



MARKET STREET, HEDNESFORD, CANNOCK, STAFFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1)

for St Modwen Developments Ltd

CH/O9/0228

March 2011

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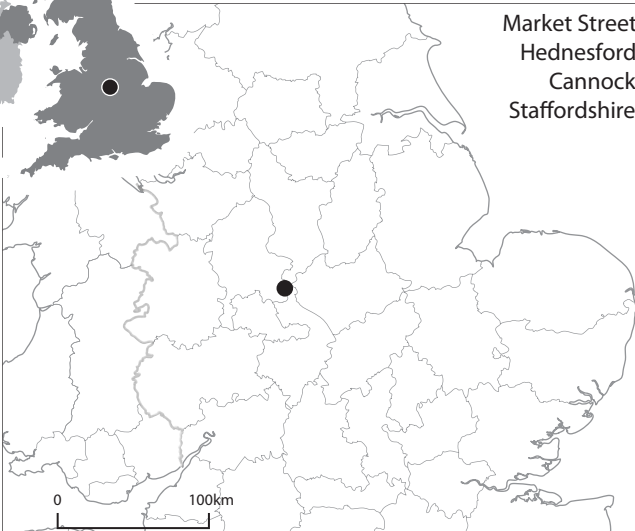
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Scale 1:2,000 @ A4



Illus 1
Site location

MARKET STREET, HEDNESFORD, CANNOCK, STAFFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1)

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation at two sites on brown-field land at Market Street, Hedgesford on the outskirts of Cannock, Staffordshire. This was part of a phased programme of archaeological fieldwork in connection with planning permission (ref. CH/O9/0228).

Four evaluation trenches were excavated across the site (three in Phase 1a, one in Phase 1b). Although the site was close to known Post-Medieval features including a possible mill [PRN 03733] and a possible mill pond [PRN 50730] recorded on Yates (1775) map of the area, no features of archaeological interest predating the early 19th century were present. The evidence from Phase 1a related to modern domestic/garden activity, while the evidence from Phase 1b related to modern (19th–20th century) industrial activity including building remains. There was no indication of earlier archaeological activity across the site.

1. INTRODUCTION (ILLUS 1)

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation at Market Street, Hedgesford on the outskirts of Cannock, Staffordshire. The site has been subject to outline planning approval from Cannock Chase District Council (Application Ref. No: CH/O9/0228). The development for the Phase 1 portion of the application site comprises a Bingo hall, new food store and associated parking. A condition was attached to the outline planning consent: ‘5-No development shall take place within the archaeological area of interest indicated until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in advance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority’.

The study site is bounded to the north by Victoria Street and open playing fields, to the south by Market Street and by residential development to the west. The eastern boundary is formed by a carpark adjacent to Rugely Road [A460]. The site at Phase 1a is gently sloping, lying between 155m (to the north) and 152m (to the south) above Ordnance Datum. The site at Phase 1b is generally flat lying at around 155.5m above Ordnance Datum, the southern part of the site is stepped up by 0.7m.

The site (Phase 1a and 1b) is underlain by made ground, overlying alluvial deposits comprising fine to coarse sand, gravel and clay, over Glaciofluvial deposits of fine to coarse sand and sub-angular to sub-rounded gravel. The solid

geology is recorded as close to a boundary between Westphalian and Stephanian Carboniferous limestone, and Permian and Triassic new red sandstone, including ‘Bunter’ and ‘Keuper’ Group (British Geological Survey 4th Edition 1997). Ground cover in the area of Phase 1a consisted of an overgrown garden and wasteland with a pile of dumped soil towards the south-western corner, and a tarmac path running from the north towards the south west of the site. Phase 1b was adjacent to the buildings of a former slaughterhouse and the ground cover was tarmac at the north end of the site, with a raised concrete surface to the south, described as ‘builder’s yard’ on the modern map. Along the northern edge of the site, Japanese Knotweed was present in the west corner, and there was a pile of building rubble near the end of the buildings.

In response to a Brief issued by Staffordshire County Council (2010) a Written Scheme of Investigation was submitted to the planning authority on behalf of the client by Halcrow (2011) and formed the basis for the evaluation.

