

Summary

- An archaeological trenched evaluation was undertaken on land at 16 Eye Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough, PE1 4SA. This was conducted by Midland Archaeological Services during prior to re-development of the site for domestic housing.
- The evaluation concluded that modern and post-medieval made ground, relic plough/garden soils, natural soils and an undated ditch terminus were present across the site area.

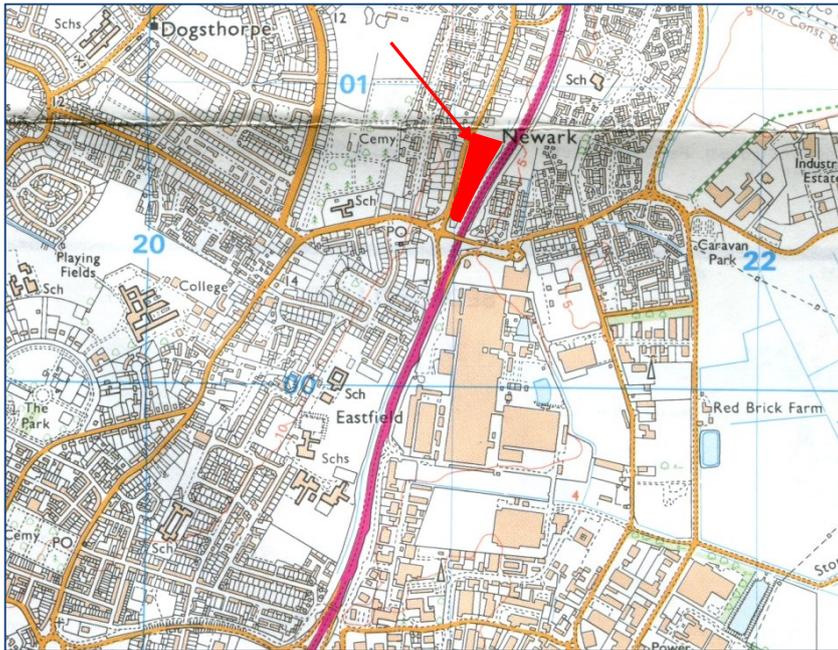


Fig.1: Site Location

1.0 Introduction

Midland Archaeological Services (MAS) were commissioned by Kerry Pant to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at the Former Royal Arms site, 16 Eye Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough, PE1 4SA, hereafter called the site.

2.0 Location and Description

The site forms a linear parcel of land measuring approximately 400 sqm in extent and situated to the immediate north of Eastfield Road, between the A1139 Frank Perkins Way and Eye Road, Newark, Peterborough, NGR TF 521023 300610 (figs. 1, 2). The site is currently occupied by the Royal Arms Public House, and its immediate surrounding area consists of hard standing and areas of overgrown vegetation and debris. There is also a derelict single storey brick structure along the northern limit of the site. The British Geological Survey shows the immediate geology of the area underlain by River Terrace Deposits 2, sand and gravel, locally lenses of

silt, clay or peat. ¹ The site lies at 6.00m OD and slopes moderately to the west towards the Eye Road (figs. 1, 2).

3.0 Planning Background

Peterborough City Council has granted permission for the residential development comprising of 20 flats at: 16 Eye Road, Dogsthorpe Peterborough, PE1 4SA, planning ref: 14/01017/FUL.

As re-development of the site will have an impact on any potential underlying archaeological deposits, a scheme of works to target archaeological evaluation trenches prior to re-development to, investigate and record any archaeological features and or deposits exposed prior to any intrusive groundworks will ensure that this information is not lost.

Permission is subject to conditions and by the recommendation of the Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service (PCCAS) that; (no demolition/development shall be conducted until a programme of archaeological work (*targeted trial trenching*) is undertaken prior to re-development of the site area and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to, and approved by, PCCAS in writing.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The founding of Peterborough stems from a Saxon settlement known as *medeshamstede*, the name being of the Old English meaning homestead of a man called *mæde*. These early origins were founded on the establishment of a monastery during the 7th Century AD and by the 12th Century AD the town had become a 'Vill' known as *Burch*. The Newark area of the City was a hamlet of the parish of Saint Mary the Virgin in the Soke of Peterborough, a part of which was incorporated within the municipal borough in 1874. The remainder forming part of the Peterborough Rural District from 1894-1926 when the City's boundaries were extended to include the civil parish of Peterborough Without. The name *Nieuwyrk* first appears in 1189, deriving from the Old English *nīwe+weorc* and means 'new fortification or building'.²

Peterborough and its surrounding environs has a diverse archaeological record, spanning from prehistory to the post-medieval periods and later. Much of this has been recorded over the years by chance discoveries, stray finds and during the regeneration and development of the City and its suburbs during the 1970's and 1980's.

