

Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Brookside, Old Melton Road. Normanton-on-the-Wolds.



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Report Number: 043/2018


TPA Project Code: NOW

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Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Michael Henshaw to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new dwelling on the site of the former house know as Brookside, Old Melton Road, Normanton-on-the-Wolds prior to the development of a single dwelling residence (planning ref:17/00682FUL).
- Archaeological observation and recording was maintained during intrusive groundworks associated with the development.
- No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the investigation.
- The watching brief was undertaken between the 1st and the 5th January, 2018.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to Michael Henshaw for commissioning the work. The project was managed by Ed Taylor (TPA), and undertaken by Project Supervisor Joe Groake.. Illustrations were prepared by Norma Oldfield.

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Plate 6: East facing section of the machine excavated trench for building foundations. Scale 1m x 1m.

1 Introduction and Planning Background

- 1.1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) was commissioned by Mr Michael Henshaw to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at the site of a former residential dwelling now demolished. The site is centred at SK 62044 33062 along Old Melton Road, Normanton-on-the-Wolds.
- 1.1.2 Due to the potential for extant archaeological remains to be present on the site, an archaeological planning condition was placed on the development, which required that *"no development shall take place until details of an archaeological watching brief have been submitted and...implemented in full"*. Further conditions placed under the Rushcliffe Non Statutory Replacement Local Plan required that the client would *"...ensure that any archaeological items are recorded and to comply with policy EN7 (Sites of Archaeological Importance) of the Rushcliffe Non Statutory Replacement Local Plan..."*
- 1.1.3 The work was undertaken in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and *CiFA Guidelines* (2014a and b), utilising an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Taylor, 2017).

2 Topography and Geology

- 2.1.1 The site is situated within a moderately built up residential area on land off the main A606 road towards Nottingham. The plot sits within a large open space of land which has retained earlier land divisions consistent with a medieval historic village core.
- 2.1.2 Much of the topography around Brookside and Old Melton Road has been subjected to recent landscaping and residential re-development, which has erased many of the natural topographic expressions. However, some of the larger plots of land along the Old Melton Road appear to respect former boundary divisions consistent with a medieval nucleated village, with narrow crofts perpendicular to a main street, at the heart of an open field system. These are visible in aerial photographs.
- 2.1.3 The bedrock geology recorded within the development area consists of Branscombe Mudstone formation. Formed of red-brown mudstone/siltstone set down during the Norian (late Triassic Epoch) age ~228Ma. There are no superficial deposits recorded for this location. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1.1 No designated or non designated heritage assets were located within the bounds of the site, no previous archaeological events are recorded.
- 3.1.2 The site lies just outside of the historic medieval core of the village on Old Melton Road, which was formerly the main Nottingham to Melton Turnpike. Approximately 400m to the south east there is a complex of substantial earthworks through to relate to a medieval mill. The village is surrounded by arable fields, many of which contain well preserved medieval ridge and furrow.

4 Aims and Objectives

Research Objectives

- **Research objective 7E; Investigate the morphology of rural settlements:** To fully understand the development of planned rural villages out for the previous small hamlets and farmsteads within the high medieval period.
- **Research objective 7J; Research the regional communications infrastructure:** To investigate the potential physical infrastructure between medieval settlements.
- **Research objective 8I; Develop further the study of ceramic assemblages:** The East Midlands overall has a poor assemblage of post medieval ceramics .Studies need to be undertaken to understand typology, regional diversity and chronology of the post medieval ceramics in the area.

- 4.1.1 The main objective of the watching brief was to identify the presence of any archaeological remains likely to be affected by intrusive aspects of the development and ensure they were appropriately preserved by record.
- 4.1.2 This included an assessment of the overall extent, date and condition of any archaeological remains.
- 4.1.3 Where practical (within the constraints of the watching brief and development), this will include an assessment of the overall extent, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains.
- 4.1.4 The project also aimed to identify any features of geoarchaeological significance, including identifying the potential for palaeoenvironmental data.

5 Methodology

- 5.1.1 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014b) and the *Code of Conduct* (2014a). The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (Taylor, 2017), and was carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist selected from Trent and Peak's supervisory staff.
- 5.1.2 Intrusive groundworks were carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Where mechanical plant was used this was fitted with a toothless bucket where appropriate.
- 5.1.3 Below-ground stratigraphy was recorded, photographed and interpreted, even where no archaeological finds or features were present, in accordance with ClfA *guidelines* (2014).
- 5.1.4 Recording was carried out on pro-forma context sheets and standardised drawing methods where appropriate. Spot heights were recorded relative to an Ordnance Datum.
- 5.1.5 All excavations were recorded at an appropriate scale by photography. Site photography was undertaken with the use of a high resolution colour DSLR camera, which included general site shots, shots of individual features, and groups of features.

6 Results

- 6.1.1 Monitoring of the ground works for the excavation of the footings/foundations for the proposed building revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance.
- 6.1.2 The Geological substratum (1003) was revealed at 0.94m below current ground level and was overlain by a layer of reddish brown silty clay alluvium (1002) 0.8m thick. Overlying this there was a thin, probably truncated, band of orange-grey sandy clay subsoil (1001) which was 0.10m thick. This was overlain in places by a layer of medium dark grown silty clayey loam topsoil (1000), measuring 0.4m, contained occasional brick and tile fragments, but was otherwise sterile.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1.1 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of the watching brief.
- 7.1.2 A relatively undisturbed stratigraphic sequence comprising the geological substratum, alluvial clay, subsoil and topsoil was recorded across the development area. In places it appeared that topsoil had been recently removed and replaced on top of a permeable membrane indicating that previous landscaping had occurred.

Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a. *Code of Conduct*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading.

Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework*. Department for Communities and Local Government; London.

Taylor, E. 2017. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Brookside, Old Melton Road, Normanton-on-the-Wolds. Trent and Peak: Unpublished report.

