# LAND AT DEERLANDS ROAD, WINGERWORTH, DERBYSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR: SK 3825 6650 Planning Authority: North Derbyshire District Council PCAS Job No.: 1239 PCAS Site Code: DRWE 14 Accession no.: TBC

Prepared by

R. Mandeville

for

Rippon Homes Ltd.

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Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd 47, Manor Road Saxilby Lincoln LN1 2HX Tel. 01522 703800 ©Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

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#### Summary

This document presents the results of a scheme of trial trenching; undertaken to determine the archaeological potential of land at Deerlands Road, Wingerworth prior to development.

The proposed development area, c.2.6ha in area, is located to the south of Chesterfield, in the village of Wingerworth. Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and post-Medieval activity has been recorded within a 1km radius of the site, although no monument records are located within the site itself.

The trial trench evaluation has produced a largely negative result, where no significant archaeological remains were identified. Low numbers of modern industrial waste were recovered from surface or residual contexts, but these finds are considered to be insignificant.



Fig. 1: Site location map at scale 1:25,000. The site location is shown in red.

# 1 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Rippon Homes Ltd. to carry out an archaeological evaluation at Deerlands Road, Wingerworth, Derbyshire. This document is the specification for a programme of archaeological evaluation and trial trenching, to be completed prior to any development works.

The evaluation consisted of ten trenches targeting geophysical anomalies to assess the archaeological potential of the area, and to advise any further archaeological mitigation, if required, to preserve any archaeological remains that would be affected by development.

# 2 Site location and description (Figs. 1 & 2)

Wingerworth is situated approximately 3m to the south of Chesterfield, and the proposed development site is located on its southern outskirts. The site is approximately rectangular in plan and consists of approximately 2.6ha of open grassland used for grazing horses. It is bordered to the north by a brook; to the east by woodland; to the south by the gardens of residential housing, and to the west by Deerlands Road and Hockley Lane. It is accessed via an existing agricultural access/gate off the eastern side of Deerlands Road, close to its junction with Nethermoor Road.

The central NGR is SK 3825 6650.

# 3 Geology and topography

A brook forms the northern boundary of the site, beyond which the land rises towards Hockley Farm and Wingerworth Hall Gardens and its associated grassland. To the northeast, east and south are large areas of woodland including Nethermoor Plantation, Hanging Banks and Sutcliffe Wood. In general the land rises up away from the site in all directions. The site itself is situated at an elevation just under 116m AOD.

The bedrock geology of the area is the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation. This is sedimentary bedrock that formed approximately 312 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Its presence indicates that swamps, estuaries and deltas previously dominated the local area.

Superficial deposits are present across small parts of the site. These are alluvial clays, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period and are indicative of areas previously dominated by rivers (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

# 4 Planning background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012. This places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Developers are required to 'record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible' (NPPF, s141). Developers are obligated to produce a definitive method of archaeological mitigation to fulfil this requirement.

Due to the location of the current site, this falls within consideration of the East Midlands Regional Plan, March 2009, and the Northeast Derbyshire local plan.

A planning application (NED/12/00600/FL) for the development of 51 dwellings with associated access, public open space and infrastructure, was submitted on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012. This was initially refused, but in August 2013, upon appeal, permission was granted (ref. 13/00002/REF).

A scheme of archaeological trial trenching was required to ensure any archaeological remains identified on the site would not be destroyed without being understood and preserved, either *by record* or *in situ*. This evaluation report documents the methodology employed during the archaeological trenching and the results obtained.

# 5 Archaeological and historical background

In July 2011 RPS Planning and Development compiled a Desk Based Assessment (Slatcher 2011), documenting all known archaeological sources in the surrounding area of the site, and concluding that the archaeological potential for the site was low. There are a number of Historic Environment Monument records located around the development site (18 within a 1km radius), ranging from the prehistoric to post-medieval. These are summarised below.

Evidence for activity during the prehistoric era from locations near the site consist of several small flakes of flint of probable Mesolithic date (HER number 15319), a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead discovered in Hardwick Wood (HER number 15301) and a Bronze Age flint scraper, found in 1975 during work in the nearby cemetery (HER number 15318).

There is little evidence of Roman activity around the development area. However a short stretch of Ryknield Street Roman road within Wingerworth parish is scheduled (SAM DR140, HER number 15328). The scheduled area survives as an earthwork from Readleadmill Brook to just short of the back gardens of houses on the eastern edge of Hunloke Estate. The HER also indicates that archaeological fieldwork in the former Avenue Coking Plant failed to identify any evidence for the continuation of the Roman Road through the northern part of Wingerworth, or where it crossed the River Rother.

Further Roman activity in the area is indicated by one piece of iron slag (HER number 15327) that was picked up in Hardwick Wood during 1999; this could have dated from almost anywhere within the Roman period.

Map regression indicates that the land immediately to the north of the proposed development area was used as arable land throughout the medieval period. Wingerworth is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, when it was called *Wingreude* (Cameron 1959: 330). In terms of Historic Environment Monument records, the Grade I listed All Saints Church (HER number 15303, listed building number 393548) is the most significant. The church has been in existence since the early 12<sup>th</sup> century and has undergone a number of later additions and alternations, the most recent being an extension in 1963-4.

Possible industrial activity during the medieval period is evidenced by two large deposits of probable iron bloomery slag (HER number 15345), discovered within 90m of each other within Hardwick Wood. These have been dated from anywhere between 1200 and 1600 AD.

Iron working and industrial activity continued throughout the post-medieval period, on a slightly larger scale. This can be identified within a 1km radius of the site; for instance the site of Joseph Butler's ironworks, which comprised of two blast furnaces, a foundry and ancillary buildings opened in 1780 and was out of use by around 1816 (HER number 15336). Excavations of these ironworks were carried out for Derbyshire Archaeological Society in 1973, and the site has been completely destroyed by opencast mining and subsequent

restoration. An associated tramway, now also at least partly destroyed, led to the south (HER number 15337).

The development area has been pasture land since at least the 1920s, and before that seemed to have been farmland perhaps associated with Hockley Farm, which was built in the 1750s (Slacker 2011:1). There are no Historic Environment Monument records located within the development area.

Further to the DBA, Pre-Construct Geophysics undertook a geophysical survey (Bunn, 2014). This concluded that the archaeological potential for this area was fairly low. It recorded a strong curvilinear anomaly in the western part of the site, however it has been noted that a corresponding spread of slag on the topsoil-stripped surface at the time of survey may mean that it is a form of modern drain. This feature is also abutted by further linear anomalies, possibly indicating further land drains. It is also a possibility that these linear anomalies represent ditches/gullies.

# 6 Aims and objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, depth, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the site. Such information is used to assist the Local Planning Authority to reconcile development proposals within their own policy framework, and to safeguard archaeological remains when at risk from development proposals. In addition, it is important to highlight the need for any further archaeological intervention and take into consideration such things as sympathetic foundation designs with a view to minimising damage to archaeological deposits (mitigation) where appropriate.

# 7 Methodology

The locations of the trenches were chosen to target geophysical anomalies to provide the best chance of encountering archaeological features. Initially, 10 trenches were to be excavated measuring 25m by 2m, but due to redevelopment of part of the area to be occupied by Trenches 1, 2 and 3, an eleventh trench was located in the vicinity of the lost areas. The planned location of Trench 4 was under a spoil heap, so it was moved approximately 30m west. The revised trench positions are shown in Figure 2.

The adopted methodology followed the scheme set out within the Specification (PCAS 2014). The trenches were excavated by a JCB mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, down to the level of the natural in the absence of any archaeological features. Each trench was hand cleaned and digitally photographed from one end, with the aid of a T-scale to show its extent and the natural deposits. Archaeological features were excavated manually in order to establish the form, depth, character and extent of features and deposits. Context sheets were completed for each cut and deposit, and multi-context drawings were produced in both plan and section. Plans were recorded at 1:100 and sections 1:20. Colour slide and digital photographs were taken to complement these accounts. A small number of artefacts were recovered, and their contexts labelled, but these consisted of modern industrial waste so were not sent to specialists for further assessment; instead these were processed at PCAS offices. No samples were recovered.

The evaluation was carried out on  $14^{th} - 16^{th}$  July 2014, by Mike Rowe of PCAS.

# 8 Results (Figs. 3-23)

A full context summary list is provided in Appendix 2. All trenches are 25m by 1.8m unless otherwise stated.

*Trench 1* (11.5m x 1.8m; Fig. 3)

Only the eastern end of the trench was excavated as the west end had already been covered by modern hardcore, and what remained had been reduced to the natural level (101). A strong geophysical reading in this area resulted from a natural seam of iron stone. Nothing of archaeological interest was revealed.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Apart from a small area in the NNE end, the trench had already been stripped of topsoil (201). The subsoil (202) had been heavily disturbed to the extent that much of the trench revealed an undisturbed natural level (203). A recorded geophysical anomaly corresponded with a narrow band of iron stone similar to that in Trench 1. No archaeology was present.

*Trench 3* (6m x 1.8m; Fig. 5)

Where present, the subsoil (301) had been heavily disturbed by recent plant movement. Most of this area had been reduced to a level below that of the natural (302) by the new road. Only a small part of the north end was not already excavated. No archaeological remains were present.

*Trench 4* (21m x 1.8m; Figs. 6-7)

The location of Trench 4 was moved slightly north-west due to a spoil heap. A thin topsoil (401) covered a very thin subsoil layer (402) which was more of an interface with the natural (403). A shallow ditch [404] 0.44m wide by 0.16m deep, and aligned north to south, was located in the western end of the trench and contained a single fill (405). A track (406) made of stone fragments and slag was noted towards the western edge which was directly on top of the natural, suggesting a modern date.

Trench 5 (Figs. 8-9)

Trench 5 was aimed at a large round geophysical anomaly. After a sondage was excavated, this anomaly was rendered likely to have resulted from modern material being deposited over the topsoil. Located in an undisturbed part of the site, the profile revealed a good example of a complete soil profile consisting of topsoil (501), a subsoil interface (502) and the clay natural (503). A large modern test pit truncated the northern end. Approximately 2m south of this, a NW-SE aligned ditch [504] 1.10m wide by 0.30m deep traversed the trench, and this contained three discernable deposits; a primary fill (505) and two secondary deposits (506) and (507). The latter may have been dumped to offset the effects of slumpage, perhaps revealing the presence of a bank along the southern side of the ditch. Even so, there was nothing to suggest that the ditch was pre-modern in date.

*Trench* 6 (Figs. 10-11)

The topsoil (601) had been stripped from most of the trench and a large modern test pit had been excavated towards the western end. This cut directly through a shallow gully [604] 1.10m wide by 0.20m deep, which contained fragments of the type of stone seen in stone-filled land drains. The subsoil interface (602) was thin and overlay the mottled clay natural (603).

*Trench* 7 (Figs. 12-13)

Topsoil (701), a thin subsoil interface (702) and natural (703) were identified, but no archaeology was observed.

Trench 8 (Figs. 14-15)

Topsoil (801), a subsoil interface (802) and natural (803) were identified. A very shallow linear feature, 0.45m wide by 0.05m deep was identified running parallel to the land drains at either end of the trench. Its flat base suggests the possibility of a wheel rut, or perhaps a small undated gully.

*Trench* 9 (Figs. 16-17)

Topsoil (901), subsoil (902) and natural (903) deposits were identified, but no archaeology was observed.

*Trench 10* (Figs 18-19)

Topsoil (1001), a thin disturbed subsoil (1002) and natural deposits (1003) were identified. Perpendicular to the trench, a shallow but fairly wide linear feature [1004], 1.25m wide by 0.16m deep, was identified towards the north end. The associated fill (1005) contained an undecorated cream coloured clay pipe stem, two pieces of coal and two pieces of vitreous glassy slag. Since the dating of pipes is ascertained from the bowl, which holds the tobacco, it is not possible to assign a date other than between the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The slag pieces and pipe stem are all likely to have been residual and modern in date.

*Trench 11* (Figs. 20-23)

This trench was excavated to compensate for parts of Trenches 1, 2 and 3 which had been lost to development. The top layer remaining was a thin subsoil (1101), which revealed three linear features when removed. An undated ditch [1102] aligned SE-NW 1.10m wide by 0.40m deep was situated at the south east end, while shallow ditches [1104] and [1107] were situated 4m apart and followed the same SSE-NNW alignment. The latter, measuring 0.47m by 0.15m, was revealed below a hardcore track (1106) when this was removed - five pieces of modern industrial slag were recovered from this track, which ran across the site in a roughly north to south alignment. The two linear features may have been related to each other. The hardcore track was found to be deposited directly on top of [1107], with no additional deposits present between the two features. The source of the slag and waste was likely to have been "The Avenue", a local coking works situated in Wingerworth and operating during the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 9 Conclusion

The density of archaeological remains discovered was low, thus confirming expectations based on the geophysical survey results (Bunn, 2014), which recorded a strong curvilinear anomaly in the western part of the site. This proved to be a modern trackway of hardcore, induced by the slag finds contained within this track. The shallow linear features present in Trenches 5, 6 and 8 were within 50m of each other. The shallow ditch in Trench 10 contained two pieces of coal, two pieces of glassy slag and a cream coloured pipe stem. The mid 20<sup>th</sup> century coking works situated in Wingerworth was the probable source of the slag, therefore it is highly probable that the discovered remains are of a modern date.

# 10 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd. would like to thank Rippon Homes Ltd. for this commission and for their cooperation during the groundworks.

# 11 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will remain there until transference to a suitable receiving museum can be arranged. The vitreous slag finds will be kept in the unlikely event that they are to be sent to specialists.

# 12 Bibliography

Bunn, D., 2014. Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Land off Deerlands Road, Wingerworth, Derbyshire. Unpublished report by Pre-Construct Geophysics

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*Hundred, Morleyston & Litchurch Hundred.,* 1993 rep. Nottingham: English Place-Name Society

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OS Explorer Map, 1999, *Sheet 269. Chesterfield & Alfreton: Sutton in Ashfield & Bolsover.* Ordnance Survey, Southampton. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278)

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd., 2014. *Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Evaluation, Deerlands Road, Wingerworth* 

Websites:

http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html

# Appendix 1 Colour Plates



**Plate 1**: South facing section of ditch [404], situated in the north-western end of Trench 4, which was relocated 30 metres west of its original location. A land drain cuts the ditch towards the south-east.



Plate 2: Ditch [504] prior to excavation. Looking north-east.



**Plate 3**: South-east facing section through ditch [504]. There seems to be some plough disturbance on top.



**Plate 4**: Section through gully [604]. A small extended area had to be excavated since a modern test pit had destroyed the southern end of the feature. Looking north north-east.



**Plate 5**: Representative section through Trench 7, looking north-east. Across the site, most of the natural substrate, where undisturbed, was sealed by a very thin subsoil interface and a mid brown silty loam topsoil.



**Plate 6**: Very shallow gully [804] aligned north to south, parallel with land drains situated in Trench 8. Looking south south-west.



**Plate 7**: West facing section through ditch [1004]. Finds recovered were pieces of coal and glassy slag, and a clay pipe stem, all likely to be of a modern date.



**Plate 8**: Trench 11 after excavation, looking west north-west. Ditch [1102] can be seen in the foreground, with land drains in the middle of the trench.



**Plate 9**: Ditch [1102], looking south-east. A land drain cuts the western edge of the excavated area.



**Plate 10**: Ditch [1104], probably the same feature as [404], looking south. This is in the same alignment as the trackway (1106) and another ditch [1107].



**Plate 11**: Rough trackway (1106) looking north-west. This ran across the site and was made of hardcore and contained stone fragments and some glassy slag material.



**Plate 12**: Ditch [1107] was buried under the hardcore track (1106), and followed the same north-west to south-east alignment. Looking south-east.



**Plate 13**: The parallel courses of trackway (1106) and ditch [1107] are clearly shown where a sondage was extended to the south of Trench 11. Ditch [1104] is just visible in the top left corner of the photograph; this also runs parallel.

