



Archaeological
Research
Services Ltd

Crane Rd, Kimberworth, Rotherham. Survey Report.



ARS Ltd Report 2008/14
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2008 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Barratt Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological survey at the site of the former Working Men's club and surrounding woodland on Crane Road, Kimberworth (National Grid Reference SK 40599569); the survey was to be carried out prior to ground works for a new housing development. However, upon arrival on site it appeared that significant ground works had already begun, encompassing over 90% of the survey area. Works included off site removal of topsoil/subsoil, woodland clearance, levelling of the ground surface and construction of a new access road off Crane Road. As a result only a limited walkover survey could be carried out. This revealed no significant observable archaeological monuments or features; there was evidence of woodland management on the intact part of site in the south west corner, and around the outskirts of the development area. There were also unstratified remains indicating post medieval glass working.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In February 2008 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Barratt Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological survey at Crane Road, Kimberworth, Rotherham. (Fig. 1) The work was carried out subsequent to groundworks for the development of a new residential area (Planning Reference RB 2007/1383).



Fig. 1 Location of development site on Crane Road, Kimberworth, Rotherham.

1.1.2 The site is centred at NGR SK 40599569 and is located on the north side of Kimberworth, nearby are the Iron Age hillforts of Wincobank and Caesar's Camp at Scholes Coppice, Kimberworth is also on the projected route of the 'Roman Ridge' defensive dyke running to Mexborough.

1.1.3 An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was prepared in May 2005 by ARCUS which demonstrated that the area has archaeological potential. The site was under woodland until the early 20th century and, although this does not correspond to known ancient woodland, features associated with past woodland management of the medieval Kimberworth Deer Park may still remain. Furthermore, although the early 20th century Hudson's Rough Drift mine did not extend in to the application area, part of the features associated with it (the fan drift) lay in the northern part of the site. The survey sought to map and record any surviving

remains of the mining activity which may be damaged or destroyed by development.

1.2. Geology

- 1.2.1 The solid geology of the site consists of Carboniferous Westphalian Coal Measures Group (Aitkenhead *et. al.* 1978).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The survey aimed to obtain information by gathering details on the character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological features and deposits within the specified area.
- 2.2 To record any features and exposed deposits or finds with grid references as part of an initial systematic walkover. No attempt was made to excavate any features. Surface finds were collected for dating purposes. Any features relating to past woodland management, such as coppicing and pollarding, were recorded.

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 It was agreed with SYAS that at this stage a minimum of a grade 2 archaeological field survey would be required (See Appendix 1). However, as extensive groundworks had already begun on site it was not possible to do more than a basic walkover survey.
- 3.2 The impact of the groundworks was high, with the offsite removal of topsoil and subsoil, and a mixture of clay, gravel and construction debris used to level the site. Most of the development site had been cleared of trees, with the exception of a small area in the South West corner. A gravel access road had also been laid coming off Crane Road. (See figures 2 and 3)

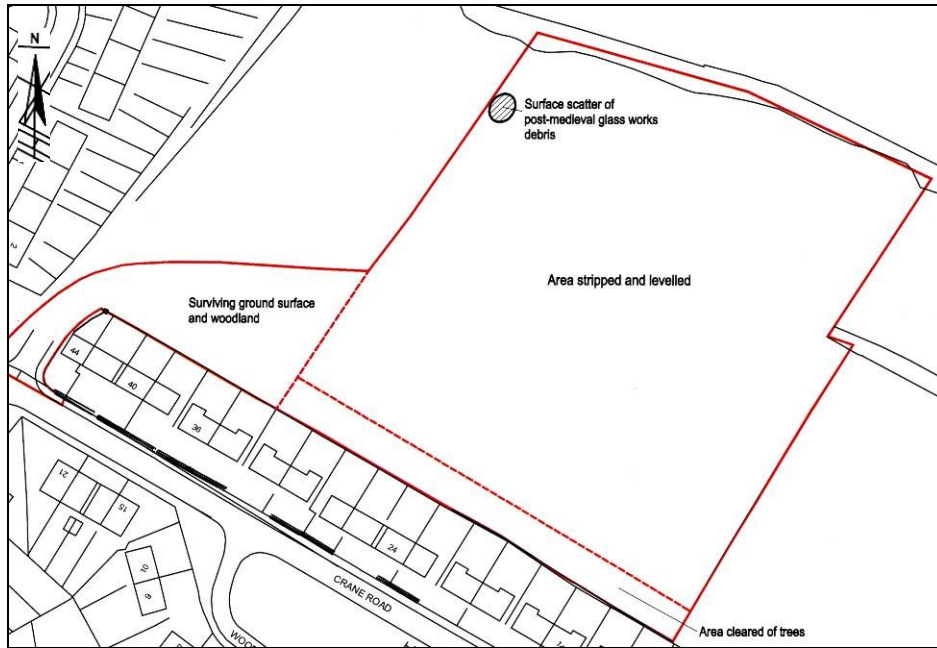


Fig. 2 Plan showing surface scatter of glass debris, and the extent of development underway.



Fig. 3 Photograph of access road onto site from Crane Road, Kimberworth.

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 There were no remaining archaeological features or monuments visible during the walkover survey. There was some evidence of woodland management in the form of coppicing (See figures 3 and 4). This was located in the intact South Western area of site and along all of the boundaries of the development area.



Figs. 4 & 5 Photographs taken in the South west corner of site where remaining trees display evidence of coppicing.

- 4.2 In addition to this there was some evidence of Post-Medieval glass working, with a significant surface scatter of glass slag of varying sizes, and a coarse brick half coated in vitrified glass possibly from a kiln or furnace (See fig 2).



Fig. 6 Photograph of a sample of industrial glass waste collected from the north-west corner of site (See Fig. 2).

5.0 STRATIGRAPHY

- 5.1 The stratigraphy was visible along the site boundary and it showed topsoil of a variable depth but most frequently between 0.2m and 0.25m. The topsoil consisted of a brown (5YR/5/3) loam that contained a large amount of modern rubbish and roots. Beneath the topsoil pale yellow (2.5Y/7/3) loamy clay subsoil was visible to a depth of approximately 0.25m. There was no observable natural on site as the main area of development had been levelled using demolition rubble and clay.



Fig. 7 Photograph of stratigraphy visible on the edge of site.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The archaeological survey has revealed no significant discoveries of an archaeological nature. However, this is attributable to the advanced state of ground working on site at the time of the survey. Unfortunately this situation has led to an irreversible change in the ground topography and vegetation in the survey area. Therefore no further assessment of the archaeological potential of the majority of the site can be performed at this time.
- 6.2 The evidence of woodland management i.e. coppicing along all edges of site and specifically in the intact south-west area might be of interest. Also the scatter of industrial glass debris along the North West site boundary could be indicative of Post-Medieval glass manufacture in the area which could warrant further investigation; especially if any more of the site is to be cleared of trees and topsoil.

7. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

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

8. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

- 8.1 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.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 ARS Ltd would like to thank all those involved with the running of the project.

10. REFERENCES

Aitkenhead, N., Stevenson, I.P., Chisholm, J.I., Price, D., Francis, E.A., Eden, R.A. and Smith, E.G. 1978. *The geological survey of Great Britain (England and Wales): Buxton*. British Geological Survey.