

**54A ALDERMANS DRIVE,  
WEST TOWN,  
PETERBOROUGH,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**NGR REF: TL 18213 98929**



***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION***  
**(OASIS ID: independ1-282266)**

**APRIL 2017**

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## **CONTENTS**

- Summary**
- 1 Introduction**
- 2 Project Background**
- 3 Archaeological Background**
- 4 Aims**
- 5 Methodology**
- 6 Recording**
- 7 Results**
- 8 Discussion**
- 9 Archive**
- 10 Bibliography**

### **Appendices:**

#### **Context Descriptions**

## Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants at 54A Aldermans Drive, West Town, Peterborough. One evaluation trench was opened up in the garden next to the existing property, but nothing of archaeological interest was being found.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site was located at 54A Aldermans Drive, West Town, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 18213 98929) (Figure 1-3). One evaluation trench was opened up within the proposed development area. The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), as well as discussions with Rebecca Casa Hatton, Archaeological Officer at Peterborough City Council. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).
- 1.2 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the *Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011). All relevant CIfA Codes of Practice will be adhered to throughout the course of the project.

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (13/005333/FUL) for a new development at 54A Aldermans Drive, West Town, Peterborough. The development comprised the construction of a new dwelling with associated parking and access area.
- 2.2 The proposed development site was located about 1 mile west of central Peterborough and enclosed an area of some 150m<sup>2</sup> at an average height of 15m AOD. The geology of the site comprised Alluvium of clay, silt and sand over Cornbrash Formations- Limestone (British Geological Survey).
- 2.3 The site was located within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Peterborough HER. Therefore, an archaeological evaluation was required prior to any construction within the area. This condition was in line with standards described in *NPPF* (2012). The NPPF stresses the importance of recording heritage assets whose significance will be affected by new developments.



Figure 1. The location of Peterborough in England.

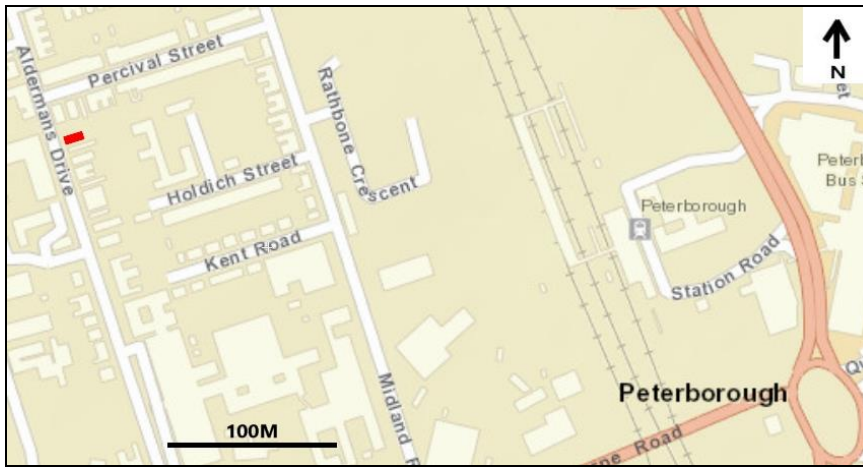


Figure 2. Site Location in Peterborough.

