

Kniveton Carr, Kniveton, Derbyshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

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THE UNIVERSITY
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Non-Technical Summary

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Fox to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Kniveton Carr, Kniveton, Derbyshire. The work was undertaken from 10 - 12 July 2000. Three trenches covering 45 sqm of the proposed development area were excavated.

Trench I revealed a very shallow and badly disturbed gully cut into the surrounding boulder clay which produced solely Roman material. Due to the state of preservation of this feature it could not be further defined. Two further features, a posthole revealed in Trench II and a field drain revealed in Trench III, were both cut through the subsoil and have been dated to the late Post-Medieval period.

The largest assemblage of artefacts from the evaluation was roman building material and roof tiles recovered from the topsoil which is uncommon in a rural context such as this.

Thanks to:

Mr and Mrs Fox for supplying the JCB for machine excavation as well as providing much appreciated refreshment.

1. Introduction

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Fox to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Kniveton Carr, Kniveton, Derbyshire (centred at NGR SK 2099 5046).

The work was commissioned to satisfy *Policy DC 10* of *Derbyshire Dales District Council* (Appendix 1: Project Design) as part of a planning application for site development. To fulfil the stipulations for the acceptance of the planning application an archaeological evaluation was sought to assess the full potential of any archaeological remains prior to site development.

The work was undertaken from 10 July to 12 July 2000 and this report presents the results of the evaluation. The field work was undertaken by Peter A. Connelly and Sarah Craig and the report stage was undertaken by Peter A. Connelly with trench illustrations by Sarah Craig.

2. Archaeological Setting

2.1 Geological Setting

Kniveton straddles a confluence of various drift and solid geologies which has undoubtedly influenced the development pattern of the village. Kniveton Carr is located upon a drift geology of Boulder Clay which in turn lies upon Widmerepool Formation Limestone (*Geological Survey of Great Britain, Ashbourne Sheet 124, Solid with Drift Edition, 1:50,000 Series*).

The evaluation trenches corroborated the identification of boulder clay as the localised drift geology. Boulder clay this was revealed in the base of all trenches.

2.2 Topographical Setting, Figure 1

Kniveton Carr is situated upon a sloping parcel of land, declining from north to south, located within the eastern extents of Kniveton village. The extents of the parcel of land are limited by domestic developments and a field to the north and west, by what appears to be a hollow way to the east and by the main road through the village to the south. The main road, which declines to the southwest, separates Kniveton Carr from St Michael's church, the earliest part of which can be dated to the 12th century.

Situated within the field to the northwest of Kniveton Carr is a series of ridge and furrow earthworks, an agricultural practice introduced during the Medieval period. The ridge and furrow is oriented roughly northwest - southeast along the principle axis of the field.

St Michael's church, the ridge and furrow and the hollow way, which is probably Medieval in origin, all lie within close proximity to the parcel of land highlighted for development. This strongly suggests that Kniveton Carr lies within the Medieval boundaries of Kniveton.

The specific area under evaluation lies within the northern extents of the parcel of land upon a relatively flat area which gently declines north to south. The bulk of the evaluation area is situated within a lightly wooded area consisting of broad leaf trees, bushes, shrubs and quick growing lelandi. The remaining minority of the evaluation area is situated upon a lawn which lies immediately to the southeast of the wooded area. To the southeast of the lawn is a bungalow and further southwards is Kniveton Carr the house that the parcel of land takes it's name from.

