings by the 5th Duke of Devonshire in the late 18th century. This required the diversion of the road to Manchester to pass in front of The Crescent. In addition, the opening of the Ashford to Buxton turnpike in 1810 resulted in the development of Spring Gardens as the fashionable retail focus. Growth continued steadily during the first half of the 19th century. However, real expansion began with the arrival of the railways in 1863. These brought increasing numbers of middle class tourists and even the better-off working classes from places such as Manchester, and also allowed wealthy industrialists from Manchester and Stockport to live in Buxton and commute to work (Leach 1987). New housing on the eastern and north-eastern sides of the town in particular consisted of large Victorian villas for the wealthy, as well as large terraced houses where the occupiers could supplement their income by taking in visitors. Many of these were erected in the 1870s in what became the fashionable Devonshire Park area, first planned by Joseph Paxton in 1850 (component 15) as well as along Broad Walk overlooking Buxton Gardens (component 32). Smaller terraced housing for the working classes was in and around Dale Road (component 45).

Some speculative development took place in the inter-war years, accompanied by the construction of council houses at Cote Heath to the south of the town. The second half of the 20th century then saw the conversion of many of Buxton's villa houses into flats together with considerable expansion through private development (Leach 1987).

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ISSUES

7.1 Research questions

The nature and extent of the Roman period settlement at Buxton is at present unknown. Questions which needs clarification include the following:

- continuity/fluctuations of use of the springs and baths from pre- to post-Roman;
- the routes of the Roman roads leading into and through the town;
- the character of the settlement - certainly civilian in association with the baths, but military also?
- the survival of possible features associated with the possible temple excavated by Rooke on the Slopes;
- consumption of the 'trinkets' apparently being made in Poole's cavern – organisation of craft production;
- the location of Roman period cemeteries;
- the vexed question of the location or even the existence of a fort;
- the presence of defences around the spa town;
- the relationship of the Romano-British settlement at Staden with that at Buxton;
- whether or not Buxton shared the economic fortunes of the surrounding villages (ie a reverse in the 3rd century, as per Hart 1981, 94).

Although Burbage was excluded from the assessment area, identification of the 'burh' or fortified place to which its place name refers could be relevant to an understanding of the origins of Buxton.

Nothing whatsoever is currently known about Buxton in the post-Roman period, from the 5th century to the first surviving written reference at the beginning of the 12th century, although the continued use of Roman roads and Buxton's position at a junction of those roads, suggests settlement is likely to have continued on the site.

Similarly, very little is known about the medieval settlement beyond the existence by the mid-15th century of a holy well. For example, how much growth did it experience, what were its maximum limits and to what extent, if at all, was it affected by the population crises of the 14th and early 15th centuries? When was the chapel constructed and where exactly was it and the holy well located? To what extent were the waters a focus of activity in and before the 15th century? How is the plan form of the settlement to be explained? Did Buxton serve an important function as a local market in the medieval period, despite having no charter?

It is difficult at present to assess the degree to which Higher Buxton was affected by the popularity of the waters among the Tudor gentry in the later 16th century. Did the building of the New Hall in the valley generate any growth in Higher Buxton? Was there greater prosperity within the town generally or did only a few profit? At what point was the old chapel demolished and a new one built?

To what extent was Buxton affected by the population stagnation or decline experienced in many other places in the second half of the 17th century?

Assuming the identification of encroachments along the southern approaches to Higher Buxton to be correct, at what point did these commence?

7.2 Archaeological potential

7.2.1 Existing protection

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Certain nationally important archaeological sites and monuments enjoy special protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. This protection ensures that the case for preservation is fully considered should there be any proposals for development or other work which might damage the monument. Any such proposals are subject to Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, administered directly by the Secretary of State. They include not only demolition, damage or removal, but also restorative works. There would normally be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of the monument.

The only Scheduled Monument within the assessment area is Lismore Fields (SAM 278), as shown on figure 7.

Conservation areas

The *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* 1990 required all Local Planning Authorities to determine which parts of their areas were of special architectural or historic interest and to designate them as conservation areas, in order to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area. It is also their duty to review them from time to time, and to determine whether any further parts of their areas should also be designated as conservation areas.

Four conservation areas, or parts of them, are in the area under consideration in this assessment, as shown on figure 7. Buxton Central was the first to be designated, in 1968. This was followed by The Park in 1983, and then in 1989 by Buxton College and Buxton Hardwick.

Listed buildings

A listed building is one recognised by the government as being of special architectural or historic interest, as specified by the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* 1990. Listing is made at three levels of importance, Grade II, Grade II* and the most important, Grade I, and listed building consent is required, in addition to normal planning consent, before any alterations, extensions or demolitions can be made to a listed structure which might affect its character.

There are 77 listed buildings in the area under consideration in this assessment. Of these, The Crescent is Grade I. There are seven Grade II* buildings, namely The Devonshire Royal Hospital, the Old Hall Hotel, the churches of St Anne and of St John the Baptist, the Opera House, nos. 1-6 The Square and the stone urns, walls and steps on the slopes opposite The Crescent. The remainder are Grade II, and all can be broken down according to their earliest structural phase as follows:

Earliest structural phase	C16 or earlier	C17	C18	C19	C20
Number of structures	2	1	17	51	6

Planning Policy Guidance 15 allows the creation and maintenance of a list of buildings of local historic/architectural interest, although this does not confer a statutory obligation. There is currently no local list for Buxton.

7.2.2 Above ground remains

The street layout is often the most durable part of a settlement plan and to some extent this is true of Higher Buxton, where the main elements of the town's historic street pattern, as seen on Senior's map of 1631, are still visible today, albeit somewhat submerged by the surrounding network of roads. However, there has been an important change of focus, resulting in a shift of commercial activity away from Higher to Lower Buxton.

