



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:

Land to the Rear of Park Farm, Burnaston, Derby, Derbyshire



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Non-Technical Summary

Elmet Archaeological Services Ltd (hereafter 'Elmet') was commissioned by Mr Vincent O'Connor (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the excavation of house foundations on land at the rear of Park Farm, Main Street, Burnaston, Derby, Derbyshire (hereafter 'the Site') centred on NGR 28855 32494 (**Figure 1**). The watching brief was carried out to assess the survival and extent of any potential archaeological remains uncovered during the excavation of the house foundations in order to meet the planning conditions (planning ref: 9/2014/0296) as set by Derby County Council (DCC).

Upon arrival on Site it became apparent that up to approximately 3.5m of earth, including approximately 2.8m of natural deposits, had been removed in order to create a flat platform for the excavation of foundations. As such any archaeological deposits that required monitoring were removed and only visible in section. These sections were measured and recorded and revealed a sequence of sterile deposits and no archaeological remains. The findings of the watching brief are outlined in further detail below.

The archive from the fieldwork will be deposited with Derby City Museums and Art Gallery in due course and an OASIS form will also be submitted at time of deposition.

Acknowledgements

Elmet Archaeological Services Ltd were commissioned to carry out the project by Mr Vincent O'Connor and are grateful to him in this regard. The watching brief was supervised by Philip Roberts and carried out on the 20th July 2015. This report was compiled by Philip Roberts with additional research by Nigel Page and illustrations by Christine Rawson. The project was managed on behalf of Elmet by Christine Rawson and monitored by Steve Baker, the Development Control Archaeologist of Derbyshire County Council (DCC).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Elmet was commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land at the rear of Park Farm, Main Street, Burnaston, Derby, Derbyshire by the current owner Mr Vincent O'Connor. This followed on from an earlier phase of geo-technical test pitting covered by a watching brief supervised by Elmet (2014) which failed to uncover any archaeological remains and was carried out in order to meet the conditions (planning ref: 9/2014/0296) placed on the planning permission in advance of the proposed development.
- 1.1.2 Previous research on the Site including a Method Statement and Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by Elmet (2015a and 2015b) indicated that there was limited potential for the survival of archaeological remains from the medieval period based on the presence of medieval earthworks in the form of building platforms and ridge and furrow in a field to the north of the Site. A programme of geo-technical test pitting designed to find a solid base for foundations took place upon which Elmet (2014) carried out a watching brief. Although these failed to uncover any evidence of earthworks or other remains it was deemed necessary to attach a condition of archaeological monitoring on to the planning permission process. In response to this condition, and in consultation with the DCC Development Control Archaeologist, Elmet created a plan for a watching brief in order to mitigate any impact upon the Site caused by the foundations and record in situ any archaeological remains uncovered.
- 1.1.3 This report details how Elmet Archaeological Services Ltd conducted the archaeological watching brief and its results and has been prepared in accordance with ClfA Codes of Conduct (2014a) and in accordance with industry best practise (ClfA 2014b and 2014c). The report will be submitted to DCC for approval.

1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on land at the rear of Park Farm, Burnaston, Derby centred upon NGR SK 28855 32494. Originally the Site was a hillside on land behind Park Farm itself, however, due to the excavation of much of the actual hillside the Site was a large flat area providing a level surface into which foundations could be dug. Burnaston is a small village concentrated around Main Street which is aligned south east to north west. To the north east lies the city of Derby while the Site itself is surrounded by open fields used for pasture to the north and east, Park Farm itself is located to the south and the western boundary is formed by Main Street.
- 1.2.2 The geology of the Site consists of Edwalton Member Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 217 – 229 million years ago in the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits have been recorded (British Geological Survey 2015).

Figure 1: Site Location



2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following is an overview of archaeological remains and heritage assets that have been identified within the immediate area of Site and is summarised from findings from an earlier phase of geo-technical test pits, information given in the WSI (Elmet 2014 and 2015b) and research carried out using the Heritage Gateway (2015).

2.2 Neolithic to Iron Age (c.6000BC – 43AD)

- 2.2.1 No heritage assets, archaeological remains or find spots have been recorded dating to this period.

2.3 Roman Period (43AD – 410AD)

- 2.3.1 No heritage assets, archaeological remains or find spots have been recorded dating to this period.

2.4 Anglo Saxon Period (410AD – 1066AD)

- 2.4.1 Burnaston is recorded in the Domesday Book as having a value of £2 under the lordship of a number of men including Leodmer, Gamal, Aelfric, Alric and Leofing (Open Domesday 2015).
- 2.4.2 Located approximately 1.3m south of the Site, in a field next to the Toyota Manufacturing Works, is the findspot of a copper alloy cruciform brooch dating to the Anglo Saxon period (Derbyshire HER No: 17619).

