An Historic Map Regression of land at Milken Lane, Ashover, Derbyshire



ARS Ltd Report 2017/45 April 2017

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Prepared on behalf of:	Planning and Design Practice Ltd
Date of compilation:	April 2017
Compiled by:	Michelle Burpoe
Checked by:	Clive Waddington MCIfA
Planning Reference:	17/00200/OL
Local Authority:	North East Derbyshire Council
Site central NGR:	SK 35056. 63345

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Planning and Design Practice Ltd to undertake a historic map regression of land at Milken Lane, Ashover, Derbyshire. This follows the submission of an outline planning application (Application Ref. 17/00200/OL) for the proposed construction of ten bungalows alongside the provision of open space and an improved point of access from Milken Lane. The Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist (D&DDCA) has requested a targeted desk-based assessment for the proposed development site, including an historic map regression and documentary research, and also a geophysical survey.

The assessment has concluded that based on the current available data, there may be some potential for the proposed development to affect, as yet unproven, buried archaeological remains relating to the historic mining of the Rhodes Veins that has been carried out within the proposed development area. The development is also considered, at this stage, to have limited potential to impact upon the buried remnants of any medieval and post-medieval remains, such as ridge and furrow and former field boundaries, although any such remains are considered to be of low, or negligible, archaeological significance.

It is recommended that a programme of archaeological field evaluation is carried out across the site to test the anomalies identified by the historic map regression and geophysical survey and to test for the presence of, and to assess the significance of, any other buried archaeological remains that may survive across the site. This could be carried out as part of a condition of granted planning permission.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and Planning Background

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Planning and Design Practice Ltd to undertake a historic map regression of land at Milken Lane, Ashover, Derbyshire. This follows the submission of an outline planning application (Application Ref. 17/00200/OL) for the proposed construction of ten bungalows alongside the provision of open space and an improved point of access from Milken Lane. The Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist (D&DDCA) has requested a targeted desk-based assessment for the proposed development site, including an historic map regression and documentary research and also a geophysical survey.

1.2 Site description

The 'red line boundary' of the proposed development area (hereafter 'PDA') is depicted by a red polygon on Figure 1, and is *c*.0.98ha in area. The site is located north east of Ashover village centre behind the Black Swan Public House. The site consists of one roughly rectangular shaped field, which slopes from north to south towards Milken Lane, where the site access track leads from. The site is bounded on all sides by a mixture of stonewalling, hedgerows, stock-proof fencing and timber fencing. The site is centred at NGR SK 35056, 63345 (Figure 1).

1.3 Geology

The underlying solid geology consists of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Bowland Shale Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 313 to 335 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was dominated by open seas with pelagite deposits. This is overlain by superficial head deposits (BGS 2017).

The underlying solid geology within the southernmost party of the PDA comprises mudstone of the Widmerpool Formation, formed approximately 326 to 335 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was previously dominated by sub-aqueous slopes. This is overlain by superficial head deposits (BGS 2017).

The soils of the PDA are classified as belonging to the Bardsey Soil Association (713a), which are cambic stagnogley soils (SSEW 1983). These soils form over Carboniferous mudstone with interbedded sandstone, and are characterised as 'Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged loamy over clayey and fine silty soils over soft rock. Some well drained coarse loamy soils over harder rock (CU 2017).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The principal aims of this assessment are to produce a report detailing any archaeological potential of the PDA, and to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development upon any buried or upstanding archaeological remains and to assess their significance. The following objectives will contribute towards accomplishing this aim:



- To collate and assess existing information about the proposed development area and to determine as fully as possible from the available evidence the nature, survival, quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains within the PDA.
- To provide an assessment of areas of archaeological potential and survival based on the above research and assess the potential for the use of particular investigative techniques in order to aid the formulation of any necessary mitigation strategy, including further evaluation, excavation, and/or preservation of archaeological remains.
- To assess, where possible from the available sources, the extent of any ground disturbance associated with any previous intrusive development.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

The DBA was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment* (CIfA 2014). The Derbyshire Record Office and the Peak District Mines Historical Society were consulted to help inform this assessment.

