Land to the South of Colliery Road, Bearpark, County Durham

Archaeological Evaluation



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|-----------------|-------------------|
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AD Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Gleeson Homes to carry out evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development of land at Bearpark Colliery. The site consists of a single agricultural field to the south of Colliery Road, with a small industrial yard in its north-eastern corner.

No significant archaeological features were located in the evaluation trenches. Geophysical anomalies proved to relate to post-medieval field boundaries or modern drainage features. In view of these negative results no further archaeological work would be appropriate at the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

1.1.1 The development site is centred on NZ 2360 4350 and has an area of 6.34 hectares and comprises largely of an agricultural field with a small industrial yard containing buildings at its north-east corner. The part of the site forming an industrial estate and a strip of land in the north-west corner of the site formerly occupied by a terrace of houses has been extensively disturbed during the construction of modern buildings. The undisturbed area of the site occupied by the agricultural field is 3.95ha in area. The site slopes downhill from high ground at the southern edge of the site towards the northern edge of the site and Colliery Road. Twenty five evaluation trenches were excavated at the locations indicated in the written scheme of investigation.

1.2 Geology

1.2.1 The bedrock geology of the site is Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation Sandstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 308 to 314 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. The superficial geology is Devensian glacial till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2021).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric Period

2.1.1 There are no known prehistoric sites or finds within the area of the site. A cupmarked stone (H1171) was located 800m north of the site. A cropmark of uncertain date (H2932) has been identified from aerial photographic evidence 700m north of the site.

2.1.2 The name Bearpark (H4354) means "beautiful retreat" and derives from the medieval priory of Beaurepaire which was the summer residence of the priors of Durham. The site of the Priory lies 600m north-east of the site on the north-eastern side of the River Browney. The complex of buildings at Beaurepaire including a Prior's House (H1308), a Manor House (H34762) and three chapels (H1309-11) were built in the mid-13th Century with a further major phase of rebuilding in the mid-14th Century following destruction by the Scots. The complex was used as a retreat for the priors and monks of Durham Cathedral and could house up to 40 monks at any one time. Prior to the Dissolution, Prior Hugh de Whitehead, the last Prior, carried out considerable alterations. The buildings continued in use as an occasional residence of the early Deans of Durham, until the Civil War when the Scots inflicted further damage in the 1640s, after which most of the buildings lay in ruins.

2.1.3 The complex at Beaurepaire would have been at the centre of a large hunting park of 1300 acres. Saxton's map of 1576 shows a parked area surrounding Beaurepaire extending onto the western side of the River Browney. It is likely that the area of the development site would have fallen within these lands.

2.2 Post-medieval and Modern Periods

2.2.1 The settlement pattern through the earlier part of the post-medieval period consisted of small hamlets and scattered farmsteads. To the south-west of the site are two farmsteads.

2.2.2 The growth of the mining industry in the second half of the 19th Century led to the rapid development of the area with Bearpark and Ushaw Moor Villages. Bearpark Colliery (1872-1984) lay just to the east of the site and its development can be traced through the sequence of Ordnance Survey maps. Terraces of mining houses occupied the northern frontage of the site between Ordnance Surveys of 1896-1951 but were demolished by the time of the 1961 survey leaving only the Old Chapel building standing (which lies outwith the proposed development area). In the north-eastern third of site a council yard (coach yard) was constructed by the time of the 1979 survey.

2.3 Geophysical Survey

2.3.1 Anomalies have been identified that relate to modern material/objects, agricultural activity and probable geological/pedological variations. There were several linear/curvilinear anomalies of uncertain origin.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objective of the evaluation trenching was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological features on the site and to determine their nature, depth, importance and level of preservation.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 General Methodology

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in compliance with all the relevant codes of practice by suitably qualified and experienced staff.

4.2 Excavation and Recording

4.2.1 The evaluation trench strategy was agreed with the Durham County Archaeology Team and was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared for the works (Appendix 2). Trench 1 was re-aligned and shortened slightly to avoid machine operation close to the line of overhead power lines.

