

RERO10



ROOD END ROAD, OLDBURY, SANDWELL

Archaeological Evaluation

for Taylor Wimpey (West Midlands) Ltd

DC/08/49405

June 2011

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Project Manager	Mike Kimber
Author	David Doyle
Fieldwork	Dale Rouse & David Doyle
Graphics	Anna Sztromwasser & Caroline Norrman
Specialists	Julie Franklin, finds
Approved by	Mike Kimber, Project manager



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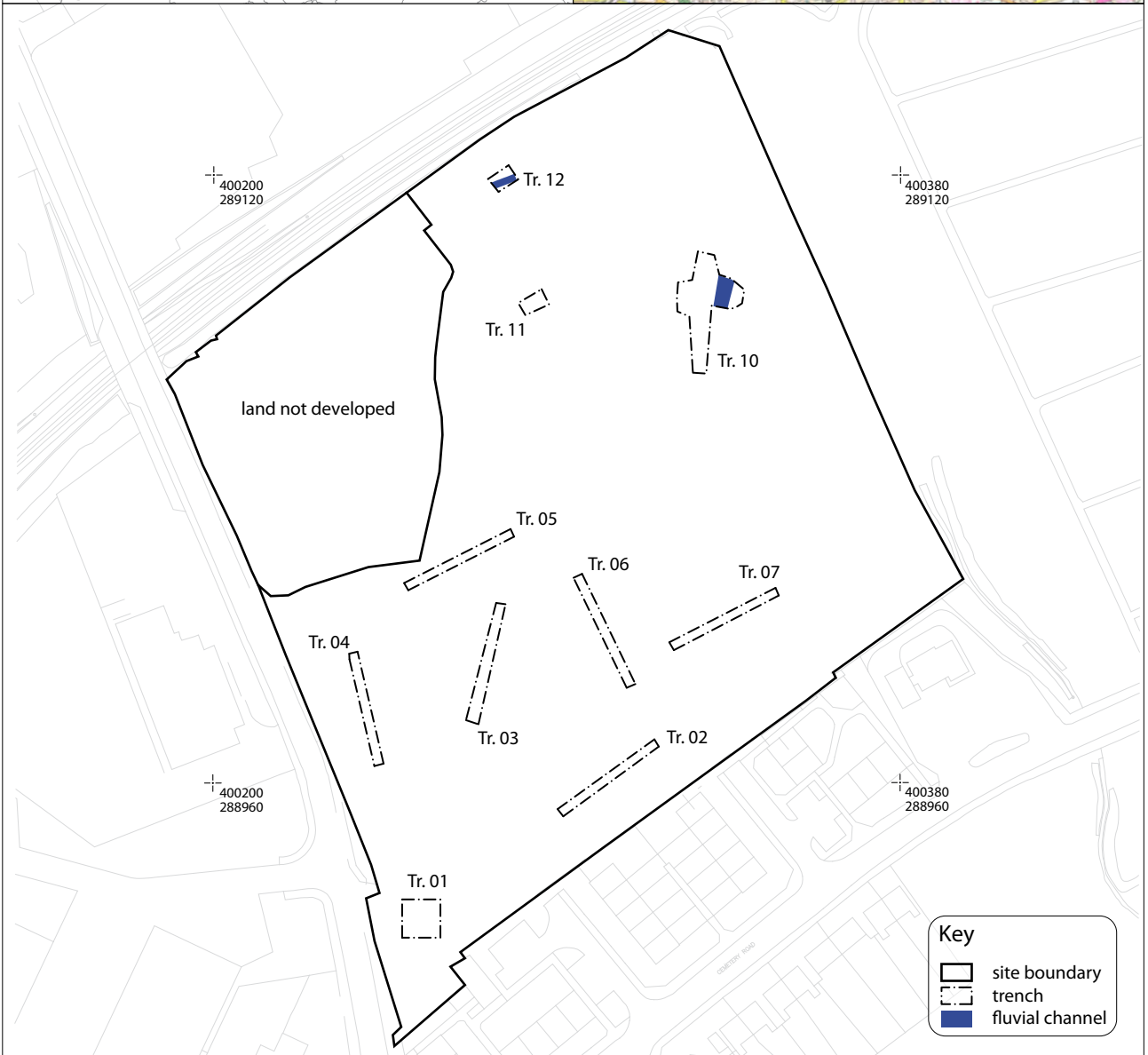
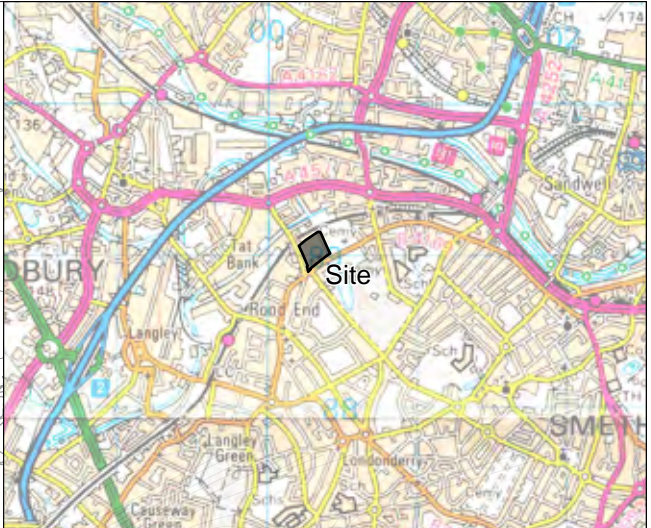
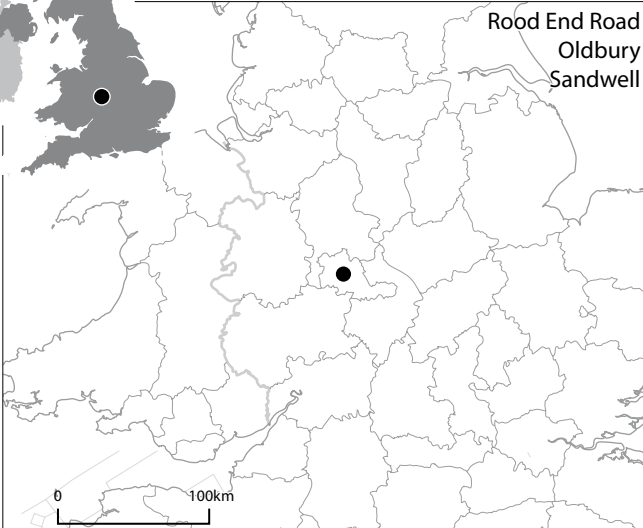
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Hereford HR4 9NZ
T 0143 236 4901 • F 0143 236 4900 • E hereford@headlandarchaeology.com
www.headlandarchaeology.com

