

REVOLUTION PERFORMANCE MOTORSTORE

**CLOCKMILL ROAD, DUNSTON, GATESHEAD
TYNE & WEAR NE8 2QX
NGR: NZ 2343 6223**

FINAL REPORT FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Prepared for:

**Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team,
Newcastle City Council**

Ref.: MON 3877a

**Planning Application: DC/06/01510/FUL
OASIS Ref.: ianfarmer1- 31826**

Contract: 11026

Date: September 2007

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FINAL REPORT FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

To be carried out at

**Former Team Hemp Ropery,
Clockmill Road
Dunston
Gateshead NE8 2QX**

TYNE & WEAR NE8 2QX

Commissioning client:

Revolution Performance Motorstore
Revolution House
South Shore Road
Gateshead Quays
Tyne & Wear NE8 3AE

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Following a desk based assessment; a programme of archaeological work was requested by Jennifer Morrison, the archaeology officer for Tyne & Wear Museums service. This encompassed an archaeological evaluation to establish the presence or absence of the former Team Hemp Ropery, and to determine the character, nature, date, depth and degree of the survival of any archaeological remains.

The relevant document stipulating that this evaluation took place is the ‘Specification for Evaluation Work to Record Suspected Archaeological Deposits at land at Team Street and Clockmill Road, Dunston, Gateshead NE8 2QX’, (May 2007). See Appendix 1.

In May 2007, Ian Farmer Associates *Archaeological Services*, commissioned by Mr & Mrs Glen Campbell, the owners/developers of the site undertook the evaluation in advance of the proposed motor part store.

The evaluation was conducted by Ian J Stewart and Paul Owen between the 15th and 18th May 2007, and managed by Ian J Stewart, Geoarchaeologist. This report was prepared by Ian J Stewart and illustrated by Paul Morrison.

Two trenches were excavated, either side of the area proposed for the new motorstore, time and trench limits prevented a thorough investigation. The excavation proved the existence of archaeological structures and deposits relating to the former ropery, two buildings; with evidence of reuse of one of the ropery buildings in trench 2. There were no finds, nor were any environmental samples taken.

The nature of the building programme on site, i.e. rafting and piling, precluded any further archaeological intervention at this particular site

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0	INTRODUCTION	4
2.0	METHODOLOGY	4
2.1	Standards	4
2.2	Field Methods	5
2.3	Project Archive	6
3.0	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	6
4.0	SITE NARRATIVE	6
4.1	Trench 1 – Stratigraphic Sequence	6
4.2	Trench 2 – Stratigraphic Sequence	7
5.0	ARTEFACT REPORTS	8
5.1	Assemblage Summary	8
6.0	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS	8
7.0	INTERPRETATION	9
8.0	THE WIDER RESEARCH CONTEXT	10
9.0	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK	10
10.0	REFERENCES	10

APPENDIX 1 - SPECIFICATION

APPENDIX 2	-	SITE SETTING
Figure A2.1	-	Site Location
Figure A2.2	-	Trench Location Plan
Figure A2.3	-	Location of Site (1:2500)
Figure A2.4	-	Trench location Plan
APPENDIX 3	-	TRENCH 1
Figure A3.1	-	Stratigraphic Matrix
Figure A3.2	-	Plan No 1
Figure A3.3	-	Section No 1
APPENDIX 4	-	TRENCH 2
Figure A4.1	-	Stratigraphic Matrix
Figure A4.2	-	Plan No 1

- Figure A4.3 - Section No 1
- APPENDIX 5 - EXTRACT FROM 1953 OS MAP
- APPENDIX 6 - PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD
- Figure A6.1 - General view looking north
- Figure A6.2 - General view looking south
- Figure A6.3 - Trench 1 looking east, 1m scale
- Figure A6.4 - Trench 1, context (4) from above, 1m scale
- Figure A6.5 - Trench 2. General view looking NE, 1m scale
- Figure A6.6 - Trench 2, General view looking NW, 1m scale
- APPENDIX 7 - OASIS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following a desk based assessment; ref.10.1, a programme of archaeological work was requested by Jennifer Morrison, the archaeology officer for Tyne & Wear Museums service. This encompassed an archaeological evaluation to establish the presence or absence of the former Team Hemp Ropery, and to determine the character, nature, date, depth and degree of the survival of any archaeological remains.
- 1.2 The relevant document stipulating that this evaluation took place is the ‘Specification for Evaluation Work to Record Suspected Archaeological Deposits at land at Team Street and Clockmill Road, Dunston, Gateshead NE8 2QX’, (May 2007). See Appendix 1.
- 1.3 In May 2007, Ian Farmer Associates *Archaeological Services*, commissioned by Mr & Mrs Glen Campbell, the owners/developers of the site undertook the evaluation in advance of the proposed motor part store.
- 1.4 The evaluation was conducted by Ian J Stewart and Paul Owen between the 15th and 18th May 2007, and managed by Ian J Stewart, Geoarchaeologist. This report was prepared by Ian J Stewart and illustrated by Paul Morrison.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards

- 2.1.1 Ian Farmer Associates Archaeological Services comply with the guidelines set out in The Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), ref 10.2, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, ref. 10.3
- 2.1.2 The Institute of Field Archaeologists defines an evaluation as;
 - “...a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.”
- 2.1.3 The purpose of an evaluation is;
 - “... to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its absence or presence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context [...].”

2.1.4 The results lead to one or more of the following;

- “*the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource*
- “*the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource*
- “*the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.*”

2.2 Field Methods

2.2.1 The site is situated at Clockmill Road, Dunston, and Gateshead, NE8 2QX and may be located by National Grid Reference NZ 2343 6223. It is underlain by superficial deposits of alluvium and glacial deposits overlying bedrock of Carboniferous coal measures, ref. 10.4

2.2.2 The site is flat and lies between 4 and 4.5m above sea level. It currently comprises overgrown derelict waste ground overlying made up deposits.

2.2.3 The boundaries of the site comprised of: Team Gut (the nearest water source), a tributary of the river Tyne, to the East and Clockmill Road to the West, The northern and southern boundaries of the site were marked by light industrial units.

2.2.4 Previous desk based survey results, ref 10.1 were used in conjunction with the project-specific aims to place the evaluations trenches as follows;

- Trench 1 (TR1), 2m x 4m was placed at the northern end of the site,
- Trench 2 (TR2), 2m x 5m was placed 28m south of Trench 1;

2.2.5 The site location maps and a trench location plan comprising relevant boundaries and levels have been included in Appendix 2, Figure A2.1 to A2.4.

2.2.6 With regards to information available prior to the start of the evaluation, the trench locations have been located where there was a likelihood of locating former ropery building walls. There were restrictions imposed by the site building engineers as to where the trenches could be located. This was because of the proposed location of the foundations of the new motorstore. The concern was that any excavated trenches may have been to the detriment to the positioning of foundations.

2.2.7 Following marking out the trenches a JCB 2CX removed the modern overburden in spits with a toothless bucket. This was carried out under archaeological supervision.

- 2.2.8 Subsequent excavation of archaeological deposits occurred manually using hand tools, and a single-context recording system was employed. All contexts were drawn in plan and section and photographed in black & white, colour print, colour slide and digital
- 2.2.9 During the excavation, depths greater than 1.20m bgl were reached, but the use of shoring was prevented by utilising a series of steps. The excavation was concluded when natural strata were encountered in Trench1.
- 2.2.10 Upon completion, the trenches were backfilled with spoil.
- 2.2.11 No artefacts were recovered. There were no ecofacts. No environmental samples were taken.

2.3 Project Archive

- 2.3.1 The site archive of records and materials recovered is currently prepared in accordance with MAP2, and IFA guidelines.
- 2.3.2 Copies of the report will be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record, the commissioning client and the planning authority.
- 2.3.3 Ian Farmer Associates Archaeological Services support the OASIS project, and the OASIS reference for this project is ianfarmer1-31826. A summary is included in Appendix 7.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 There has been no previous archaeological excavation carried out on this site.
- 3.1.2 An archaeological desk based assessment had been previously carried out by Ian Farmers Associates. The study traced the history of the site based on the available documentary evidence and confirmed that the site was the original location of the Team Hemp Ropery.