5. **RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION**

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 2-3)

5.1.1 Trench 1, which was 30m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/southwest and located in the western area of the site. The natural subsoil (101) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.31m BGL (124.21m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (100), 0.31m in depth.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 2-4; Plate 1)

5.2.1 Trench 2, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented ESE-WNW and located in the western area of the site. The natural subsoil (201) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.34m BGL (124.48m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (200), 0.34m in depth. Two parallel NNE-SSW gullies (203 and 205) set 1.60m apart ran through the central area of the trench. Gully 203 was a shallow concave feature 1.20m in width and 0.50m in depth, filled with a grey-brown sandy clay (202). Gully 205 was 1.20m in width and 0.42m in depth, filled with a brown sandy clay (204). The two gullies (203 and 205) correspond to two parallel geophysical anomalies, which represents the former line of a field boundary visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey (see Fig 3). The two gullies were traced through Trenches 5 and 7 to the south.

5.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 2-3)

5.3.1 Trench 3, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented NNW-SSE and located in the western area of the site. The natural subsoil (301) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.35m BGL (125.30m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (300), 0.35m in depth. A 0.30m wide east-west field drain was located in the northern half of the trench which corresponds to the line of geophysical anomaly (see Fig. 3). This field drain was also traced to the west into Trench 4.

5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2-3; Plate 2)

5.4.1 Trench 4, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented NNE-SSW and located in the western area of the site. The natural subsoil (401) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.30m BGL (131.61m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (400), 0.30m in depth. A 0.30m wide east-west field drain was located in the northern half of the trench which corresponds to a geophysical anomaly (see Fig. 3).

5.5 Trench 5 (Figs. 2-3 & 5; Plates 3-4)

5.5.1 Trench 5, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented ESE-WNW and located in the western area of the site. The natural subsoil (501) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.30m BGL (129.32m AOD) and was

overlain by a grey loam topsoil (500), 0.30m in depth. Two parallel NNE-SSW gullies (503 and 505) set 1.70m apart ran through the central area of the trench. Gully 503 was a shallow concave sided feature 1.50m in width and 0.34m in depth, filled with a grey-brown sandy clay (502). Gully 505 was 0.90m in width and 0.38m in depth, filled with a brown sandy clay (504). The two gullies (503 and 505) correspond to two parallel geophysical anomalies, which represents the former line of a field boundary visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey (see Fig.3).

5.6 Trench 6 (Figs. 2-3)

5.6.1 Trench 6, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/southeast and located in the western area of the site. The natural subsoil (601) consisting of a yellow sandy clay and grey sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.39m BGL (132.91m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (600), 0.39m in depth.

5.7 Trench 7 (Figs. 2-3)

5.7.1 Trench 7, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented ESE-WNW and located in the western area of the site. The natural subsoil (701) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.22m BGL (132.34m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (700), 0.22m in depth. Two parallel NNE-SSW gullies (703 and 705) set 2m apart ran through the central area of the trench. Gully 703 was 0.90m wide and gully 705 was 0.50m wide. The two gullies (703 and 705) correspond to two parallel geophysical anomalies, which represents the former line of a field boundary visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey.

5.8 Trench 8 (Figs. 2-3; Plate 5)

5.8.1 Trench 8, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented NNE-SSW and located in the south-western area of the site. The natural subsoil (801) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.29m BGL (135.63m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (800), 0.29m in depth. A modern cut feature (803) ran WNW-ESE through the trench. The feature (803) was 0.80m in width and filled with a black silty clay mixed with coal fines (802) containing a broken field drain pipe. The cut feature corresponded to the line and position of geophysical anomaly (See Fig. 3).

5.9 Trench 9 (Figs. 2-3)

5.9.1 Trench 9, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented NNE-SSW and located in the western area of the site. The natural subsoil (901) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (128.55m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (900), 0.32m in depth. In the northern half of the trench was an extensive spread of coal fines, ash and building debris (902), which is likely to represent waste material discarded from the former row of colliery buildings which had occupied the north-western frontage of the site. This spread of coal waste, ash and building debris corresponded with an area with of intense dipolar disturbance identified in the

geophysical survey (see Fig. 2).

5.10 Trench 10 (Figs. 2-3; Plate 6)

5.10.1 Trench 10, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/southwest and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil (1001) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.26m BGL (129.72m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (1000), 0.26m in depth.

5.11 Trench 11 (Figs. 2-3; Plate 7)

5.11.1 Trench 11, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/southeast and located in the southern area of the site. The natural subsoil (1101) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.26m BGL (131.98m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (1100), 0.26m in depth.