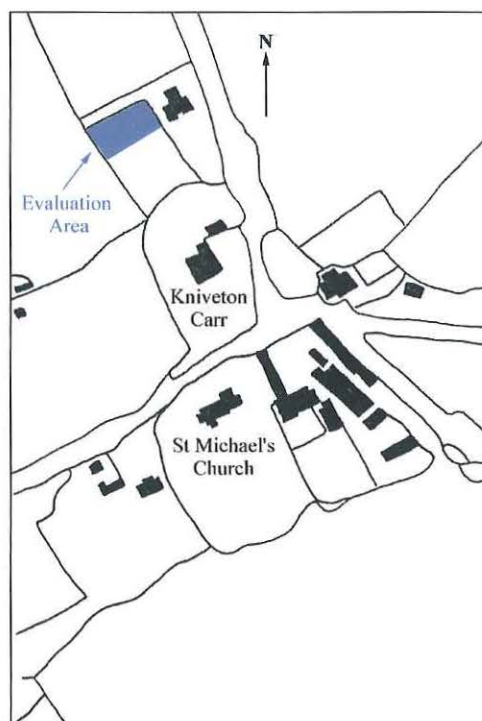


Figure 1: Evaluation Area location (not to scale) (based on a plan by M. Wildegoose)

3. Methodology

A JCB using a 1.7 m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to excavate the evaluation trenches which was constantly supervised by a professional archaeologist. Mechanical excavation was carried out until the first significant archaeological deposit was revealed or the underlying boulder clay drift geology was uncovered, if no archaeological deposits were located. All other archaeological deposits were excavated by hand.

Contexts were recorded individually on UMAU context sheets with cross referencing and enumeration on the relevant plans and sections. A photographed record of the trenches was made and where necessary plans and sections were drawn to archaeological best practice. All finds were recorded by context.

4. Evaluation Results

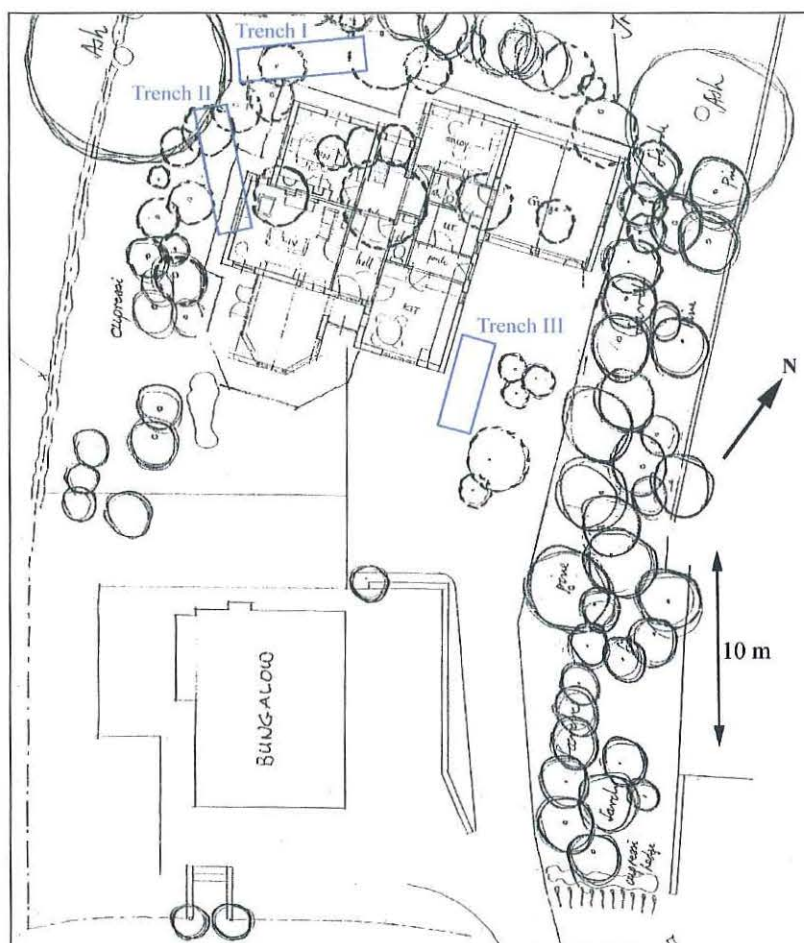


Figure 2: Trench location superimposed upon the development plan (supplied by Mr and Mrs Fox)

4.1 Trench I (Tr. I), Figure 2 and Plate 1

Tr. I was located close to the north western perimeter corner of the evaluation area. This trench measured 6.55 m northeast - southwest by 1.70 m northwest - southeast and was excavated to a depth of 0.43 m - 0.56 m. During machine stripping of the topsoil, context (1), and subsoil, context (2), 10 fragments of building material and two fragments of galena were recovered.