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Scale 1:1750 @ A4



Illus 1
Location of site and evaluation trenches

ROOD END ROAD, OLDBURY, SANDWELL

Archaeological Evaluation

A total of six trenches measuring 1.8m x 30m and four remediation trenches, two measuring 10m x 10m, one of which was later extended to a large cross shape, and two measuring 6m x 4m were excavated within the development boundary.

The trenches and remediation pits had a soil profile of disturbed modern overburden onto an undisturbed geological deposit. No archaeological remains were observed in these trenches/ remediation trenches. Evidence for a former river course was uncovered at the base of extended remediation Trench 10 and remediation Trench 12.

1. INTRODUCTION

Planning permission was granted for the construction of 300 new homes on the site of a former electrical engineering works at Rood End Road, Oldbury (Planning reference: DC/08/49405). As a condition of the planning permission the applicant was required to undertake a pre-development investigation and assessment of the potential risk to hitherto unrecorded archaeological deposits. The client's archaeological consultant, Daniel Lewis of The Environmental Dimension Partnership, and the Borough Archaeologist, Graham Eyre-Morgan, agreed that this would be achieved by evaluation through trial trench investigation, including the adaptation of ground remediation excavations into evaluation trenches. As a result, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership on behalf of their client Taylor Wimpy West Midlands to carry out this programme of archaeological trial investigation at the site.

The site is centred on NGR 400289 289015 and is bounded on the north by railway lines, on the east by a cemetery and on the south and west by Cemetery Road and Rood End Road. The study area was occupied by a disused electrical engineering works. The buildings were in the process of demolition by a specialist contractor when the archaeological works were carried out.

Following a ground investigation undertaken by Wardell Armstrong (Lane, M 2010), it was determined that the

site is covered with a layer of overburden that is generally less than 1.5m deep in the centre of the site, but up to 5m deep along the northern and eastern edges. There are also several deep spots that appear to show significant modern interventions. The underlying geology of the site is glacial till and glacial-fluvial sands and gravels, overlying the Keele beds of the Upper Coal Measures.

1.1 Archaeological Background

The name 'Rood End' suggests both religious significance ('Rood' referring to a preaching cross or road-side shrine) and the potential for medieval domestic settlement signified by 'End', which could derive from the Anglo-Saxon name for a settlement.

The 1844 Tithe map shows the site largely as open fields, with a stream running near to its eastern boundary. It is assumed that the area of deep fill described in ground investigations by Wardell Armstrong, on this edge of the site, represents the in-filling of the old stream channel. The stream itself is now culverted.

The Sandwell SMR records the existence of a Bronze Age burnt mound (SMR ref 6426) approximately 150m south of the site, which was located during field walking in allotment gardens. The presence of the stream and the burnt mound suggested the potential for further remains of this nature within the site boundary.



