

**LAND TO THE REAR OF
4 HILLCREST AVENUE, CASTLEFORD,
WEST YORKSHIRE:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**



On behalf of: Bluebell Homes Limited

Planning App. No. 16/01162/FUL

CS Archaeology
September 2016

On behalf of: Mr D Tenant
Bluebell Homes Limited
The Hollies
2A Hemsby Road
Castleford
West Yorkshire
WF10 5EG

National Grid Reference (NGR): SE (4)45975 (4)24700

Project Number: 165

Planning App. No: 16/01162/FUL

OASIS ID: csarchaeo1-262051

Fieldwork, Report and Illustrations by: Chris Scurfield

Timing: Fieldwork September 2016
Report September 2016

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Frontispiece: view of PDA, looking northeast

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is in response to an archaeological planning condition set by Wakefield District Council (Application No. 16/01162/FUL) for the construction of two detached dwellings with integral garages on land to the rear of 4 Hillcrest Avenue, Castleford, West Yorkshire.
- 1.2 No archaeological features were revealed during the excavations, and also no residual pottery/artefacts were encountered or recovered earlier than a 19th century clay pipe stem.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Castleford is situated just north of the M62 (Jct 32) and south of the River Calder, and lies between Wakefield (11 kms WSW) and Knottingly (7 kms to the east). The Proposed development area (PDA), lies to on the east of Hillcrest Avenue (**Plate 1: Figure 1**), and is positioned towards the head of a series of 'dry' limestone valleys (**Plate10**).

2.2 This report has been commissioned by Mr D Tennant, of Bluebell Homes Ltd. to record any archaeological deposits/artefacts evident during the excavation of two detached dwellings with integral garages

3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 **Historic and Archaeological Background:**

3.1.1 The site is situated in an area of known archaeological potential as highlighted by WYAAS (13/7/2016). This potential consists of Prehistoric to Romano-British settlement in the form of farmsteads, trackways and field systems.

3.1.2 Aerial photographs show a well-defined enclosure and field system is located immediately to the east of Hillcrest Avenue (West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record PRN 977 and a Class III Area of Archaeological Importance). Archaeological observation and excavation at Hillcrest Meadows revealed further evidence of settlement (WYAAS 2016).

3.1.3 The Castleford area is notable for its Roman fort and town of *Legentium*



3.1.2 Geologically the PDA sits on Lower Magnesian Limestone upon which numerous sites have been evidenced through cropmarks and excavation (WYAS 2010, 95).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 To ensure that any buried archaeological remains present are investigated in order that an understanding of their nature extent and significance be obtained, before they are damaged or destroyed. The watching brief will also allow for the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered and that the knowledge gained is then disseminated.
- 4.2 If archaeology is revealed every effort will be made to enable the deposits to be preserved in situ.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 This has been carried out according to a Project Design (Appendix 1). During the course of the watching brief digital photographs were taken of the general work and these have been incorporated into this report.
- 5.2 Due to the nature of deposits and absence of any significant archaeology, no archive has been prepared.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The watching brief took place in 5-6 September 2016. The watching Brief comprised of the excavation of a series of trenches which were excavated by machine using a toothless ditching bucket (**Plate 2**). The trenches were c.0.6m wide x 0.7-0.9m in depth.
- 6.2 The trenches were laid out on a SE to NW alignment and were divided into the NW trench system (4a) and the SW system (4b). The systems consisted of an outer circumference trench (**Figure 2**) with 3-4 cross walls.
- 6.2 It was immediately apparent the soil stratigraphy had survived across the site. Typically this stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil (dark brown clayey silt) above 0.2m of reddish brown silty clay. Immediately below the sub-soil was the natural limestone substrate (**Plates 3-7**). The stratigraphy outlined above was contiguous across the site. It was significant that, apart from occasional root disturbance, no further major interventions had apparently occurred, and had not been subject to ploughing. It was felt by CS Archaeology that if archaeology was present there would have been a high probability of detection.
- 6.3 All the foundation trenches proved negative for archaeological features such as ditches, post holes and artefacts earlier than the 19th century. Artefacts which were uncovered dated to the 19th century and were confined within the silty loam topsoil, and consisted of a range C19th century artefacts including sherds of glazed earthenware and a clay pipe stem (**Plate 9**).

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The watching brief proved negative for any identifiable archaeology, despite optimum stratigraphic conditions.
- 7.2 The watching brief has highlighted the potential for archaeology in discrete areas, or 'islands' of archaeological potential that have not been subject to historic development and intensive agriculture.
- 7.3 No other archaeological features were noted across the PDA, and therefore no further work, as part of this planning application, is recommended.

8 REFERENCES

- 8.1 *Secondary Sources*
WYAAS 2016, *Consultation Response to Planning Application*, unpublished
WYAS 2010, *Understanding the Cropmark Landscapes of the Magnesian Limestone*, Leeds
- 8.2 *Cartographic References*
Ordnance Survey 1: 625000, Roman Britain

Ordnance Survey digital map 2015 courtesy of Northlight Architecture Limited.

Ordnance Survey 1: 25000, Explorer, Sheet 289

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Mr D Tennant of Bluebell Homes Limited for commissioning this report and arranging access to the site during construction.

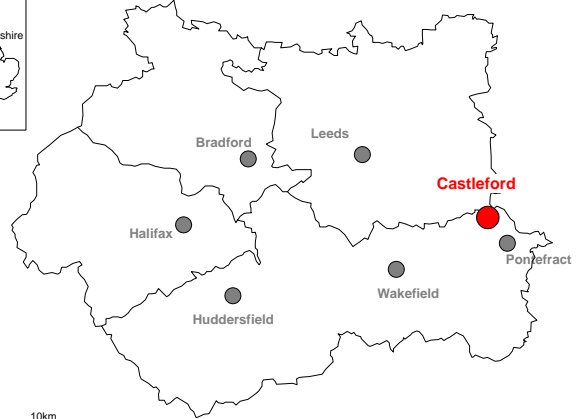
FIGURES



for inset, see figure 2



West Yorkshire



0 10km

445

446

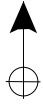
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Land to the Rear of 4 Hillcrest Avenue,
Castleford, West Yorkshire: An
Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 1: Location Map

CS Archaeology
September 2016



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— property boundary

not to scale

PLATES



Plate 1: pre-excitation view of the site, looking northeast



Plate 2: typical foundation excavation view, before the excavation of the natural limestone, looking northeast



Plate 3: post-excitation view of plot 4a, looking southeast



Plate 4: oblique post-excitation view of plot 4a, looking south



Plate 5: detail of typical section of plot 4a, looking north



Plate 6: post-excitation view of plot 4b, looking southeast



Plate 7: oblique post-excitation view of plot 4b, looking northeast



Plate 8: detail of typical section of plot 4b, looking southwest



Plate 9: detail of topsoil artefacts which date to the C19th (glazed pottery and a clay pipe stem)



Plate 10: general view looking southeast towards Ferrybridge

APPENDICES

1. Project Design

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING: LAND TO THE REAR OF 4
HILLCREST AVENUE,
CASTLEFORD, (WF10 3QL)
WEST YORKSHIRE**

Planning Ref. 16/01162/FUL

CS Archaeology

September 2016

- 0.1 This Project Design (PD) is in response to a condition on Planning Consent (16/01162/FUL) for the erection of 2 detached dwellings at land at Land to the Rear of 4 Hillcrest Avenue, Castleford, (Wf10 3ql), West Yorkshire.
- 0.2 This PD proposes that an archaeological watching brief is implemented to record potential archaeological deposits during all below ground works, specifically during site reduction, service trenches and foundation excavations.
- 0.3 The results from this works will provide a more detailed record of the Proposed Development Area's (PDA) archaeological resource, and will mitigate any archaeology by 'preservation by record'.
- 0.4 Archaeological monitoring (often referred to as a 'Watching Brief') is required to ensure that remains that are to be affected by works will be recorded and/or retrieved.
- 0.5 All archaeological work will comply with:
- *"Regional statement of good practice for archaeology in the development process, Yorkshire, the Humber & the North East"* (available for download from the WYAAS website);
 - relevant IfA Standard and guidance documents;
 - relevant EH best practice guidance documents.
- 0.6 All archaeological work will be monitored by the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisor Service (WYAAS).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Details

