



LS
Archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief, Strip Map and Record



Land at Thornhill Road, Steeton, West Yorkshire

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March 2014

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Site: Thornhill Road, Steeton, City of Bradford

Site Codes: TRS 13

County: West Yorkshire

NGR: SE 30504720

Planning Application No: 11/0360/MAF

Development: Construction of 198 dwellings, associated parking, highway works and provision of public space.

Date of Issue: 07/03/14

Site Dates: 27th January to 31st July 2013

Project by: LS Archaeology Sideways Terrington North
Yorkshire YO60 6QB Tel: 01653 648493

Client: Redrow Houses Yorkshire

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Summary

A program of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at Thornhill Road, Steeton, West Yorkshire, was undertaken during the ground works associated with the construction of 198 new houses associated parking, highway, and provision for public space. This confirmed the presence of modern field drain system and earlier ploughing (ridges and furrows) on all areas monitored; no other evidence of any archaeological features related to earlier activities were observed.

1. Introduction

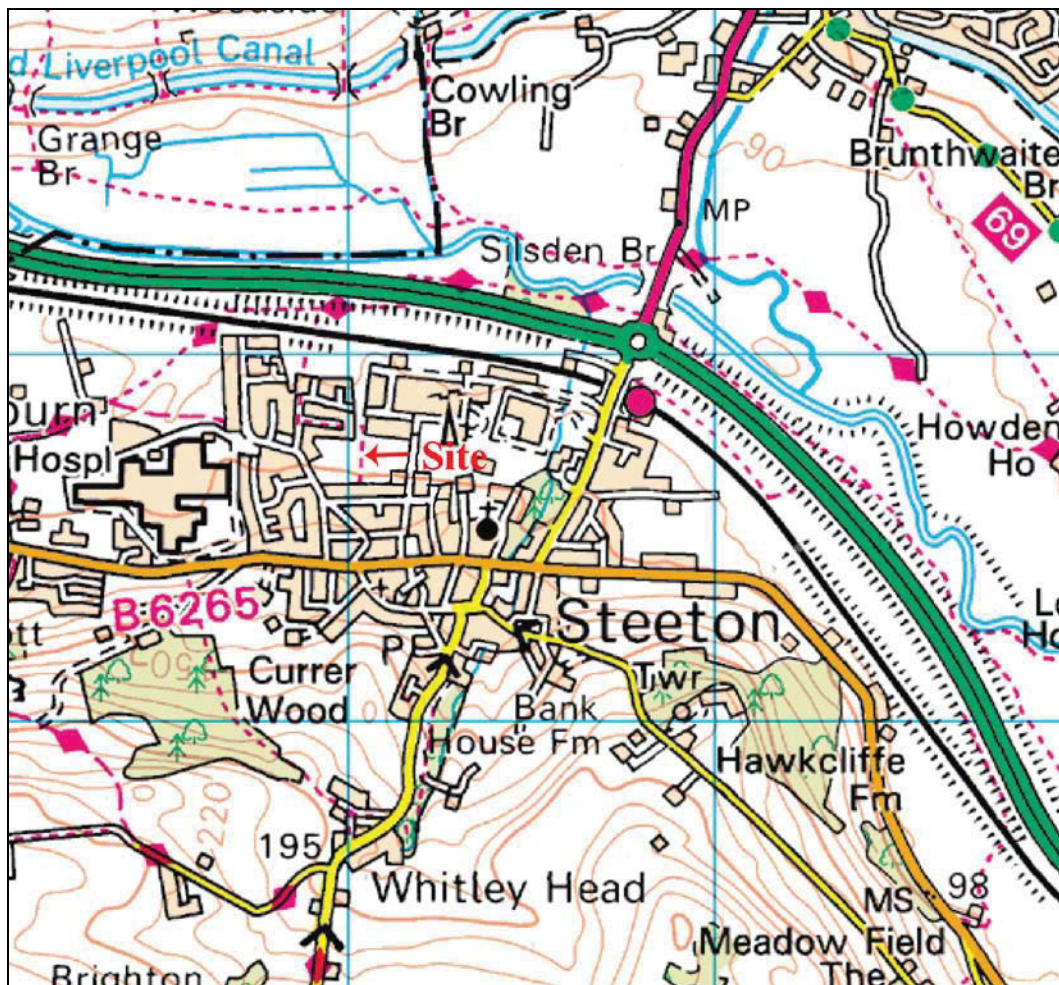


Figure 1: Site location (copy from Streetmap.co.uk)

1.1 L S Archaeology was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology, on behalf of Redrow Homes, to undertake an archaeological program of observation, investigation and recording, requested by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS).

