

**HURN VIEW, HURN ROAD,
WERRINGTON, PETERBOROUGH,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

NGR REF: TF 1549 0362



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

OCTOBER 2014

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants 1-3 October 2014 for a new development at Hurn View, Hurn Road, Werrington, Peterborough. No archaeological deposits were encountered within the site, but older, and partly buried, horizons of topsoil and subsoil were observed. A small amount of finds was also collected during the field works.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site was located at Hurn View, Hurn Road, Werrington, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TF 1549 0362) (Figure 1-2). The area affected by the development was ca. 4800m² and the evaluation trenches covered together an area of about 120m², or 2.5% of this area. The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001), as well as discussions with Rebecca Casa-Hutton, Archaeological Officer for Peterborough. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (11/01704/FUL) for development of land at Hurn View, Hurn Road, Werrington, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The development comprised the construction of a gypsy traveller site suitable for 2 static caravans and 1 touring caravan. The site was located in a rural setting in Werrington, just outside Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Peterborough HER.
- 2.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition for a programme of archaeological work was attached to the Planning Permission. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Peterborough City Council, and was in line with standards described in NPPF 2012. The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Archaeologist for Peterborough.

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The proposed development site is surrounded by crop marks of uncertain interpretation. Former investigations in Papyrus Road revealed that some of these represented geological features and/or ridge and furrow. However, other crop marks in the area could have archaeological origins. Evidence for Roman

occupation has been found during the construction of the Werrington-Glinton by-pass, situated some 500m north of the present site.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary.
- 4.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present within the site;
 - iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
 - iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.
 - v) to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.