Illus 2

Remediation Trench 1. looking south. No archaeology



Illus 3

Trench 3. Looking south. No archaeology

2



Illus 4

Trench 4. Looking south. No archaeology



Illus 5

Trench 7. Looking north-east. No archaeology

1.2 Objectives

The objective of the trial trench evaluation was to ascertain whether there were any archaeological features or deposits worthy of further mitigation; either through preservation *in situ* or by record.

The evaluation specifically sought to identify evidence for medieval activity within the site boundary, and evidence for Bronze Age remains such as burnt mounds associated with the stream channel. As burnt mounds tend to occur in relatively changeable fluvial environments, the evaluation aimed to record, where visible, any natural sequences that could help to determine patterns of channel formation and shoaling, and therefore assist in interpreting the locations of any remains found within the site.

2. METHODOLOGY

It was intended that eight archaeological trial trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m, and three remediation trenches measuring 10m by 10m would be excavated in pre-agreed locations.

The layout of the trenches was designed to ensure good spatial coverage across the site. They were not targeted on known archaeology or areas with increased archaeological potential. Existing services were made redundant by the contractors prior to any excavations.

However this was amended, due to site conditions and environmental sampling by Vertase F.L.I., to six trenches measuring approx. 2m x 30m (the machine was supplied with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket) and three remediation trenches. Two of these trenches measured 6m by 4m and the third was enlarged and extended to a cross shape measuring a maximum of 32m north-south by 20m east-west and provided enough spatial coverage to allow the assimilation of two trial trenches within the remediation trench. These amendments were agreed in advance by the client's archaeological consultant and the Borough Archaeologist.

All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. Modern overburden was removed and excavation ceased at either undisturbed geological deposits or when archaeological features/deposit were identified. These were then further investigated by hand excavation. Each trench was cleaned by hand where necessary to assist the identification and interpretation of exposed deposits and

features. Where the presence of archaeological features was suspected, they were assessed by limited sample excavation, sufficient to establish their character and date.

2.1 Recording

All recording was carried out to IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations and the Headland Archaeology site recording manual. All contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. Non archaeological stratified deposits were encountered and a 'Harris' matrix was compiled. The trenches were photographed using 35mm colour transparencies and black-and-white prints with graduated metric scale clearly visible. Finally, 7.2mp digital photographs were taken for illustrative purposes.

An overall site plan was recorded digitally using a Trimble R6 RTK GPS with sub centimetre accuracy adhering to standard Headland Archaeology methodology. This allows the site plan to be accurately linked to the National Grid.

3. RESULTS

The site was covered in a layer of modern overburden, which varied in depth across the site. The archaeological excavations show that this ranged from approximately 0.5m in the south of the site, approximately 1.5m in the centre of the site and almost 3m in the north. All trenches, with the exception of Trench 7, showed the same soil profile of a sterile geological deposit [1002] overlaid by modern overburden [1001]. Trench 7 had fairly shallow subsoil [1004] in places above the sterile

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Illus 6

Old fluvial channel revealed in remediation Trench 10 looking west



Illus 7

c.1878 mug recovered from remediation Trench 10

geological deposit. Appendix 1 contains a detailed description of each trench. The overburden comprised a mixture of black gravels, ash, clinker, metal, wood, glass materials and brick fills and occasional pockets of clay and redeposited glacial till.

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No archaeology was encountered in the six 2m x 30m trenches and remediation trenches 1 and 11 were singularly devoid of archaeology (Illus 2–5).

A fluvial deposit (Illus 6) was encountered in remediation Trench 10 and remediation Trench 12. This deposit comprised bluish grey sandy clay with small round pebble inclusions and river cobbles and represents the deposition from an old river course. A total of 11 individual sherds of late 19th century transfer ware was recovered from the base of remediation Trench 10 within the overburden (Appendix 5).

4. DISCUSSION

It is clear from the makeup and depth of the overburden that the site was subject to intensive modern industrial activities and disturbance by these across the investigated areas of the site appears to be total. The archaeological evaluation has confirmed the depths of the modern overburden as shown by the ground investigation

undertaken by Wardell Armstrong (Lane, M 2010). Although a fluvial deposit was encountered, there was no evidence for any burnt mounds or other archaeological activity in these areas.

The pottery recovered appears to be a milk jug or a vessel of that type, which depicts main landmarks in West Bromwich, such as the Free Library, Town Hall and Dartmoor Park (Illus 7).