4.0 SITE NARRATIVE

4.1 Trench 1 – Stratigraphic Sequence

- 4.1.1 Drawings 1 and 2 and the stratigraphic matrix associated with Trench 1 are included in Appendix 3, Figures A3.1 to A3.
- 4.1.2 The uppermost layer (1) comprised of a layer of crushed dolomite overlying an old soil horizon (2). This crushed dolomite was the base of a former exhibition site associated with the Gateshead Garden Festival (1990).

- 4.1.3 The old topsoil overlay a layer of demolition rubble (3) probably associated with the machine clearance of the site prior to laying down the soil in to raise the ground surface for the exhibition site.
- 4.1.4 Context (5) consisted of a dump of iron stained gravel which in turn overlay a layer of demolition rubble, (6) which included ceramic building material (CBM). This has been provisionally interpreted as demolition rubble from the original ropery building. The thin lens spread of tile (7) beneath this deposit may represent part of a collapsed roof associated with the former building, possibly when it was in a derelict state?
- 4.1.5 Below contexts (6) and (7), was a substantial deposit of ash and coal residues (8), some 0.55m thick. This may have formed part of the original ropery walkway. This had been brought in from off site and overlay a layer of sandstone fragments and mortar probably associated with the construction of the wall (4).
- 4.1.6 The heavily mortared wall, (4) was roughly coursed, squared coal measure sandstone rubble, aligned N-S and was 0.5m wide. This has been interpreted as the east wall of the former ropery building, in the absence of any other structures. The location appears to coincide with the location of the east wall as it is shown on earlier 19th century maps. The building debris, (9) represents builder's debris associated with the wall construction.
- 4.1.7 The final deposit in this trench, context (10) is blue/grey clay which may be the undisturbed natural. The construction debris (9) lies directly on this deposit. Although it could not be clearly seen due to depth restrictions of the trench, the wall (4) is built directly on this layer.

4.2 Trench 2 – Stratigraphic Sequence

- 4.2.1 Drawings 3 and 4 and the Stratigraphic matrix associated with Trench 2 are included in Appendix 4, Figures A4.1 to A4.3.
- 4.2.2 The upper most layers comprised of a layer of crushed dolomite (1) which overlay a substantial deposit of rubble, (2) which contained ceramic building material, sandstone rubble, and plastic, scrap metal and plastic. This has been provisionally interpreted as demolition debris associated with the levelling of former ropery buildings which may have remained in use on this part of the site until comparatively recently. This deposit was cut by a service trench with associated backfill, contexts (11) and (10), respectively. The service trench contained a ceramic drain which may have been used whilst the site was used as an exhibition centre during the garden festival?
- 4.2.3 The demolition rubble, (2) directly overlay bitumen coated cement floor (3) whose eastern and western limits were bound by walls, contexts (7)

and (8) respectively. These are thought to be the walls of one of the ropery buildings. (Appendix 5)

- 4.2.4 The east wall of the structure, (7) is composed of heavily mortared sandstone, circa, 0.5m wide. A 2m length was exposed in the trench.
- 4.2.5 A small sondage, measuring 0.7m x 2m was excavated down the west face of the wall. In total depth the wall measured, 1.20m. The style was ‘irregular rubble coursed’.
- 4.2.6 Within the sondage, below context (3) was a layer of ash, 0.3m thick, and context (4). This was a raised base for the cement floor, context (3). This overlay another cement floor (without bitumen), context (5) which had a base of black/grey coal and ash (6). The earlier cement floor (5) and its base (6) is thought to be the original floor of the building which is likely to have one of the original ropery buildings.
- 4.2.7 The wall, context (8), which marked the west side of the floor (3), was composed of mortared sandstone. It was c.0.4m wide; only a 0.5m stretch was exposed in a western extension of the trench. Only the top surface of the wall was exposed, however it is likely to be of similar composition to that of the eastern wall, context (7).
- 4.2.8 This wall was overlain by a spread of building rubble and soil (12), it also directly overlay an external (?) floor dark grey clay with coal flecks, context (9). Only a small area of this context was exposed along with wall (8) in a small western extension to the trench, it was therefore not possible to make a further description of this area.
- 4.2.9 The overall limitation of the size of the evaluation trenches prevented a more thorough description of the archaeological deposits in the trenches; however it is likely that the walls encountered as well as one of the floors are part of the original Team Hemp Ropery?

