



**Archaeological
Research
Services Ltd**

**Corner House Farm, Hadley End, Staffordshire.
Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief.**



Land at Corner House Farm, Hadley End, Staffordshire

ARS Ltd Report 2008/73
September 2008

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Executive Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd on behalf of Andrew Tennant and Sophie Atkinson during the creation of a domestic garden and the excavation of an amenity pond at Corner House Farm, Back Lane, Hadley End, Staffordshire.

The Historic Environment Records for Staffordshire document the presence of several undated cropmarks on the site which have been tentatively dated to the medieval period. Excavation during the watching brief revealed a number of linear features which are probably modern drainage ditches.

Other than these features, no significant archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds were located within the area of excavation.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd on behalf of Andrew Tennant and Sophie Atkinson. The watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the excavation of an amenity pond on land at Corner House Farm, Back Lane, Hadley End, Staffordshire.

2. Location and Geology

- 2.1 Hadley End is located 15km west of Burton Upon Trent off the A515 and Corner House Farm is centred on SK 13365 20111 (Fig. 1).
- 2.2 The solid geology of Hadley End is established on an outcrop of Keuper Marl which forms part of the New Red Sandstone series (Hains and Horton 1987). The Keuper Marl comprises mainly red and brown mudstones and subordinate bands of sandstone and siltstone (Hains and Horton 1987, 69).

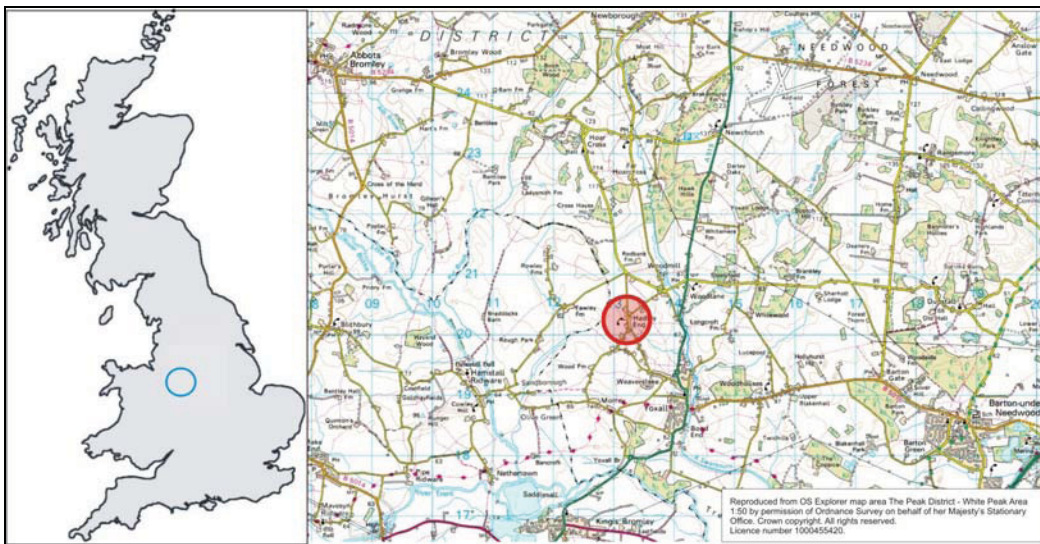


Fig. 1 Location map of Corner House Farm, Hadley End, Staffordshire

3. Objectives of the Project

- 3.1 The project was an archaeological watching brief which was maintained at the request of the Staffordshire County Council. The objectives of the watching brief were to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect the archaeological remains, to ensure the adequate monitoring of any archaeological remains revealed during the ground works, in particular any dating evidence for the cropmarks, and to ensure analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

4. Method Statement

- 4.1 The excavations were undertaken by machine using a toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil, overburden and subsoil were excavated to the natural substrate and subsequently to the natural clay in level, shallow spits. The entire process was monitored by an archaeologist from Archaeological Research Services Ltd. All the contexts were recorded on *pro-forma* sheets, and a context register, along with a finds register, were produced for inclusion in the archive.

5. Results

- 5.1 The excavation area was located in two fields to the north-east of Corner House Farm (Fig. 4). A large area of approximately 90m x 45m was stripped of topsoil (001) to a deposit of substrate (002) existing at a depth of between 0.8m and 1.6m below the ground surface (Fig. 2). Within both the topsoil and subsoil were finds dating from the late 18th century onwards.



Fig. 2: Area of excavation after topsoil strip (facing north-east)

- 5.2 Nine linear features (003) were exposed when excavating (002) all aligned in a north-west to south-east direction across the site (Fig. 3). They are numbered one to nine on Figure 4. The features varied in width, as numbers 1 to 7 and nine were 2 to 4m in width and number 8 was 1 to 1.5m. The fill of the features was red clay, very similar in nature to the deeper natural clay (005). The features were, on average, 0.4m in depth and included some modern pottery artefacts.



Fig. 3: Three linear features of context (003) (the yellow arrows indicate the location and direction of the features) (facing north-east)



Area of Excavation

Field boundary

Tarmac area

Menage

Field boundary

Archaeological Research Services Ltd
 Angel House
 Portland Square
 Bakewell
 Derbyshire
 DE45 1HB

Site Code: HAD 08
 Drawing Ref: 1
 Date: Sept 2008
 Drawn: AMT
 Scale: 1:500

Figure 4

Key:
 Context (003)

Notes:

Copyright/licencing:
 This drawing
 © A.R.S. Ltd

Ordnance Survey data if applicable
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Fig. 5 Linear features (5 and 6) of context (003) highlighted by yellow arrows (facing north-west)

5.3 Below (002), (003) and (004) was the natural clay (005) which was a yellowy-red to red clay with pebble inclusions (Fig. 6). It existed to a depth below the level of excavation.



Fig. 6: Site of the pond (facing north-east).

6. Discussion

- 6.1 The linear features (003) contained 20th century pottery artefacts which indicate a modern formation date. The fields, in which the excavation took place, were very prone to flooding (Pers. Comm. Tennant, 2008) and therefore these features may have originally been created as drainage ditches which fed a larger drainage ditch along the southern boundary of the fields (Fig. 4). The ditches were probably filled with clay at a more recent date.
- 6.2 Despite a careful check no other archaeological features were revealed which might correspond to the other cropmarks shown on the aerial photograph taken in 2000 supplied by Staffordshire Historic Environment Record.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 No significant archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds were located within the area of excavation.

8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

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

9. Statement of Indemnity

- 9.1 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.

10. Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank Andrew Tennant and Sophie Atkinson for commissioning this work and Paul Boulton and his employees who were involved in the smooth running of the project. In addition, ARS Ltd would like to thank Stephen Dean, the Conservation Archaeologist at the Staffordshire County Council.

11. References

Hains, B.A. and Horton, A. (1987). *British Regional Geology. Central England, Third Edition*. Nottingham: BGS.

APPENDIX I

Context Register

Context No.	Size	Munsell No.	Description
001	Across the site to a depth of 0.4m	2.5YR 2.5/3	Dark reddish brown, fine imported topsoil supporting turf.
002	Across the site, maximum 1.2m depth	5YR 5/6	Deposited layer of yellowish red sandy silt, containing a pebbles, post medieval pottery, glass, tile and brick.
003	8 linear features positioned n-e to s-w across the site	2.5YR 4/3	Firmly compacted clay deposit which existed in eight linear features across the site. Contained small amount of modern pottery.
005	Depth unknown	5YR 4/6	Dark yellowish red deposit of very firmly compacted clay containing sandstone pebbles, forming the natural.