2.5 Medieval Period (1066AD – 1530AD)

- 2.5.1 A series of earthworks including a hollow way, two building platforms and an area of ridge and furrow are located in a field to the north of Park Farm (Derbyshire HER number 17601).

2.6 Post-Medieval Period (1530AD – 1900AD)

- 2.6.1 A large number of both extant and demolished buildings that are recorded considered as heritage assets survive within the immediate vicinity of the Site. A Grade II listed 16/17th century box frame house is located on Main Street (HER No: 17614)
- 2.6.2 A total of four farmhouses, New Close, Walnuts Farm, Manor Farm and Top Farm, dating to the 18th and early 19th centuries are located within the vicinity of Site and are recorded within the Derbyshire HER.
- 2.6.3 The former county lunatic asylum, later renamed Pastures Hospital, was located approximately 1m to the north east of the Site (HER No: 17618). It was built in 1850/51 and eventually closed in 1993. Originally far larger, only part of the main block, the chapel and winter gardens now survive all of which are considered Grade II listed buildings.

2.7 20th Century (1900AD – 1999AD)

- 2.7.1 The majority of heritage assets and archaeological remains dating to this period are associated with activity carried out in World War II. The current site of the Toyota Manufacturing Works used to be the Derby Municipal Airport but quickly became a military airfield and base 16 Elementary Flying Training School upon the outbreak of hostilities. The airfield was returned to civilian use after the War until eventually closing in 1963. Also associated with the airfield and recorded by the Derbyshire HER are a number of pillboxes and headquarters buildings that have since been demolished as the area was redeveloped.

2.8 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 2.8.1 Elmet (2014) carried out a watching brief on a series of five geo-technical test pits measuring 0.8m x 2m and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.7m on the Site as part of meeting the conditions of the planning permission. The five test pits were archaeologically sterile but shared a highly similar stratigraphic sequence consisting of a topsoil measuring 0.2 – 0.3m in depth overlying a clay deposit measuring up to 1.5m in depth. The size of the test pits made interpreting these deposits difficult and it was not ascertained whether the clay deposit represented natural.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were:
- To supervise the excavation of the trenching and record the extent and character of any archaeological deposits, structures and features that may have survived.
 - To provide information that will enable any archaeological remains encountered to be placed in their local, regional and national contexts.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The methodology for the monitoring of any construction works that may have directly impacted on any archaeological remains was outlined in the WSI complied by Elmet (2015). Due to the excavation of the Site without supervision and subsequent removal of any archaeological material this methodology became redundant and as such will not be outlined here. As a result in the change of circumstances any extant deposits were recorded using Elmet's *pro forma* recording system and via a thorough photographic survey.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following is a summary of the results of the archaeological watching brief. Detailed descriptions of all the contexts can be found in **Appendix 1** and are referred to in the text in bold.

5.2 General

- 5.2.1 The excavated area (**Plates 1-5**) consisted of topsoil **1001**, which was a grey brown clay silt turf layer with heavy rooting and sub angular stone inclusions to a depth of 0.23m below ground level (bgl). Underlying this was subsoil deposit **1002** consisting of a red brown clay silt to a depth of 0.52m bgl. This deposit overlay **1003** which was a possible buried topsoil. It consisted of light grey clay silt to a depth of 0.69m bgl and while different in colour to **1001** was very similar in composition. The natural **1004** was a pink red silt clay and was excavated to a depth of approximately 3.5m bgl. This deposit was formed in bands with two lenses of grey material visible in the section measuring 0.2m and 0.24m in thickness respectively. The lower extent of **1004**, measuring approximately 0.69m in thickness, became increasingly sandy in its composition.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The excavation of the Site before the agreed monitoring could take place means that any archaeological remains that may have been present have been lost. The nature of the excavation created steep slopes which in places stood 3.5m in height which provided a section from which the stratigraphy of the Site could be recorded. However, the sections themselves were unsafe due to their height and slope meaning that accurate drawings and a more detailed recording of the deposits was impossible.

6.2 Natural 1004

- 6.2.1 **1004** consisted of a number of bands which formed the deposit and changed as the depth increased. Discounting the two thin grey clay bands mentioned above (5.2.1) the uppermost 1.05m of the deposit consisted of a pink red silt clay. The lower 0.69m consisted of a pink red sandy clay with grey mottling throughout. This differentiation may have been caused by natural changes in colour and composition within the deposit as depth increased. It is also possible, however, that the uppermost section of **1004** was in fact a layer of redeposited natural and the lower 0.69m represented the actual natural. Due to the unsafe nature of the section a detailed appraisal of **1004** was unable to be made and therefore any conclusion regarding this cannot be certain.