Only one feature was revealed in the base Tr. I (see below) where as the rest of the base constituted compact yellowish red gritty boulder clay (10).

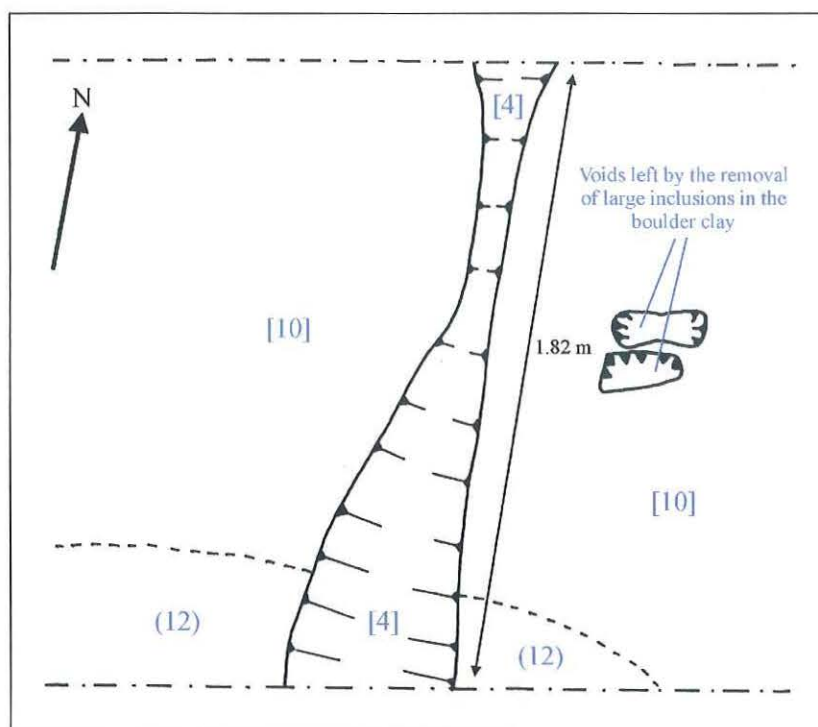


Figure 3: Plan of the truncated remains of cut [4] and layer (12)

4.1.1 Feature (11)/(3)/[4], Figures 3, 4 and Plates 1, 2

The machine stripping revealed an irregular and tapered linear feature oriented north - south across the trench. This feature was defined by a compact light brown clayey silt fill, context (3) surrounded by the compact yellowish red gritty boulder clay, context (10), and layer (12) (see below). Full excavation of this feature revealed that fill (3) measured 1.82 m north - south, 1.15 m east - west (maximum width) and 0.26 m deep. One sherd of pottery and three fragments of building material were recovered from fill (3).

However, due to the very dry nature of the deposits and the high level of root disturbance the full width and depth of fill (3) was only revealed in section which implied that machine stripping had truncated the feature.

The section also revealed that fill (3) was the primary fill of the feature as it was overlain by a soft brown sandy loam fill, context (11). Due to the high level of root disturbance in this portion of the trench fill (11) was not located during machine stripping and the edges of the fill were indistinct. Thus, where observable fill (11) measured approximately 0.49 m east - west and 0.22 m deep. No artefacts were recovered from (11).

Fills (11) and (3) were contained within cut [4], the profile of which revealed non-perceptible breaks of slope top and bottom, with gradual inclined sides and a concave base. Cut [4] measured 1.82 m north - south, 1.15 m east - west and 0.26 m deep. Although, the majority of [4] cut into the boulder clay and boulder clay was revealed along the entire base of the cut the southern end cut through a shallow layer, context (12).

