

AIM Logistics Ltd

Crab Apple Way

Evesham, Worcestershire

Heritage Impact Assessment

NGR: SP04963 41849

Site code: EV18

OASIS ID: 110archa1-318184

HER activity no: WSM70271

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28th May 2018

Introduction

This document details the results of a heritage impact assessment of the site occupied by AIM Logistics Ltd at Crab Apple Way, Evesham, WR11 1GP (the study site) at the request of Stuart Bond Architecture acting on behalf of the owners. The assessment was required by Wychavon District Council to support a planning application (planning ref; 17/02080/FUL) for a proposed enlarged headquarters building and associated parking.

It was recognised that the application site lies within an area of archaeological significance (WSM45701). A scatter of prehistoric worked flint was discovered in the proposal site within an area of naturally occurring flint. The flints and cores are dated to the Mesolithic period and are therefore rare regionally.

Given that the proposed area of the development had potential to impact on deposits associated with this period and that some development work had already been carried out including the erection of the headquarters building, a heritage impact assessment was requested by the archaeological advisor at Wychavon District Council to establish whether sufficient deposits remained to justify recommending a watching brief during groundworks should the application be successful.

Summary of archaeological evidence

The Worcestershire county Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted with a 500m search radius centred on the study site. This generated a total of 60 monument records and 37 event records, a summary of the more significant information is outlined below. Cartographic sources were also examined to assess the setting of the site in relation to its historical development.

The search area sits within a lowland agricultural landscape based on blue lias and Charmouth mudstone geology overlain with sand and gravel deposits in the east. The historic character of the area is predominately that of field amalgamation with a small area of piecemeal enclosure in the east of the search area. The Vale Business Park represents a large area of industrial activity to the west.

Prehistoric

Prehistoric activity is identified within the search area from a series of interventions. Trial trenching and field walking undertaken in 1988 (WSM29765) at Crab Farm identified the site of a low density (only 30 pieces were recovered Mesolithic flint scatter (WSM45701) comprising worked flint with cores, waste flakes, burnt flint, and three tools. Two of the tools, a blade and a possible scraper are

probably Mesolithic in date and may be associated with the worked cores and flakes. The third tool was a Palaeolithic hand-axe which is thought to represent a chance find and not to indicate an occupation site. A second fieldwalking survey was carried out in 2011 within the search area but no further flint scatter was identified.

During an evaluation in 2008 at Longdon Hill, Wickhamford (WSM39886) a single residual quartzite Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead was recovered from a furrow. This is of local significance due to its rarity and may have been worked due to the low quality of flint available in the area.

Roman

The fieldwalking around Crab Farm in 1988 also produced a small quantity of Roman Severn Valley ware.

Medieval

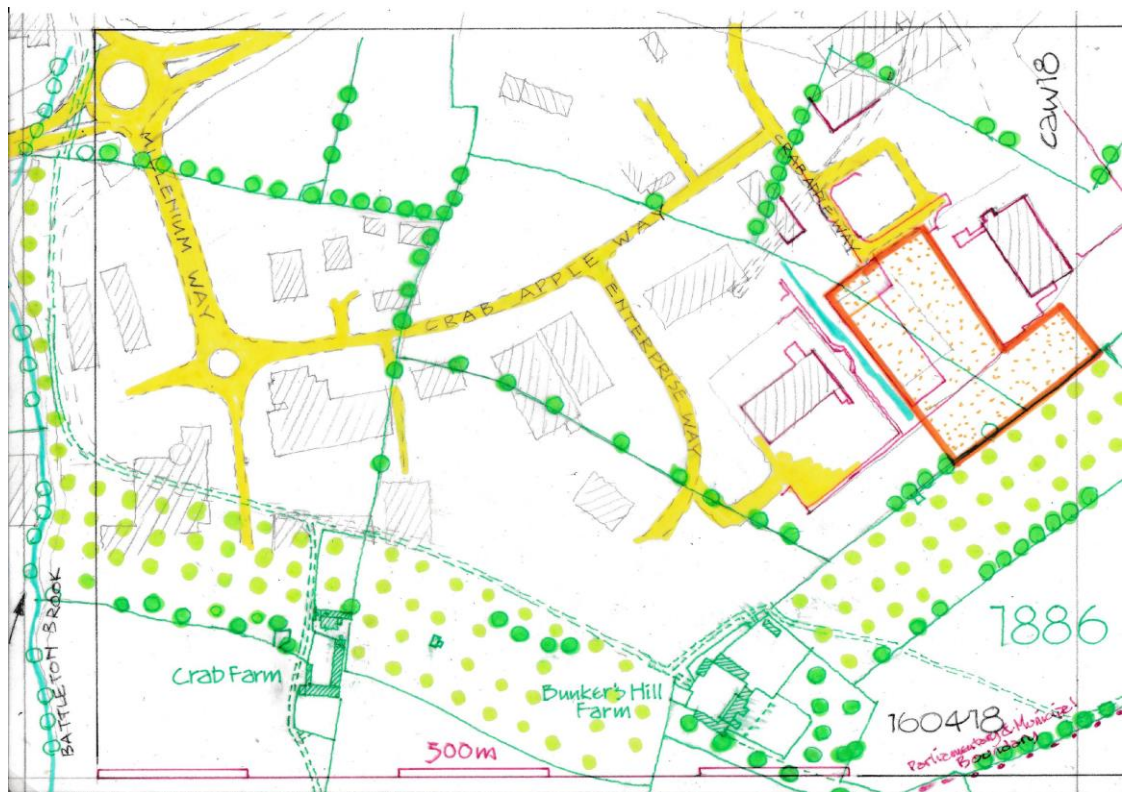
a very sparse scatter of medieval pottery including C12 to C13 century Worcester sandy wares was produced from the fieldwalking around Crab Farm in 1988.