A regular pattern of tofts and crofts was never one which could be seen in Buxton. However, the discontinuities of plot alignment on the west side of High Street and Market Place compared with the more regular alignment along the east side, as seen on late 18th and early 19th century maps, is still apparent. Beyond the core of the town, the pattern of slightly sinuous field boundaries, enclosed from the open fields, can still occasionally be detected fossilised in the line of the streets and back gardens of late 19th century and early 20th century development, for example Bennett Street and Heath Park Road.

The town as we see it today is essentially that created as a spa by succeeding Dukes of Devonshire from c. 1780 onwards. A number of important buildings survive from that initial period, in particular The Crescent

and the Great Stables (later the Devonshire Hospital), as well as from the continued development of the town throughout the 19th century. These include the Pavilion, several hotels, churches and chapels and the railway viaduct which crosses the Wye valley. In addition, there are important landscaped areas such as The Slopes and Buxton Gardens. Many lesser buildings survive also; for example several of the 19th century stables survive and have been taken over by light industry (Leach 1987). More recent rebuilding may not necessarily have destroyed all traces of earlier structures; for example, in the case of the Natural Baths, said to have been rebuilt in 1923-4 (Leach 1987), a study has shown that structural elements survive from nearly all of the major building phases which occurred over a period of some 250 years (Walker *et al* 1994).

Relatively few buildings earlier than the 18th century appear to survive. However, there may be some potential for finding evidence of earlier buildings hidden behind later facades. The most obvious illustration of this was the finding in 1990 within the present Old Hall Hotel of the substantial remains of the 'New Hall' of 1572, thought to have been demolished in 1670 (Thornes and Leach 1994). Listed building records hint at other possible cases also, when they describe buildings as being of a particular century 'or earlier'.

Another striking feature of Buxton's above ground remains is the marked contrast in residential areas, most noticeable when comparing the area on the north-western side of the town, The Park and surrounding roads, designed and developed as a fashionable residential area, with the area on the south-eastern side, where streets were laid out lined with terraced housing for the working classes.

7.2.3 Below ground remains

Archaeological remains relating to Roman Buxton have been recorded since at least the late 17th century and illustrate the potential for their survival, although recent work hoping to find further evidence has had mixed success. Some work has examined the possibility that a Roman fort was located in the Silverlands area. A geophysical survey carried out by Bradford University in 1979 indicated the presence of a large linear anomaly. In 1984, seven small trenches were excavated, one to examine the magnetic anomaly, the remainder to search for evidence of Roman period occupation. However, the anomaly was shown to be a natural fissure and the only artefacts of any antiquity found were a few pieces of flint and a single Romano-British rim-shoulder (Barnatt 1987). In summer 1993 aerial photographs of the area around Silverlands school appeared to show a linear shadow mark and some possible rectangular features. Consequently in late 1993 a number of evaluation trenches were opened. Again, the anomalies proved to be geological, and the only early finds were a couple of pieces of flint. Such features as were encountered were interpreted as the remains of a navy camp established during the construction of the nearby railway (Abbott 1994a). Work carried out to the west of Buxton, in an area thought likely to provide evidence of a Roman road, in fact uncovered extremely important prehistoric remains and the area is now scheduled.

The area around the Buxton Market Place has been suggested as a possible location for the fort and may be of considerable archaeological potential, since it appears to have remained relatively undeveloped, although activities such as road surfacing and the insertion of services are likely to have caused damage to archaeological deposits. Assuming that the 19th century market place was a focus for earlier commercial activity also, it would have been one of the more intensively occupied parts of the town. Plots in this area could contain sequences of commercial buildings along the market frontage, with outhouses, workshops and rubbish pits to the rear. These in turn may overlie Roman remains. Little or no archaeological work has been carried out in the market place. However, a watching brief undertaken in 1997 on a site further south, at the rear of the Sun Inn, High Street, found no evidence for Roman activity, finds generally dating to the 19th century. Two small cellars were encountered under the building, the northernmost of which may have been the earliest structure on the site (Walker 1998). The incidence of cellars at Buxton generally is not known, but the likelihood of their existence probably increases as the ground rises away from the river valley.

The area of the baths and the Slopes is one which may offer considerable archaeological potential. A recent detailed consideration of the baths concluded that, despite a long history of development and the

presence of cellars and soughs, not only might some medieval and later remains survive, particularly water management systems, but Roman remains might also still exist. As the baths and Crescent lie within a basin filled with black clays and silts, some of the remains could be waterlogged, in which case organic remains, of at least Roman date, may have survived. Preserved materials could include timber and important palaeo-environmental evidence (Walker *et al* 1994).

As far as the Slopes are concerned, if it is accepted that what Rooke excavated was the remains of a classical temple, there is the potential for survival of other features associated with it, such as a surrounding precinct. (Walker *et al* 1994) noted the presence of small linear earthworks in the south-west corner of the Slopes which may represent traces of such features.

Elsewhere, the back gardens of houses in the area to the west of the railway may offer the some potential for the recovery of further evidence of Roman occupation, as was the case in Darwin Avenue.

St Anne's and St John's cemeteries contain important archaeological evidence of Buxton's post-medieval and 19th century populations respectively. Some early non-conformist chapels have their own small burial grounds; however, no reference has been found to this being the case at Buxton. Skeletal material may nevertheless be found in unexpected places, particularly since the location of any Roman cemetery or cemeteries accompanying the settlement of *Aquae Arnemetiae* is not known, beyond the early burials in Poole's Cavern.

Although there has been some landscaping of the area around the water mill as part of the development of Ashwood Park, it is possible that archaeological deposits relating to the mill and associated features such as leats may potentially survive.

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