1.2 Following a geophysical survey requested by WYAA, which identified no anomalies of likely archaeological significance, numerous services crossing the site and evidence of earlier ploughing, a condition was placed on the planning permission

(11/03602.MAF) to reflect the remaining archaeological potential of the site.

1.3 Condition 33 states: *No development shall take place with the area indicated until the applicant or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording. This recording must be carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological consultant or organization, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

1.4 Reason: *To investigate the historical value of the site in a coordinated comprehensive manner and to ensure that any archaeological remains are appropriately recorded.*

1.5 This report serves as a short report on the result of the monitoring of all ground works related to the access road and footing of some of the dwellings. The archaeological evaluation was carried out in order to characterize the archaeological potential of the development areas and complies with the guidance of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012), and the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief Institute for Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001). The work was also carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) Produced by Prospect Archaeology.



Figure 2; Site location from Google Earth

1.6 The development site at Thornhill Road, Steeton covers an area of 6.5ha of pasture land. The boundaries of the site are also defined by Thornhill Road to the west, by a former small munitions factory in use during the Second World War and subsequently used as a vehicle testing station, to the north, to the south-east the is bounded by the Steeton cemetery, and to the west a set of property built along

Halsteads Way (Figure 2). The site slopes from south (106.5m O.D) to north (95m O.D.)

- 1.7 Due to technical and logistical problems caused by bad weather conditions, decision was made to divide the area into two phases of development, in order to minimize the damage that heavy machinery can cause to the buried soil, or possible archaeological remains.
- 1.8 The area within phase 1, which consisted of two large sub-square trenches and some linear (2m wide) trenches covering most of the development area impacted by the access road and new dwellings, was monitored under archaeological supervision during the period of January 2013. During the period of July 2013, several trenches of 2m in width were positioned in order to investigate the area impacted by the access roads and associated houses within the area covered by phase 2.
- 1.9 The solid geology of the area comprises of the Millstone Grit Group – Mudstone, siltstone and Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 313 to 326 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. The local environment was previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. The superficial deposits of the bedrock consists of Till, Devensian – Diamicton. These deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, and the local environment was previously dominated by ice age (British Geological Survey 1:50,000 series).

2. Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The site lies in a landscape of known prehistoric activity, although this is largely found on the higher ground, and a geophysical survey carried out at the request of the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS), identified no anomalies of likely archaeological significance, numerous services crossing the site and evidence of earlier plough activity (Prospect Archaeology, WSI).
- 2.2 A brief search of the English Heritage (EH) and Site and Monuments Records (SMR) websites revealed that few medieval and post medieval sites have been recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area, all related to farming activity.
- 2.3 There are a number of World War II defensive structures within the site, which will be retained and incorporated in the development.

3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The aim and objectives of this archaeological intervention is to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits present on the site.

- To record the plan and morphology of any remains encountered in advance of the ground-works associated with the development.
- To sample excavate any archaeological remains, if present within the monitored areas
- To report on the nature and date of any archaeological remains

4. Method

4.1 Archaeological supervision of groundworks was undertaken in order to map and record any archaeological remains encountered in the process.

4.2 The top-soil was machine-excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. The work was undertaken during the month of January and July 2013.

4.3 Since no archaeological remains were found within the monitored areas a full photographic record of all trenches was carried out with a plan showing the location and extent of the monitored area.