Figure 1 Site Location

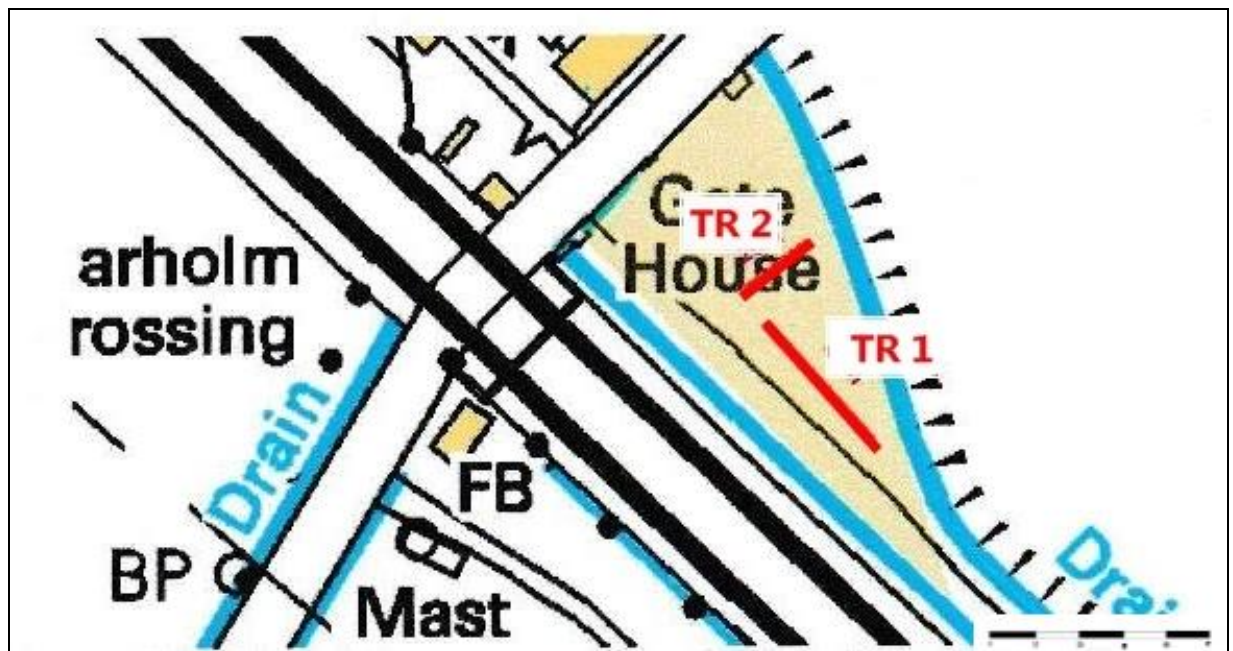


Figure 2 Trench Locations

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Two evaluation trenches, the first 40m x 2m and the second 20m x 2m, were opened up within the proposed development area. The site was in total ca. 60m x 80m, or 4800 m², and the two trenches covered together an area of 120m² or 2.5% of the site. Both trenches were entirely situated within the footprints of the new buildings. The two trenches were between 0.35-0.9m deep and were dug down to natural deposits.
- 5.2 This was achieved through use of a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Thereafter all cleaning and excavation of the trenches was conducted by hand. The site archaeologist was granted the opportunity to clean and record all exposed deposits.
- 5.3 All groundwork was carried out in a way that allowed early identification of archaeological features. In some cases the trenches were excavated to a lower depth than necessary to allow interpreting of the natural deposits within the site. No features suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.
- 5.4 All man-made features were investigated and all features and deposits were cleaned and recorded sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character and relationship with other features in the surrounding landscape.
- 5.5 Each excavation context was excavated, wherever possible, in such a way as to produce at least one representative cross-section of the deposit.
- 5.6 Decisions about the relative value of the deposits and features within the site were made in consultation with the Archaeological Officer for Peterborough City Council.
- 5.7 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not, were collected, bagged and labelled. Artefacts were subject to preliminary study on site in order to interpret the exposed deposits. All artefacts were treated in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (English Heritage 2001).

6 RECORDING

- 6.1 Each archaeological context was recorded separately by means of a written description. The stratigraphic relationships of each context were also recorded. Independent Archaeology Consultant's *pro forma* record sheets were used throughout. An index was kept of all record types and all trenches were described through written and photographic recording, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.
- 6.2 Each deposit was recorded by means of a measured plan at an appropriate scale. All trenches, sections and features were accurately referenced to the

Ordnance Survey grid and given spot heights related to Ordnance Datum.

- 6.3 Sections were recorded by means of a measured drawing at an appropriate scale. The locations of all sections were recorded on the site plan.
- 6.4 All drawn records were clearly marked with a unique site number, and was individually identified. The scale of the plan was recorded and all drawings were made on dimensionally stable media.
- 6.5 A photographic record comprising monochrome, colour prints/slides and digital photos formed part of the site record. Each excavation context was recorded photographically prior to removal. Every photo contains an appropriately sized scale, a north arrow and labels of all visible deposits.

7 RESULTS

Trench 1

- 7.1 Trench 1 was 40m long and 2m wide and was in average 0.35m deep. Underlying all other contexts in Trench 1 was the natural deposits, consisting of yellow, firm, silty clay with occasional inclusions of small stones and roots. No artefacts or archaeological features were visible in the natural deposits.
- 7.2 Covering the natural deposits in Trench 1 was (102), a 0.15m thick subsoil of light brown, firm silty clay with occasional inclusions of bricks, charcoal and small stones. This layer also contained some modern metal, ceramic building material and china.
- 7.3 Layer (102) was covered by (101), a 0.20m thick topsoil of dark brown, firm silty clay with occasional bricks, charcoal and small stones. The layer contained a few pieces of Roman pottery (collected) and modern broken glass, metal and ceramic building material (not collected). Layer (101) was sealing all other contexts in Trench 1.

Trench 2

- 7.4 Trench 2 was 20m long and 2m wide and was in average 0.50m deep. The lowest deposit in Trench 2 was the natural deposits, consisting of yellow, firm, silty clay with occasional inclusions of small stones and roots. No artefacts or archaeological features were visible in the natural deposits.
- 7.5 Covering the natural deposits in Trench 2 was (202), a 0.2m thick subsoil of light brown, firm silty clay with occasional inclusions of bricks, charcoal and small stones. This layer also contained some modern metal, ceramic building material and china.

