

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Crane Road, Kimberworth, Rotherham.



Foundation trenching for Plots 9-12 at Crane Road,
Kimberworth, Rotherham.

ARS Ltd Report 2009/45
October 2009

Compiled By:

A S Tinsley
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Queen's Buildings
55 Queen Street
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S1 2DX

admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Checked By:

J Brightman
Tel: 0114 275 0140
Fax: 01629 814657

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Crane Road, Kimberworth, Rotherham.

ARS Ltd Report 2009/45

October 2009

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
1. Introduction.....	2
1.1. Location and Scope of Work.....	2
1.2. Geology and preservation.....	2
1.3. Background.....	3
2. Methodology.....	3
3. Results.....	3
4. Conclusion.....	5
5. Publicity, confidentiality and copyright.....	5
6. Statement of indemnity.....	6
7. Acknowledgements.....	6
8. References.....	6

© ARS Ltd 2008

List of Figures

1.	Site location.....	2
2.	A west facing section of an eastern foundation trench within plots 9-12, showing maximum depth of ground reduction and the nature of deposits encountered.....	4
3.	The extent of ground works across plots 9 through to 12 viewed facing north west.....	5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April 2008 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Barratt Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Crane Road, Kimberworth, Rotherham. This was to be undertaken during the course of groundworks for a new housing development. Due to economic factors aspects of the development were placed on hold and only re-activated during the course of September and October 2009. This report relates to groundwork of one such phase, namely the excavation of the foundation trenches for plots 9-12 along the central northern boundary of the site.

The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation as part of a negative condition attached to planning permission for residential developments. South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) required an archaeologist to be on site to observe all groundworks and to ensure preservation by record of any archaeological deposits discovered.

The watching brief was implemented following the re-instatement of groundworks in preparation for the construction of plots 9-12 and was undertaken during the course of Monday 5th October. A small section of groundworks had been opened without archaeological supervision prior to arrival on site and mainly related to foundation trenches to the east of the line of plots. No archaeological features or artefacts of particular significance were identified during the site monitoring. Observation of the foundation trenches demonstrated that the site was characterised by extensive made ground deposits identical to those encountered during previous episodes of groundwork. Sterile natural deposits were not exposed during any of the site works and thus it was not established whether the made ground deposits were the result of widespread ground rising or fill deposits associated with extensive past ground reductions.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In April 2008 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Barratt Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Crane Road, Kimberworth (Fig. 1). After initial phases of development the scheme was temporarily put on hold due to prevailing economic factors and re-activated during the course of September and October 2009. This report therefore relates to this re-instated phase of development and specifically the creation of foundation trenches for plot 9 through to 12 (Planning Reference RB 2007/1383).



Fig. 1: Site location

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 at Wincobank and Caesar's Camp at Scholes Coppice. Kimberworth is also on the projected route of the 'Roman Ridge' defensive dyke running to Mexborough.

1.2 Geology

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

1.3 Background

- 1.3.1 An archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was prepared in May 2005 by ARCUS which demonstrated that the area had archaeological potential. The site was under woodland until the early 20th century and, although this does not correspond to known ancient woodland, it was possible that features associated with past woodland management of the medieval Kimberworth Deer Park had survived.
- 1.3.2 Furthermore, although the early 20th century Hudson's Rough Drift mine did not extend into the application area, part of the features associated with it (the fan drift) were originally located in the northern part of the site.
- 1.3.3 The survey undertaken by ARS Ltd on January/February 2008 sought to map and to record any surviving remains of the mining activity in the area. Unfortunately the advanced state of ground working on site at the time of the survey caused an irreversible change in the ground topography, which included the blockage and consequent destruction of the mentioned fan drift.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The specification required that a watching brief be carried out to observe any groundworks taking place for the proposed development in order to identify any potential archaeological remains. This involved an archaeologist from Archaeological Research Services Ltd monitoring and supervising the reduction in ground level and excavation of foundation trenches and service trenches on the site.
- 2.2 All ground reduction work and the excavation of foundation trenches was undertaken by a 360° excavator machine under continuous archaeological supervision.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Plots 9-12

- 3.1.1 The excavation of foundation trenches in preparation for the construction of plots 9 through 12 were initiated under archaeological supervision on the 5th October 2009, although a small section of trenching had been under taken without supervision during the course of the previous working week and related to the very eastern trenches of the plot.
- 3.1.2 Trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m in sections towards the east of the plots and were stepped upwards further west, reaching a minimum depth of 0.6m in these areas.



Figure 2. A west facing section of an eastern foundation trench within plots 9-12, showing maximum depth of ground reduction and the nature of deposits encountered.

- 3.1.3** The main deposits encountered can be divided into two main contexts each with numerous lenses and bands of mixed material throughout. These deposits were consistent across the entire area of plots 9 to 12 and correspond with those encountered elsewhere on the site during previous archaeological mitigation (Lopez 2008).
- 3.1.4** The uppermost of these deposits extended to an approximate depth of 0.3m and consisted of crushed brick, concrete and other building materials and probably relates to a modern demolition layer (20th-century) associated with the decommissioning of previous infra-structure on the site.
- 3.1.5** Below this initial deposit was a further level of made ground that consisted of medium greyish brown silty clay with large quantities of frogged red brick (as featured in Lopez 2008) and stone fragments. It also included elements of glass and occasional ceramic cultural debris entirely indicative of a late post-medieval, 19th-20th-century date.
- 3.1.6** This secondary layer of made ground extended to the depth of the trenches and at no point was a sterile natural deposit observed.
- 3.1.7** While the primary made ground deposit extended across the entire site and would appear to correspond with identical deposits encountered during earlier mitigation it was unclear if this related to the building up of the ground level or a dumping deposit within a large negative feature.



Figure 3. The extent of ground works across plots 9 through to 12 viewed facing north west.

- 3.1.8 No further deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed.
- 3.2 All other plots that have undergone ground reduction are covered in the earlier project report (Lopez 2008).

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Groundworks in the vicinity of plot 9 to 12 failed to encounter any archaeological deposits of any real significance and no evidence of the presence of the previous mining, or any other industry, was observed.
- 4.2 Ground reduction in this area did not acquire the depth of existent sterile natural deposits and it is uncertain to what depth the current made ground deposits extend. The potential for the preservation of any remains relating to earlier activity on the site associated to the Deer Park or any other features of archaeological interest therefore remains but on present evidence has not been impacted upon by current re-development work.

5. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

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

6. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

- 6.1 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.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular the ground workers of Barratt Homes Ltd.

8. 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.

Lopez, E. 2008 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Crane Road, Kimberworth, Rotherham*, Archaeological Research Services Ltd unpublished client report 2008/44 on behalf of Barrett Homes.