



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:

TRIAL TRENCHING OF LAND AT PARK VILLA, 173 DONCASTER ROAD, THRYBERGH, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Planning Reference No: RB2012/0715

NGR: SK 46759 95565

Site Code: TPV12

OASIS Reference Number: elmetarc1 – 135263 (1)



Report prepared for Mr Stephen Webb  
By Elmet Archaeological Services Ltd  
Report Number 2013001

January 2013

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## Contents

<i>Summary</i> .....	3
<i>Acknowledgements</i> .....	4
1. <i>Project Background</i> .....	5
2. <i>The Site, Location and Geology</i> .....	5
3. <i>Archaeological and Historical Background</i> .....	5
<i>General</i> .....	5
<i>Prehistoric and Roman (10,000BC – AD410)</i> .....	5
<i>Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern (AD411 – Present)</i> .....	6
4. <i>Aims and Scope of the Works</i> .....	6
<i>General</i> .....	6
5. <i>Methodology</i> .....	6
<i>Introduction</i> .....	6
6. <i>Evaluation Results</i> .....	7
<i>Introduction</i> .....	7
<i>General</i> .....	7
7. <i>Discussion</i> .....	8
<i>General</i> .....	8
8. <i>Archive and Copyright</i> .....	9
<i>Archive</i> .....	9
<i>Copyright</i> .....	9
9. <i>References</i> .....	9
<i>Appendix 1: Trench Descriptions</i> .....	10
<i>Figure 1: Site with geophysics results</i>	
<i>Figure 2: Excavated tree bole trench 4</i>	
<i>Figure 3: Sandstone capped drain trench 5</i>	

## ***Park Villa, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh, Rotherham***

### ***Archaeological Evaluation Report***

#### **Summary**

Elmet Archaeological Services (hereafter 'Elmet') were commissioned by Mr Stephen Webb ('the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a housing development at Park Villa, Thrybergh ('the Site' **Figure 1**). Park Villa is located on Doncaster Road and has previously undergone geophysical survey (Elmet 2012a), which revealed anomalies that could relate to the previous formal gardens that occupied the Site.

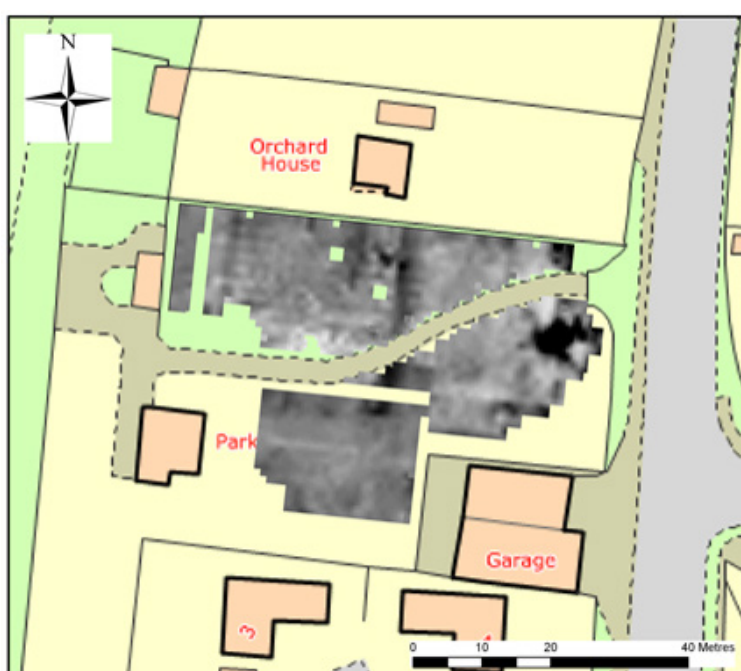


Figure 1: Site with geophysical results

Following discussion with South Yorkshire Archaeological Services (SYAS) and the Client it was agreed that Elmet would undertake an archaeological evaluation comprising five trenches positioned to investigate the geophysical anomalies.

This report details how Elmet carried out that evaluation and has been prepared in accordance with current industry best practises (IfA 2008a and b) and in accordance with IfA Codes of Conduct (IfA 2010). The report will be submitted to SYAS for approval.

The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological remains and showed only evidence for modern intrusive made ground and tree boles. The geophysical anomalies were thought to have been variations in the made ground due to deposition and the natural geology.

