Carsington Pasture Wind Farm,
Carsington, Derbyshire

Desk-Based Assessment for
Indicative Grid Connection
Route for Carsington Pasture
Wind Farm

ARS Ltd Report 2008/31
March 2008

Compiled By:
Alex Thornton
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Suite 7 Angel House
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Checked By:
Dr. Richard Chatterton
Tel: 0191 477 5111
Fax: 0191 477 7687
admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com
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Executive Summary

Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Carsington Wind Energy Ltd to produce a desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of land at Carsington Pastures which is a proposed indicative grid connection route from the planned Carsington Pasture Wind Farm. The site is located at Carsington Pasture, Manystones Lane, Carsington (OS Map Reference centred on SK 247545).
1. Introduction

This document reports the findings of a desk-based assessment undertaken by Alex Thornton of Archaeological Research Services Ltd on behalf of Carsington Wind Energy Energy Ltd. The assessment focused on land on Carsington Pasture, Manystones Lane, Carsington, Derbyshire.

The assessment was undertaken following the best practice and guidance recommended by the Institute of Field Archaeologist (IFA 2001).

2. Location, Land Use and Geology

2.1 Carsington Pasture is located north-west of the village of Carsington, east of Brassington and adjacent to the High Peak Trail within the Civil Parish of Carsington (OS Map Reference centred on SK 247545). The proposed indicative grid connection route from the planned Carsington Pasture Wind Farm is approximately 1.3 kilometre long and is located at SK 25604 35461 on land outside of the Peak District National Park (Fig. 1). This desk-based assessment covers an area of one kilometre from the centre of the proposed grid connection route to an electricity sub-station (Fig. 2).

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Fig. 1 Location of development site within Carsington (highlighted in red).
Ordnance survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, License no. 100045420
2.2 The underlying geology of the one kilometre area covered within this desk based assessment is dolomitised carboniferous limestone belonging to the Bee Low Limestone formation (Rieuwerts 2007, 9.4); where it lies on the southern margin of a limestone plateau and incorporates a one kilometre section of the south-facing escarpment. The survey area falls within the southern limit of the White Peak lead-mining area (Oxford Archaeology North 2006, 5) and consists of unimproved upland pasture.

3. Aims and Objectives

The aim of this desk-based assessment is to establish the nature, likely extent and survival of the archaeological resource along the proposed grid connection route, and assess how this development would impact upon the archaeological resource. This report aims to summarise and synthesise the available archaeological and historical data from the area, and uses this to highlight any archaeological constraints which would affect potential development on the site.

4. Methodology

A search of the Derbyshire Historical Environment Record (HER) was made, as well as the National Building Records and cartographic references. These preliminary searches provide information on Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, a list of any other archaeological sites and monuments, as well as references to previous archaeological work conducted in the area (if any).

The following is a list of sources and resources consulted for this desk-based assessment:

- Derbyshire HER.
- National Building Records.
- Cartographic Sources, such as plans and maps of the site and its environs, Ordnance Survey maps up to the present day and historical pictorial and survey maps.
- Relevant archaeological archive reports housed by the Derbyshire HER.
- Archaeological and historical journals and books, particularly those significant for the area.

The assessment of the archaeological and historical resource was undertaken in five sections based on the chronological assessment of the resource by period.
• Prehistoric (-AD 43)
• Romano-British (-AD 43 – AD 410)
• Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066)
• Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1539)
• Post-Medieval – Modern (AD 1539 – Present Day)

The relevant legal framework and planning context relating to this assessment is set out by the following documents:

• Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment)
• Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning)

5. Assessment Result

5.1 Historical Overview

No archaeological finds are known from along the length of the proposed grid connection route, though the area around the development site is rich in archaeological findspots and remains dating mainly from the Bronze Age and Post-Medieval periods, and particularly those dating to its early industrial past. All known archaeological sites within the study area have been included in the Site Gazetteer (Appendix One).

5.1.1 Prehistoric

The prehistoric period of British history encompasses the Paleolithic or Old Stone Age (c.650,000BC – c. 10,500BC), the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age (c.10,500BC – c. 4000BC), the Neolithic or New Stone Age (c. 4000BC – c. 2500BC), the Bronze Age (c. 2500BC – 700BC), and the Iron Age (c. 700BC – AD43) and ends with the arrival of the Romans in Britain.