6.3 Conclusion

- 6.3.1 Due to the excavation of the Site without proper supervision as per the planning permission conditions no conclusion can be made regarding archaeological remains they may have survived and which were subsequently removed as a result of the works.

7 ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The site archive will be deposited with Derby City Museums and Art Gallery, in due course. Copies of the report will be held at Elmet Archaeological Services offices, deposited at the Sites and Monuments Record maintained by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and with the Client Mr Vincent O'Connor

8 COPYRIGHT

- 8.1 Elmet Archaeological Services give permission for the report to be used by the Archives in perpetuity, although Elmet reserve the right to be identified as the author of all project related documents and report material as specified in the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* (Chapter IV, Section 7). The permission will allow Archives to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

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Plate 1: General view of the Site facing south.



Plate 2: General View of the Site facing north.



Plate 3: Excavated area for raft foundation facing north.



Plate 4: South facing section of trench.

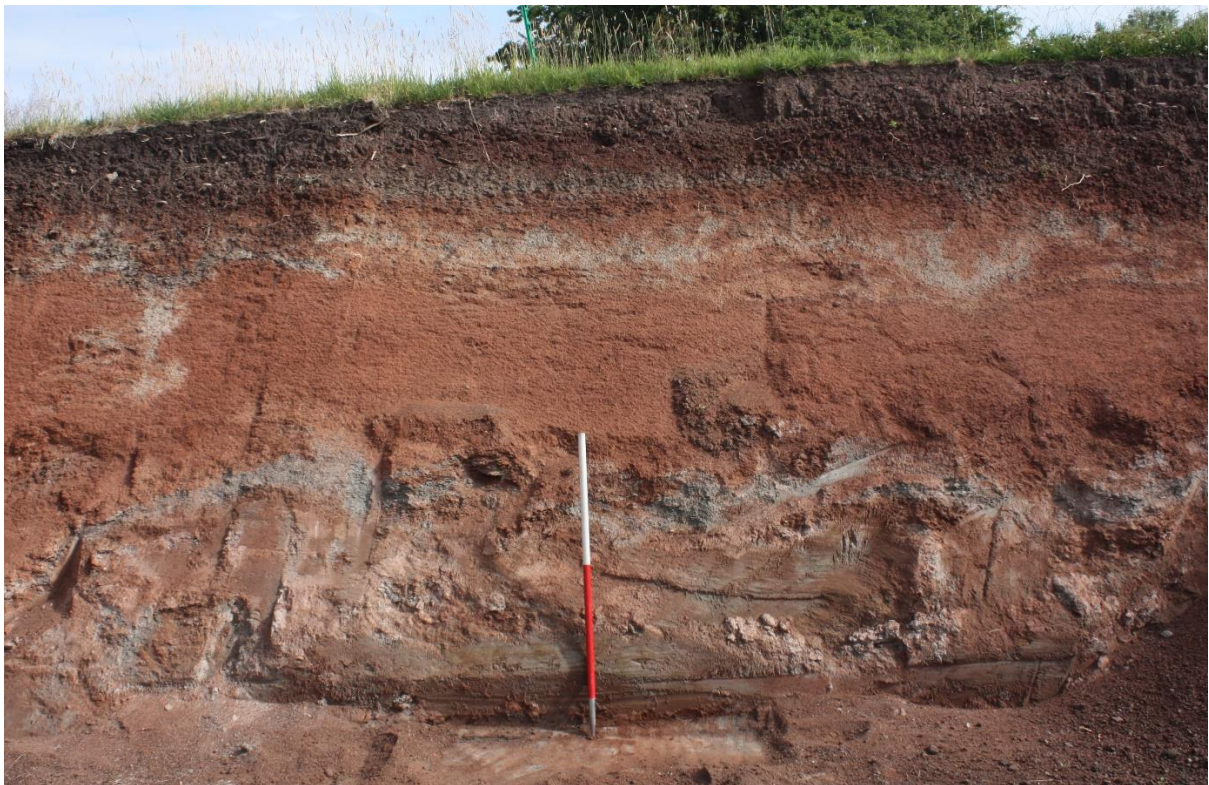
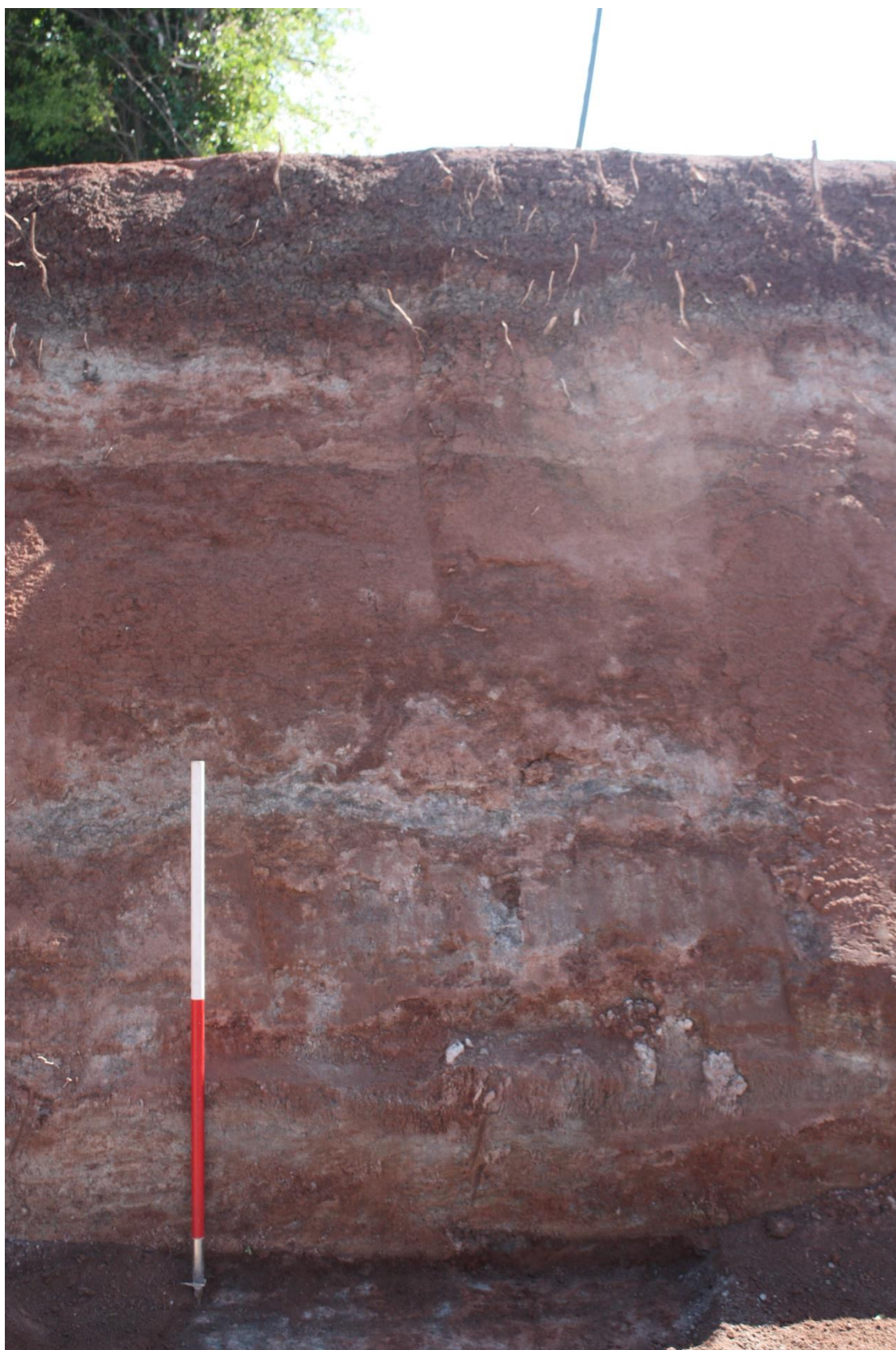


Plate 5: West facing section of trench.



APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Description	Depth (BGL)
1001	Topsoil: Mid grey brown friable clay silt turf layer. Large amounts of rooting and occasional small to medium sized sub-angular stone inclusions.	0 - 0.23m
1002	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown clay silt. Friable. Large amounts of rooting throughout. Occasional small to medium sized stone inclusions.	0.23 – 0.51m
1003	Buried Topsoil: Very similar to 1001 . Light grey friable clay silt. Some occasional rooting visible. Occasional small sized well rounded stone inclusions.	0.51 – 0.69m
1004	Natural: A pinkish red silty clay natural that gets progressively sandier as depth increases. Features bands of the same deposit grey in colour and 0.2 - 0.24m in thickness. No visible inclusions or rooting.	0.69 – (3.5m)