- 7.6 Layer (202) was covered by (201), a 0.30m thick topsoil of dark brown, firm silty clay with occasional bricks, charcoal and small stones. The layer contained a few pieces of modern broken glass, metal and ceramic building material (not collected).
- 7.7 The topsoil (201) was partly covered by (203), which was the uppermost layer in Trench 2. This layer consisted of up to 0.7m thick, re-deposited, yellow-beige, firm clay with occasional bricks, charcoal and small stones. A 19th century British 1 Penny coin was also found in the clay. This clay has probably been spread out in the north eastern part of the site during the excavation of a nearby drainage ditch some thirty years ago. The drainage ditch was about 3m deep and, at the time of the evaluation, still in a working condition. The re-deposited clay was getting thinner towards the south, until it completely faded out after about 11m in Section 003 (See Appendices).
- 7.8 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in rainy and cloudy conditions, but with excellent cooperation from the client and the ground workers. The results are therefore felt to be representative for the site.

8 FINDS

- 8.1 A few pieces of Roman pottery were collected from the topsoil (101) in Trench 1. There are reasons to believe that they all come from the same vessel as they are all of the same fabric, Roman Grey Ware, and were found next to each other. The vessel was probably a drinking bowl or a jug from the later part of the Roman occupation, and the pottery can be dated to the 3rd -4th Centuries A.D. This is of interest as a Roman settlement was found during the construction of the Werrington-Glinton by-pass, situated some 500m north of the site.
- 8.2 In the re-deposited clay layer (203) in Trench 2 a British 1 Penny coin from the 19th Century was also found. The coin was badly corroded, and the exact year of production is hard to read. It is possible that the coin has ended up in the clay during the excavation of the nearby drainage ditch.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 No archaeological features were discovered during the evaluation and only a limited number of artefacts were found in the topsoil of Trench 1 and 2. However, the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, as proven by previous investigations in the vicinity. The wider area that surrounds Hurn Road forms part of a well documented cultural landscape, which must be taken into consideration at future development projects in the area.
- 9.2 Being a blank spot of land, with no visible archaeological remains, could indicate that the site described in this report was not in use in the Roman

- 9.3 period, when the settlement at the Werrington-Glinton by-pass was inhabited. The Roman pottery, however, could indicate that at least some kind of activity took place within the site in the 3rd- 4th Centuries A.D. Maybe a single vessel was dropped during transportation across the site, or the pieces might have been brought here as a result of modern farming activity. The short distance to Lincolnshire, with its large number of important Roman settlements, is of course also of interest in this context.

10 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	Finds

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants. The archive will be transferred to:

Peterborough Museum, Priestgate, Peterborough, PE1 1LF, Cambridgeshire

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

First Aid for Finds. English Heritage. London 2001.

HER for Peterborough. Peterborough City Council. Peterborough 2014.

NPPF 2012. (National Planning Policy Framework). Department for Communities and Local Government. London 2012.

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation. Institute for Archaeologists. Reading 2001.

APPENDICES

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		Trench 1 (2m by 40m)		
(101)	0.20	Topsoil of dark brown, firm silty clay with occasional small stones, brick and charcoal	(102)	-
(102)	0.15	Subsoil of light brown, firm silty clay with occasional small stones, brick and charcoal	Natural	(101)
Natural	-	Yellow, firm silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	-	(102)
		Trench 2 (2m by 20m)		
(201)	0.30	Topsoil of dark brown, firm silty clay with occasional small stones, brick and charcoal	(202)	(203)
(202)	0.20	Subsoil of light brown, firm silty clay with occasional small stones, brick and charcoal	Natural	(201)
(203)	0.70	Re-deposited yellow-beige, firm clay with occasional small stones, brick and charcoal	(201)	-
Natural	-	Yellow, firm silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	-	(202)

FINDS LIST

Find nr	Material	Description	Date
1	Fired clay	5 pieces of Roman Grey Ware	3 rd -4 th C
2	Copper	British 1 Penny coin	19 th C