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Lead mining within the Peak District and Derbyshire has been an important industry as early as the Romano-British period, and possibly earlier, with several Latin inscribed lead ingots, known as 'pigs', having been found in areas both locally and as far away as Normandy (Barnatt and Penny 2004, 2.7), Lybia, Syria and Italy amongst other areas of the Roman empire. While evidence for mining in Anglo-Saxon and medieval times is limited, sources indicate significant lead production within several of the royal manors in Derbyshire, including the Manor of Matlock to the south-east of Ashover. Mining in the medieval period was primarily a small-scale operation, with most of the works carried out as either surface opencasts into vein outcrops and/or underground workings of *c*.30-50m deep. It wasn't until the 17th century when deeper and much larger mines were developed (Peck 1922).

Within the Manor of Ashover, lead mining was well-established by the late 16th/early 17th century, with many of the easily accessible veins being actively exploited as opencast workings. It appears as though the majority of mining activity within the area took place to the west of the River Amber, where mines, such as the Gregory mine, were extremely profitable. To the east of the Amber, the Westedge (or Grovelands) Rake near Kelstedge was being worked since at least the early 17th century, though it was known even then as being an 'ancient wrought rake.' One of the earliest pieces of documentary evidence for lead mining within the Manor of Ashover comes from a 17th century case herd in the Court of the Exchequer concerning the payment of tithe on ore mined at Westedge Rake. Townend (or Townhead) Vein, the eastern continuation of the Westedge Rake, is documented as being worked on the fringes of Ashover village in 1695 (Band 1996, 55-56).

Early county maps of Derbyshire, such as Burdett's 1767 *Survey of Derbyshire* and Greenwood's 1825 *Map of the County of Derby* depict the area of Ashover, although they do



not illustrate the area of the PDA in enough detail to provide any useful information about the state of the site. Likewise, the 1779 Ashover Enclosure Plan (Figure 2) does not depict the area of the PDA, suggesting that the open fields of the site were first enclosed by mutual agreement amongst landowners and later completed by the 18th and 19th century Enclosure Acts.

The first map to depict the area of the PDA in detail is the 1816 *Poor Rate Survey and Valuation of the Manor of Ashover* (Figure 3). While this map has been damaged, it is still possible to discern that the site is composed of parts of at least three different fields, details of which are listed below in Table 1. The plot number of the field comprising the bottom part of the PDA is unfortunately illegible.

Owner	Occupior		Description	Quantities		
Owner	Occupiei	FIOL NO.	Description	Α	R	Р
William Bamford	George Allen (Black Swan)	2059	Spout close garden & house	2	1	22
Bower Potter	George Mellor – Carpenter	2071	Little Pasture & Long Close	4	1	6

Table 1: 1816 Ashover Poor Rate Survey and Valuation

A map in the Derbyshire Record Office, labelled simply as *A Plan of the several Mines and Veins of Lead Ore in the Lordship of Ashover* (D6413/1/134), appears to date to the earlymid-19th century, and shows an additional field boundary present within the centre of the PDA that was not present on the 1816 Poor Rate Map. This map also shows a number of lead veins within and surrounding the PDA (Figure 4). Running south-west to north-east through the western part of the PDA are two parallel veins known as 'Rhodes Vein', while 'Townhead Vein' approaches the north-western part of the PDA from the west. It may be that these two veins meet within the boundaries of the PDA. Immediately to the south-east of the PDA is a short vein labelled 'Shout Swallow-hole'.

The 1851 Tithe Map of Ashover (Figure 5) is largely similar to that of the 1816 Poor Rate Plan and 19th century Lordship Map, though the central field boundary is no longer depicted. The accompanying 1849 Tithe Apportionment (Table 2) lists parts of six different fields within the boundaries of the PDA, although the majority of the PDA largely lies within field no. 1895, known as 'Great Pasture & Building.' The building is likely to be the same structure depicted on the 19th century Lordship Map, but this is not certain.

Ownor	Occupior	Plot	Description	State of	Quantities		
Owner	Occupiei	No.	Description	Cultivation		R	Р
Samuel Mellor	Himself	1892	Malthouse Close	Pasture	2	1	39
Samuel Mellor	Himself	1895	Great Pasture & Building	Meadow	4	1	6

Table 2: 1849 Ashover Tithe Apportionment for 1851 Tithe Map



An Historic Map Regression of land at Milken Lane, Ashover, Derbyshire

Owner	Occurica	Plot	Description	State of	Quantities		
Owner	Occupier	No.	Description	Cultivation	Α	R	Р
Ann Eaton	Herself	1896	Spout Close	Pasture	1	3	6
Ann Eaton	John Handbury	1900	The Hole	Pasture	0	1	10
Ann Eaton	John Handbury	1901	Buildings & Stackyard	-	0	0	7
Ann Eaton	John Handbury	1902	Garden	-	0	0	19

The southern part of the PDA is shown as being partly within plot no.1900, known as 'The Hole'. This may indicate the location of some lead workings within the 'Shout Swallow-hole' vein, though this is only postulated.