These buildings all opened within a few years of each other. The Town Hall opened in 1875, the Free Library in 1878 and Dartmouth park also in 1878. One of these landmarks, Dartmouth Park, may provide a date for the vessel. The Park was opened by the Earl of Dartmouth on 3rd June 1878. It was a very memorable and a very grand occasion. The day was a general holiday, with the town being crowded with over 40,000 people to watch dignitaries officially open the park. There was a 'spectacular firework display' and the dignitaries were all presented with a commemorative medal to mark the occasion (<http://www.friendsofdartmouthpark.org.uk/history.htm>). It is possible that the vessel recovered was produced to commemorate this occasion and included the depiction of West Bromwich's other recently opened public buildings, therefore giving it provenance for c.1878.

5. REFERENCES

- Institute for Archaeologists, 1998, *Standards and guidance: field evaluation*.
- Kimber, M, 2010, *Rood End Road, Oldbury, Sandwell; Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation*, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
- Lane, M, 2010, *Taylor Wimpey West Midlands. Rood End Road, Oldbur, Desk Study and Site Investigation Report*, Wardell Armstrong LLP.
- Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service Ltd, *History of Dartmouth Park*, <<http://www.friendsofdartmouthpark.org.uk/history.htm>> accessed 15 Feb 2011.



6. APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Trench register

Trench no.	Dimensions (m)	Description	Levels mOD (max. and min.)	Contexts
1	10 x 10	Remediation Trench 1. Modern overburden from ground surface to 0.8m onto sterile geological deposit. Cut by two modern drains running NE-SW.	Ground Surface: 160.55 Sterile Geological deposit: 159.35	1001 1002
2	2 x 30	Trench with modern overburden from ground surface with depth ranging from 0.4m to 0.7m onto sterile geological deposit.	Ground surface: 161.995 Sterile Geological deposit: 159.732	1001 1002
3	2 x 30	Trench with modern overburden from ground surface with depth ranging from 0.25m to 0.65m onto sterile geological deposit.	Ground surface: 160.669 Sterile Geological deposit: 158.425	1001 1002
4	2 x 30	Trench with modern overburden from ground surface with depth ranging from 0.6m to 0.8m onto sterile geological deposit.	Ground surface: 160.789 Sterile Geological deposit: 159.238	1001 1002
5	2 x 30	Trench with modern overburden from ground surface with depth ranging from 0.5m to 0.65m onto sterile geological deposit.	Ground surface: 159.202 Sterile Geological deposit: 158.478	1001 1002
6	2 x 30	Trench was across an access road and some areas had approx. 0.5m of tarmac and scalping on to overburden which ranged from between 0.6m–0.8m.	Ground surface: 160.893 Sterile Geological deposit: 157.766	1001 1002
7	2 x 30	Trench with modern overburden from ground surface with depth ranging from 0.5m to 1.6m onto a subsoil which was 0.05m-0.25m which overlay a sterile geological deposit.	Ground surface: 162.743 Subsoil horizon: 162.240 Sterile Geological deposit: 161.414	1001 1004 1002
8	–	Absorbed into extended remediation Trench 10.	Ground surface: n/a Sterile Geological deposit: n/a	–
9	–	Absorbed into extended remediation Trench 10.	Ground surface: n/a Sterile Geological deposit: n/a	–
10	n-s32 x e-w20	Remediation trench. Extended for environmental sampling purposes and to absorb trenches 8 and 9. This is a cross shaped trench.	Ground surface: 158.524 Fluvial deposit: 155.650 Sterile Geological deposit: 155.600	1001 1003 1002
11	6 x 4	Remediation trench. Tarmac scalping 0.3m above modern overburden which extends to depth of 1.5m onto sterile geological deposit. Cut by two modern drains at west.	Ground surface: 158.899 Sterile Geological deposit: 156.099	1001 1002
12	6 x 4	Remediation trench. This trench uncovered the possible remains of the old river channel at a depth 2.5m. Above this was modern overburden which was 2.5m thick.	Ground surface: 158.525 Fluvial deposit: 156.125 Sterile Geological deposit: 156.125	1001 1003 1002

Context register

Context no.	Trench no.	Description	Dimensions (m)
1000	1–12	Tarmac. Modern tarmac across majority of site	Various areas across site. 0.3
1001	1–12	Modern overburden across the entire site. Mixture of rubbles, clinker, clays and modern plastic and metals relating to industrial activities on site.	0.5–3.0 across site from south to north

Context no.	Trench no.	Description	Dimensions (m)
1002	1–12	Sterile geological deposit. Yellow and orange clayey sand with grey clay mottling	Across the site Unknown depth
1003	10 and 12	Greyish blue clays that represent fluvial deposit (old river course)	AUTO CAD
1004	7	Silty clay subsoil	19 x 2 x 0.05 – 0.25

