

**169 NEWMARKET ROAD
ASHTON-UNDER LYNE
GREATER MANCHESTER**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CP. No: 10926

22/05/2014



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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by High Quality Homes Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 169 Newmarket Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester (NGR SD 92687 00370). This work is associated with the proposed residential development on c.0.18ha of land to the rear of 169 Newmarket Road (Figure 1).

The work is required as the site is adjacent to three listed buildings, Taunton Hall (SMR 957.1.0), Taunton Farm (SMR 957.1.1) and Taunton Hall Garden Wall (SMR 957.1.2), the presence of which was sufficient to identify the site as of archaeological interest.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over two days between the 19th and 20th of May 2014. The evaluation involved the excavation of three trenches, totalling 71.04m², equal to 4.2% of the development area. No archaeological remains were identified in the trenches.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thanks Brian Jackson of High Quality Homes Ltd, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Andrew Myers, Senior Planning Archaeologist at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), for his assistance throughout the project.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Ben Moore and Damion Churchill. The report was written by Damion Churchill and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Regional Manager for WAA who also edited this report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In April 2014, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by High Quality Homes Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 169 Newmarket Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester (NGR SD 92687 00370; Figure 1), prior to residential development. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of three listed buildings, Taunton Hall (SMR 957.1.0), Taunton Farm (SMR 957.1.1) and Taunton Hall Garden Wall (SMR 957.1.2), which indicated the site to be of archaeological interest. As a result, Andrew Myers, Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS requested a programme of archaeological investigation, prior to the development taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following approved standards and guidance (IfA 2008), and was consistent with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WAA, 2014).
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the evaluation works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by High Quality Homes Ltd, for an archaeological evaluation of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Andrew Myers, Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE FIELD EVALUATION

- 2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches covering 71.04 m² of the proposed 1689.56m² development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).
- 2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:
- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 2.3.3 The surface material was removed by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recording according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2012).
- 2.3.4 All finds encountered were retained, including those from excavated topsoil, and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Megan Stoakley, WWA Finds Officer.
- 2.3.5 The three evaluation trenches were scheduled to be backfilled at the discretion of the client, following excavation and recording.
- 2.3.6 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, 1991).

2.4 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within Salford Museum and Art Gallery, along with a copy of the report, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA14, NRA-A, CP 10926.
- 2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, and Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service Council, support the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 Newmarket Road is located within Taunton, part of the northern limits of the market town of Ashton-under-Lyne, approximately 10km east of Manchester city center. Ashton-under-Lyne lies on the northern bank of the river Tame within the undulating foothills of the Pennines. Historically, part of Lancashire, the Ashton-under-Lyne now forms part of Greater Manchester. The site lies at a height of approximately 108m AOD and is bounded to the north by Newmarket road and to each other direction by urban housing. The land within the proposed development area has previously been developed as garages with hard standing during the 1980's.
- 3.1.2 The underlying geology is Pennine upper coal measures formation (British Geological Survey North Sheet, Third Edition Solid 1979) with overlying Glacial Till (British Geological Survey North Sheet, First Edition Quaternary, 1977). The overlying soils are slowly permeable, seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils.

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 No desk-based research has been conducted on the development site. It is located immediately adjacent to three listed buildings comprising of Taunton Hall (SMR 957.1.0) and Taunton Farm (SMR 957.1.1), both grade II listed, along with Taunton Hall Garden Wall (SMR 957.1.2) listed II*.
- 3.2.2 The current structure has been thought to have been preceded by an earlier wooden structure, with Thomas Claydon living at Taunton Hall when the war of the roses broke out in the 14th Century (Walker and Tindall, 1985; 169). A stone building was possibly built during the Elizabethan period (*ibid*), with modification occurring during the 18th century (University of Manchester Archaeology Unit, 2008).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The evaluation, comprised of three trenches, was undertaken in a single phase, starting on the 19th and finishing on the 20th of May 2014. (Figure 2).

4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was located toward the west of site, measured 17.5m long by 1.6m wide and was aligned broadly north-west to south-east. (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 107.83m AOD revealing firm orange – brown silty clay clay (**102**) below c.0.20m of greyish brown silty clay subsoil (**101**) and up to c.0.5m of dark brown loam topsoil (**100**) (Plate 1, Figure 2).
- 4.2.2 Modern disturbances were observed along the length of Trench 1, including modern animal burials and land drains. No archaeological deposits, artefacts or features were encountered.



Plate 1: Overview of Trench 1, looking southeast

- 4.2.3 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located at the south – eastern extent of Trench 1, measured 11.40m long by 1.6m wide and was aligned north north-east to south south-west. (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 108.07m AOD revealing soft yellowish-brown silty sandy clay (**202**) below c.0.16m of greyish brown silty clay subsoil (**201**) and c.0.31m of dark brown sandy silt topsoil (**200**) (Plate 2, Figure 2).

- 4.2.4 Modern pits were investigated at the southern end of the trench. No archaeological features deposits or artefacts were identified.



Plate 2: Overview of Trench 2, looking south southeast

- 4.2.5 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located toward the centre of site, measured 15.50m long by 1.6m wide and was aligned north-east to south-west (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 108.77m AOD revealing yellowish-brown silty sandy clay (**303**) below c.0.18m of greyish brown silty clay subsoil (**302**). The subsoil was sealed by c.0.15m dark brown sandy buried soil (**301**), which was overlain by up to 0.20m of hardcore and tarmac (**300**) (Plate 3, Figure 2).
- 4.2.6 Modern disturbance was noted at the north – eastern limit of the trench, and a live water service was encountered towards the southern end of Trench 3. No archaeological artefacts, deposits or features were encountered.