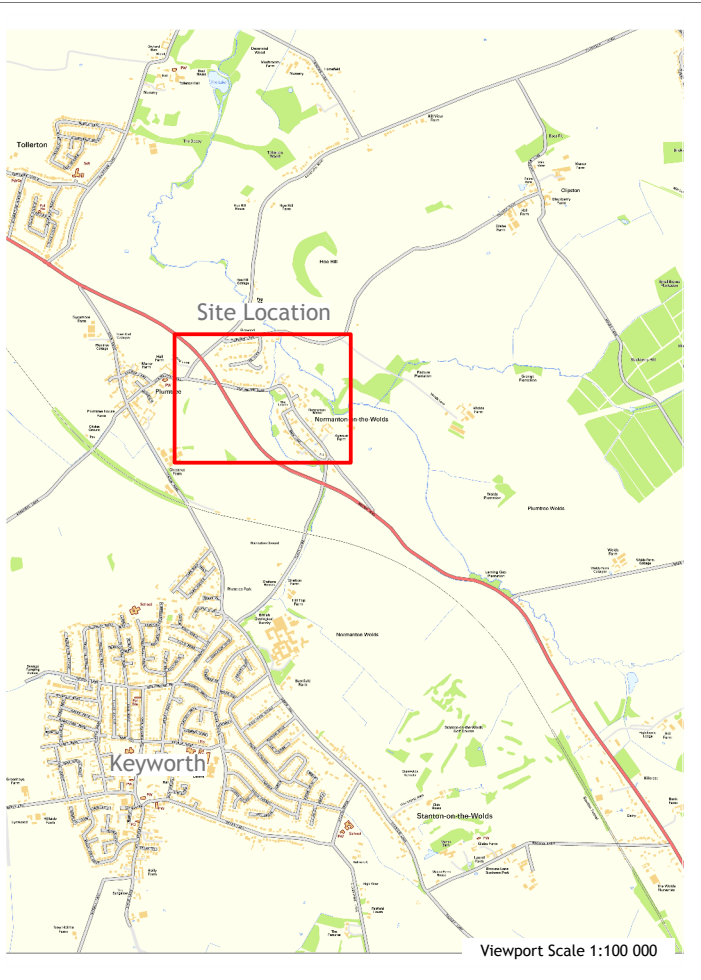
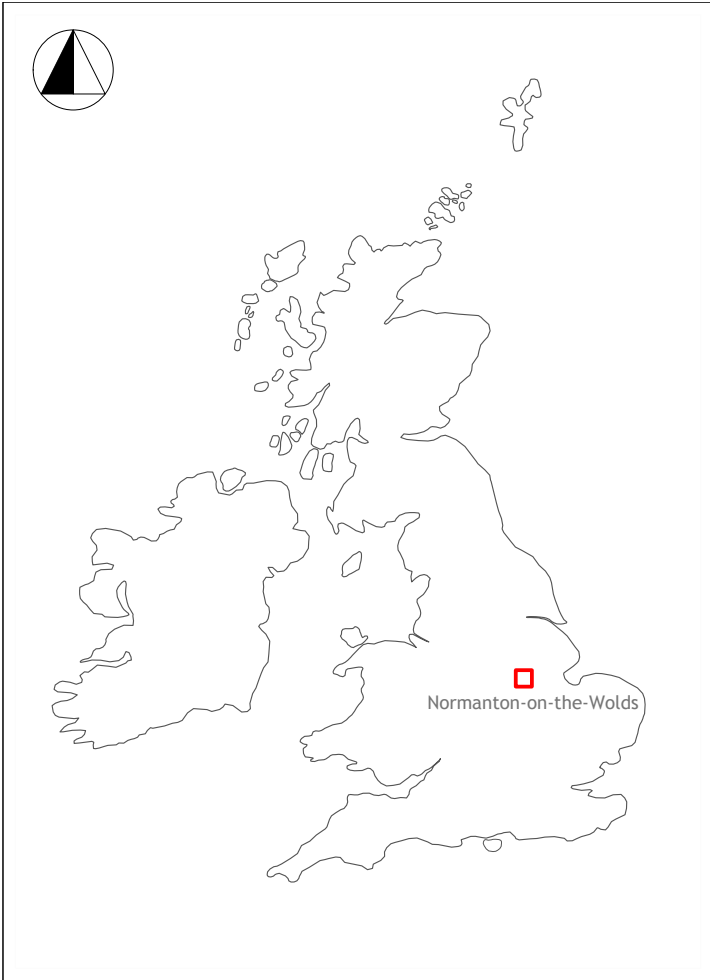
Online sources:

British geological Survey 2017. *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Accessible at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>. [Accessed 05/02/2018].

Appendix 1: Context Register

Context	Feature	Description	Phase
1000	Layer	Topsoil (truncated)	Modern
1001	Layer	Subsoil	Modern
1002	Layer	Natural (Alluvium?)	Modern
1003	Layer	Geological Substrate	Modern