5.12 Trench 12 (Figs. 2-3)

5.12.1 Trench 12, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/southwest and located in the southern area of the site. The natural subsoil (1201) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.29m BGL (131.04m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (1200), 0.29m in depth.

5.13 Trench 13 (Figs. 2-3; Plate 8)

5.13.1 Trench 13, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/southeast and located in the eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil (1302) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.51m BGL (122.90m AOD) and was overlain by a brown sandy clay (1301) 0.22m in depth and a grey loam topsoil (1300), 0.29m in depth.

5.14 Trench 14 (Figs. 2-3)

5.14.1 Trench 14, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented NNE-SSW and located in the eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil (1401) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (123.22m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (1400), 0.32m in depth.

5.15 Trench 15 (Figs. 2-3)

5.15.1 Trench 15, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/southwest and located in the eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil (1501) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.30m BGL (120.69m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (1500), 0.30m in depth.

5.16 Trench 16 (Figs. 2-3)

5.16.1 Trench 16, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/southeast and located in the south-eastern corner of the site. The natural subsoil (1601) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (123.19m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (1600), 0.32m in depth.

5.17 Trench 17 (Figs. 2-3)

5.17.1 Trench 17, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented NNE-SSW and located in the western area of the site. The natural subsoil (1701) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.24m BGL (130.34m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (1700), 0.24m in depth.

5.18 Trench 18 (Figs. 2-3)

5.18.1 Trench 18, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/southeast and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil (1801) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (123.84m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (1800), 0.32m in depth.

5.19 Trench 19 (Figs. 2-3)

5.19.1 Trench 19, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/southwest and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil (1901) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.27m BGL (127.66m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (1900), 0.27m in depth.

5.20 Trench 20 (Figs. 2-3)

5.20.1 Trench 20, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented ESE-WNW and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil (2001) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.25m BGL (129.00m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (2000), 0.25m in depth.

5.21 Trench 21 (Figs. 2-3)

5.21.1 Trench 21, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/southeast and located in the eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil (2101) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.30m BGL (128.25m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (2100), 0.30m in depth.

5.22 Trench 22 (Figs. 2-3)

5.22.1 Trench 22, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented ESE-WNW and located in the eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil (2201) consisting of a

yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.25m BGL (125.97m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (2200), 0.25m in depth.

5.23 Trench 23 (Figs. 2-3)

5.23.1 Trench 23, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/southeast and located in the eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil (2300) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (126.27m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (2300), 0.32m in depth.

5.24 Trench 24 (Figs. 2-3)

5.24.1 Trench 24, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the south-eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil (2401) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.34m BGL (124.66m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (2400), 0.34m in depth.

5.25 Trench 25 (Figs. 2-3)

5.25.1 Trench 25, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/southeast and located in the eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil (2501) consisting of a yellow clay was located at a depth of 0.30m BGL (122.00m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (2500), 0.30m in depth.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 No significant archaeological features were located in the evaluation trenches. Geophysical anomalies proved to relate to post-medieval field boundaries or modern drainage features. In view of these negative results no further archaeological work would be appropriate at the site.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

AD Archaeology 2017 Geophysical Survey of Land to the south of Colliery Road, Bearpark, County Durham

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Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists, 2014b, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists, 2014c Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists, 2014d Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives

National Planning Policy Framework 2019

Petts D., Gerrard C., 2006 SHARED VISIONS: the North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