Plate 3: Overview of Trench 3, looking northeast

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

- 4.4.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at 169 Newmarket Road, three trenches were excavated, covering 71.04m² of the proposed 1689.56m² development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains, the evaluation trenches being located to provide a representative sample of the development area. All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate.
- 5.1.2 Each trench was devoid of any archaeological features or deposits, and there were no remains observed associated with the listed structures of Taunton Hall or Taunton Farm.
- 5.1.3 The results obtained during the present evaluation, suggest that the study area has not been intensively used in the past other than for agricultural purposes.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Walker, J.S.F. & Tindall, A.S. (1985) *Country Houses of Greater Manchester*. Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Trench Number	Description
100	Deposit	1	Topsoil
101	Deposit	1	Subsoil
102	Deposit	1	Natural
200	Deposit	2	Topsoil
201	Deposit	2	Subsoil
202	Deposit	2	Natural
300	Deposit	3	Hardcore and Tarmac
301	Deposit	3	Buried soil
302	Deposit	3	Subsoil
303	Deposit	3	Natural

Table 1: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

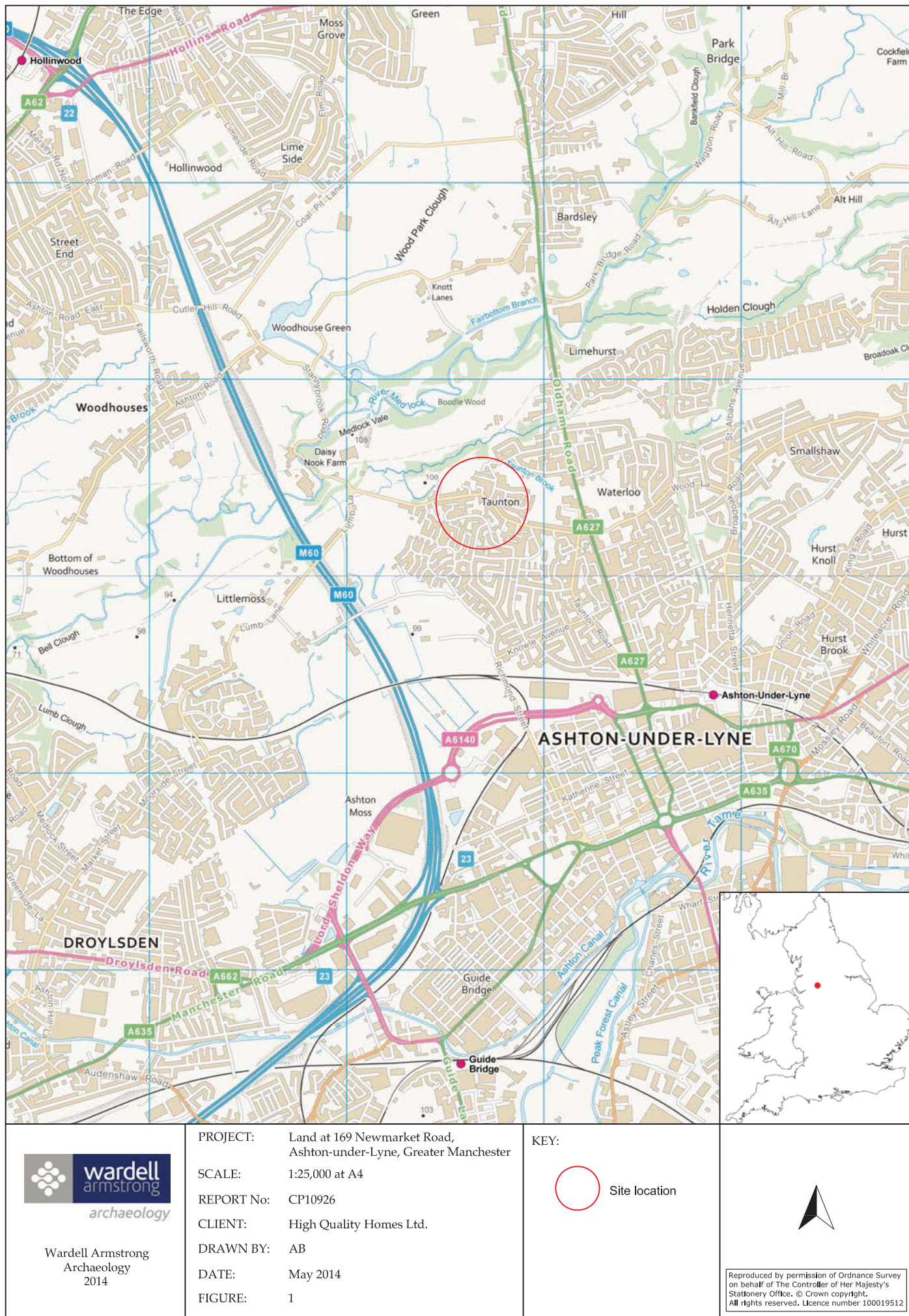


Figure 1: Site location.



Wardell Armstrong
Archaeology
2014

PROJECT:

Land at 169 Newmarket Road,
Ashton-under-Lyne,
Greater Manchester

CLIENT:

High Quality Homes Ltd.

SCALE: 1:500 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: May 2014

KEY:



Site boundary



Archaeological
evaluation trenches



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FIGURE:

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Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches.