ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Adderstone Living

Land to the rear of Consett Park Terrace, Moorside County Durham

archaeological evaluation

report 5759rev
April 2022

Durham University

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1. Summary

The project

1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted in advance of a proposed development on land to the rear of Consett Park Terrace, Moorside, County Durham. The works comprised the excavation of ten archaeological trial trenches.

1.2 The works were commissioned by Adderstone Living and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

1.3 No significant archaeological resource was identified on the site.

Recommendations

1.4 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 to the south of Consett Park Terrace, Moorside, County Durham (NGR centre: NZ 08918 49282). The site is irregular in shape, and covers an area of approximately 3.9ha. The northern edge of the site is bounded by the gardens of Consett Park Terrace, set along the A692 Consett Road, with pasture and woodlands to the east and south. The buildings and yards of Todd Hill Farm stand to the south, with an industrial estate to the west. An area of hard standing, the site of the former Moorside Hotel, lies directly to the west.

Development proposal

2.2 A planning application has been submitted for a residential development (Planning application ref: DM/21/03514/FPA).

Objective

2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent and potential significance of any archaeological resource within the proposed development area, so that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in relation to the development.

Research Objectives

2.4 The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region. The scheme of works was designed to address agenda item MDii: Later medieval landscape.

Specification

2.5 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference 22018) and agreed with Durham County Council Archaeology Section.

Dates

2.6 Fieldwork was undertaken w/c 21st March 2022. This report was prepared for April 2022.

Personnel

2.7 Fieldwork was supervised and this report prepared by Mark Randerson, with illustrations by David Graham. The Project Manager was Natalie Swann.

Archive/OASIS

2.8 The site code is **PTM22**, for Consett **P**ark **T**errace **M**oorside 20**22**. The archive has been prepared for deposition by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to County Durham Archaeological Archives when it is open. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of archaeological investigation**S** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3- 505714**.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

3.1 At the time of this evaluation, the proposed development area comprised three fields of open pasture, with occasional trees, telegraph poles, and horse jumps present.

3.2 A sinuous dry dene ran across the southern part of the study area. This dene was very steeply-sided to the west, becoming more shallow and boggy to the east. Ground levels generally dropped southwards toward this dene, with undulations across the area. The maximum elevation was approximately 200m OD, falling to a minimum of roughly 190m OD.

3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Carboniferous mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, which are overlain by Devensian till.

4. Historical and archaeological background

Previous archaeological works

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been conducted in advance of the proposed development (Archaeological Services 2021a): a summary of this assessment is given below. A programme of geophysical survey has also been undertaken on the site (Archaeological Services 2021b). This identified field drains, a former field boundary, a probable drainage channel, and slight traces of former ridge and furrow cultivation. Three linear positive magnetic anomalies were also identified: these were interpreted as potential ditch-like features, unlikely to have any archaeological significance.

The prehistoric and Roman periods (up to 5th century AD)

4.2 Evidence for possible prehistoric occupation was found at Temperley's Wood, *c.*750m to the north-west of the site. A geophysical survey detected a possible rectilinear settlement enclosure and gully or ditch of probable later prehistoric / Romano-British date. There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the site, but the presence of activity in the surrounding area indicates some potential for an as yet unidentified resource to exist.

The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

4.3 During the medieval period the site was not located in close proximity to known settlements, and was probably in agricultural use; this continued into the modern period. Slight traces of ridge and furrow within the site, visible on LiDAR data and satellite images, reflect medieval or post-medieval cultivation.

The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

4.4 The site is located in a general area of post-medieval mining activity, although no mines are recorded within the site.

The modern period (1900 to present)

4.5 During the Second World War, defensive stop-lines were set up across the country. These included pillboxes and one of these is located just to the south of the site boundary. The hexagonal pillbox is an fw3/22 type, designed for use by riflemen.

5. The evaluation trenches

5.1 Ten trenches were excavated across the site, with Trenches 2, 7, and 9 positioned over geomagnetic anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. All trenches were 50m long, except Trenches 1 and 5 which were 25m. They were excavated by a mechanical back-acting excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Trench 1 was repositioned from its intended location in order to avoid an overhead power line. Details of the individual trenches can be found in Table 1.2.

5.2 Glacial subsoil [2] was identified in all the trenches at a depth of between 0.15m and 0.85m. This deposit was vary varied, with frequent natural changes identified across the study area (Photograph 1). It was mainly characterised as an orange-brown silty clay, becoming more interspersed with areas of yellow fine silty clay and orange-brown medium fine to coarse sand and gravel toward the east. Inclusions of angular fragments of shattered sandstone were very frequent, with the rockhead itself encountered in the centre of Trench 10, and large irregular lenses of sand, clay, and shale were dispersed across the area. A linear lens of natural clay was almost certainly the cause of the positive magnetic anomaly investigated by Trench 2, whilst several natural sand lenses and two modern field drains corresponded with the anomaly recorded by Trench 9.