| Context | Depth | Description |
|---------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 100 | 0.31m | Trench 1- Topsoil |
| 101 | - | Trench 1 – Natural subsoil |
| 200 | 0.34m | Trench 2 – Topsoil |
| 201 | - | Trench 2 – Natural subsoil |
| 202 | 0.50m | Trench 2 – Fill of gully |
| 203 | 0.50m | Trench 2 – Gully |
| 204 | 0.42m | Trench 2- Fill of gully |
| 205 | 0.42m | Trench 2 – Gully |
| 300 | 0.35m | Trench 3 – Topsoil |
| 301 | - | Trench 3 – Natural subsoil |
| 400 | 0.30m | Trench 4 – Topsoil |
| 401 | - | Trench 4 – Natural subsoil |
| 500 | 0.30m | Trench 5 – Topsoil |
| 501 | - | Trench 5 –Natural subsoil |
| 502 | 0.35m | Trench 5 –Fill of gully |
| 503 | 0.35m | Trench 5 –Gully |
| 504 | 0.38m | Trench 5 –Fill of gully |
| 505 | 0.38m | Trench 5– Gully |
| 600 | 0.39m | Trench 6 –Topsoil |
| 601 | - | Trench 6 – Natural subsoil |
| 700 | 0.22m | Trench 7 – Topsoil |
| 701 | - | Trench 7 – Natural subsoil |
| 702 | - | Trench 7 – Fill of gully |
| 703 | - | Trench 7- Gully |
| 704 | - | Trench 7 – Fill of gully |
| 705 | - | Trench 7 – Gully |
| 800 | 0.29m | Trench 8 – Topsoil |
| 801 | - | Trench 8 – Natural subsoil |
| 802 | +0.29m | Trench 8 – Fill of modern feature |
| 803 | +0.29m | Trench 8 – Modern feature |
| 900 | 0.32m | Trench 9 –Topsoil |
| 901 | - | Trench 9 – Natural subsoil |
| 902 | - | Trench 9 – Modern spread |
| 1000 | 0.26m | Trench 10-Topsoil |
| 1001 | - | Trench 10- Natural subsoil |
| 1100 | 0.26m | Trench 11- Topsoil |
| 1101 | - | Trench 11- Natural subsoil |
| 1200 | 0.29m | Trench 12 – Topsoil |
| 1201 | - | Trench 12 – Natural subsoil |
| 1300 | 0.29m | Trench 13 – Topsoil |

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| 1301 | 0.22m | Trench 13 – Buried soil |
|------|-------|-----------------------------|
| 1302 | - | Trench 13 – Natural subsoil |
| 1400 | 0.32m | Trench 14 – Topsoil |
| 1401 | - | Trench 14 – Natural subsoil |
| 1500 | 0.30m | Trench 15 – Topsoil |
| 1501 | - | Trench 15 – Natural subsoil |
| 1600 | 0.32m | Trench 16 – Topsoil |
| 1601 | - | Trench 16 – Natural subsoil |
| 1700 | 0.24m | Trench 17 – Topsoil |
| 1701 | - | Trench 17 – Natural subsoil |
| 1800 | 0.32m | Trench 18- Topsoil |
| 1801 | - | Trench 18 – Natural subsoil |
| 1900 | 0.27m | Trench 19 – Topsoil |
| 1901 | - | Trench 19 – Natural subsoil |
| 2000 | 0.25m | Trench 20 – Topsoil |
| 2001 | - | Trench 20 – Natural subsoil |
| 2100 | 0.30m | Trench 21 – Topsoil |
| 2101 | - | Trench 21 – Natural subsoil |
| 2200 | 0.25m | Trench 22 – Topsoil |
| 2201 | - | Trench 22 – Natural subsoil |
| 2300 | 0.32m | Trench 23 – Topsoil |
| 2301 | - | Trench 23 – Natural subsoil |
| 2400 | 0.34m | Trench 24 – Topsoil |
| 2401 | - | Trench 24- Natural subsoil |
| 2500 | 0.30m | Trench 25 – Topsoil |
| 2501 | - | Trench 25 – Natural subsoil |
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| | | |
| | | |

APPENDIX 2: SPECIFICATION

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND TO THE SOUTH OF COLLIERY ROAD, BEARPARK, COUNTY DURHAM

1 Introduction

1.1 This written scheme of investigation represents a methods statement for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development on land to the south of Colliery Road, Bearpark, County Durham. The development site is centred on NZ 2360 4350 and has an area of 6.34 hectares and comprises largely of an agricultural field with a small yard containing buildings at its north-east corner. The part of the site forming an industrial estate and a strip of land in the north-west corner of the site formerly occupied by a terrace of houses has been extensively disturbed during the construction of modern buildings. The undisturbed area of the site occupied by the agricultural field is 3.95ha in area. The site slopes downhill from high ground at the southern edge of the site towards the northern edge of the site and Colliery Road.

1.2 A geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2017) has been undertaken in advance of the proposed development.

1.3 Policy relating to the assessment and mitigation of impacts to the heritage resource within the planning system is set out in The Adopted County Durham Plan (2020).

Objective 10: Built and Historic Environment- Protect and enhance the significance of County Durham's locally, nationally and internationally important built and historic environment, including its wide range of buildings, sites, archaeology, parks and gardens and other heritage assets (Adopted Plan 2020 page 15).