The archive is held at Elmet's Wath-Upon-Dearne offices and will be deposited with Clifton Park museum in due course.

***Park Villa, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh, Rotherham***

***Archaeological Evaluation Report***

**Acknowledgements**

Elmet Archaeological Services was commissioned by Stephen Webb and thanks go to Stephen in this regard. The work was monitored by Jim McNeil of SYAS and Elmet is very grateful for his patience and guidance during this work.

This report was compiled by Alex Sotheran and illustrations were prepared by Christine Rawson. The fieldwork was completed between 16 and 18 January 2013 by Christine Rawson, Alex Sotheran, Kate Brown and Russell French.

# ***Park Villa, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh, Rotherham Archaeological Evaluation Report***

## **1. Project Background**

- 1.1. Elmet were commissioned by the Client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a housing development at Park Villa, Thrybergh (**Figure 1**). Park Villa is located on Doncaster Road and has previously undergone geophysical survey (Elmet, 2012a), which revealed anomalies that could relate to the previous formal gardens that occupied the Site.
- 1.2. Following discussion with South Yorkshire Archaeological Services (SYAS) and the Client it was agreed that Elmet would undertake an archaeological evaluation comprising five trenches positioned to investigate the geophysical anomalies.
- 1.3. This report details how Elmet carried out that evaluation and has been prepared in accordance with current industry best practises (IfA, 2008a and b) and in accordance with IfA Codes of Conduct (IfA, 2010). The report will be submitted to SYAS for approval.

## **2. The Site, Location and Geology**

- 2.1. The Site is located at the northern outskirts of Thrybergh, South Yorkshire and currently comprises of domestic gardens. It is bounded on the east by the A630, private dwellings to the north and south and Thrybergh golf course to the west.
- 2.2. The Site is centred on NGR SK 46759 95565 and covers an area of approximately 0.23 hectares at a height of approximately 70m AOD (**Figure 1**).
- 2.3. The underlying geology of the Site comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone and forms part of the Pennine Upper Coal Measures Form (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

### **General**

- 3.1. No intrusive archaeological excavation has taken place on the Site although a geophysical survey was carried out in advance of the archaeological evaluation (Elmet, 2012a). The following is taken from the Rapid Assessment Report (Elmet, 2012b).

### **Prehistoric and Roman (10,000BC – AD410)**

- 3.2. There are no recorded prehistoric sites within the Site.

- 3.3. The A630 lies on the suggested route of a Roman road, from Brough to Doncaster, via Templeborough. No other recorded Roman sites are recorded within the Site.

#### **Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern (AD411 – Present)**

- 3.4. Thrybergh Hall is mentioned during the reign of Henry III and was demolished in 1811 leaving no visible traces. It was probably built in the late 14<sup>th</sup> Century and the estate may predate the Norman Conquest. Orchards and gardens extended around the hall in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and surviving notebooks detail kitchen gardens, orchard and planned gardens.

### **4. Aims and Scope of the Works**

#### **General**

The general aims of this investigation are to:

- 4.1 locate using geophysics, identify and assess the state of preservation of any archaeological remains potentially affected by the new development;
- 4.1 assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits encountered;
- 4.2 establish the need for and scope of additional archaeological mitigation works required in connection with the current development;
- 4.3 produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the local SMR.

The more specific objectives of the investigation are to:

- 4.4 evaluate the significance of any surviving archaeological evidence and record it according to current standards.

### **5 Methodology**

#### **Introduction**

- 5.1 The trenches were located by the means of a Leica Total Station Series 400
- 5.2 Topsoil and overburden was removed by the back actor of a JCB fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket working under the continual supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist.
- 5.3 Topsoil was removed in spits down to the upper archaeological horizon or the level of the natural geology whichever was reached first. All trenches were than hand cleaned, if necessary, to clarify the extent of any archaeological or geological remains.
- 5.4 All recording took place in accordance with standard Elmet methodologies and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Elmet, 2012c). All trenches were

recorded on Elmet pro forma to a standard in accordance with the relevant Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Standard and Guidance, the IfA Code of Conduct and other current and relevant best practise (IfA, 2008a and b)

5.5 The trenches were back filled with arisings once SYAS were satisfied that the excavation had been carried out to an appropriate standard.

## 6 Evaluation Results

### Introduction

6.1 The following section is a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Trench locations are shown in **Figure 1**. The deposits encountered in each trench is summarised in **Appendix 1** and are referred to in the text in bold.

