

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Persimmon Homes Teesside

Canney Hill
Bishop Auckland
County Durham

archaeological mitigation works

report 3368
February 2014

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring during topsoil stripping for a development at Canney Hill, Bishop Auckland, County Durham.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Persimmon Homes Teesside and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

- 1.3 No archaeological features were uncovered and no artefacts recovered during the course of the works.

Recommendations

- 1.4 As no significant archaeological resource was identified, no further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at Canney Hill, Bishop Auckland, County Durham (NGR centre: NZ 2258 2957). It covers an area of approximately 0.7 ha. To the east is the A688 Canney Hill Bypass, to the west are properties along Durham Road, to the south is a disused lane, and to the north is housing and fields within Canney Hill.

Development

- 2.2 The development is for housing with associated service roads and parking.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the monitoring programme was to identify and record any archaeological features or artefacts uncovered during groundworks.

Written Scheme of Investigation

- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference DS13.414) and approved by the planning authority.

Dates

- 2.5 Fieldwork was undertaken between 6th and 29th January 2014. This report was prepared for February 2014.

Personnel

- 2.6 Fieldwork was conducted by Alan Rae. This report was prepared by Alan Rae, and edited by Peter Carne, with graphics by David Graham. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.7 The site code is **BCH13**, for **Bishop Auckland Canney Hill 2013**. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to Bowes Museum in due course. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-172153**.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of the works the development area comprised a field of pasture.
- 3.2 The proposed development area was on a west-facing hill slope with mean elevations from approximately 135m to 145m OD.
- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation of the Carboniferous Period. Geotechnical boreholes (see below) indicate that this is overlain by a shallow depth of glacial clay (Ferguson 2013).

4. Archaeological and historical background

Previous archaeological works

- 4.1 A detailed account of the archaeological and historical background to the site is included within an archaeological desk-based assessment (Archaeological Services 2013a) and summarised below.

Previous archaeological works

- 4.2 A geophysical survey was conducted on the site (Archaeological Services 2013b) which indicated the presence of very weak subsurface anomalies in part of the survey.

The prehistoric period (up to AD 70)

- 4.3 There is no direct evidence of prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity of the development area.

The Roman period (AD 70 to 5th century)

- 4.4 There is no evidence of Roman activity in the development area or in its close vicinity.

The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

- 4.5 To the south and west of the development area there is evidence of medieval agriculture in the form of ridge and furrow cultivation; the proposed development area may have been similarly exploited during the medieval period, although there is no above-ground evidence for this. No direct evidence has been identified for a medieval settlement at Canney Hill.

The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 4.6 The Bowes and Sunderland Bridge Turnpike was authorised in 1748 and follows the line of the modern road. An inn, the Black Boy, was constructed along this road immediately outside the site by 1768. A coal mine was opened in the early 19th century and a small pit village had developed around the inn by 1834. This village grew when Canney Hill pottery opened in the mid-1840s. It included a small housing terrace in the north-west corner of the site. The Sportsman Inn was built in the mid-19th century and had later modifications (now demolished).

The modern period (1900 to present)

- 4.7 The remainder of the site has remained as agricultural land up until the present.

5. The archaeological works

Introduction

- 5.1 An area of approximately 0.7 ha was excavated down to the top of the natural subsoil using a 360° backhoe excavator under close archaeological supervision.

Topsoil strip (Figure 2)

- 5.2 Natural subsoil, an orange boulder clay [02], was identified at a depth of 0.36m throughout the development area. Over the boulder clay was a dark brown loam topsoil [2: 0.36m deep]. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered. No evidence for the very weak geomagnetic anomalies was identified.

6. The artefacts

- 6.1 No artefacts were recovered during the course of the works.

7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 7.1 No material suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment was recovered during the works.

8. The archaeological resource

- 8.1 No archaeological deposits or artefacts have been uncovered.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 As no significant archaeological resource was identified, no further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

10. Sources

Archaeological Services 2013a *Land at Canney Hill, Bishop Auckland, County Durham: archaeological desk-based assessment*. Unpublished report **3129**, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2013b *Canney Hill, Bishop Auckland, County Durham: geophysical survey*. Unpublished report **3202**, Archaeological Services Durham University

Appendix 1: Data table

Table 1.1: Context data

No	Description
1	Topsoil
2	Boulder clay

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrix



Figure 1: Site location

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 site location

0 1km
scale 1:25 000 for A4 plot



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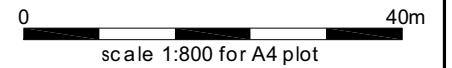
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Figure 2: Location of monitoring



-  geomagnetic survey
-  archaeological monitoring