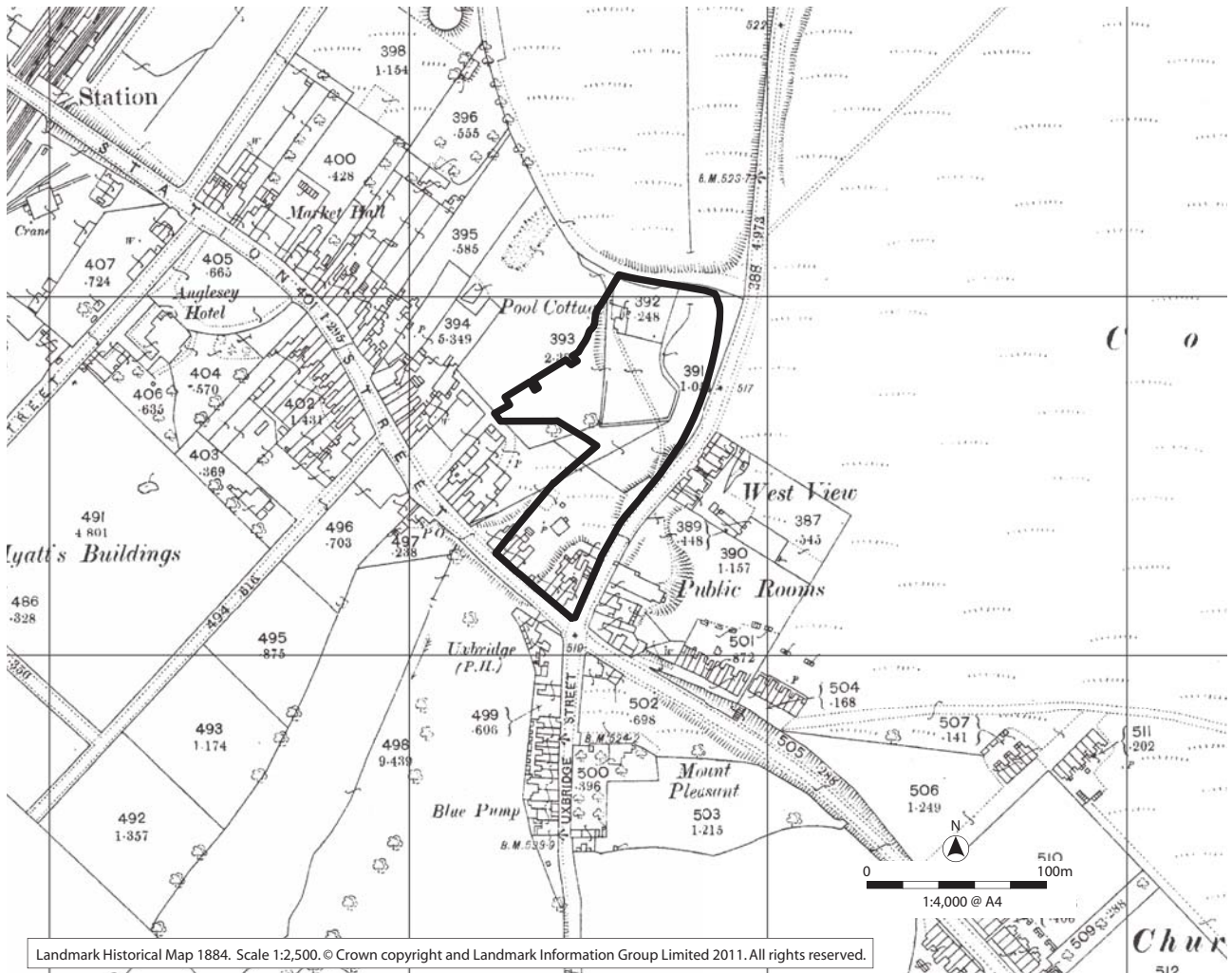
2. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the project were:

- to test for the presence or absence of significant archaeological deposits in the Phase 1a area through trial trenching,



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Illus 2
Ordnance Survey Historic Map Extract

3. METHODOLOGY

- to develop an appropriate scanning strategy to enable the targeted evaluation of archaeological features through trial trenching in the Phase 1b area (later revised and dropped),
- to provide a detailed sub-soil map of the site to enable the accurate location of trial trenching (later revised and dropped),
- to test for the presence or absence of significant archaeological deposits in the Phase 1b area through trial trenching,
- to determine the presence, extent and number of archaeological features and in particular evidence for medieval and post medieval industrial activities in the site, and
- to identify areas where substantial disturbance had occurred.