4.1.2 Layer (12), Figures 3 and 4

Layer (12) was a shallow spread of compact light yellowish brown clayey silt which was very similar in nature to fill (3) within cut [4]. Due to the high level of root disturbance, as outlined above, the edges of this layer were diffuse. The overall recovered dimensions for the feature were 1.7 m east - west, 0.4 m north - south and 0.15 m deep. Layer (12) lay directly upon the boulder clay (10). No finds were recovered from layer (12).

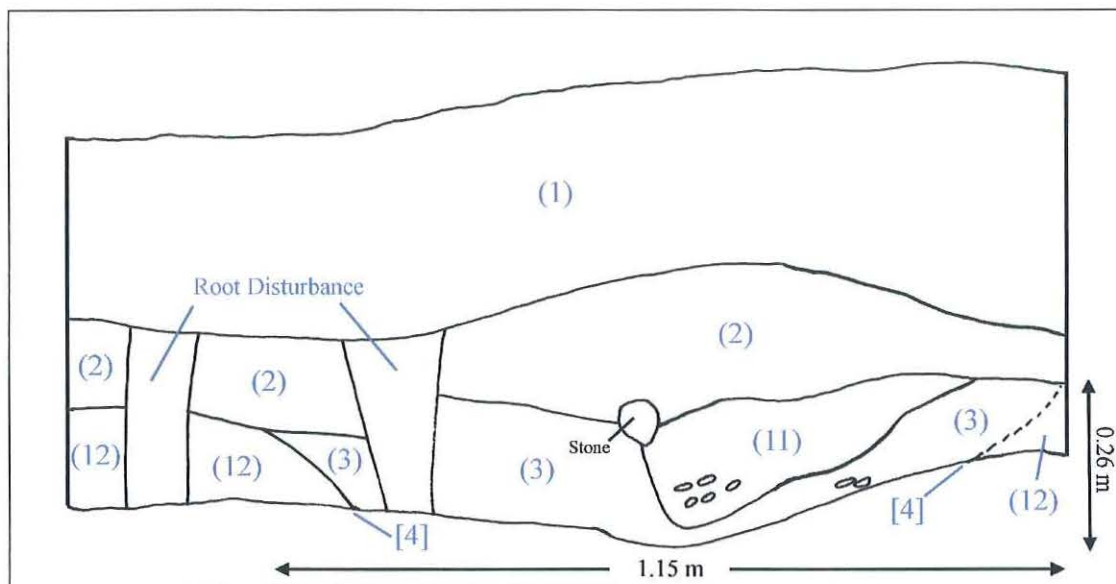


Figure 4: Section of feature (11)/(3)/[4] and part of layer (12)

4.2 Trench II (Tr. II), Figure 2 and Plate 3

Tr. II was located close to the western perimeter of the evaluation area. This trench measured 6.55 m northwest - southeast, 1.70 m northeast - southwest and was excavated to a depth of 0.40 m - 0.59 m. During machine stripping of (1) and (2) 23 fragments of building material were recovered.

Only one feature was revealed in Tr. II (see below) where as the rest of the trench revealed the compact yellowish red gritty boulder clay (10).

4.2.1 Feature (5)/[6], Figure 5 and Plate 4

Located at the northwest end of the trench this feature was revealed as a circular spread of soft greyish brown clayey silt, fill (5), surrounded by the soft brown clayey loam subsoil (2). Full excavation of this feature revealed that it was 0.35 m diameter, 0.32 m deep and contained one fragment of building material and one large fragment of yellow sandstone roof slate with peg hole. Cut [6], which has the same dimensions as fill (5), was revealed to have a profile that consisted of a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope bottom and a concave base.