1.1.1 *Site Name:* 4 Hillcrest Avenue, Castleford, West Yorkshire

1.1.2 *Status:* non- statutory

1.2 Archaeological Background

1.2.1 The site is situated in an area of known archaeological potential as highlighted by WYAAS (13/7/2016). This potential consists of Prehistoric to Romano-British settlement in the form of farmsteads, trackways and field systems.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 This Project Design (PD) has been written in response to a condition on planning consent (Application No. 16/01162/FUL).

1.3.2 This PD represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements during the redevelopment of the PDA. This is in accordance with Local Plan Policies and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 12).

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 To ensure that any buried archaeological remains present are investigated in order that an understanding of their nature extent and significance be obtained, before they are damaged or destroyed. The watching brief will also allow for the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered and that the knowledge gained is then disseminated.

2.2 If archaeology is revealed every effort will be made to enable the deposits to be preserved in situ.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Procedures and Objectives

3.1.1 Access during the works will be afforded to CS Archaeology at all reasonable times, arrangements for access to the site will be agreed with the client Mr D Tenant, in advance.

3.1.2 CS Archaeology will ensure that any plant and machinery operated by CS Archaeology is used with due care and attention.

3.1.3 Ditching bucket will be used at all times unless modern/concrete deposits are encountered.

3.1.4 This project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and professional standards and guidance (IFA, 2001).

- 3.1.5 All finds that are 'treasure' will be reported to the coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act Code of Practice (1997).
- 3.1.6 If architectural features or archaeological remains are discovered during the course of the site works CS Archaeology will be afforded the opportunity to investigate and record them. Significant or unexpected discoveries will be immediately reported to the archaeological monitor (WYAAS).
- 3.1.7 During the watching brief analytical drawings and a written report on the deposits will be made sufficient to illustrate archaeological details.

3.2 Photography

- 3.2.1 All photographs will contain an appropriate graduated photographic scale. Digital photographs will be taken to illustrate the report and to supplement the archive, copies will be included in the digital archive which will be supplied both the client and to WYAAS.

3.3 Site Monitoring

- 3.3.1 WYAAS will be notified at least two weeks in advance of the site works and the start of the site works, so that arrangements for monitoring the work can be made.
- 3.3.2 Monitoring will be arranged so that all excavated areas can be inspected in an exposed condition.

3.4 Finds Recovery and Conservation Strategy

- 3.4.1 If any site reduction work does take place and this is not anticipated, the following categories of artefact may be predicted on this site: pottery, ferrous and non ferrous metalwork, glass, ceramic building material, worked bone, flint and/or worked stone. Potential finds could date from any period.
- 3.4.2 Should a site archive be created this will be offered to Pontefract Museum Service, and a project initiation form (attached) will be completed in advance with copies sent to Sheffield Museum and WYAAS.
- 3.4.3 All recording, marking and storage of material will be of archive quality and recording systems will be compatible with Pontefract Museum. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects and an assessment of their long-term conservation and storage needs.
- 3.4.4 Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication First Aid for Finds. In accordance with the procedures outlined in MAP2, all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be X-radiographed before assessment.
- 3.4.5 If required a specialist assessment report on the recovered artefacts will be undertaken, with a view to their potential for further study. Any assessment report will form an appendix to the main report. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and storage needs.