5.0 ARTEFACT REPORTS

5.1 Assemblage Summary

- 5.1.1 All of the artefacts observed were ceramic building material, (CBM) of 19th-20th century date and formed part of the archaeological deposits. None of it was kept.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

- 6.1.1 On this occasion, no environmental samples were taken.

7.0 INTERPRETATION

- 7.1.1 The wall, context, (4) in Trench 1 forms one of the walls of the 19th century ropery buildings. If so, the wall which is aligned N-S forms either the east or west wall of one of the ropery buildings.
- 7.1.2 A possible clue, as to which building is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map edition of 1953. In this area a rectangular structure, measuring 3m x 22m and aligned N-S is shown. Even allowing for mapping inaccuracies it appears that Trench 1 located the west wall of Building 1 (Fig.A5.1). Therefore contexts (5) to (9) are located on the outside of the Building 1.
- 7.1.3 Trench 2 located two walls, context (7) and Context (8). Again by measuring off the Ordnance Survey 1953 (1:2500), the easternmost wall, context (7) would appear to correspond with the east wall of Building 2, as depicted on the 1953 map.
- 7.1.4 The western wall, context (8) which forms the western edge of the mortar floor may be a partition wall rather than a main western exterior wall for Building 1. However the only possible candidate for the walls/floors discovered in Trench 2 was Building 2 as depicted in Figure A5.1
- 7.1.5 Due to the limitations imposed on the location and size of trenches it was not possible to confirm the overall dimensions of the buildings that were discovered in the respective trenches.
- 7.1.6 One useful discovery on the 1953 Ordnance Survey map was borne out by the evaluation work. The 1953 map shows Building 2 with the title *Ruin* whereas Building 2 does not. The implication is that in 1953 was indeed in a ruinous state, whereas Building 2 was still in use at this date. Local vocal sources confirm this and go as far as to say that it may have been used for storage purposes.
- 7.1.7 The small sondage cut through the floor (3) in trench 2, confirmed that this floor was a later floor and that earlier contexts such as the mortar floor, (5) was part of what was the original ropery building floor. The later bitumen coated floor (3) belonged to a later period when the ropery went out of use but at least one of the buildings was converted to other purposes
- 7.1.8 The evaluation trenches therefore appear to confirm the existence of the former ropery buildings, with evidence of reuse of one building. Without further excavation it was not possible to determine anything more about the ropery site.
- 7.1.9 The map in Appendix 5 shows the location of the evaluation trenches in relation to the former ropery buildings.

8.0 THE WIDER RESEARCH CONTEXT

- 8.1.1 During the project design for this evaluation, the *North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF)*, ref. 10.5, was consulted which states :
- 8.1.2 '*Rope was an important product in the 19th century, encouraged by the thriving shipping industry. The region saw the first use of the first machinery for continuous manufacture at Webster's ropery in Sunderland in 1797, although rope walks continued to be used for their manufacture well into the 20th century. Most have now disappeared.....'*
- 8.1.3 In light of the above research context, this evaluation helped to confirm the presence of one of the earlier ropery manufacturing sites supplying the transport industries etc. in the early 19th century – no doubt using the Team Gut, a tributary of the River Tyne.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

- 9.1.1 In this evaluation it was possible to prove the existence of the former ropery and to confirm the possible location of at least two buildings
- 9.1.2 The subsequent overall design and construction of the new motor parts store, i.e. a pile and rafted structure does not require any further archaeological intervention at this time.

10.0 REFERENCES

- 10.1 Stewart, I.J., 'Land at Clockmill Road, Dunston, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE8 2QX': Report on Desk Base Assessment. Ian Farmer Associates', 2006
- 10.2 Andrews, G., 'Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP)', English Heritage, 1991
- 10.3 Institute of Field Archaeologists, 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation', IFA, 2001
- 10.4 British Geological Survey (BGS), 'Sheet 20, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Drift Edition, 1:50 000 series, 1992
- 10.5 Petts, D. and Gerrard, C., 2006, 'Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment', Durham County Council, 2006

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APPENDIX 1
SPECIFICATION

APPENDIX 2
SITE SETTING

APPENDIX 3

TRENCH 1

APPENDIX 4

TRENCH 2

APPENDIX 5
EXTRACT FROM 1953 OS MAP

APPENDIX 6
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

APPENDIX 7

OASIS