Ridge and furrow earthworks (WSM70154) covering nearly seven acres running north-west/south-east are recorded just outside the search area boundary at Field Farm, Wickhamford

An evaluation (trial trenching) at Longdon Hill, Broadway Road, Wickhamford in 2008 (WSM39886) comprising twenty-one trenches were excavated across the site, revealed extensive traces of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and a small number of undated irregular pits and postholes. Two possible pits contained frequent charcoal and fire cracked stones. It is unclear if they are of prehistoric date, or represent burnt out tree bowls from the orchard, which occupied much of the site in the later C19.

Modern

There are no historic buildings recorded within the search area although two farmsteads, now demolished, were identified through a Historic England funded project which aimed to identify all the historic farmsteads in Worcestershire. One is the former site of Crab Farm, (WSM52750) which was demolished in the C19. It was a farmstead described as of a regular courtyard of U-plan. The farmhouse was detached with side on to the yard. Located within a loose farmstead cluster. The second farmstead is the site of Bunkers Hill Farm (WSM60401) which was also demolished in the C19. It was an L-Plan with three sides of the courtyard formed by working agricultural buildings and additional detached elements to the main plan. The farmhouse was attached to the agricultural range. Located within a loose farmstead cluster.



Historic environment plan based on OS 1886 & existing topography showing the Vale Business Park with the site boundary (outlined in orange).

No finds have been recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme within the search boundary although unstratified finds of varying dates have been recorded in the parish records for the wider area.

Impact of the development

The assessment has shown that the proposed development has potential to impact archaeological deposits associated with Mesolithic activity. Residual Roman and Medieval finds from the wider also showed some potential for disturbance of deposits related to these periods.

Conclusion & Recommendation

The cartographic sources (OS 1886) show that the study site lies within an area associated with agriculture formerly based around two C19 farmsteads that were later demolished. Archaeological sources demonstrate the potential for Mesolithic flint finds and associated occupational deposits to be present within the study site and the surrounding area. Roman and Medieval pottery collected from the wider area suggests some potential for activity from these periods.

A visit to the site, which forms part of the Vale Business Park, confirmed that the proposed development is nearing completion and that no deposits currently exist within the site, the areas of previously undeveloped land having been removed in the construction of the new building and associated hard standing. In view of this assessment no further work is recommended.

Timescales used in this report:

Prehistoric BC450,000-AD43
 Palaeolithic 450,000-12,000 BC
 Mesolithic 12,000-4,000 BC
 Neolithic 4,000-1,800 BC
 Bronze Age 1,800-600 BC
 Iron Age 600-AD43
Roman AD43-410
Saxon/early medieval AD410-1066
Medieval AD 1066-1530
Post-medieval AD 1531-1800
Modern AD 1800-present

OASIS

Project name	AIM Logistics Ltd Crab Apple Way Evesham, Worcestershire; Heritage Impact Assessment
Project dates	Start: 27-05-2018 End: 27-05-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	EV18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	WSM70271 - HER event no.
Type of project	Desk based assessment
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Documentary Search"", ""Visual Inspection""
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Planning condition
Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON EVESHAM AIM Logistics Ltd, Crab Apple Way
Postcode	WR11 1GP
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 04963 41849 52.074566182077 - 1.927578984516 52 04 28 N 001 55 39 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m
Name of Organisation	one ten archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	one ten archaeology
Project director/manager	sean cook
Project supervisor	sean cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
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