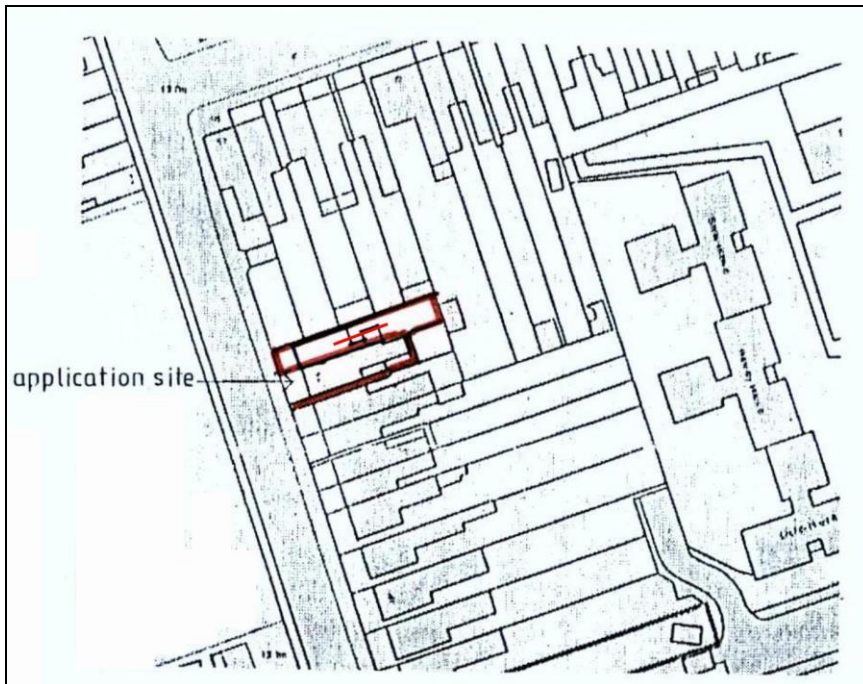


Figure 3. Site Outline and Trench Locations.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site fell within an area of archaeological interest. The proposed development site was located close to Midland Road, which runs parallel to Aldermans Drive, less than 200m to the east. Midland Road has produced Roman and Medieval human remains since works associated with the construction of the railway in the 19th century.
- 3.2 More recently, an archaeological excavation undertaken in 2014 at the former Oil Depot revealed the remains of over 130 individuals from a Medieval cemetery, possibly representing lepers and victims of the plague. A leper hospital is known to have been located in this area, as suggested by toponomastic evidence (e.g. Spittle Field).
- 3.3 Residual worked flint indicated that the cemetery had cut through an in-situ Mesolithic flint scatter. This evidence would suggest that human activity in this area could date back to the early prehistoric period (from 10,000BC). There was therefore also a risk for Prehistoric remains being encountered within the proposed development site. If present, these were expected to survive in a good condition of preservation.
- 3.4 Cartographic evidence (Ordnance Survey map series) indicated that the subject site and the immediately surrounding area had witnessed no major development since the later part of the 19th century.
- 3.5 Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) had requested an archaeological evaluation of the site to be carried out predetermination/pre-commencement.

### 4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
  - Provide a record of archaeological remains whose preservation *in situ* is threatened by the proposed work. If applicable, remains that can be preserved *in situ* will be recorded and prepared for re-burial. Therefore, steps will be taken to ensure construction and future maintenance do not threaten preserved remains
  - Provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent and degree of preservation of all excavated archaeological remains
  - Define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains

- Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional, and national, archaeological context
- 4.2 The evaluation also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24; *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010* (English Heritage 2005).
- 4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:
- \*characterisation of the site in the broader landscape;
  - \*characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
  - \*characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

### **5.1 Trial Trenching**

- 5.1.1 It was suggested that one 10 long machine cut trench, with a width of 2m, was going to be excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The total length of trenching was therefore 10m, totalling 20m<sup>2</sup>, or ca. 13% of the proposed development area.
- 5.1.2 The location of the trench targeted areas of proposed ground disturbance and provided representative sample coverage. The location of the trench was slightly flexible, and took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance.
- 5.1.3 The trench was excavated to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any features exposed.

### **5.2 Metal Detecting**

- 5.2.1 Thorough metal detector sweeps of exposed features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

### **5.3 Hand Excavation**

- 5.3.1 All man-made features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws and natural strips of clay in the natural) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand

excavation and feature sampling were sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.

- 5.3.2 Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. Thereafter, mechanical removal and visual scanning for artefacts was accepted. The evaluation provided a representative sample of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of the archaeological remains therein.

## **6 RECORDING**

- 6.1 A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.
- 6.2 Measured plans were produced that show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:20 and 1:50 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied into trench plans/trench location plans that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.
- 6.3 A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photos was also included in this report.

## **7 RESULTS**

### **Trench 1**

- 7.1 Trench 1 was 10m long, 2m wide and up to 0.45m deep. The lowest level encountered in the trench was the natural deposits, which consisted of yellow-grey Cornbrash with occasional inclusions of roots and stones (Figure 4).
- 7.2 Overlaying the natural deposits was the up to 0.15m thick subsoil (102), consisting of light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. The subsoil also contained frequent modern material, such as concrete slabs, modern china and bricks. The uppermost layer in Trench 1 was the up to 0.30m thick modern garden soil (101) of dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones. The garden soil also contained frequent modern inclusions of bricks, concrete and mortar.





*Figure 4. Trench 1. Overview. West facing photo.*

## 8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation at 54A Aldermans Drive, West Town, Peterborough uncovered no archaeological features that will be affected by the proposed development.
- 8.2 Important archaeological remains have, however, previously been found in the surroundings and future archaeological investigations along Aldermans Drive may for this reason come across features and finds from the Mesolithic period to the Modern era.
- 8.3 Many of the gardens along Aldermans Drive appear to have changed very little over the last 100 years, and important features and finds can still be present in beneath the former plough soil in this part of Peterborough.



## 9 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

### Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants.  
The archive will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections at Peterborough Museum.

## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. Reading 2014.

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*NPPF 2012*. (National Planning Policy Framework). Department for Communities and Local Government. London 2012.

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# APPENDICES

## CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		<b>Trench 1 (10m x 2m)</b>		
(101)	0.30	Dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones. Modern inclusions.	(102)	-
(102)	0.15	Light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. Modern inclusions.	Natural	(101)
Natural	-	Yellow-grey Cornbrash with occasional roots and stones.	-	(102)