

ELNB12



EGGHILL PHASE 2

Archaeological Evaluation

for Kier Partnership Homes Ltd

2012/02168/PA

December 2012

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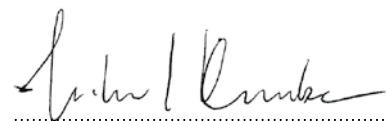
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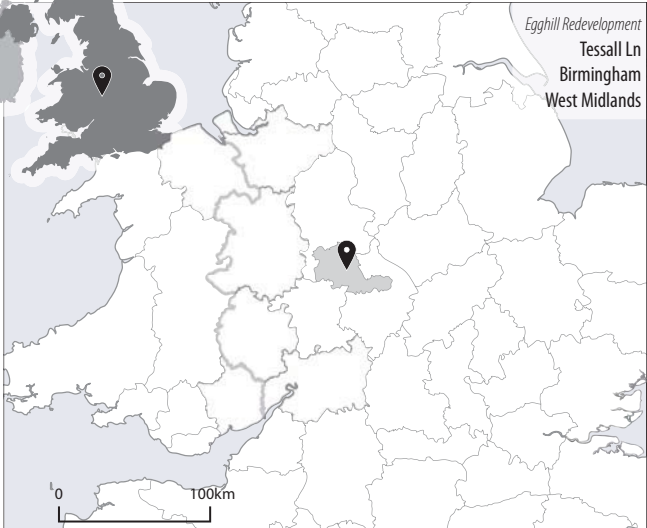


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Illus 1

Site location

EGGHILL PHASE 2

Archaeological Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd at the proposed development site of Egghill Phase 2, Site 1, on behalf of Kier Partnership Homes Ltd. Thirteen trenches were excavated and shallow stream bed deposits were identified in several trenches consistent with cartographic evidence. No further archaeological deposits were encountered.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client, Kier Partnership Homes Ltd., to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Egghill, Birmingham, in advance of residential development. This is in accordance with the planning conditions set out by the local planning authority, Birmingham City Council (2012/02168/PA). Headland Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, Kimber 2012) encapsulating the brief produced by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, Dr. Mike Hodder (Hodder 2012).

1.1 Location

The site is located c. 11km southwest of Birmingham city centre, at the junction of Frogmill Road and Tessall Lane (NGR SO 99877 78380). It comprises part of a larger development scheme and is referred to as Site 1 within this report. The area covers approximately 10,500m² and lies around 190m OD. It has a bund of material running along its western boundary which is probably derived either from the layout of Frogmill Road or from the demolition and clearance of structures previously on the site. The underlying geology consists of mudstones of the Alveley Member (British Geological Survey 2012).

1.2 Archaeological & historical background

The development area does not encompass any Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings. However, nearby prehistoric sites/finds include the Neolithic Tessall Lane Axe (HER ref. 20150) and the likely prehistoric sites of Longbride Enclosure and Balaams Wood Ring Ditch (HER ref. 20082 and 20192, respectively). Limited evidence for activity in the Roman period includes a Roman coin found at 27 Egghill Lane (HER ref. 200192). The medieval and post-medieval period sites are agricultural in nature including Frogmill Farm, Frogmill Farm Mill and Wyre Close Pond Mill (HER ref. 20032, 20191 and 20750).

The name Egghill is likely to be Anglo-Saxon in origin, either derived from the personal name 'Egca' meaning 'sword' or Egg may be a Saxon pronym denoting land where snowberries grew (Dargue 2012)

A desk-based assessment of the entire Egghill development (Birmingham Archaeology 2010) concluded that little was known about the exact nature of Site 1 prior to the mid-19th century, however 'it is likely to have been undeveloped agricultural land or woodland' (*ibid.*, 6.3–6.4). In the 1840 Tithe map of the Parish of Kings Norton, land parcel 250 (corresponding to Site 1) was owned by General Roger Williams trustee of the late William Penn and was occupied by James Cooper and used as a meadow.

The desk-based assessment identified a farm building seen in the 1842 Frankley Tithe map, the remains of which may potentially have survived. However the main potential within the site for deposits of archaeological and paleoenvironmental significance to occur was within the vicinity of the historic stream course running through Site 1. The former line of a stream, delineating the boundary between the Parishes of Kings Norton and Frankley, can be seen in the 1884 Ordnance Survey map (First Edition, 1:2500) running northeast to southwest across the development area; it is labelled **TKs** denoting the boundary followed the line of a stream. Deposits of alluvium have been recorded in relation to this small stream from boreholes excavated in 1973 (British Geological Survey 2012).