Policy 44 – Historic Environment (Adopted Plan 2020 pages 203-207). 5.456: Where proposals are likely to affect sites of known importance, sites of significant archaeological potential, or those that become apparent through the development management process, background research followed up by archaeological investigation will be required prior to their determination. This will also be a requirement for greenfield sites of one hectare or more in extent. The findings of this assessment will be a material consideration which informs subsequent mitigation and the determination of the planning application. All resultant information shall be made available in an appropriate form for inclusion in the HER to advance understanding (Adopted Plan 2020 page 206).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

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2.1 Prehistoric Period

2.1.1 There are no known prehistoric sites or finds within the area of the site. A cupmarked stone (H1171) was located 800m north of the site. A cropmark of uncertain date (H2932) has been identified from aerial photographic evidence 700m north of the site. There is an increasing awareness of the density of prehistoric activity across the North East England and it is possible that features of this date may be located in the trenching.

2.2 Medieval Period

2.2.1 The name Bearpark (H4354) means "beautiful retreat" and derives from the medieval priory of Beaurepaire which was the summer residence of the priors of Durham. The site of the Priory lies 600m north-east of the site on the north-eastern side of the river Browney. The complex of buildings at Beaurepaire including a Prior's House (H1308), a Manor House (H34762) and three chapels (H1309-11) were built in the mid-13th Century with a further major phase of rebuilding in the mid-14th Century following destruction by the Scots. The complex was used as a retreat for the priors and monks of Durham Cathedral and could house up to 40 monks at any one time. Prior to the Dissolution, Prior Hugh de Whitehead, the last prior, carried out considerable alterations. The buildings continued in use as an occasional residence of the early deans of Durham, until the Civil War when the Scots inflicted further damage in the 1640s, after which most of the buildings lay in ruins.

2.2.2 The complex at Beaurepaire would have been at the centre of a large hunting park of 1300 acres. Saxton's map of 1576 shows a parked area surrounding Beaurepaire extending onto the western side of the River Browney. It is likely that the area of the development site would have fallen within these lands.

2.3 Post-medieval and Modern Periods

2.3.1 The settlement pattern through the earlier part of the post-medieval period consisted of small hamlets and scattered farmsteads. To the south-west of the site are two farmsteads. It is likely that sub-surface remains of ridge and furrow agriculture will be encountered in the trenching.

2.3.2 The growth of the mining industry in the second half of the 19th Century led to the rapid development of the area with Bearpark and Ushaw Moor Villages. Bearpark Colliery (1872-1984) lay just to the east of the site and its development can be traced through the sequence of Ordnance Survey maps. Terraces of mining houses occupied the northern frontage of the site between Ordnance Surveys of 1896-1951 but were demolished by the time of the 1961 survey leaving only the Old Chapel building standing (which lies outwith the proposed development area). In the north-eastern third of site a council yard (coach yard) was constructed by the time of the 1979 survey. The development of Ushaw Moor Village (H1811) was a consequence of the growth of the coal industry during the 19th Century. Ushaw Moor Colliery (H880)

which opened c 1870 lies 1.5km south-west of the site, where several associated coke-ovens and an engine house (H9109) survive.

2.4 Geophysical Survey

2.4.1 Anomalies have been identified that relate to modern material/objects, agricultural activity and probable geological/pedological variations. There are several linear/curvilinear anomalies of uncertain origin. Some of these could be related to agricultural activity or natural variations but it is possible that some of them could be associated with features and as such an archaeological origin cannot be completely ruled out Whilst the geophysical survey has identified a number of other anomalies none of these form coherent or identifiable shapes suggestive of an archaeological origin and it is not possible to identify the presence of a clear archaeological site on the basis of the geophysical survey results. The site has been subject to modern ploughing for some time and it is likely that archaeological features, if present, may have been partially truncated.

3 Preservation of Archaeological Remains

3.1 The bedrock geology of the site is Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation Sandstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 308 to 314 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. The superficial geology is Devensian glacial till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2021).The area lies within the Wear Lowlands and the topography in the general area is flat. The site occupies one field that is under agricultural use which slopes downhill from high ground at the southern edge of the site towards the northern edge of the site and Colliery Road.