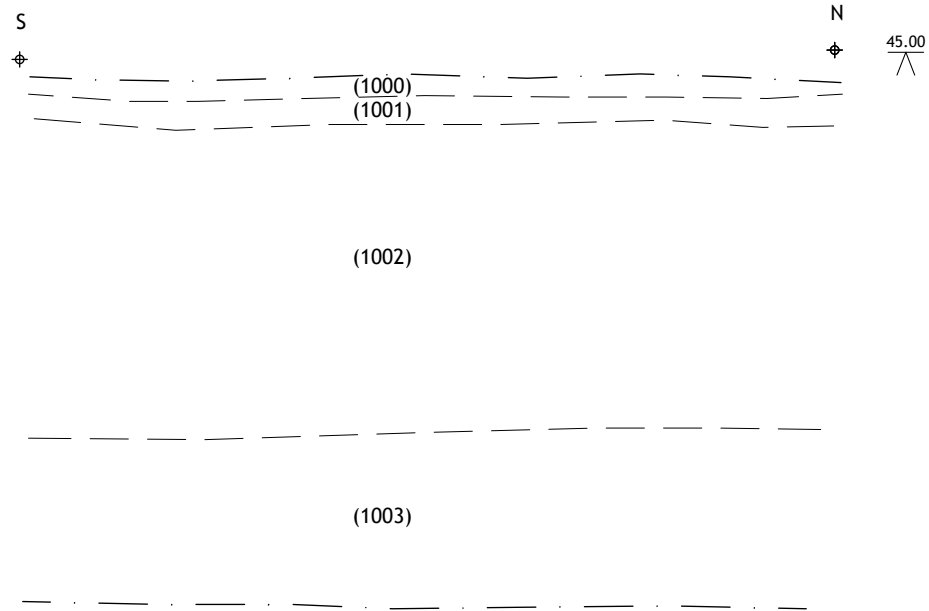
Appendix 2: Figures



(Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618).



DR#01
East Facing Representative Section



Appendix 3: Plates



Plate 1: Site overview, no scale. (Cover page)



Plate 2: Working photo. Machine excavation of foundation trenches, looking west. No scale.



Plate 3: Machine excavation of foundation trenches, looking north east. Scale 1m x 1m.



Plate 4: Overview of the northwestern extent of the site; machine excavation of foundation trenches. Looking south. Scale 1m x 1m.



Plate 5: East facing section edge of the machine excavated foundation trenches, looking west. Scale 1m x 1m.



Plate 6: East facing section of the machine excavated trench for building foundations. Looking west. Scale 1m x 1m.

Appendix 4: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

<i>Field Records</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Watching brief record sheets	Record of visit and work carried out	2
Context register	Register of context numbers and descriptions	1
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	4
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	36
Site drawings	Representative section	1
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the watching brief.	1
Find	Description	Number
Nil	Nil	0

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. Due to the negative results of the watching brief, no plans are made for the deposition of this archive into a museum service. The archive will remain at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology.

Appendix 5: Data Collection Form

14/03/2018

OASIS FORM - Print view

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: trentpea1-311684

Project details

Project name	bROOKSIDE, NORMANTON ON THE WOLDS
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Michael Henshaw to carry out an archaeological watching brief at the site of a demolished dwelling, at Brookside, Old Melton Road, Normanton-on-the-Wolds prior to the development of a single dwelling residence (planning ref:17/00682FUL). The watching brief was conducted in order to assess the potential for buried archaeological deposits within the development area, which may have been preserved by the lessened pressure on infrastructural and residential development that enabled Normanton-on-the-Wolds to retain a more rural character. Archaeological supervision was maintained during the mechanical excavation of the foundations of the previous building, but did not reveal any in-situ archaeological deposits. Excavation of the foundation trenches for the proposed building development was undertaken to a maximum depth of 1.3m across the site, where geological substratum was observed. A 0.8m thick deposit of sterile alluvial material was observed across the site which capped strata. The watching brief was undertaken between the 1st and the 5th January, 2018.
Project dates	Start: 01-01-2018 End: 05-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/00682FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	NOW - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RUSHCLIFFE NORMANTON ON THE WOLDS BROOKSIDE, NORMANTON ON THE WOLDS
Postcode	NG12 5NJ
Study area	50 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 482040 333084 52.894895742715 -1.313118294171 52 53 41 N 001 18 47 W Point

<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

1/3

14/03/2018

OASIS FORM - Print view

Lat/Long Datum Unknown
 Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Edmund Taylor
 Project director/manager Edmund Taylor
 Project supervisor Joe Groarke
 Type of sponsor/funding body County Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Trent and Peak Archaeology
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Trent and Peak Archaeology
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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OASIS FORM - Print view

OASIS:

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