A geotechnical ground investigation was undertaken by GRM Development solutions (2007) in which a number of trial pits were excavated within the Site area. No evidence for alluvium was recorded within Site 1. In general the ground investigation uncovered deposits of made ground containing brick fragments 0.2–1m in thickness, overlying geological deposits. This is likely to have been due to development in this area in the 1950s, when terraced houses were built as part of the Egghill Farm Housing Estate, some of which were demolished only within the last ten years.



◀ **Illus 2**

Trench 2 showing bund

The natural geology beneath the western bund appeared to have been affected by some form of leaching or periodic waterlogging as the colour of the sediments was markedly greyer where they lay beneath the bund material (*Illus 2*). The construction of the bund may have affected drainage of water in this area causing post-depositional colour changes.

3.1 Stream bed deposits

Trenches 5, 6 and 11 showed evidence of stream/river bed deposits. All deposits consisted of light grey-brown silty clay with frequent small rounded smooth stone inclusions.

2. METHOD

The objective of the archaeological programme was to target, so far as possible, the line of the historic watercourse running through the site, as well as the location of the building shown in the 1842 Tithe map along the western border of the site.

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In total thirteen evaluation trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Due to on-site constraints some trench measurements had to be slightly modified from the original project strategy – 10 trenches measuring 25m x 1.8m and three measuring 20m x 1.8m (see appendix 1.1). Machine excavation terminated at the top of the archaeological horizon or at the natural geology. Excavation of archaeological deposits and features required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation continued by hand. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All contexts were given unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology *pro forma* trench and context record sheets. Digital, 35mm colour transparencies and black-and-white print photographs were taken; with graduated metric scale clearly visible. Digital recording was also undertaken using a differential GPS.

3. RESULTS

The majority of deposits encountered within the evaluation trenches consisted of modern debris and rubble likely the result of the former use of the site as a housing estate and its subsequent demolition (see Appendix 1.2). There was no evidence of the building shown in the 1842 Tithe map in any of the trenches located on the western border of the site (Trenches 1–4).

In Trench 5 deposit [505] was located at the southern end of the trench and measured 0.35m deep by 2.5m wide. The deposit was cut by [504], modern house foundations, on its south side.

At the south end of Trench 6 the deposit [603] measured 0.35–0.4m deep, 1–1.5m wide and travelled through the trench in a roughly east-west direction. Furthermore, at the north end of Trench 6 deposits [604] and [605] likely represent to parts of a NE-SW running deposit cut by a modern trench [606], (*Illus 5*). Deposit [604] measured 0.4m deep by 1.0m wide and [605] measured 0.35m deep by 0.4–0.5m wide.

Illus 3

Trench 8 showing modern disturbance due to previous housing on-site



**Illus 4**

Trench 5, SE-facing section

Illus 5

Stream deposits [604] and [605] in Trench 6

The location of the stream bed deposits (*Illus 1*) differ from the course of the stream depicted in the 1884 Ordnance survey map – all of the stream deposits are situated east of the historic stream course. It is likely that a degree of channel migration has taken place throughout the lifetime of the watercourse, and that those stream bed deposits encountered during the evaluation represent channels older than that mapped on the first edition OS.

Following communication of provisional evaluation results the archaeological advisor to the planning authority indicated that no further archaeological work would be required on site.

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In Trench 11 the widest of this type of deposit was recorded, [1103] measured 13.7m wide but only 0.2m deep and was cut by a modern service on its north side.

4. CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation at Egghill established the presence of steam/river bed deposits within the development area; this was the main objective of the evaluation. These deposits were however relatively shallow, indicating that the site was truncated by the 20th-21st century construction and demolition work. No significant paleoenvironmental deposits or other archaeological features were identified.



6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Site registers

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	17	2	2.9 from top of bund
2	23	1.8	2.8 from top of bund
3	25	2	2.8 from top of bund
4	25	1.8	1.0 from top of bund
5	25	1.8	1.5
6	26	1.8	1.2
7	23	1.8	1.1
8	25	1.8	1
9	25	1.8	0.5
10	23	1.8	0.6
11	22	1.8	0.6
12	25	1.8	0.7
13	25	1.8	0.7