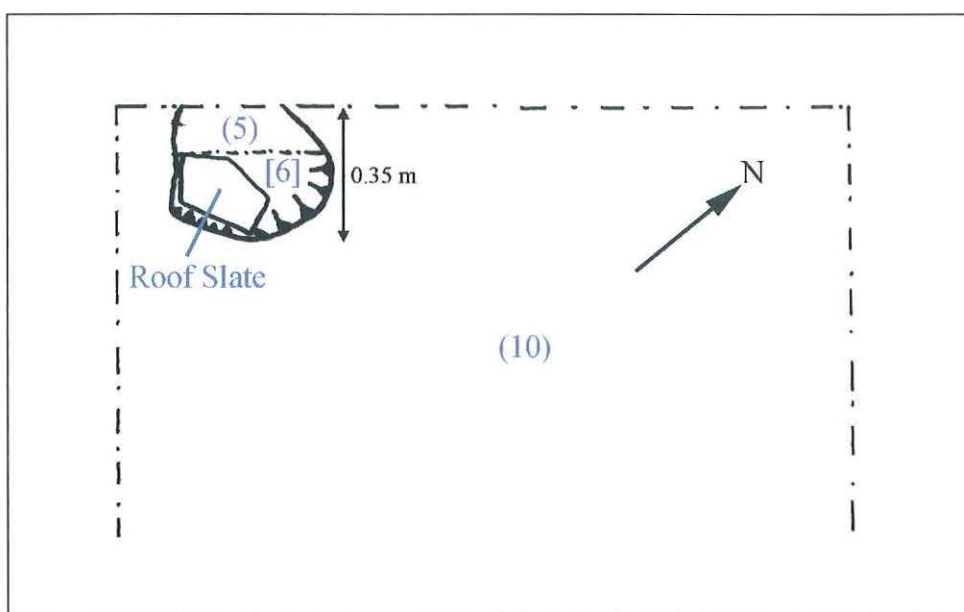


Figure 5: Northwest extents of Tr. II showing plan of feature (5)/[6]

4.3 Trench III (Tr. III), Figure 2 and Plate 5

Tr. III was located on the lawn to the southeast of the wooded area. This was established as the southeast corner of the development area. This trench measured 4.8 m northwest - southeast, 1.7 m northeast - southwest and was excavated to a depth of 0.42 m - 0.44 m. During machine stripping of (1) and (2) two fragments of building material were recovered.

Only one feature was revealed in Tr. III (see below) where as the rest of the trench revealed the compact yellowish red gritty boulder clay (10).

4.3.1 Feature (7)/(9)/[8], Plate 6

Leading from the northwest corner of the trench, on a east-northeast - west-southwest orientation, this feature was revealed as context (7) which was as a loose angular limestone pebble (80%) and clayey silt (20%) fill measuring 3.8 m long and 0.2 m wide. As this feature was revealed directly below the topsoil it cut through and therefore was surrounded by the soft brown clayey loam subsoil. Full excavation of this feature revealed that fill (7) was 0.2 m deep and was above fill (9) which was a soft greyish brown clayey silt which contained frequent angular limestone pebbles. Fill (9) measured 3.8 m long, 0.22 m wide and 0.25 m deep. Cut [8] was revealed to have a profile consisting of a gradual break of slope top, steep to almost vertical sides, a gradual break of slope bottom, a concave base and had the same dimensions as fill (9). No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

5. Finds Analysis

5.1 Romano-British

5.1.1 Context (1)

Topsoil stripping produced the largest amount of Romano-British (R.B.) building material, twenty six fragments of various size and states of preservation were recovered from the three trenches. The fragments range from a soft and sandy orange fabric to a hard sandy dark orange fabric which appears to have larger and more frequent inclusions. Within this assemblage only two fragments had diagnostic characteristics which has allowed for further identification. The first fragment, recovered from Tr. I, is part of an Imbrex (roof ridge tile) and the second fragment, recovered from Tr. II, is part of a Tegula (roof tile).

5.1.2 Context (3)

One small abraded sherd of undiagnostic grey ware and three undiagnostic fragments of tile were recovered from this fill, the only securely stratified R.B. artefacts from the whole evaluation. Due to the abraded and undiagnostic nature of the grey ware sherd a date range can not be attributed to it. The three fragments of tile were of a soft sandy orange fabric very similar to those found in context (1).

5.2 Post-Medieval

5.2.1 Context (1)

The machine stripping of context (1) produced 10 undiagnostic fragments of late Post-Medieval building material from trenches I and II. No late Post-Medieval building material was recovered from trench III. These fragment are of a hard, sandy, reddish orange colour with yellow striations and are further defined by occasional large, sub-angular haematite inclusions.