Drawing register

Drawing no.	Scale	Plan or Section	Description
1	1:50	Plan	Trench 3
2	1:50	Plan	Trench 5
3	1:50	Plan	Trench 6
4	1:50	Plan	Trench 4
5	1:50	Plan	Trench 2
6	1:50	Plan	Trench 7
7	1:20	Section	Trench 7
8	1:20	Section	Trench 2
9	1:20	Plan	Remediation Trench 11
10	1:20	Section	Remediation Trench 11
11	1:20	Plan	Remediation Trench 12
12	1:20	Section	Remediation Trench 12

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Photographic register

Photo no.	Colour slide	Black & White print	Digital	Direction Facing	Description
1	472/36	475/36	2007	NE	Trench 2 plan
2	472/35	475/35	2008	NW	Trench 2 section
3	472/34	475/34	2009	S-SW	Trench 3 plan
4	472/33	475/33	2010	SE	Trench 3 Section
5	472/32	475/32	2011	S	Large modern disturbance in Trench 3
6	472/31	475/31	2012	SW	Trench 5 plan
7	472/30	475/30	2014	SE	Trench 5 section
8	N	N	2015	NE	Trench 2 general
9	N	N	2016	SW	Trench 2 general
10	N	N	2017	NW	Trench 6 general
11	N	N	2018	NW	Trench 6 general
12	N	N	2019	NW	Trench 6 general
13	N	N	2020	SE	Trench 6 general
14	N	N	2021	W	Trench 5 general



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<i>Photo no.</i>	<i>Colour slide</i>	<i>Black & White print</i>	<i>Digital</i>	<i>Direction Facing</i>	<i>Description</i>
15	N	N	2022	NE	Trench 5 general
16	N	N	2023	SW	Trench 5 general
17	N	N	2024	N	Trench 3 general
18	N	N	2025	N	Trench 3 section
19	N	N	2026	E	Trench 3 general
20	472/29	475/29	2027	N-NW	Trench 6 plan
21	472/28	475/28	2028	W-SW	Trench 6 section
22	N	N	2029	S	Trench 6 section
23	472/27	475/27	2030	S-SE	Trench 4 plan
24	472/26	475/26	2031	W-NW	Trench 5 section
25	N	N	2032	S	Trench 5 general
26	473/01	475/01	–	–	General test shot for new film
27	N	N	736	–	General shot of extended Remediation trench 10
28	N	N	737	–	General shot of extended Remediation trench 10
29	N	N	738	–	General shot of extended Remediation trench 10
30	N	N	739	–	General shot of extended Remediation trench 10
31	N	N	740	–	General shot of extended Remediation trench 10
32	473/02	475/02	741	N	Extended Remediation trench 10 plan
33	473/03	475/03	742	N	Extended Remediation trench 10 plan
34	473/04	475/04	743	W	Extended Remediation trench 10 section
35	473/05	–	–	–	General site
36	473/06	475/05	744	NE	Extended Remediation trench 10. Possible old river course
37	473/07	475/06	745	W	Extended Remediation trench 10. Possible old river course
38	N	N	746	E	Removal of overburden at base in remediation trench 10
39	N	N	747	E	Removal of overburden at base in remediation trench 10
40	N	N	748	N	General site shot
41	N	N	749	SE	Remediation trench 10. Old river course
42	N	N	750	SE	Close up of the natural in remediation trench 10
43	N	N	751	W	Remediation trench 11 general shot
44	N	N	752	NW	Remediation trench 11 general shot of sample taking
45	N	N	753	SW	Remediation trench 11 general shot
46	473/08	475/07	754	E	Remediation trench 12 plan
47	473/09	475/08	755	N	Remediation trench 12 section
48	319/01	510/01	029	NE	Trench 7 Plan
49	319/02	510/02	030	E	Trench 7 Section

<i>Photo no.</i>	<i>Colour slide</i>	<i>Black & White print</i>	<i>Digital</i>	<i>Direction Facing</i>	<i>Description</i>
50	319/03	510/03	031	N-NE	Trench 7. Disturbance in the general area from building removal
51	319/04	510/04	032	N	Trench 7. Disturbance in the general area from building removal
52	319/05	510/05	–	SW	Trench 7. Disturbance in the general area from building removal
53	319/06	510/06	034	N	Trench 7. Disturbance in the general area from building removal
54	470/36	469/36	2238	NE	Trench 1. General 1
55	470/35	469/35	2239	E	Trench 1. Section facing west
56	–	–	2240	E	Trench 1. Section facing west
57	470/34	–	2241	SW	Trench 1. Plan facing south west
58	470/33	469/34	2242	E	Trench 1. Section facing west
59	–	–	2243	E	Trench 1. Section facing west
60	470/32	469/33	2244	SE	Trench 1. Section facing north west
61	470/31	469/32	2245	S	Trench 1. Plan
62	–	–	2246	S	Trench 1. Plan
63	470/30	469/31	2247	S	Trench 1. Plan