5. Results

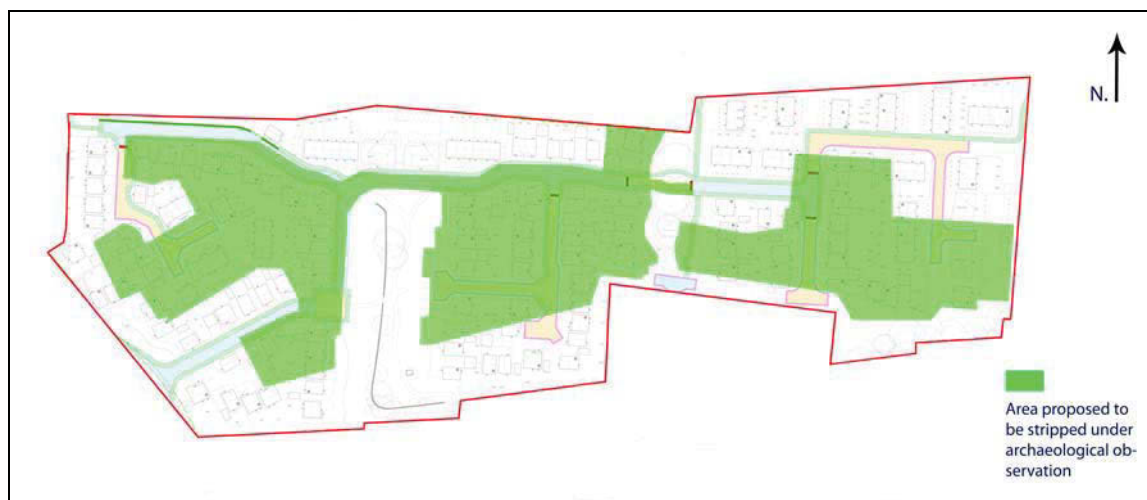


Figure 3; Plan of the site showing the proposed area under archaeological observation

5.1 Following the negative results of the geophysical survey, which identified no anomalies of likely archaeological significance, WYAAS proposed that few areas within the proposed development to be striped under archaeological supervision, along all the three fields impacted by the scheme (Figure 3).

Phase 1

- 5.2 The stripping of the areas within the Phase one, which consists of the first two fields east of Thornhill Road, was carried out in January 2013, with a totaling of 1.16ha of investigated area.
- 5.3 The removal of topsoil measuring in depth 0.30m, and consisting of a dark brown silty clay deposit mixed with occasional limestone fragments, confirmed that the geophysical survey anomalies to be accurate.
- 5.4 Late medieval and post medieval farming activity in the form of 'Ridges and Furrows' running on a north to south alignment, and post medieval to modern field drain and services where the only archaeological activity monitored within the Phase one area.

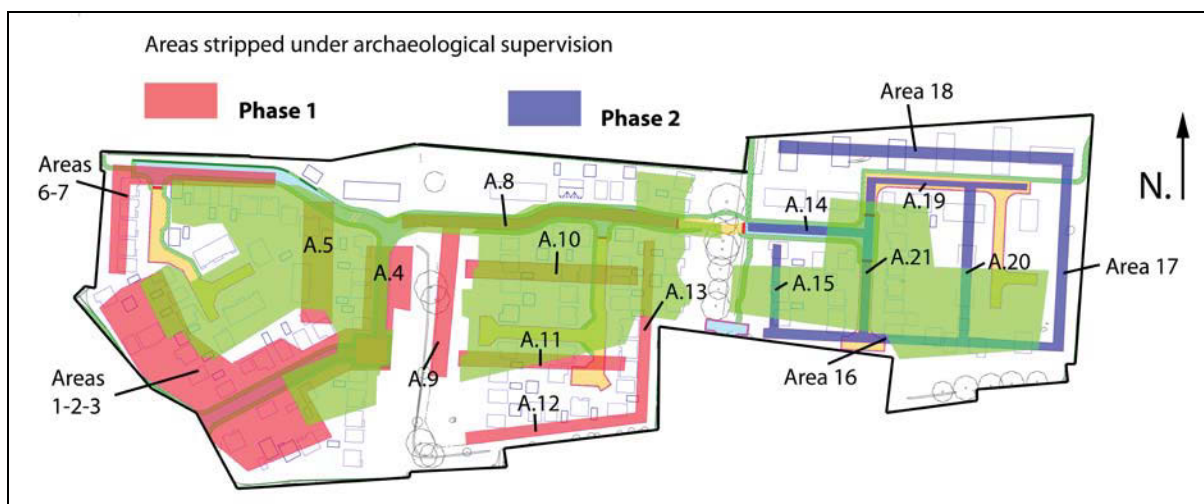


Figure 4; Site plan showing all the areas stripped under archaeological supervision