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions(m)
3	305	Light grey-pink clay with brick and tile inclusions – modern disturbance beneath (304) due to insertion of drain pipes	D 0.15
3	306	Natural, same as (103)	–
4	400	Topsoil, same as (001)	D 0.1–0.15
4	401	Bund deposit, same as (101)	D 1.0
4	402	Secondary bund deposit, same as (102)	D 0.25–0.3
4	403	Natural, same as (103)	–
5	500	Topsoil, same as (001)	D 0.4
5	501	Light brown-pink clay with rubble inclusions – modern subsoil accumulation	D 0.55
5	502	Subsoil, mid-grey brown clay	D 0.3
5	503	Natural, mid-grey brown clay	–
5	504	Red brick and cement modern wall foundations within (501)	D 0.55 x W 0.4
5	505	Stream bed deposit, light grey-brown silty clay with rounded small stone inclusions	D 0.35 x W 2.5
5	506	Modern rubble deposit, redeposited natural with red brick, tile and drain pipe inclusions	D 0.3
5	507	Modern black stone chipping, below (506)	D 0.08
5	508	Modern subsoil accumulation, mid-grey brown clay with occasional manganese inclusions, below (507)	D 0.08
5	509	Modern deposit, light pink-brown coarse sand with abundant brick fragments, below (508)	D 0.2
5	510	Area of modern disturbance, redeposited natural (503) with brick and tile inclusions, below (509)	D 1.1
6	600	Topsoil, same as (001)	D 0.25
6	601	Redeposited/disturbed natural with brick inclusions	D 0.25
6	602	Natural, light grey-pink clay	–
6	603	Stream bed, same as (505)	D 0.35–0.4 x W 1-1.5
6	604	Stream bed, same as (505)	D 0.4 x W 1.0
6	605	Stream bed, same as (505) and cut by modern trench (606)	D 0.35 x W 0.4–0.5
6	606	Modern trench, pink redeposited clay with brick and modern debris	–
7	700	Topsoil, Light grey-brown silty clay filled with modern rubbish	D 0.1–0.15

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Appendix 1.2 Context register

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions(m)
1	100	Topsoil, light grey-brown silty clay	D 0.25–0.3
1	101	Bund deposit, light brown-pink clay	D 2.0
1	102	Secondary bund deposit, light brown-grey silty clay	D 0.5
1	103	Natural, mid-white grey clay	–
2	200	Topsoil, same as (001)	D 0.15
2	201	Bund deposit, same as (101)	D 2.15
2	202	Secondary bund deposit, same as (102)	D 0.5
2	203	Natural, same as (103)	–
3	300	Topsoil, same as (001)	D 0.15
3	301	Bund deposit, same as (101)	D 1.15
3	302	Secondary bund deposit, same as (102)	D 0.25
3	303	Mid-black grey silty clay with brick & tile inclusions – modern accumulation in southern half of trench 3 (not within bund area)	D 0.25
3	304	Light blue-grey silty clay with brick inclusions – modern build-up beneath (303)	D 0.5

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions(m)
7	701	Modern subsoil accumulation, same as (501)	D 0.25
7	702	Subsoil, same as (502)	D 0.17
7	703	Natural, same as (602)	–
8	800	Topsoil, same as (700)	D 0.05
8	801	Modern stone chipping deposit	D 0.2
8	802	Natural, same as (602)	–
8	803	Red brick and cement wall/house foundation, fill of [804]	D 0.2 x W 0.4
8	804	Rectangular cut for modern wall/house foundation	D 1.8
9	900	Topsoil, same as (700)	–
9	901	Modern rubble/demolition debris	D 0.3
9	902	Natural, mid-pink brown clay	–
9	903	Subsoil, mid-grey pink clay with brick inclusions	D 0.32
10	1000	Topsoil, mid-grey brown silty clay with modern inclusions	D 0.08
10	1001	Modern black stone chipping	D 0.1
10	1002	Type 1 stone chipping used in construction	D 0.18
10	1003	Modern deposit with abundant brick fragments	D 0.13
10	1004	Natural, light-yellow grey clay	–
10	1005	Natural, light brown-pink clay – variation in natural within trench 10	–
11	1100	Topsoil, same as (1000)	D 0.08–0.10
11	1101	Modern deposit in south half of trench 11, light pink-brown silty clay with modern debris	D 0.2
11	1102	Modern subsoil accumulation, mid-grey brown clay with occasional manganese pieces	D 0.2
11	1103	Stream bed, same as (505) cut by modern service.	D 0.2 x W 13.7
11	1104	Natural, same as (1005)	–
11	1105	Modern stone chippings, same as (1002)	D 0.1
11	1106	Modern deposit, same as (1003)	D 1.6
12	1200	Topsoil, same as (1000)	D 0.1-0.15
12	1201	Modern accumulation of rubble, dark grey-black silt with frequent modern inclusions	D 0.2-0.3
12	1202	Redeposited/disturbed natural, mid-pink grey clay with occasional brick, paving slabs and drain pipe	D 0.3
12	1203	Natural, light grey-pink clay	–