Historic mapping does not indicate any changes as being carried out within the PDA from the 1851 Tithe Map until the 1898 Ordnance Survey (OS) Map (Appendix 2), with the amalgamation of the majority of the fields within the PDA, and the loss of the small structure previously depicted on the 19th century Lordship and 1851 Tithe Maps. A row of trees or shrubs is shown running parallel to the eastern boundary of the PDA, along the line of a former field boundary.

There is a lack of mapping available for this area of Ashover between 1917 and 1962. The 1962 OS Map (Appendix 2) depicts the PDA as being partly separated into two fields by a small boundary running west-east across the southern part of the PDA. All the previously depicted vegetation within the PDA is no longer depicted. To the east of the PDA, a large depressed area, possibly the site of the aforementioned 'The Hole', is depicted. Today, the site looks much as it is represented on the 1962 OS Map.

5 ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AFFECTED HERITAGE ASSETS

There are no known historic assets located within the PDA. However, there is the potential for remains associated with early lead mining to survive below ground within the PDA. The geophysical survey has identified several anomalies along the postulated line of the Rhodes Vein within the PDA, which could potentially relate to lead mining (Durkin 2017, 2). These anomalies are of as yet unknown status and without further evaluation it is not possible to confidently assign a level of significance. However, should these anomalies prove to be archaeological in origin, then they may possess a degree of archaeological interest due to both their *evidential value* and *illustrative historical value*.

The potential for previously unknown archaeological remains from the medieval and postmedieval periods to survive in areas undisturbed by mining activity within the PDA cannot be discounted and it is not uncommon for areas subjected to ridge and furrow agriculture to mask and protect more deeply buried archaeological remains. Additionally, there is the unknown potential for remnants of former field boundaries to survive within the PDA (Figure 6). Therefore, the possibility that archaeological remains survive in the PDA remains, although the significance of any such assets cannot be quantified or assessed without field evaluation.



6 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Potential direct physical impacts to heritage assets during the construction phase of the proposed development include the following.

- Removal or truncation of heritage assets during ground works, site clearance and construction (e.g. removal of vegetation, erection of fencing, traffic movement, topsoil stripping).
- Damage to buried archaeological remains due to rutting from construction traffic movement.
- Other groundworks associated with the construction of a new development, such as foundation and service trenches, which have the potential to damage or destroy below ground features or deposits of cultural heritage value should they be present.

Based on the currently available data, there may be some potential for the proposed development to directly affect any unknown buried archaeological remains relating to past mining activities, and also other medieval and post-medieval remains.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation work is carried out across the site to test the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and to test for the presence of, and to assess the significance of, any buried archaeological remains that may otherwise survive across the site. This could be carried out as part of a condition of granted planning permission.

8 STATEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 Archive Deposition

One bound copy of the final report with an attached digital PDF/A copy on disc will be deposited with the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The disc will also include a digital archive, consisting of relevant ArcGIS shapefiles or CAD files, for use of updating the HER database.

8.2 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

Any publicity will be handled by the client. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

8.3 Statement of Indemnity

All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising



from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

8.4 Acknowledgements

Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like thank Scott O'Dell with Planning and Design Practice Ltd for commissioning this work; Steve Baker, Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, for his advice; and Adam Russell with the Peak District Mines Historical Society.

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APPENDIX 1: FIGURES





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Site name: Milken Lane, Ashover Date: April 2017 Drawn by: MB Scale: 1:2500 @ A4 This drawing: © ARS Ltd Ordnance Survey mapping (if applicable): © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission Licence no. 100045420	Image: Site Boundary	Archaeological Research Services Ltd Angel House Portland Square Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1HB Tel: 01629 814540 www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com







APPENDIX 2: GROUNDSURE LARGE-SCALE MAPPING REPORT







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