### General

6.2 Five excavation trenches were cut each with a width of 1.80m and varying lengths between 10m and 5m. The average depth of the natural geology was approximately 0.60m below the modern ground level.

6.3 Each trench demonstrated broadly the same deposition above the natural geology. The natural geology was noted as mid to light greyish yellow clay. Above this the stratigraphy consisted of a sub soil of mid-greyish brown mottle silty clay which appeared to be a made ground mixed with garden soils. The topsoil overlay this layer and was a dark greyish brown humic silty clay turf layer.

6.4 Tree boles were noted in **Trenches 2** and **4**. These were both excavated in section to demonstrate that they were natural features.



Figure 2 Excavated tree bole trench 4

6.5 The geophysical data showed that an anomaly existed above the eastern end of **Trench 4**; this was thought to be a layer of modern pebbles between the

topsoil and subsoil and was probably debris left over from the building of the modern path.

6.6 A line of handmade bricks in **Trench 3** were seen to cover a modern copper electricity wire and were deposited in the modern period.

6.7 A sandstone capped drain was also noted in **Trench 5**; it was constructed with handmade bricks and reused sandstone roof tiles and dated to the modern period by the recovery of modern pottery. This lay in an area of disturbance which was probably a result of the construction of the drain.



Figure 3: Sandstone capped drain trench 5

## 7 Discussion

### General

7.1 The evaluation trenches demonstrated that there were no underlying archaeological deposits older than modern structures and the results of the geophysical survey were likely to represent undulations in the natural geology or similar irregularities rather than archaeological features. There was no evidence to show that the Site was occupied in antiquity.



## 8 Archive and Copyright

### Archive

8.1 The Archive will be deposited with Clifton Park Museum in due course.

8.2 The Site archive will be prepared in line with United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (2001), Museums and Galleries Commission (1992), English Heritage (2006) guidelines and the requirements of the local museums service.

### Copyright

8.3 This report and the archive generally may contain material that is non-Elmet copyright, or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licenses, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Elmet Archaeological Services. Users remain bound by the condition of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

## 9 References

Elmet Archaeological Services, 2012a, *Geophysical Survey Report 2012/1*

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Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections*

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990, *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*

## Appendix 1: Trench Descriptions

<b>Trench 1</b>	<b>Length: 10m, Width: 2m, Depth: 0.60m</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
1001	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown humic silty clay with frequent roots and turf	0.25m
1002	Subsoil: Mid greyish brown mottled silty clay with frequent charcoal and coke flecks	0.45m
1003	Natural: Mid greyish yellow clay	-

<b>Trench 2</b>	<b>Length: 10m, Width: 2m, Depth: 0.65m</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
2001	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown humic silty clay with frequent roots and turf	0.25m
2002	Subsoil: Mid greyish brown mottled silty clay with frequent charcoal and coke flecks	0.38m
2003	Natural: Mid greyish yellow clay	-

<b>Trench 3</b>	<b>Length: 5m, Width: 2m, Depth: 0.45m</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
3001	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown humic silty clay with frequent roots and turf	0.25m
3002	Subsoil: Mid greyish brown mottled silty clay with frequent charcoal and coke flecks	0.20m
3003	Natural: Mid greyish yellow clay	-

<b>Trench 4</b>	<b>Length: 6m, Width: 2m, Depth: 0.60m</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
4001	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown humic silty clay with frequent roots and turf	0.22m
4002	Pebble spread, length 2.20m	0.06m
4003	Subsoil: Mid greyish brown mottled silty clay with frequent charcoal and coke flecks	0.38m
4004	Natural: Mid greyish yellow clay	-

<b>Trench 5</b>	<b>Length: 8m, Width: 2m, Depth: 0.64m</b>	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
5001	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown humic silty clay with frequent roots and turf	0.22m

5002	Subsoil: Mid greyish brown mottled silty clay with frequent charcoal and coke flecks	0.42m
5003	Sandstone capped, brick lined drain	0.11m
5004	Spread of disturbed ground cut by 5003	0.10m
5005	Natural: Mid greyish yellow clay	-

Document Control

Element	Name	Date
Report prepared by	Alex Sotheran	24/01/13
Illustrations prepared by	Christine Rawson	24/01/13
Report edited by	Christine Rawson	28/01/13
Report produced by	Elmet Archaeological Services Ltd	28/01/13