6.2 Appendix 2 – Finds Assessment

Julie Franklin

Only one find was recovered. It was most of a transfer printed jug in 11 pieces. The jug is small, probably a milk jug and is of a hard fired whiteware. It has straight, in-sloping sides and a simple pulled spout. The base is slightly recessed but is largely missing and thus no marks survive to identify the manufacturer. It is transfer printed in black with two local views of West Bromwich. One side shows the entrance to Dartmouth Park, the other shows the Town Hall, Free Library & Market. The quality of the printing is at times a little poor, the Dartmouth Park view in particular is applied crookedly, with the design smudged on one side. This kind of vessel with landscape views was widely produced in the 19th century for local markets. It would have been an inexpensive jug, probably a factory second. The high fired fabric and white glaze indicate a date after c.1820. The plain single-colour printing suggests a date in the mid to late 19th century is most likely. The Dartmouth Park view shows the Boathouse with very little ivy on the walls and comparison with dated photographs of the same also suggest a date before c.1900.

6.3 Appendix 3 – Written scheme of investigation

Introduction

This document is submitted by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd as the Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation on the site of a former electrical engineering factory at Rood End Road, Oldbury.

Following a successful appeal, planning permission was granted for the construction of 300 new homes on the site. Condition 7 of the permission relates to archaeology and requires the applicant to undertake a pre-development investigation and assessment of the potential risk to archaeological sites and ancient monuments.

Following discussion between the client's archaeological consultant (Daniel Lewis of The Environmental Dimension Partnership) and the Borough Archaeologist (Graham Eyre-Morgan) it has been agreed that this will be achieved by evaluation through trial trench investigation, including the adaptation of ground remediation excavations into archaeological trenches.

The evaluation is the first phase of archaeological work on the site. Depending on the results further works may be required by the Borough Archaeologist. The nature of any further works will be determined through consultation between the archaeological consultant and the Borough Archaeologist.

The site is centred on NGR 400289 289015, and is currently occupied by a disused electrical engineering works. These buildings are being demolished in advance of development by a specialist contractor. Following a ground investigation undertaken by Wardell Armstrong, it has been determined that the site is covered with a layer of overburden that is generally less than 1.5m deep in the centre of the site, but up to 5m deep along the northern and eastern edge of the site. There are also several deep spots that appear to show significant modern interventions. The underlying geology of the site is glacial till and glacial-fluvial sands and gravels, overlying the Keele beds of the Upper Coal Measures.

The name 'Rood End' suggests both religious significance ('Rood' referring to a preaching cross or road-side shrine) and the potential for medieval domestic settlement signified by "End", which could derive from the Anglo-Saxon name for a settlement. The 1844 tithe map shows the site largely as open fields, with a stream running near to its eastern boundary. It is assumed that the area of deep fill on this edge of the site represents the in-filling of the stream channel – the stream itself is now culverted. The Sandwell SMR records the existence of a burnt mound approximately 150m south, located during field walking in allotment gardens. The presence of the stream and the burnt mound suggests the potential for further remains of this nature within the site boundary.

Schedule

The archaeological works will run in three phases. Phase 1 will comprise the excavation of remediation trench 1 and is due to commence on 10th November, approvals from the Environment Agency allowing. Phase 2 is scheduled to commence in early December and will comprise the excavation of evaluation Trenches 2–6. Phase 3 will take place in January 2010 (TBC) and will comprise the excavation of evaluation Trenches 7–9 and remediation Trenches 10 & 11.

The draft report will be produced for internal comment no later than 4 weeks from the end of Phase 3.

Project team

The client's archaeological consultant is Daniel L. Lewis of The Environmental Dimension Partnership. The consultant will liaise with the Borough Archaeologist, and issue instruction to the contractor (Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd) for attendance on site.

The project will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Mike Kimber. Following instruction, Headland will liaise directly with the demolition contractor (VertaseFLI) concerning on-site operations. The evaluation will be undertaken by David Doyle plus an assistant. The project team will familiarise themselves with the background to the site and will be aware of the project's aims and methodologies. 11

Specialist artefact analyses will be managed by Julie Franklin who is Headland's Finds Manager. Julie will undertake finds assessment within her areas of competence (medieval and post-medieval metalwork, glassware, clay pipes, ceramic building material and other small finds) and assisted by Julie Lochrie (lithics). Medieval pottery assessment will be undertaken by Kath Crooks, Roman pottery assessment will be undertaken by Jane Timby. Further consultation will be sub-contracted to recognised period & regional specialists where appropriate.

Environmental analysis will be managed by Dr Scott Timpany. Headland has in-house specialists who can undertake analysis of pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and thin sections.