Trench	Context	Description	Dimensions(m)
13	1300	Topsoil, same as (1000)	D 0.1–0.15
13	1301	Rubble deposit, same as (1201)	D 0.2–0.3
13	1302	Modern redeposited/disturbed natural, same as (1202)	D 0.3
13	1303	Natural, same as (1203)	–

Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
1	–	–	1	W	General shot
2	–	–	2	E	General shot
3	–	–	3	SE	General shot
4	1	1	–	–	ID shot
5	–	–	4	SE	General shot trench 1
6	2	2	5	S	Trench 1
7	3	3	6	NE	SW facing section of trench 1 bund
8	4	4	7	NE	SW facing section trench 1
9	–	–	8	S	Pre-ex shot trench 9
10	5	5	9	S	Trench 9
11	6	6	10	E	West facing section trench 9
12	–	–	11	S	Trench 8 stratigraphic shot
13	7	7	12	S	Post-ex shot trench 8
14	8	8	13	SW	Wall foundations (804), trench 8
15	9	9	14	W	Modern drain, trench 8
16	10	10	15	E	West facing section trench 8
17	11	11	16	E	West facing section trench 8
18	–	–	17	N	Trench 1 backfilled
19	–	–	18	S	Trench 9
20	–	–	19	S	Trench 8
21	–	–	20	SW	Trench 1
22	–	–	21	SE	Trench 1 backfilled
23	–	–	22	S	Trench 1 backfilled
24	–	–	23	N	Trench 2 post-ex
25	–	–	24	E	Trench 2 west facing section
26	–	–	25	SW	East facing section trench 2 – bund
27	–	–	26	SE	West facing section trench 2 – bund
28	–	–	27	S	Trench 2
29	–	–	28	S	Centre of area – bramble removal



Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
30	-	-	29	E	Trench 2 backfilled
31	-	-	30	S	Trench 2 backfilled
32	-	-	31	N	Trench 2 backfilled
33	12	12	32	S	Trench 3 backfilled
34	13	13	33	E	West facing section trench 3
35	-	-	34	S	Service disturbance, trench 3
36	14	14	35	E	West facing section trench 3 – south half of trench
37	15	15	36	SW	Trench 5
38	16	16	37	NW	SE facing section trench 5
39	17	17	38		Stream bed (505)
40	18	18	39	N	South facing section trench 5 – indicating modern activity
41	19	19	40	NE	South facing section trench 5
42	20	20	41	N	Trench 6
43	21	21	42	NE	(604) & (605) at east end of trench 6
44	22	22	43	NW	(604), trench 6
45	23	23	44	NW	(605), trench 6
46	24	24	45	E	West facing section trench 6
47	25	25	46	N	Trench 7
48	26	26	47	W	East facing section trench 7
49	27	27	48	E	West facing section trench 7 – modern disturbance
50	-	-	49	S	Trench 5 backfilled
51	-	-	50	E	Trench 6 backfilled
52	-	-	51	E	Trench 3 backfilled
53	-	-	52	SE	Trench 3 backfilled
54	-	-	53	N	Trench 3 backfilled
55	28	28	54	N	Trench 4 - bund
56	29	29	55	E	West facing section trench 4
57	30	30	56	S	Trench 4
58	-	-	57	-	Misfire
59	31	31	58		Area of disturbance trench 4 – sand
60	-	-	59	E	Area of trench 12 & 13
61	-	-	60	E	Area of trench 12 & 13
62	-	-	61	NW	Trench 13 – stripping
63	34	34	62	S	Trench 10
64	35	35	63	W	East facing section trench 10
65	36	36	64	S	Trench 11
66	37	-	65	W	East facing section trench 11

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
67	-	-	66	E	Trench 12
68	-	-	67	S	North facing section trench 12
69	-	-	68	E	Trench 13
70	-	-	69	S	North facing section trench 13
71	-	-	70	SW	Modern trench (1302) within trench 13
72	-	-	71	N	Trench 10 & 11 backfilled
73	-	-	72	W	Trench 4 backfilled
74	-	-	73	S	Trench 4 backfilled
75	-	-	74	NW	Trench 4 backfilled
76	-	-	75	E	Trench 12 backfilled

Appendix 1.4 Drawing register

Drw	Scale (mm)	Description
1	1:100	Plan of trench 1
2	1:100	Plan of trench 9
3	1:100	Plan of trench 2
4	1:100	Plan of trench 3
5	1:100	Plan of trench 4
6	1:100	Plan of trench 5
7	1:100	Plan of trench 6
8	1:100	Plan of trench 7
9	1:100	Plan of trench 8
10	1:100	Section of trench 8
11	1:100	Plan of trench 12
12	1:100	Plan of trench 13
13	1:100	Plan of trench 11
14	1:100	Plan of trench 10



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