# Appendix 2: Context Summary

Trench	Context No.	Туре	Description
1	101	Natural	Mixed light yellowish brown and blue-grey clay with lens of iron stone
2	201	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam. Only present at the NNE limit of the trench. Less than 0.25m thick
2	202	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt. Mostly machine disturbed. Less than 0.15m thick
2	203	Natural	Mixed banded bluish grey clay and silty greyish brown clay with mudstone fragments and lenses of grit and small stones throughout
3	301	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt. Heavily disturbed by recent plant movement. Less than 0.10m thick
3	302	Natural	Yellowish brown and blue-grey clay
4	401	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam, max. 0.20m thick
4	402	Subsoil	Disturbed top of natural, max. 0.10m thick
4	403	Natural	Mixed light yellowish brown clay with small stone fragments and mid blue-grey clay with small stone fragments
4	404	Cut	Gully or ditch aligned N-S, 0.44m wide, 0.16m deep. Possibly the same as [1104]
4	405	Fill	Fill of [404]. Mid brown silt
4	406	Layer	Rough track made of stone fragments and slag material. Same as (1106)
5	501	Topsoil	Mid slightly orangey brown clayey, fine silt loam. Max thickness 0.25m
5	502	Subsoil	Disturbed mixed topsoil and top of natural. Max. thickness 0.10m
5	503	Natural	Clean light yellowish brown clay becoming more mixed orangey brown clay with grit and stone inclusions towards the north. More light grey mottling at depth
5	504	Cut	Ditch aligned NW-SE, 1.10m wide, 0.30m deep
5	505	Fill	Fill of [504]. Mid greyish brown slightly sandy silt
5	506	Fill	Fill of [504]. Redeposited mid brown silty loam, 0.18m deep
5	507	Fill	Fill of [504]. Redeposited natural, 0.16m deep
6	601	Topsoil	Mid brown clayey silt loam. Only present in a small area at the eastern end, 0.25m thick
6	602	Subsoil	Disturbed top of natural. Max. thickness 0.10m
6	603	Natural	Mottled light greyish yellow clay with a band of orange brown gritty stony clay
6	604	Cut	Shallow gully aligned NNE-SSW. >2mlong, 1.10m wide, 0.20m deep
6	605	Fill	Fill of [604]. Mid brown silt with occasional stone fragments and charcoal flecks
7	701	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam with occasional medium sized stone fragments, 0.25m thick
7	702	Subsoil	Disturbed top of the natural. Field ploughed so no real subsoil left. Max. thickness 0.10m
7	703	Natural	Mixed light greyish yellow clay and gritty orange clayey sand. Frequent iron stone flecks and lenses
8	801	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam with occasional small and medium stone fragments, 0.30m thick
8	802	Subsoil	Disturbed top of natural. Max thickness 0.10m
8	803	Natural	Mixed light greyish yellow clay and gritty orange clayey sand. Frequent iron stone flecks and lenses
8	804	Cut	Shallow gully (?) aligned NNE-SSW. Possibly an old wheel rut
8	805	Fill	Fill of [804]. Mid-dark brown silty loam
9	901	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam, 0.30m thick
9	902	Subsoil	Disturbed top of natural, 0.15m thick
9	903	Natural	Mainly orangey brown clay with small stone fragments. Gritty and patches of dark iron stone and some blue grey clay

Trench	Context No.	Туре	Description
10	1001	Topsoil	Mid brown silty loam with very occasional small stone fragments, 0.25m thick
10	1002	Subsoil	Disturbed top of natural, max. thickness 0.10m
10	1003	Natural	Mixed light yellowish grey clay and orangey brown gritty stone clay with iron stone flecks and patches of dark blue grey clay
10	1004	Cut	Shallow linear aligned NW-SE, 1.25m wide by 0.16m deep.
10	1005	Fill	Fill of [1004]. Mid brown silt
11	1101	Subsoil	Disturbed top of natural, max. thickness 0.10m
11	1102	Cut	Ditch aligned NW-SE, 1.10m wide by 0.40m deep
11	1103	Fill	Fill of [1102]. Mid mottled greyish brown sandy silt with very occasional small stone fragments
11	1104	Cut	Ditch or gully aligned SSE-NNW, 0.64m wide by 0.16m deep
11	1105	Fill	Fill of [1104]. Mid greyish brown clayey silt
11	1106	Layer	Rough track made of stone fragments and slag material. Same as (406)
11	1107	Cut	Ditch aligned NW-SE, 0.47m wide, 0.15m
11	1108	Fill	Fill of [1107]. Mid brown silt with frequent slag and stone, same material as (1106)

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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#### **Printable version**

# OASIS ID: preconst3-186055

#### **Project details**

Project name	Deerlands Road, Wingerworth
Short description of the project	The development area is located to the south of Chesterfield, in the village of Wingerworth. The site is approximately rectangular in plan and consists of approximately 2.6ha of land. Archaeological activity has been recorded within a 1km radius of the development site; however no Historic Environment Monument records are located within the site. The trial trench evaluation has produced an entirely negative result where no significant archaeological remains were identified.
Project dates	Start: 09-07-2014 End: 11-07-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	DRWE14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE WINGERWORTH Deerlands Road, Wingerworth
Study area	2.60 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 3825 6650 53.1939213579 -1.42741700536 53 11 38 N 001 25 38 W Point

# **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Will Munford
Project supervisor	M. Rowe

# **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Weston Park Museum
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Derbyshire HER
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Map","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Entered by	Richard Mandeville (richard@pre-construct.co.uk)
Entered on	29 July 2014

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