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is a Registered Organisation and abides by the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Institute for Archaeologists. The company has all the necessary technical and personnel resources for the satisfactory completion of the evaluation.

Insurance

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is insured for Public/Product Liability (£10M); Employers Liability (£10M) and Professional Indemnity (£5M). All necessary insurances can be presented on request.



Health & safety

All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current H&S legislation. All of Headland's H&S documentation is prepared by HSE Solutions Ltd. A risk assessment and method statement will be prepared prior to attending site. A site-specific risk assessment will be completed on attendance on site. All staff will wear appropriate PPE and this will include high-visibility clothing, hard hats and safety footwear. Site welfare facilities will be provided by the demolition contractor.

Excavations on the site are expected to be deep in places. If archaeological remains are encountered in deep excavations it may be necessary for staff to enter the trenches in order to investigate and record the remains. The demolition contractor will have responsibility for making excavations safe for the entry of archaeological staff if required, no trenches will be entered unless it is deemed safe to do so by the VertaseFLI site manager.

Access & services

All live services have been disconnected at the site boundary. The demolition contractor will have overall control of all excavations and maintain responsibility for avoiding buried services as necessary.

Excavation will be undertaken by mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket where possible, although hard surfaces and highly compacted deposits are likely to require the use of a concrete breaker and toothed bucket in order to remove them.

All mechanical excavation will take place under direct archaeological supervision with a ratio of 1 archaeologist per machine working. Mechanical excavation will cease at the first significant archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits, whichever is reached first. Excavation and recording will then proceed by hand. Excavation will be sufficient to characterize deposits and features and will typically comprise 50% excavation of discrete features and 25% excavation of linear features. Complex features that are not suited to investigation in narrow trenches will be recorded in plan only. Stratified deposits will be investigated by means of hand-dug slots.

Due to Health and Safety considerations, Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd staff will not enter unsupported excavations deeper than 1.2m below existing ground level (or excavations shallower than this should they be deemed unsafe). Should archaeological deposits extend to a depth in excess of 1.2m below the existing ground surface and access be required to investigate and record archaeological remains; shoring or battering the trench edges will be considered – see paragraph 14 of this document.

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Objectives and strategy

The objective of the evaluation is generally to determine whether any archaeological remains are present within the site, characterize them by date, extent, preservation and significance, produce a report and deposit the archive with a local repository.

The evaluation will specifically seek evidence for medieval activity within the site boundary, and evidence for Bronze Age remains such as burnt mounds associated with the stream channel. As burnt mounds tend to occur in relatively changeable fluvial environments, the evaluation will record where visible any natural sequences that could help to determine patterns of channel formation and shoaling and therefore assist in interpreting the locations of any remains found within the site.

Method

The evaluation will comprise a total of 240m of trenches 1.8m wide (8 x 30m trenches) plus three remediation pits measuring 10 x 10m each. An indicative trench layout plan has been prepared by the archaeological consultant and will be agreed with the Borough Archaeologist. Trench locations may be adjusted to reflect constraints on the ground, however the overall sample size will remain the same.

Recording

All recording will follow *IfA Standards and Guidance*. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers. All recording will be undertaken on pro forma record cards. In the event that stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled. 35mm colour transparencies and black-and-white prints will be taken; a graduated metric scale will be clearly visible. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera will be taken for illustrative purposes but will not form part of the site archive.

Plans of the evaluation trenches will be drawn on pro-forma record sheets at 1:50, with individual features planned at 1:20, sections drawn at 1:10. At least one long section of each trench will be recorded.

An overall site plan will be provided by the client and trench locations will be illustrated on this plan. The site plan will be accurately linked to the National Grid.

Samples and artefacts

Finds will be hand collected from archaeological contexts; samples will be taken to allow for the recovery of small objects. Finds will be routinely recorded by

context and recorded 3-dimensionally where appropriate (*i.e.* where their position within a context can provide further significant information or the find is of particular significance). Any artefacts retrieved during the evaluation will be cleaned using appropriate techniques and packaged and stored in accordance with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson & Neal 1998). All artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be cleaned, marked and catalogued. Headland's in-house finds specialists will be available to provide advice remotely or on site if necessary. Conservation will be undertaken by Cardiff University.

The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 will be followed with regards to any finds which might fall within its scope. Any finds will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. The find will also be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (Tom Brindle tom_brindle@birmingham.gov.uk tel. 0121 303 4636).

Deposits identified as archaeologically significant (*e.g.* fills from negative features such as pits and postholes) will be sampled for environmental material and other finds (*e.g.* bone, pottery etc.). Bulk samples will be taken from deposits for wet sieving and flotation in order to recover any environmental material. A bulk sample ranges from 40 to 60 litres; however, where large deposits are encountered more than one bulk sample may be taken. Similarly, small deposits such as the fill of postholes may contain less than 10 litres of sediment and will be fully sampled. The number of samples (if any) to be processed and assessed following fieldwork will be agreed with the Curator and instructed by the client.