3.2 Deposits of any archaeological features encountered will be assessed for their potential for providing environmental or dating evidence. Sampling will be in line with the strategy agreed with Historic England Science Advisor and DCCAS. The site is well drained and it is unlikely that any waterlogged deposits will be encountered at the site.

3.3 In the event of human burials being discovered, they will be left *in situ*, covered and protected and the coroners' office will be informed. If removal is essential, work will comply with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations.

3.4 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts will be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material. All finds work will be undertaken in line with the standards set out "A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds" (English Heritage 1995); "First Aid for Finds" (Wilkinson & Neal 2001); and "Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites" (UKIC 1993).

4 Aims and Recommended Course of Action

4.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of significant archaeological features and/or deposits. Should significant deposits and/or features be located the aim of the evaluation is to determine the nature, extent, date and state of preservation of the deposits in order to inform potential subsequent stages of mitigation.

4.2 Historic England guidance 'Preserving Archaeological Remains: Decision-taking for sites under development' (Historic England 2016) emphasises the need to characterise not only the types of remains, but also to understand their significance. The document 'Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment' by David Petts with Christopher Gerrard, 2006 notes the importance of research questions as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past allowing commercial contractors to demonstrate how their fieldwork relates to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment. The aim of NERRF is to ensure that all fieldwork is carried out in a secure research context and that commercial contractors ensure that their investigations ask the right questions.

4.3 Whilst there are no known archaeological features on the site, there is a growing awareness of the density of prehistoric settlement activity. In recent years development control-led archaeological investigation in the area has contributed significantly to our knowledge of the density of settlement and activity in this area during the prehistoric period (North East Regional Research Framework, Petts & Gerrard, 2006).

Recent excavations have begun to challenge established models of prehistoric settlement morphology. It is therefore important for any evidence of prehistoric settlement to be studied in order to establish more firm chronologies. Also needed is the study of site function and the social role of settlements in the landscape (NERRF Research Priority Iii).

4.4 A trenching strategy consisting of 16 trenches equating to 1575 square metres (10 50x1.8m trenches and 15 25x1.8m trenches) representing a 4% sample of 3.95ha of the site (this excludes the disturbed portion of the site forming part of the industrial estate and also the strip of land at the north-west corner formerly occupied by terrace of houses). The trench plan is designed to investigate geophysical anomalies and give a representative sample of trenching across the site in case there are archaeological features present that have not been detected by the survey.

4.5 During the course of the trenching it may become apparent that variation is required, dependent on the nature, extent and importance of archaeological

remains uncovered. It also may become apparent during the course of the operation that some areas where trenches have been sited are inappropriate for potential archaeological activity (for instance lying entirely within the line of a furrow) or due to logistical or practical reasons. Trenches can only be moved with the approval of the Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS).

4.6 Contingency will be allowed for the excavation of up to an additional 1% of the site (above and beyond the 25 trenches indicated on the accompanying trench plan). The implementing of contingency would require approval by DCCAS and the client.

5 General Standards

5.1 All work will be carried out to the standards set by DCCAS as detailed in Standards for All Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington (DCCAS 2021), the latest version is available at

http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2006/Development-management-advice .

6 Pre-Site Work Preparation

6.1 All staff will familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff will be briefed in the work required under the specification and the project aims and methodologies.

6.2 An environmental sampling strategy in accordance with the previous advice of the Historic England Science Advisor (see 9 below) will be followed.

7 Fieldwork

7.1 All fieldwork will be carried out to the standards set by DCCAS as detailed in Standards for All Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington (DCCAS 2021).

7.2 In the event that small discrete archaeological features are revealed including but not limited to postholes and pits, during machining or subsequent cleaning of the trench, the trench will be expanded either side of the feature by a machine bucket width as standard. If further additional trench expansion is required, this should be carried out following discussions with DCCAS and the client.

7.3 The archaeology will be investigated sufficiently to establish its nature, extent and date, unless it is deemed of sufficient importance to require total preservation in situ.

7.4 Within the constraints of the site, the excavations will be maintained in a manner that allows quick and easy inspection without any requirement for additional cleaning.

8 Archaeological Recording

8.1 All archaeological recording will be carried out to the standards set by DCCAS as detailed in Standards for All Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington (DCCAS 2021).