It was agreed that an appropriate mitigation strategy was to undertake trenching on a c. 4% sample of the site area likely to be impacted upon by the proposed development. The total area of the site available to investigate was approximately 1960m². The strategy was designed in liaison with the Development Control Archaeologist for the Local Planning Authority.

The original requirement in the brief for geophysical survey in Phase 1b was removed when borehole logs indicated the depth of made ground in the garage area and the nature of the overburden in the remaining Phase 1b area would preclude the collection of useful data.

Four archaeological trial trenches were excavated in pre-agreed locations. In Phase 1a three trenches were excavated, two measuring 10m by 1.8m and one measuring 20m by 1.8m. The layout of the trenches was designed to ensure good spatial coverage, while avoiding known electrical services crossing the site. In Phase 1b a single trench was excavated measuring 20m



Illus 3
Site 1a

by 1.8m. The position of this trench was constrained by access into the site and a Japanese Knotweed exclusion zone. Trench locations were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool and existing service plans consulted prior to excavation.

Trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. A concrete breaker was used on hard surfaces. 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 archaeological features. The nature of archaeological features was assessed by limited sample excavation, sufficient to establish their character and date.

A general photographic record was maintained during the course of the fieldwork and included shots of the site prior to excavation, during excavation and of individual features within trenches. Samples were not taken as there were no features present that required this.

The recording was in accordance with IfA standards and the Headland Archaeology site recording manual. All contexts were given unique numbers. Colour slide, black and white and digital photographs were taken. An overall site plan was recorded and related to the National Grid. Trench record sheets were completed at a scale of 1:100. Sections were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:100. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards.

3.1 Artefacts

Although the presence of modern artefacts was noted in deposits of made ground, no artefacts were recovered from site.

4. RESULTS

(See Appendix 1.1 for full descriptions).

4.1 Phase 1a

The undisturbed geological horizon over the whole site was mid brown sandy gravel, identified at a depth of between 0.3m in the north and 0.8m in the south and west of the site. Above this in the cases of Trenches 1 and 3 there was a deposit of made ground [1007], [1002].

The made ground was overlain in all three trenches by a rich dark brown deposit of loamy sand [1001], which ranged from around 0.1m thick in the north of the site to around 0.5m in the western part of the site, where the ground banked up along the western side of the site. In Trench 2 the loamy sand deposit was up to 0.3m deep and overlain by more made ground [1000]. A tarmac path that crossed the site from north to south overlay the made ground, and was cut by the digging of Trenches 2 and 3 (Illus 1).

Crossing the northern end of Trench 3 (aligned north-east to south-west) were two service trenches containing gas and water pipes in 1.5 inch gauge iron pipes. A modern electricity supply in a 0.1m plastic sleeve also crossed the middle of the trench from east to west. These features probably serviced the house, recently demolished on the site.

Modern features were identified in Trench 3. Two of these were shallow amorphous features [1009] and [1010] partly under the west section. Both features contained brick rubble, and some animal bone in the case of [1009]. The third feature was part of a brick lined garden feature [1011]. No other features were present in the trenches in Phase 1a.

4.2 Phase 1b (Illus 2 and Illus 3)

The undisturbed geological horizon consisting of sandy gravel (as above in 1a) was reached at 2.2m below ground level at the northern end of Trench 4, rising to less than 0.5m at the southern end. Overlying this deposit along the whole trench was made ground consisting of [1018] a layer of black sooty, industrial waste, ash and building rubble, around 0.5m deep. At the north end of the trench



Illus 4

Walls and features of Trench 4 in area 1b

4 four made ground deposits [1018], [1017], [1016], [1015] filled a large, probably man made depression, consisting of alternating layers of black sooty, industrial waste and rubble [1018], [1015], and layers of re-deposited geological material mixed with building rubble and domestic rubbish [1017], [1016] each deposit around 0.5m deep. Modern transfer-ware pottery and iron objects such as horse shoes and padlocks were observed within [1018] and [1016].

