



Land off Craythorne Road, Rolleston on Dove, Staffordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Prepared by: Victoria Green (Supervisor)
Checked by: Carl Champness (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by: Leo Webley (Head of Post-Excavation)
Approved for Issue by: David Score (Head of Fieldwork)
Signature:



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OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SG

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk

w. oxfordarchaeology.com

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Land off Craythorne Road, Rolleston on Dove, Staffordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Victoria Green

With a contribution from John Cotter

and illustrations by Diana Chard

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Summary

In January 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group) on behalf of Charterpoint Developments at land at Craythorne Road, Rolleston on Dove, Staffordshire (SK 24003 27434). The work comprised a LiDAR survey and ground truthing of the results through trial trench evaluation. The works were carried out as part of the planning condition for a proposed retirement development. A total of five trenches were excavated targeted on specific impact areas of the proposed development.

The site is relatively flat and low earthworks of ridge and furrow survive across the area. Furrows were identified in three of the five trenches excavated, and no other archaeological features were found. The results of the LiDAR survey confirmed the presence of ridge and furrow across the site. No archaeological features other than furrows were recorded within the trenches.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group) for commissioning this project on behalf of Charterpoint Developments. Thanks are also extended to Shane Kelleher who monitored the work on behalf of East Staffordshire Borough Council for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Victoria Green, who was supported by Simon Batsman. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Victoria Green, Simon Batsman, Aidan Farnan and Diana Chard. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group) to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed development of up to 32 retirement living bungalows with access off Claythorne Road, Rolleston on Dove, Staffordshire. Five 50m trenches were excavated in order to assess the archaeological potential of areas with greatest impact.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. P/2016/01507). A specification was set by Shane Kelleher, the County Archaeologist advising East Staffordshire Borough Council, and a written scheme of investigation was produced by CgMs (2019), detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition. This document outlines the results of the evaluation.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (2014) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The area of proposed development consists of c 1.16ha of land centred on National Grid Reference SK 24003 27434 (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the south by Claythorne Road, to the west by rear property boundaries and to the north-east by a field boundary and outlying field.
- 1.2.2 The site is relatively flat and is situated at c 56m AOD. Low earthworks of ridge and furrow exist across the site.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone (BGS online). No superficial deposits are recorded across the site.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site was examined prior to planning permission being granted through a Heritage Statement (Lanpro 2016; ref. CPD001/0705). The Statement identified that the site does not contain any designated heritage assets.
- 1.3.2 There are no non-designated heritage assets recorded on the site in the HER on Heritage Gateway. However, extant ridge and furrow earthworks of probable medieval date were identified across the site.
- 1.3.3 The significance of ridge and furrow derives predominantly, if not entirely, from its contribution to the historic landscape character rather than any archaeological interest. Its significance relates largely to its visual appeal.
- 1.3.4 From the Heritage Gateway, there are 40 entries recorded on the HER within 500m of the site. There is no known evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity within the search area. Rolleston village, c 250m north-west of the site, is recorded in the Domesday

Survey (1086) which suggests it was established by the late Saxon period. An Anglo-Scandinavian cross is also recorded in the churchyard of St Mary's church, c 430m north-west and south of the site. The remaining records represent post-medieval/modern structures.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To record the surviving earthwork ridge and furrow through LiDAR survey;
- ii. To establish the presence/absence of features, deposits and/or finds of archaeological interest;
- iii. To provide sufficient information regarding the character, origin, date, preservation and significance of the possible archaeological features/deposits and/or finds to determine the need for and scope of any further works, if required;
- iv. To ensure the appropriate investigation and recording of any archaeological remains encountered;
- v. To disseminate the results of the archaeological investigation, and advance understanding of the site's archaeology as appropriate;
- vi. To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 LiDAR data was sourced from the Environment Agency and comprised a 1m composite digital terrain model covering the site and the wider landscape (EA 2019). The data was processed using a 16 direction multi-hillshade in ESRI ArcGIS. All work was undertaken in accordance with Historic England Guidelines (HE 2018).
- 2.2.2 Five 50 x 1.8m archaeological trial trenches, representing a 4% sample of the area, were excavated in the locations indicated in Figure 2. Trench 5 was moved slightly to the north-west to avoid a log pile, and Trench 4 was moved south to avoid a hedge at the field boundary.
- 2.2.3 In all trenches, topsoil and subsoil was removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation proceeded to the top of the uppermost archaeological horizon or the surface of natural, undisturbed geology, whichever was encountered first. The spoil generated during the trenching was mounded away from the edges of each trench. Mechanical excavation ceased at either undisturbed natural deposits or when archaeological features/deposits were identified.
- 2.2.4 The nature of identified features was assessed through sample hand excavation, sufficient to establish their character. The level of investigation was consistent with the archaeological sampling levels outlined in the WSI (CgMs 2019).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the LiDAR survey and evaluation are presented below. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are in Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated, e.g. fill 102 is a deposit within Trench 1, while layer 301 is the topsoil within Trench 3.