Where waterlogged deposits are encountered (such as peat) appropriate sampling techniques will be employed so as to maximise the environmental information gained from such deposits. This may include the taking of monolith or core samples for pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs (*e.g.* testates and fungal spores) and large specialist samples for plant macrofossil, wood (including waterlogged wood) and insect analyses.

Monitoring

Access to the site will be afforded to representatives of Sandwell MBC Historic Environment team for monitoring purposes.

Reporting and archive

All aspects of reporting and archiving will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the IfA on

behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007). The the scope of any specialist assessments agreed with the Curator and instructed by the Client. A draft report will be provided within four weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

Final report contents and format will be in line with Sandwell MBC Historic Environment team requirements and the report contents will be in line with those outlined in the IfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation. Copies of the report will be sent to the client for onward transmission to the local planning authority; copies (paper & electronic) will also be submitted to the Borough Archaeologist. All reports will be submitted within two months of the completion of fieldwork.

The finds and archive will be deposited with the local Museum in line with its deposition guidelines. Deposition will be undertaken within one year of the completion of fieldwork.

A summary publication note will be submitted to CBA West Midlands publication notes within one year of the completion of fieldwork. If further publication of the results of the evaluation is required then a specification will be agreed with the Borough Archaeologist and costs will be provided for agreement by the client.

Human remains

All finds of human remains will be reported to the consultant, the coroner and the Borough Archaeologist. No human remains will be excavated under this contract. If human remains are to be excavated during subsequent work, a license will be gained from the Ministry of Justice in accordance with Section 25 of the 1857 Burial Act. All excavation and treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains will be undertaken in cognizance of IfA Technical Paper Number 13 (Brickley & McKinley & 2004) and relevant English Heritage guidelines (2005).

Copyright

Copyright will be retained by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Headland will licence the client, Sandwell MBC Historic Environment team and other bodies as necessary for use in matters relating to the project and for use of the project archive by the relevant museum. This licence will also extend to non-commercial use by Sandwell MBC Historic Environment team.

Publicity

Beattie Communications Ltd (01324 602 550) deal with PR and media relations on behalf of Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. No press releases or publicity



material will be issued without prior approval of the client. Sandwell MBC Historic Environment team will be offered the opportunity to be acknowledged in any press release etc.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- IfA, 2007, *Archaeological Archives Forum; Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*.
- Brickley, M & McKinley, J, 2004, *Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains*, IfA Paper no. 7.
- Watkinson D & Neal, V, 1998, *First aid for finds*, 3rd edition.

6.4 Appendix 4 – Sandwell MBC/ SMR

Summary sheet

Site name/Address:	Rood End Road, Oldbury, Sandwell
Borough:	Sandwell
Type of Work:	Archaeological Evaluation
Contractor:	Taylor Wimpey (West Midlands) Ltd
Location of Finds/Curating Museum:	Community History & Archives Service, Smethwick Library
NGR:	SO 400289 289015
Site Code:	RERO
Date of Work:	November 2010 – February 2011
Finds:	Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery, Wednesbury, Birmingham, West Midlands
Title of Report:	Archaeological Evaluation at Rood End Road, Oldbury, Sandwell
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	<p>A total of six trenches measuring 1.8m x 30m and four remediation pits, two measuring 10m x 10m, one of which was later extended to a large cross shape, and two measuring 6m x 4m were excavated within the development boundary.</p> <p>The trenches and remediation pits had a soil profile of disturbed modern overburden onto an undisturbed geological deposit. No archaeological remains were observed in these trenches/ remediation trenches. Evidence for a former river course was uncovered at the base of extended remediation pit 10 and remediation pit 12.</p> <p>A total of 11 individual sherds of late 19th century transfer ware was recovered from the base of remediation trench 10 within the overburden. This vessel appears to be commemorative jug depicting a number of land marks within Oldbury. It is probably a factory second.</p>
Author of Summary:	David Doyle Bsc
Date of Summary:	29 Mar 2011



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North East (HQ)
13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
T 0131 467 7705 • F 0131 467 7706 • E office@headlandarchaeology.com

North West
10 Payne Street, Glasgow G4 0LF
T 0141 354 8100 • F 0141 332 9388 • E glasgowoffice@headlandarchaeology.com

Midlands & West
Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Hereford HR4 9NZ
T 0143 236 4901 • F 0143 236 4900 • E hereford@headlandarchaeology.com

South & East
Technology Centre, Stanbridge Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 4QH
T 01525 850 878 • E leighton.buzzard@headlandarchaeology.com

www.headlandarchaeology.com