9 Environmental Sampling and Scientific Dating Strategy

9.1 This sampling strategy is intended to provide sufficient data to characterise the nature and informative potential of deposits and features identified during the works. Because this is the first stage of intrusive works and there is a possibility that a wide range of features may be encountered, this strategy is best set out as a series of principles. These are:

- 30 litre samples will be taken from structural, occupational and industrial features, as well as pits and ditch fills. Other features should be sampled to help to characterise the deposits on the site. Priority should be given to processing samples from identifiable, dated features, or to those undated features which have potential for other forms of dating (e.g. radiocarbon dating).
- Bulk sample residues should be checked for the presence of industrial waste (e.g.slags, hammerscale) and small faunal remains (e.g. fishbones, small mammal/avian bones) as well as for plant material.
- The potential of buried soils and ditch fills to provide dated (using radiocarbon dating) pollen cores or Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating of sediments should be considered, although this type of sampling will be undertaken in consultation with the Historic England's Regional Scientific Advisor.

9.2 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens are identified, provision will be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings a minimum of one per building identifed). Where applicable, samples to be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes.

9.3 The selection of suitable deposits for sampling will be confirmed at site meetings with DCCAS . In principle palaeo-environmental samples will be taken from

deposits which have clear stratigraphic relationships. Particular attention will be paid to the recovery of samples from any waterlogged samples that may be present.

10 Monitoring

10.1 The DCCAS will be informed on the start date and timetable for the evaluation in advance of work commencing (ideally 2 weeks' notice but as a minimum 48 hours before commencement).

10.2 Reasonable access to the site will be afforded to DCCAS or his/her nominee at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation.

10.3 Regular communication between the archaeological contractor, DCCAS and other interested parties will be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

10.4 If appropriate, specialists will be contacted and allowed access to the site to help inform any detailed study / information retrieval depending upon the nature of the archaeological features being revealed.

- Pottery and ceramic building material (Rob Young; Alex Croom; Paul Bidwell; Andy Sage)
- Bone (Louisa Gidney)
- Flint (Rob Young)
- Metal work (David Dungworth)
- Industrial debris (David Dungworth)
- Environmental micro and macro fossils (Charlotte O'Brien ASDU)
- Residue analysis (ASDU)
- Radio carbon dating (ASDU/SUERRC)
- Any other analysis identified as necessary during the fieldwork or post excavation work

11 Post Excavation Work, Archive, and Report Preparation

11.1 Finds

11.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the CIfA Guidelines for Finds Work (2014a) and those set by UKIC.

11.1.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides

to retain artefacts, adequate provision will be made for recording them. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

11.1.3 All retained artefacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

11.2 Site Archive

11.2.1 The final location for the site archive is County Durham Archaeological Archives.

11.2.2 Archiving work will be carried out compliance with the CIfA Guidelines for Archiving (2014b).

11.2.3 Before fieldwork, contact will be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

12.3 Report

12.3.1 The results from the evaluation will be produced in a report that complies the standards set by DCCAS as detailed in Standards for All Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington (DCCAS 2021).

12.3.2 Any variation to the above requirements will be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted.

12.3.3 Post-Excavation Assessment Report

12.3.4 Should a significant archaeological site be located a post-excavation assessment report will include all the information necessary to make decisions about the future direction of the project in line with Historic England's Guidelines on the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015). The report will be submitted to DCCAS for comment and approval prior to any further analysis or publication work commencing.

12.3.5 This document will be submitted within six months of the end of fieldwork unless previously agreed with all relevant parties.

12.3.6 The archaeological contractor will submit an updated specification for full analysis and publication in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. An appropriate level of publication will then be agreed with DCCAS and will be prepared in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. A short report of the work will be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

12.4 OASIS

AD Archaeology Project no. 376 Bearpark Evaluation Trenching 12.4.1 The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork.

12.4.2 The archaeological contractor will therefore complete the online OASIS form at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/. A pdf copy of the report will be uploaded to Oasis within 3 months of its production.

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AD Archaeology Project no. 376 Bearpark Evaluation Trenching

AD Archaeology Project no. 376



Figure 1: General location of site











Plate 1: Trench 2 gullies 203 and 205 looking north-east





Plate 2: Trench 4 looking north



Plate 3 Trench 5 gully 505 looking north-east



Plate 4 Trench 5 gully 503 looking north-east





Plate 5 Trench 8 Feature 803 looking south



Plate 6 Trench 10 looking north-east





Plate 7 Trench 11 looking north-west



Plate 8 Trench 13 looking south-east

