

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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## **High Crindledyke Farm, Carlisle, Cumbria Archaeological Evaluation**

### **Data Structure Report No. 1970**

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# 1.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) at High Crindledyke Farm, north of Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR NY 3381 5604, Fig. 1) during October 2011. The work was commissioned by Story Homes Ltd.

The evaluation was required prior to the construction of a residential housing development. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA and based upon documents passed to CFA by Story Homes. The WSI was agreed by Jeremy Parsons, Cumbria County Council's Archaeologist.

### 1.2 Background

An Environmental Statement was undertaken on the Masterplan for the proposed development at High Crindledyke Farm. This included a chapter on the Cultural Heritage which was prepared by CFA Archaeology Ltd. No features or sites of archaeological significance were identified in the evaluation area described herein.

A pre-determination geophysical survey of the development area was carried out for CFA Archaeology Ltd (Harrison & Gidman 2008). This did not cover the evaluation area described herein as it was unsuitable for survey.

A Level 3 standing building record of the farmhouse, barns and all associated agricultural buildings was undertaken and will be submitted under a separate cover.

### 1.3 Objectives

The project's aims were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area through trial trenching evaluation
- To establish the vulnerability of any archaeological features to the proposed development
- To propose any mitigation measures.

## **2. METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance and Code of Conduct.

### **2.2 Trial Trenching**

A 5% evaluation (150m<sup>2</sup>) of the field to the immediate east of the farm (3000m<sup>2</sup>) was undertaken. Indicative trench locations were agreed with the council archaeologist in advance of the works being carried out. However, on site conditions including waterlogging and on site obstructions such as other contractor's welfare facilities and storage of agricultural and other materials lead to a modification of this plan.

All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and modern deposits down to subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

The locations of all trenches were recorded using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **3.1 General**

The evaluation area occupied a field immediately to the east of the farmstead. At the time of the evaluation it was rough pasture and was being used for storage of building refuse and farming equipment along its west side. The ground was waterlogged and vehicles and mobile plant had left deep ruts across some parts of the field. The surface was mostly flat with rough undulations in the south-west corner, which were targeted by Trench 5. Topsoil (**001**) varied between 0.1m to 0.4m thick. Natural subsoil (**000**) across the site was reddish sandy clay. Clay drains and occasional ploughmarks were present across the field.

### **3.2 Trial Trenches**

Five trial trenches totalling 150m<sup>2</sup> were excavated (Fig. 2). Only Trench 5 contained anthropogenic features other than drains and plough scores and is described below. Descriptions of all trenches are contained in Appendix 1.

#### *Trench 5*

Evidence of modern disturbance was present in this trench as a thin layer of topsoil and turf (**001**) overlay a deposit of made ground (**002**) comprising redeposited clay and rubble containing modern debris including plastic up to 0.3m thick. Below this was buried topsoil (**003**) which was up to 0.2m thick.

Below the topsoil (003) a shallow linear feature (004), aligned SW-NE, was cut into the natural subsoil. It was 0.8m wide and 0.15m deep with shallow sloping sides with a concave base (Fig. 3). The fill comprised dark brown silt (005) which was barely discernible from the overlying topsoil (003). No finds were recovered.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The remains of a shallow linear feature were revealed in Trench 5. No date or function could be ascribed to it and other archaeological remains or deposits were revealed.

The paucity of definitively archaeological features within the evaluation trenches combined with the results of the geophysical survey of the adjacent field suggest that there is a very low potential for previously unknown significant archaeological remains to be present within the evaluation area. However, any decision on the need, for additional work in mitigation remains solely with CCCHES on behalf of the planning authority.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with Tullie House, Cumbria.

#### **5. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Harrison S & Gidman J, 2008 Crindledyke Housing Development Geophysical Survey, Unpublished CFA client Report No 1523.

### APPENDIX 1: Trial Trench Register

Trench No.	Dimensions (m)	Depth to natural (m)	Archaeological Remains
1	15 x 2	0.3-0.7	Clay drains, occasional ploughmarks
2	15 x 2	0.3	Clay drains, occasional ploughmarks
3	15 x 2	0.3	Clay drains, occasional ploughmarks
4	15 x 2	0.4	Occasional ploughmarks
5	15 x 2	0.3-0.5	Shallow linear feature (003)

### APPENDIX 2: Context Register

No.	Trench No.	Description
000	All	Geological subsoil
001	All	Topsoil
002	5	Made ground, redeposited clay and rubble
003	5	Buried topsoil
004	5	Cut of linear feature
005	5	Fill of linear feature (004)

### APPENDIX 3: Digital Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description	From
1	Trench 1	S
2	Trench 2	SE
3	Trench 2, detail of clay drain	
4	Trench 3	SE
5	Trench 4	SW
6	Trench 5	SW
7	Trench 5, detail of soil profile	S
8	Trench 5, section of 004	N







Fig. 2 - Section of ditch 004



Fig. 3 - General view of Trench 3



Fig. 4 - Trench 5, detail of soil profile showing made ground (002) overlying buried topsoil

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