5.2.2 Context (5)

This context produced one small undiagnostic fragment of late Post-Medieval building material similar to those recovered in context (1). One large fragment of a yellow sandstone roof slate with peg hole was also recovered from this fill. The dating of the roof slate is problematic as similar examples date from the Roman period through to the late Post-Medieval period. However, in this context and by association with the fragment of late Post-Medieval building material the suggestion is that this roof slate is late Post-Medieval in date.

5.3 Undatable

Two fragments of galena, the principle source for lead, were recovered from context (1) in Tr. I. Although, roasted lead has been recovered from excavations at Closes Farm, Kniveton in R.B. features, layer (1) is a mixed context therefore this galena can not be attributed to any specific date.

6. Interpretation

6.1 Romano-British (1st - early 5th century)

6.1.1 Gully (11)/(3)/[4]

Due to the badly truncated and disturbed nature of this feature it is very difficult to determine its function. The retrieval of the grey ware sherd and the fragments of R.B. building material suggest that it dates to the Roman period. A feature such as this may be related to a large ditch, which produced R.B. pottery when revealed in the early 1980's, situated immediately to the south east of the evaluation area.

This feature along with the ditch and any other R.B. features in the immediate area are probably associated with the R.B. ditched enclosure at Closes Farm, which lies to the north west of the evaluation area.

6.1.2 Layer (12)

Although gully (11)/(3)/[4] cuts through this layer, which indicates that layer (12) is earlier than the gully, it can not be firmly dated as no artefacts were recovered from it. This gives the layer a *terminus anti quem* of the Romano-British period. Due to the insubstantial nature of this layer interpretation is impeded although it is possible that layer (12) represents the scant remains of a habitation surface.

6.1.3 Romano-British building material from topsoil (1)

The two diagnostic fragments of imbrex and tegula as well as the quantity of R.B. building material, probably mostly roof tile, recovered from the topsoil suggest that there is the possibility that the remains of a R.B. tile roofed building may be located near the evaluation area. In this rural context a building such as this may be indicative of high status.

6.2 Late Post-Medieval (18th - early 20th century)

6.2.1 Feature (5)/[6], Posthole

The form of feature (5)/[6] would appear to indicate its use as a posthole where the post has either been removed after it is no longer needed or it has completely decomposed *in-situ*. Although no packing stones were recovered from the feature the broken flat yellow sandstone roof tile was recovered from the bottom and appears to have been used as a pad stone.

The recovery of a fragment of late Post-Medieval pottery from this posthole suggest a late Post-Medieval date for the posthole. As the posthole was cut from the topsoils and through the subsoil it is highly likely that this feature is late 19th century or 20th century in date.

6.2.2 *Feature (7)/(9)/[8], Drain*

Although no artefacts were recovered from this feature it was cut from the topsoil (1) and through the subsoil (2) which implies that it is a relatively recent creation. The pebble rich fill (9) extended the entire length of this linear feature and it's relatively loose nature suggests that this entire feature is a drain probably created to inhibit the water logging of this plot of land. This feature is probably 20th century in date and may have been created during the development of this plot of land as a garden.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

7.1 Conclusion

Due to the paucity of both archaeological features revealed within the evaluation area and the physical material recovered from them an entirely satisfactory conclusion can not be drawn. This limited archaeological record suggests:

1. A very small number of archaeological features exist within the proposed development area. Of these one feature, gully (11)/(3)/[4] is R.B. in date and the other two features are probably 19th - 20th century in date. This suggests that this plot of land has never been intensively developed.
2. If the gully is indicative of earlier archaeological features the plantation of trees, bushes and shrubs on this plot of land has seriously effected the states of archaeological preservation. Any other archaeological features not revealed during the evaluation may also be badly truncated and disturbed unless they are quite substantial in nature.
3. The recovery of the Roman tile from the topsoil is of tentative importance and suggests that there may be the remains of a tile roofed building in the vicinity of the evaluation area. In an urban context this would not be unusual however, in this rural context their recovery is uncommon. The uncommon nature of the existence of the tile is due to the perception that in a rural context buildings are more likely to have thatched roofs. Therefore, a tile roof would appear to infer greater cost and may suggest a building of higher status than usually expected. This building and near by ditch may be associated with the R.B. enclosure discovered at Closes Farm which suggests the possibility for a complex settlement.