3.5 Health and Safety

3.5.1 CS Archaeology will operate with due regard to health.

3.6 Post –Recording Work and Report Preparation

3.6.1 Once the site works have been completed, a full report of the results of the watching brief will be undertaken by CS Archaeology, within 3 months. The post-excavation assessment of material if recovered will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991). The report will include: background information, methods, detailed results, grid references, conclusion and discussion.

3.6.2 The watching brief report may if required include a phased interpretation of the site, and a detailed photographic index.

3.6.3 A copy of this PD will be included as an appendix to the final report.

3.7 Post Excavation Specialists

3.7.1

Prehistoric and Medieval Pottery	Dr C G Cumberpatch, Sheffield
Roman Pottery	Ms R Leary
Anglo-Saxon Pottery	Ms J Young
Slags	Dr R MacKenzie, Sheffield
Environmental sampling and analysis	Ms E Simmons, Sheffield
Bone (Animal)	Mr J Buglass, Northallerton
Bone (Human)	M Holst, York Osteolo-Archaeology

3.7.2 Should any further specialists be required these will be employed accordingly after approval by the WYAAS.

3.8 Preservation in situ

3.8.1 During the course of the watching brief, structures and deposits could be encountered that require the need for preservation in situ. CS Archaeology will ensure that any feature meriting preservation will be reported to and a design solution if feasible will be developed in full consultation with WYAAS.

3.9 Archive Preparation & Deposition

3.9.1 A site archive will be prepared in accordance with English Heritage MoRPHE guidelines (English Heritage 2006). See also *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales* Society of Museum Archaeologists 1995.

- 3.9.2 The site archive, including finds and environmental material, subject to the permission of the relevant landowners, will be labelled, conserved and stored according to the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC)'s *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (Walker 1990) and the Museums and Galleries Commission's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*, 1992.
- 3.9.3 Arrangements will be made for the full and final archive to be deposited in with Doncaster Museum in accordance with their deposition and archiving standards. If, after the watching brief, no further archaeological work is initiated, the archive will be deposited. An agreed allowance will be made for a contribution to Doncaster Museum towards the curation and storage of material.
- 3.9.4 If further archaeological mitigation is requested any additional archaeological work undertaken, the archive will be prepared accordingly for incorporation into the final archive.
- 3.9.5 Archive deposition will be arranged in consultation with, and will take account of Pontefract Museum's requirements and the relevant guidelines (see above). The timetable for deposition shall be agreed on completion of the site archive and report.

3.10 Report Submission

- 3.10.1 Upon completion of the field work a full report will be produced and copies with CD Rom containing the text of the report and illustrations (including all photos and slides taken), scanned at 300 dpi, is to be provided with each copy of the printed report submitted to the client and Mr. J McNeil of the WYAAS. As a minimum, a summary or interim statement will be produced 6 weeks after completion of the fieldwork, and a full report within 3 months.
- 3.10.2 Copies of the completed report will be submitted in both hard (if required) and digital formats to:
- The Client Mr D Tenant
 - Mr D Hunter and the HER at the WYAAS.

3.9 Publicity

- 3.9.1 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, and an OASIS form will be completed for the project.
- 3.9.2 CS Archaeology will either arrange for copyright on the deposited material to be assigned to the Pontefract Museum in perpetuity; this licence will allow the archive to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.
- 3.9.3 CS Archaeology is aware that this work may lead to further archaeological dissemination.

3.10 References

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2)
Institute of Archaeologists, 2001, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* Reading

*Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Land to the Rear of 4 Hillcrest Avenue,
Castleford, (Wf10 3qj), West Yorkshire*

Watkinson D. & Neal V., 1998, *First Aid for Finds* (3rd edition), RESCUE & the Archaeological
Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.

South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, 2014, 'Model Brief for Archaeological Monitoring
(Watching Brief)

Treasure Act, 1996, Code of Practice

National Planning Policy Framework, 2012, Department for Communities and Local
Government, Chp 12. Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Any comments on this PD please address to Chris Scurfield at:

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