There was a complete lack of evidence underlying the industrial deposits for any surviving earlier soil horizons within the trench, suggesting that this part of the site had been stripped to geological horizons prior to the deposition of this material.

Cutting the made ground and located towards the middle of the trench were the footings of former brick buildings [1020], [1023]. Most of the walls aligned approximately east-west, with the exception of a single wall that returned on a north-south alignment. The return wall delineated a possible cellar and the east side of it, presumably the internal side, contained a brick rubble fill [1021] (Illus 3).

All of the bricks, both in the walls and the rubble were 'Castle' bricks of local manufacture that date to the 19th or early 20th century. Among the walls, a linear concrete structure [1022] on the same E-W alignment was probably a culvert or drain. At the south end of Trench 4, within the east section, a similar brick wall on a north-south alignment to those described above was located. The site covering consisted of a tarmac surface to the north and a raised concrete surface to the south.

5. DISCUSSION

The trenching undertaken at the site revealed no features of archaeological interest predating the 19th century, and it would appear that any earlier soil horizons that had existed, at least in the areas where trenches have been excavated, had already been removed.

No evidence of previous land-use (of any date) other than this was present within the trenches. There was no sign of cultivation, or pre-modern settlement. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1884) shows a building on the western side of the site in Phase 1a called 'Pool Cottage'. In the Phase 1b area the map shows that more buildings were present on this site than now exist. The arrangement of buildings shown fronting Station Road to the south (now called Market Street) appears quite similar to what still stands today, and it seems highly likely that the missing building is the building identified by the evaluation. The map also shows that the ground towards the north end of the site falls away or had been scarped, this feature was also identified by the evaluation (see Illus 1 and 2).

The fieldwork has succeeded in establishing that archaeological remains within the site are of limited significance and extent and has contributed to the known distribution and date of activity in the local area.

6. ARCHIVE

The archive is currently located at Headland premises (Unit 1, Premier Business Park, Faraday Road, Westfield Trading Estate, Hereford, HR4 9NZ) and will be deposited with Staffordshire Museums within six months of report acceptance.

7. REFERENCES

- Staffordshire, C.C, 2010, *Brief for an archaeological evaluation, 2-20 Market Street, Land adjacent to Rugely Road and Victoria Road, Cannock.*
- Halcrow, 2011, *St Modwen Development Ltd, Market Street, Hednesford, Cannock, Staffordshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Work, Phase 1.*

8. APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1: Site registers

Trench register

Trench no.	Features	Description	Length (m)	Depth (m)
1	-	Phase 1a, south-west of site, excavated over ground rising to the west. Contained one modern drain, running NW-SE. No archaeological features or finds.	10	1.5
2	-	Phase 1a, South of site, excavated across flat ground. No archaeological features or finds.	10	1.2
3	-	Phase 1a, North-west of site, excavated across gently sloping ground. Contained three 2.5" iron pipes for gas and water aligned NE-SW, and a modern plastic electricity duct aligned east to west across the site. Modern garden features present.	20	0.5
4	-	Phase 1b, Slightly north of center of the site, excavated across flat concrete to the south, with a 0.7m drop to flat tarmac to the north. Contained layers of made ground cut by building footings with a possible culvert drain running NW-SE. No archaeological features or finds pre-dating the 19th century.	20	2.2

Context register

Context no.	Area	Within trench	Type of context
1000	1a	Trench 1, 2	Mixed topsoil/red sand, layer
1001	1a	Trench 1, 2, 3	Dark blackish-brown garden soil layer
1002	1a	Trench 1	Klinker/ash layer
1003	1a	Trench 1, 2	Friable, coarse light brown silty-sand natural layer
1004	1a	Trench 1	Light grey-brown sand-gravel-cobble natural layer
1005	1a	Trench 1	Tarmac path
1006	1a	Trench 2	Mixed deposit-made ground
1007	1a	Trench 2	Mixed deposit/made ground
1008	1a	Trench 3	Light red-brown sand natural layer
1009	1a	Trench 3	Modern garden disturbance
10010	1a	Trench 3	Modern garden disturbance
1011	1a	Trench 3	Modern garden disturbance
1012	1a	Trench 4	Tarmac surface
1013	1b	Trench 4	Concrete surface
1014	1b	Trench 4	Mid brownish-orange sandy-stony clay natural
1015	1b	Trench 4	Layer of demolition rubble-mixed deposit
1016	1b	Trench 4	Black mixed deposit-industrial waste
1017	1b	Trench 4	Re-deposited natural (as [1014]) and building rubble
1018	1b	Trench 4	Black mixed deposit-industrial waste
1019	1b	Trench 4	Foundation cut
1020	1b	Trench 4	Building wall, (castle bricks-cement bonded)
1021	1b	Trench 4	Rubble fill of possible basement room