7.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations have been drawn taking into consideration all the various factors revealed by the archaeological evaluation, the surrounding archaeological remains as well as those factors involved in the planning application:

1. Due to the paucity of the physical evidence recovered from the evaluation, the shallow and badly disturbed nature of the only R.B. feature and the further archaeological features are probably 19th - 20th century in date, no further archaeological work is required within the present development area.
2. However, any further development at Kniveton Carr or on the surrounding land should warrant at least an archaeological evaluation with the possibility for further excavation and/or an archaeological watching brief. This is due to the location to the south of the present development area of the large ditch from which R.B. pottery was recovered and the recovery of the R.B. tile which suggests that there may be a building of archaeological significance close to the present development area.

8. Archive

The following elements constitute the site archive and are currently held by UMAU:

1. Site records and context sheets
2. Site drawings
3. Site photographs and photographic record
4. Background information
5. Correspondence between UMAU and all other parties
6. Artefacts recovered from the evaluation

The archive will be finally deposited with an appropriate archiving body. The final deposition of the artefacts will be determined in conjunction with the landowner.

9. Plates



Plate 1: Fully excavated truncated remains of gully [4] (from the southwest). Note the high levels of root disturbance surrounding the trench.



Plate 2: Detail section of gully (11)/(3)/[4] (from the northwest).



Plate 3: View of Tr. II (from the northwest).



Plate 4: Remains of posthole (5)/[6] (from the southeast) after removal of layers (1) and (2) down to boulder clay (10).



Plate 5: View of Tr. III (from the south) after the removal of layers (1) and (2) revealing boulder (10). Remains of feature (7)/(9)/[8] highlighted.



Plate 6: Section of feature (7)/(9)/[8] (from the south).

Appendix 1: Project Design

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Summary

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) have been commissioned by Mr and Mrs Fox to carry out an archaeological evaluation on their land Kniveton Carr, Kniveton, Derbyshire prior to site re-development. Previous work adjacent to the re-development area has identified the site as having archaeological potential. This document represents the intention of work to be carried out by UMAU defined by the previous archaeological understanding of the land and site re-development plans.

1. Introduction

3. The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit has been commissioned by Mr and Mrs Fox to carry out an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) within a parcel of land known as Kniveton Carr.
4. Previous archaeological work to the south-west of the development site revealed the remains of a large ditch containing various Romano-British (RB) artefacts. The alignment of this ditch suggests that it continues into the development area. Kniveton Carr is also situated within the Medieval core of Kniveton which is a shrunken Medieval village situated within an intact Medieval landscape.
5. As the site may contain archaeological remains Policy DC 10 of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan advises that “*applications affecting such sites provide an appropriate level of assessment and/or evaluation by a suitably qualified person to establish the implications of any proposed development*”. Therefore, to qualify the implications of the proposed site development an archaeological evaluation shall be carried out by UMAU to assess the full potential of any archaeological remains before any further decision on the development is taken.

2. Aim and Objectives

- 2.1 The programme of work undertaken by UMAU will assess the date, nature and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits which might be present within and adjacent to the area proposed for development. The programme of work also aims to assess the relative importance of these deposits and the potential loss of any archaeological information by the development.
- 2.2 The specific objective of the evaluation is to undertake a field investigation consisting of the excavation of 45 sqm of trial trenching. This represents an evaluation of approximately 5% of the development area. The results of the archaeological evaluation will be presented in a subsequent report.