5.3 In Trench 5, located toward the eastern end of the dene, glacial subsoil was a mottled light yellow, yellow-grey, and bluish-grey fine silty clay, reflecting waterborne deposition in this low-lying area. A similar deposit was also exposed in the centre of Trench 7, which was positioned across the steeper western end of the dene. A subsoil layer [3: 14m long, 0.55m thick] of greyish-brown sandy clayey silt overlay this area, and had accumulated in the base of the dene (Photograph 2): this deposit was cut through by a substantial French drain, identified as a probable drainage channel by the geophysical survey. At the east end of the trench, a deposit of natural shale corresponded with the positive magnetic anomaly recorded in the area (Photograph 3).

5.4 All trenches were sealed by a layer of loosely compact dark brown slightly clayey sandy silt topsoil [1: up to 0.4m thick]. No features of archaeological significance were identified.

6. The artefacts

6.1 No artefacts were recovered.

7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence

7.1 No material suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment was identified.

8. The archaeological resource

8.1 No archaeological resource has been identified.

9. Impact assessment

9.1 Development of the site is unlikely to impact on any archaeological deposits.

10. Recommendations

10.1 No further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

11. Sources

Archaeological Services 2021a *Todd Hill Farm, Castleside, County Durham; archaeological desk-based assessment.* Report **5583**, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2021b *Todd Hill Farm, Castleside, County Durham; geophysical survey.* Report **5697**, Archaeological Services Durham University

Petts, D, & Gerrard, C, 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham

Appendix 1: Data tables

Table 1.1: Context data

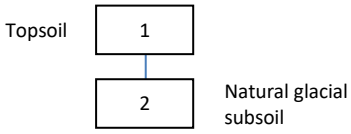
No	Trenches	Description
1	1-10	Topsoil
2	1-10	Natural glacial subsoil
3	7	Subsoil deposit

Table 1.2: Trench data

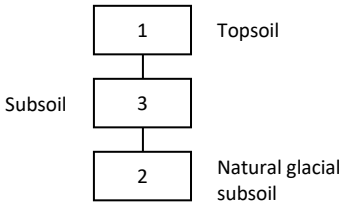
Trench	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Glacial Geology	Subsoil	Field Drains- number and orientation	Features
1	25	0.25-0.4	Orange-brown sandy silty clay, frequent shattered sandstone	None present	0	0
2	50	0.3-0.4	Varied from orange-brown silty clay and shattered sandstone to yellow sandy clay and fine gravel	None present	0	0
3	50	0.3-0.4	Light yellow silty clay at north, varying to orange-brown sandy silty clay and yellow-brown shale and clay with inclusions of shattered sandstone.	None present	1 French drain: NE/SW	0
4	50	0.3-0.4	Light yellow and yellow-grey sandy silty clay, becoming orange mixed with shattered sandstone to the west	None present	3 French drains: N/S 3 field drains: NW/SE	0
5	25	0.3-0.4	Mottled mixed light yellow, yellow-grey, and bluish-grey fine silty clay	None present	1 French drain: N/S	0
6	50	0.25-0.4	Orange-brown clayey silt and shattered sandstone at NW, orange and yellow sand to SE	None present	2 field drains: NW/SE	0
7	50	0.25-0.85	Mainly an orange-brown and yellow-brown clayey silt with shattered sandstone, light grey silty clay at lowest point of trench	Deposit [3]: greyish-brown sandy clayey silt	1 French drain: E/W	0
8	50	0.25-0.35	Orange-brown silty clay with shattered sandstone, with clay patches to west and sand lenses to east	None present	2 field drains: NE/SW	0
9	50	0.2-0.4	Orange-brown silty clay and shattered sandstone, large lenses of yellow and orange sand to the east	None present	3 field drains: NE/SW	0
10	50	0.15-0.35	Orange-brown silty clay and shattered sandstone, high sandstone rockhead in centre of trench and pinkish-brown clay band to west	None present	0	0

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrices

Trenches 1-6, 8-10



Trench 7



Photograph 1: Section of Trench 6, looking north. The sandstone inclusions and frequent natural variation in the glacial subsoil are visible

Photograph 2: Section of Trench 7, showing part of subsoil deposit [3], looking north-west

Photograph 3: Trench 7, looking south-west. The natural shale deposit responsible for the magnetic anomaly can be seen at the base of frame