Palaeolithic life and settlement was based on a hunter-gatherer society and seasonal adaptation to the climatic conditions of the last Ice Age. The presence of Palaeolithic peoples in the archaeological record is rare in Britain and their technology is defined by rough stone tools and bone or antler implements.

The retreat of the ice sheets 12,000 years ago and the warming of the climate are seen as the start of the Mesolithic period where Britain was transformed not only from a tundra landscape to one of rich deciduous woodland, but also from an extension of North West Europe to an island archipelago. This period is again characterized by a hunter-gatherer subsistence lifestyle, though there is evidence for the exploitation of different types of plants and animals than before and limited land management.
The Neolithic period is traditionally seen as the period when agriculture and a more sedentary existence were adopted in the British Isles. The technology of the Neolithic is characterized by new types of stone tools including ground and polished stone axe heads and the introduction of ceramics.

The Bronze Age is characterized by the emergence of metalworking in Britain with copper and bronze artifacts found. This period also sees the emergence of a more settled economy seemingly based on intensive arable production and formalized field systems, including widespread expansion, and later abandonment of the uplands.

The Iron Age is characterized in the archaeological record by the emergence of more elaborate metalworking and the introduction of iron artifacts. The most characteristic feature of the period is represented by the Hill forts.

A Mesolithic flint assemblage suggesting the location of a site (Ref No. 1) was identified during fieldwalking of a ploughed field. The site has since been built upon (Hopton boneworks Ref. No. 25) and therefore will not be affected by the present development. A separate prehistoric occupation site (Ref. No. 4) was identified west of the Hopton Works, although this site was almost certainly destroyed when the Works were constructed. Numerous prehistoric stray finds of flint tools have also been discovered throughout the study area including Mesolithic flints (Ref. No. 2 and 3), Neolithic flints (Ref. No. 5 to 11) and Bronze Age flints and arrowheads (Ref. No. 12 to 18). These findspots and areas of possible prehistoric occupation suggest that this region was utilized by a prehistoric population for settlement (permanent or seasonal) and for exploitation of the natural resources.

Over 500 prehistoric burial mounds or barrows have been identified across this region. They probably date from the Late Neolithic to Bronze Age periods (Barnatt and Collis 1996). One barrow in particular has been identified within the study area and it is a scheduled monument. The Abbot’s (or Ivet or Ibet) Bronze Age round barrow (Ref. No. 19) is located approximately 200 metres south of the proposed grid connection route at SK 2596 5439. It is a large sub-circular cairn located on rising ground near Hopton with a diameter of c. twenty metres across and a height of 1.1 metres. The barrow was dispersed during preparation of the land for plantation in 1793 and an urn containing a cremation was uncovered. There was also a possible Romano-British secondary burial later inserted into the barrow (Ref. No. 20).

5.1.2 Romano-British

The Romano-British period runs from AD43 to AD410, from Claudius’ invasion until the final withdrawal of Roman troops to protect the Western Roman Empire in mainland Europe. The north of Britain was under Roman control by the end of the 70’s AD and by AD122 the northern boundary of the Roman Empire had been established by the building of Hadrian’s Wall. The Roman period is characterized in the archaeological record by the arrival of a wide variety of imported material culture, increased agriculture, monumental stone buildings, roads and military structures markedly different to the earth and timber construction of the late prehistoric period.
There are only two Romano-British findspots within the assessment area. A piece of Derbyshire Ware pottery (Ref. No. 21) was found one hundred metres north of the proposed grid connection route within the Limestone Quarry, two further pieces of Romano-British pottery (Ref. No. 22 and 23) were found separately approximately 200 to 250 metres south of the proposed grid connection route and a glass bead (Ref. No. 24) was discovered 100 metres south of the proposed grid connection route near to Ivet Low barrow. A Roman inscribed stone was recovered from Ivet Low barrow indicating the possible re-use of the barrow during this period. The secondary burial from the barrow may also be Romano-British in date.