3. Method Statement

- 3.1 The programme of work will comprise of the excavation of trial trenches not exceeding a total of 45 sqm in area. These trenches will be strategically positioned to ensure that any presence of settlement activity will be discovered. The programme of work and trench design will allow for minimum disturbance to the present flora. The trenches will be mechanically excavated using a JCB excavator with a 1.5 m wide toothless ditching bucket under archaeological excavation. The JCB excavator will be supplied by the developer. The trenches will be excavated down to natural subsoil/geology or the first archaeological deposit.
- 3.2 If archaeological deposits are encountered then specific areas will be targeted to establish the depth of archaeology. This will be undertaken by hand to the natural sub-soil or to a health and safety maximum depth without shoring of 1.2 m.
- 3.3 Separate contexts will be recorded individually on UMAU context sheets, plans will be drawn at 1:20 scale with enumerated contexts, relevant sections will be recorded at 1:10 scale with enumerated contexts. Photography of all relevant phases and features will be undertaken in both colour and monochrome mediums.
- 3.4 All finds will be recorded by context. All finds will be retained/stabilised for summary analysis and subsequent deposition or disposal.
- 3.5 The excavated ground will be reinstated by backfilling and tamping of existing surfaces. Where trenches are excavated in areas of lawn/turf the turf shall be cut and lifted by hand and shall be reinstated by hand.
- 3.6 All safety requests and requirements as identified by the Developer will be upheld.

4. Report

- 4.1 A report will be presented to the Developer, Derbyshire Dales District Council and the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Office within 6 weeks of completion of the fieldwork. This report will include:
1. A summary of the results.
 2. A copy of the project design and any indication of any variation from the project design.
 3. A location plan at an appropriate scale.
 4. Excavation plans and sections at an appropriate scale.
 5. Monochrome and colour photographs where appropriate.
 6. A summary description of archaeological features or deposits identified.
 7. A summary report of artifacts or ecofacts recovered.
 8. An interpretation of the results and their potential archaeological significance.
 9. An index to the project archive.

5. Archive

- 5.1 The site archive will be stored according to the UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage.
- 5.2 The archive will be prepared to the standard set out in MAP 2.5.4 and will be deposited with an appropriate institution.
- 5.3 The landowner retains the rights to any finds recovered during the evaluation. However, if the landowner so wishes the finds will also be deposited with an appropriate institution.

6. Timetable

6.1 Fieldwork

Week 1 Day 1 - lifting of turf by hand where necessary and excavation of trenches by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision down to first layer/deposit. Followed by cleaning by hand and recording of the same.

Week 1 Day 2 - continuation of field work.

Week 1 Day 3 - completion of field work and reinstatement of trenches.

6.2 Post Excavation and Report

Week 2 - processing and initial assessment of the finds, complete report, construction of archive. Submit report and archive.

7. UMAU Staff

7.1 UMAU Staff

Project Manager - Graham Eyre-Morgan BA MPhil MIFA FSAScot

Currently divisional manager of UMAU's field archaeology division, has responsibility for tendering, management and planning of UMAU's archaeological projects. Nineteen years experience in field archaeology and a regular contributor to archaeological journals. Former council member of the IFA.

Project Officer - Peter Connelly BA

10 years experience in archaeology, responsible for day to day running of *on-site* operations and responsible for the writing and completion of related reports. Has directed a research project in Kniveton since 1997.

Site Surveyor - Graham Mottershead BA

10 years experience in archaeology, an experienced surveyor familiar with most forms of surveying equipment and also an experienced supervisor.

8. Terms and Conditions

- 8.1 UMAU acts in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and observes the British Archaeologists and Developers Group Code of Practice.
- 8.2 UMAU is comprehensively insured for all field survey, investigations and excavations under the Royal Insurance (UK) Ltd Public and Employers Liability Insurance - Victoria University of Manchester and Subsidiaries.
- 8.3 Professional Indemnity Insurance of ten millions pounds and Public Liability of five million pounds is provided for UMAU through the University of Manchester and/or Vuman Ltd and/or its Subsidiary and/or Associated Companies by Denham Direct Underwriters Ltd.
- 8.4 UMAU follows the University of Manchester's policy statement on Health and Safety and SCAUM guidelines on Health and Safety in Field Archaeology.