Phase 2

- 5.5 Phase two, carried out in July 2013, consisted on the evaluation of the last field at the far east of Thornhill Road., where a series of 2m. wide trenches were excavated in order to investigate most of the area impacted by the new access roads, services and houses, totaling the area monitored under archaeological supervision of 0.32ha.
- 5.6 The removal of topsoil carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, proved that no archaeological remains were present within the area evaluated as part of the Phase two archaeological investigation.
- 5.7 The result of this evaluation confirmed the presence of two large main services trenches one located towards the south of the field running on an east to west direction and the other one located at the east end of the field running on a north

to south alignment, several post medieval field drain and evidence of '*Ridges and Furrows*'.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Thornhill Road new development impacted a total area of 6.5ha and the area under archaeological supervision totaled to an average of 1.2ha.
- 6.2 In conclusion, the archaeological investigation managed to corroborate the result from the geophysical survey, affirming the presence of medieval and post medieval farming activity in the form of '*Ridges and Furrows*' and post medieval / Modern field drain system and services trenches.
- 6.3 No other archaeological features were observed during this archaeological investigation.

G. Signorelli
March 2014

7. Bibliography

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<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (Accessed 15/01/14)

Appendix A: Site photographs



Figure 5; Area 1 first strip looking east



Figure 8; Area 2 looking north-west



Figure 6; Area 1 third strip looking east



Figure 9; Area 3 looking south-west



Figure 7; Area 1 second strip looking east



Figure 10; Area 4 looking north-east



Figure 11; Area 4 looking north



Figure 14; Area 7 looking south



Figure 12; Area 5 looking south (4m wide strip)



Figure 15; Area 8 looking east



Figure 13; Area 6 looking east



Figure 16; Area 9 looking south



Figure 17; Area 10 looking west



Figure 20; Area 13 looking south



Figure 18; Area 11 looking west



Figure 21; Area 14 looking east



Figure 19; Area 12 looking west



Figure 22; Area 15 looking north



Figure 23; Area 16 looking east



Figure 26; Area 19 looking east



Figure 24; Area 17 looking north



Figure 27; Area 20 looking north



Figure 25; Area 18 looking east



Figure 28; Area 21 looking north



Figure 29; Area 15 close up of one of the post medieval field drain, still operating, looking west



Figure 30; Area 15 view of the same post medieval field drain, looking south

Appendix B: Trenches dimensions (Area of investigation)

Areas	Length in m.	Width in m.	Orientation
Area 1	46.50	24	Ne / Sw
Area 2	57	33	Nw / Se
Area 3	80	28	Ne / Sw
Area 4	59	23	N / S
Area 5	60	15	N / S
Area 6	78	6	E / W
Area 7	44	7	N / S
Area 8	132	5	E / W
Area 9	72	6	N / S
Area 10	83	8	E / W
Area 11	80	6	E / W
Area 12	82	5	E / W
Area 13	87	5	N / S
Area 14	55	4	E / W
Area 15	40	4	N / S
Area 16	139	5	E / W
Area 17	89	5	N / S
Area 18	140	6	E / W
Area 19	72	4	E / W
Area 20	71	4	N / S
Area 21	75	4	N / S

Appendix C

OASIS ID: Isarchae1-175908

Project details

Project name	Strip map and record at Thornhill Road, Steeton
Short description of the project	A program of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at Thornhill Road, Steeton, West Yorkshire, was undertaken during the ground works associated with the construction of 198 new houses associated parking, highway, and provision for public space. This confirmed the presence of modern field drain system and earlier ploughing (ridges and furrows) on all areas monitored; no other evidence of any archaeological features related to earlier activities were observed.
Project dates	Start: 27-01-2013 End: 31-07-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST YORKSHIRE BRADFORD STEETON WITH EASTBURN Thornhill Road, Steeton
Postcode	BD20 6QW
Study area	6.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	SE 03350 44735 53.8985714099 -1.94901254949 53 53 54 N 001 56 56 W Point

Lat/Long Datum WGS 84 Datum
Height OD / Depth Min: 95.00m Max: 106.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation LS Archaeology
Project brief originator Consultant
Project design originator WYAAS
Project director/manager L Signorelli
Project supervisor L Signorelli

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive Exists? No

Entered by luigi signorelli (lsarchaeology@gmail.com)
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