5.1.3 Early Medieval

The Early Medieval period began when the Romans withdrew from Britain. It is also known as the Anglo-Saxon period and is sometimes still referred to as the Dark Ages. The period covers the re-imposition of native British kingdoms along the old tribal boundaries of pre-Roman Britain and the invasions of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes from northern Europe and Scandinavia. The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms founded by the invaders were in turn invaded by the Danes in the latter part of the Early Medieval period, and the Early Medieval comes to a close with the Norman Conquest and the defeat of the last Anglo-Saxon King Harold Godwinson, at the Battle of Hastings. The Early Medieval period saw the reintroduction of Christianity and the founding of the earliest churches date from this period. There are no apparent remains in this region of Carsington from this period.

5.1.4 Medieval

The medieval period runs from the Norman Conquest in 1066 and the accession of William I to the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in 1539. In this period it is common to see the emergence in rural areas of a more familiar landscape and many of the place names and street layouts that are still there today. The majority of the medieval period saw ‘single field’ agriculture, leaving a distinctive archaeological trace visible from aerial photographs and quite often on the ground.

Carsington was part of the estate of Brassington during this period of history and was owned by a nobleman known as Siward (Slack 1991). The previous desk-based assessment refers to a suggested Medieval shrunken village (Site 8) towards the west end of the village, on the corner of the B50335 (Oxford Archaeology North 2006). However, this site falls outside the area of assessed in this desk based assessment and there are no other known remains in this region from this period.

5.1.5 Post Medieval – Modern

The Post Medieval and Modern periods extend from the end of the Medieval period up to the present day and the majority of archaeological and historical sites and monuments date from this period. In rural areas, enclosure continued to shape the landscape and was
enforced by Parliament in a series of Enclosure Acts during the 18\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th} centuries. The movement toward ‘Enclosure’ of land not only set out the landscape of large enclosed fields that can be seen today but also provided a number of maps and charts showing the Enclosures which are of use in tracing the evolution of a landscape.

Lead mining was at the height of its prosperity during the seventeenth century and there are numerous disused mines within Carsington, none however, in the relatively small area enclosed by this assessment. After this industrial boom, the eighteenth century saw the demise of the fortunes and trade of the villagers in Derbyshire until c. 1825 when a scheme to link the Peak Forest Canal with the Cromford Canal to the south was proposed. The result was the Cromford and High Peak Railway which was opened in 1830-1831 (Barnatt and Smith 2004, 127). The rest of the archaeological features identified from this region date from this period and are related to the railway (Ref. No. 17-25). Three boundary walls, a cutting, an embankment and a siding (Ref. No. 25 to 27 and 29 to 31) are all recorded within this area in the vicinity of the development area and were built during the construction of the Railway and Hopton Tunnel. The Hopton Incline itself is also within the locality of the proposed grid connection route (Ref. No. 28).

The remains of a boiler and engine base used for hauling on the Hopton Wood Quarry branch Line of the railway is located east of the Hopton Works (Ref. No. 32). An engine house is named on the 1st Edition ordnance Survey map, but must have been destroyed by the c. 1900 as it does not feature upon the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Edition map. Archaeological Research Services Ltd undertook a watching brief close to the remains of the boiler and engine base. Deturfing revealed the remains of low walls and flagged flooring suggestive of the location of a small building, possibly the engine house (Pallant and Brightman 2006). The other engine house recorded within this assessment (Ref. No. 33) was originally approximately 50 metres north of the proposed grid connection route. However, it was dismantled when the incline gradient was lowered for the railway.

Two bridges are located within this region, the Skew Bridge (Ref. No. 34) and the Railway Bridge (Ref. No. 35). The Skew Bridge, defined as a bridge built obliquely from bank to bank, as sometimes required in railway engineering, is located 75 metres north of the proposed grid connection route. It is a Grade II Listed Structure which crosses over a road which links the Brassington to Wirksworth Road to the Via Gellia (a steep-sided, narrow, wooded valley running eastwards from Grangemill to Cromford). It was constructed of large gritstone blocks in 1826. According to the Listed Building description, it was listed due to its ‘historic interest as part of the Cromford and High Peak Railway’ (Listed Building Record Card). The other bridge (Ref. No. 35), to the west of the Skew Bridge is a blue brick arched bridge giving access to the former Bone Works. It is apparently not a Listed Building.