Close to the site, just south and adjacent to the Eastfield Road Neolithic stray flints have been recorded (HER 02999), while to the north-west Roman tile was discovered (HER 02987) in a portion of the Car Dyke, a Roman canalised watercourse. Towards the east during the construction of a housing development sometime prior to 1948 a Neolithic Axe (HER 02988) was found, while to the north of this and also during housing development in 1958 Roman pottery dating from the 3rd-4th centuries AD was discovered.³

¹ British Geological Survey 1984

² Mills, A. D., 1993

³ MAS 2014

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The aim of this programme of work (Trial Trenching) is to gather information on the archaeology of the site, so that an informed recommendation can be made to the local planning authority regarding the potential impact of the proposed development upon any archaeology within the site area.

This will be attained through the following objectives: to produce a fully detailed drawn and photographic record of any archaeological remains encountered supplemented by a full written description and interpretation.

6.0 Methodology

The methodology required that four trial trenches be situated across the development footprint and opened with a suitable machine down to the first archaeological and/or geological layer under the guidance of an archaeologist. All archaeological features, artefacts and ecofacts were recorded by an archaeologist and reported on.

All spoil was visually observed and metal detected for archaeological artefacts. Deposits and features identified were subject to cleaning by hand in order to assess their nature, dimensions and to attempt to recover datable material. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions complemented by colour slid/photographs and scale drawings in plan.

The work was undertaken by the author on the 29th April 2015.

Archive creation

On completion of the fieldwork all photographic films were processed by a specialist laboratory and scanned at a resolution of 600dpi for selective inclusion within this report.

All field notes and drawings were checked for completeness and ordered into a documentary archive based on the requirements of the receiving museum. The basic archive includes:

1. 1 annotated site plan
2. 4 trench plans
3. 5 no section drawings
4. 3 no photographic register
5. 9 context sheets
6. 1 no context register

7.0 Results

A total of nine contexts were recorded throughout the site, (figs. 2, 3, Appendix 1, 2).

Natural clay (001) was recorded across the whole site area, with a (002) colluvial being recorded within all but Trench 4. Post-medieval relic garden or plough soil

(003) was present in Trench 1, along with subsoil (009), topsoil (010) and a also a small linear ditch terminus [007] which was masked by (002). Across the south west area of the site (004) and (005) represented modern deposits associated with the former car parking area.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

Much of the site had been truncated by the previous development, particularly towards the centre, close to Trench 2, here evidence of the former pub buildings foundations and cellar area were seen, along with various sub-bases for modern surfaces (004) and (005). Modern soakaways had also deeply truncated parts of Trench 1.

Taking these above factors into account, some undisturbed deposits and features were encountered. Across much of the site (002) a colluvium layer was recorded, this had sealed a small linear but undated feature [007] in Trench 1, while a relic garden or plough soil (003) was also recorded in Trench 1.

The above evidence suggests that even though much truncation has taken place throughout the site, that archaeological deposits/features were sufficiently deep and masked by colluvial deposits to insure their survival and that archaeological activity was concentrated to the extreme south of the site.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology initially required the machining of four evaluation trenches. This was were undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a bladed bucket attached to a back operating arm. Sufficient time was given by the developer to insure that complete recording was possible.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Midland Archaeological Services would like to thank Kerry Plant for this commission, also Steve Harker at Paul Bancroft Architects for provision of information and drawings; thanks also go to Rebecca Cassa-Hatton and the staff at the Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service for advice prior to and during these investigations.

11.0 Site Archive

An archive of written, drawn and photographic elements is in preparation and will be deposited at Peterborough Museum within three months of the completion of this report.

12.0 References

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