Context no.	Area	Within trench	Type of context
1022	1b	Trench 4	Possible culvert? Concrete structure with brick walls
1023	1b	Trench 4	Building wall, (castle bricks-mortar bonded)
1024	1b	Trench 4	Black mixed deposit-industrial waste, possible same as [1016]
1025	1b	Trench 4	Building wall, ('castle' bricks)

Photographic register

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Photo no.	B&W print	Colour slide	Digital	Direction facing	Description
1	-	-	100/0238	W	Trench 1, 10m trench, area 1a, sondage to natural
2	-	-	100/0239	W	Trench 1, section at west end
3	-	-	100/0240	N	Trench 1, north section, stratigraphy
4	-	-	100/0241	W	Completed Trench 1
5	-	-	100/0242	S	Trench 2, south section
6	-	-	100/0243	N	Trench 2, during excavation
7	-	-	100/0244	N	West section Trench 2, stratigraphy
8	-	-	100/0245	W	West section Trench 2, stratigraphy
9	-	-	100/001	S	-
10	-	-	100/002	N	North end of site before excavation starts
11	-	-	100/003	N	North end of site before excavation starts
12	-	-	100/004	N	Setting out, from south end
13	-	-	100/005	N	Setting out, from north end
14	-	-	100/006	S	Concrete being broken up on Trench 4
15	500/1	509/1	100/007	-	Photo register, film ID sheet
16	2	2	100/008	N	Concrete removed from Trench 4, south end
17	3	3	100/009	S	Tarmac strip from lower north end, Trench 4
18	4	4	100/010	W	Trench 4, industrial/dumping layers
19	5	5	100/011	E	Trench 4, excavated to 2m, industrial/dumping layers all the way down
20	6	6	100/012	E	Section at north end with 2m scales in shot
21	7	7	100/013	W	Plan view, south end Trench 4 at 2.2m deep, onto natural
22	8	8	100/014	SE	Deposits filling a large depression at the north end of Trench 4
23	9	9	100/015	E	Fairly modern building walls and possible culvert aligned E-W across Trench 4
24	10	10	100/016	SE	As above, shows depth of building walls
25	-	-	100/017	E	Section of Trench 4 where walls/culvert cut
26	-	-	100/018	E	East section travelling south
27	-	-	100/019	E	East section travelling south
28	-	-	100/020	E	East section travelling south
29	-	-	100/021	E	East section travelling south
30	11	11	100/022	W	Walls, mid Trench 4, former buildings on the site
31	12	12	100/023	S	Walls, mid Trench 4, former buildings on the site
32	13	13	100/024	N	Back of 'culvert' wall

Photo no.	B&W print	Colour slide	Digital	Direction facing	Description
33	14	14	-	E	East section travelling south
34	15	15	-	E	East section travelling south
35	16	16	-	E	East section travelling south
36	17	17	-	E	East section travelling south
37	18	18	-	E	East section travelling south
38	19	19	-	E	East section travelling south
39	20	20	-	N	Trench 4 fully excavated
40	-	-	-	N	Trench 4 fully excavated

Drawing register

Drawing no.	Scale	Plan/section	Description
1	1:20	Section	Trench 1, representative section, stratigraphy to base
2	1:20	Section	Trench 2, representative section, stratigraphy to base
3	1:20	Section	Trench 3, representative section, stratigraphy to base
4	1:100	Plan	Trench 3, located modern disturbance and services
5	1:100	Plan	Schematic trench plans for Trenches 1 and 2
6	1:100	Plan	Trench 4, plan showing locations of former building features <i>etc.</i>
7	1:100	Section	Trench 4, the east section, stratigraphy and features



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