A small hut built of blue brick, identified as a Plate Layers hut (Ref. No. 36) is located south of Hopton Works on the Railway Line and near to the boneworks siding (Ref. No. 37). Both are post-medieval in date and will probably not be affected by groundworks for the proposed grid connection route.
The modern period is generally acknowledged as beginning with the Industrial Revolution in the mid-late 18th century. This period saw the genesis of machine power and mass-production, and changed the face of Britain. The most recent change to this area was the construction of Carsington Reservoir, built to provide water for the people in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.

5.2 Chronological Assessment of the Site

The sites recorded adjacent to the development area are mainly related to two specific historical periods. The first corresponds to the development of the land to the north and south of the site during prehistoric times. This development is related to the possible use of the area during the Mesolithic and Neolithic as a centre for material exploitation and occupation and the erection of the Bronze Age cairn.

The second period coincides with the Industrial Revolution and sees the creation of the Cromford and High Peak Railway in the vicinity of the development area. Several features, if not their foundations which are associated with the railway still exist, such as cuttings, embankments and buildings.

There are no changes to the area between the first and second edition Ordnance Survey map productions (Figures 3 and 4). However, around the turn of the century, the Bone Mill Quarry has been constructed. It was probably during this time that most of the archaeology of the region was destroyed.

Fig. 3. Ordnance Survey map of 1849-1899 (proposed area of proposed grid connection route highlighted in red).
6. Likely Extent and Survival of Archaeological Remains

In total there are thirty seven sites of archaeological interest which were identified within the study area, of which none lie exactly upon the proposed area for development for the proposed grid connection route (Fig. 6). Of these sites, two have statutory designation:
Ivet Low round barrow (Ref. No. 19) is a Scheduled Monument (National Monument No. 13336) and the Skew Bridge (Ref. No. 34) is a Grade II Listed Building. Both of these features lie within 75 to 100 metres from the proposed grid connection route but will not be affected by the development.

Scheduled monuments are buildings, structures or other works which are located above or below ground which have been considered to be of national importance due to their historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest. Listed Buildings are graded depending on their relative importance. Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest, Grade II buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest and Grade II buildings are regarded as of special interest.

The proposed grid connection route will be inserted underground and, as shown on figure 6, only a relatively small area of the site within the assessment boundary will be directly affected by the works. No archaeological features or sites are known to be present within the extent of the work, and the investigations undertaken for the purposes of this assessment have not suggested that there are likely to be any features or sites, presently unknown, along the route of the intended grid connection. As a consequence there is no need for measures to mitigate effects on any known feature. It would however be appropriate to require an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the proposed grid connection.
7. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

Any publicity will be handled by the client.

Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

8. Statement of Indemnity

All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

9. Acknowledgements

Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those who have provided information relating to the Carsington Pasture Wind Farm site and the surrounding area; in particular the staff of the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record.
### Appendix One: Gazetteer of Sites

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<th>Ref. No.</th>
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<td>Mesolithic Flint, Hopton Works</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Quartzite Pebble Macehead and three Hammerstones</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Prehistoric Occupation, Hopton Works</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Neolithic Flint, Hopton Works</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Flint, Hopton Bridge</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Flint and Stone, Arm Lees Farm</td>
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<td>Flint, Arm Lees Farm</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Flint, Hopton Incline</td>
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<td>Bronze Age Flint, Arm Lees Farm</td>
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<td>Incline Engine House and Pond, Hopton Top</td>
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<td>Skew Bridge, Hopton Tunnel and Incline</td>
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<td>Railway Bridge, Hopton Incline</td>
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<td>Plate Layers hut, Hopton Incline</td>
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<td>Boneworks Siding, Hopton Incline</td>
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Appendix Two: Gazetteer of Maps

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Appendix Three: Gazetteer of Catalogues & Directories

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<td>3</td>
<td>1895 Kelly’s Directory – Carsington</td>
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References