3.2 LiDAR survey

- 3.2.1 The Lidar survey confirmed the presence of the ridge and furrow across the site. At least four ridges were visible, and they were all aligned WNW-ESE and measured between 4m and 6m wide. No other features were identified (Fig. 2).

3.3 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.3.1 The soil sequence in all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of dark yellowish brown silty clay with rounded pebble inclusions was overlain by topsoil, with only Trench 4 showing a thin naturally occurring layer of silty clay subsoil.
- 3.3.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained largely dry throughout, though a small amount of water collected in the deeper places overnight. Furrows, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.4 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.4.1 Furrows were present in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. These were identified from aerial photos and LiDAR prior to excavation, and have been located on the LiDAR plan (Fig. 3). No other archaeological features were found. Trenches 2 and 5 were devoid of archaeological features.

3.5 Trenches 1, 3 and 4 (Plates 1-3)

- 3.5.1 Trenches 1, 3 and 4 all contained furrows which are consistent with those shown on the LiDAR survey of the site (Fig. 3). Furrow 103 in Trench 1 was excavated and drawn in section 101 (Plate 4). This furrow is representative of all others found on site.

3.6 Finds summary

- 3.6.1 The topsoil (500) of Trench 5 provided one sherd of Midlands black ware pottery, from base of a large jar. The sherd dates from the 17th to 19th century.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken during largely dry and bright conditions over three working days. Furrows were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology. Although two of the trench locations were varied due to on site constraints, the trenches still target the key areas of impact associated with the proposed development. Therefore, these results can be considered to provide a reliable assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 No earthworks except those associated with ridge and furrow agriculture were identified in the results of the LiDAR Survey. This interpretation is supported by results of the evaluation trenching in which only furrows were identified. These results and the lack of artefactual evidence suggests that the site has negligible archaeological potential.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology, though there were three furrows which ran roughly E-W across it. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
102	Fill	1.88	0.11	Fill of furrow	-	-
103	Cut	1.88	0.11	Cut of furrow	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology, though there were two furrows which ran roughly E-W across it. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology, though there were two furrows which ran roughly E-W across it. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
402	-	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	Pottery sherd	-
501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

B.1.1 One sherd of pottery was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 5.

Context	Description	Date
500	1 sherd Midlands black ware, from base of a large jar, 19g	17th to 19th century

APPENDIX C**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

Site name:	Land off Craythorne Road, Rolleston on Dove, Staffordshire
Site code:	ROLOEV
Grid Reference	SK 24003 27434
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	January 2019, three days
Area of Site	1.16ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Staffordshire Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in due course, under the following accession number: ROLO19.
Summary of Results:	<p>Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group) on behalf of Charterpoint Developments at land at Craythorne Road, Rolleston on Dove, Staffordshire (SK 24003 27434). The work was undertaken as part of a planning condition for a proposed retirement development. A total of five trenches were excavated targeted on specific impact areas of the proposed development.</p> <p>The site is relatively flat and low earthworks of ridge and furrow survive across the area. Furrows were identified in three of the five trenches excavated, and no other archaeological features were found. Based on the results of the evaluation the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.</p>



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 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,

Figure 1: Site location

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X:\s\Staffordshire_Rolleston-on-Dove\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\ROLOEV_figure2.mxd\diana.chard*18/02/2019

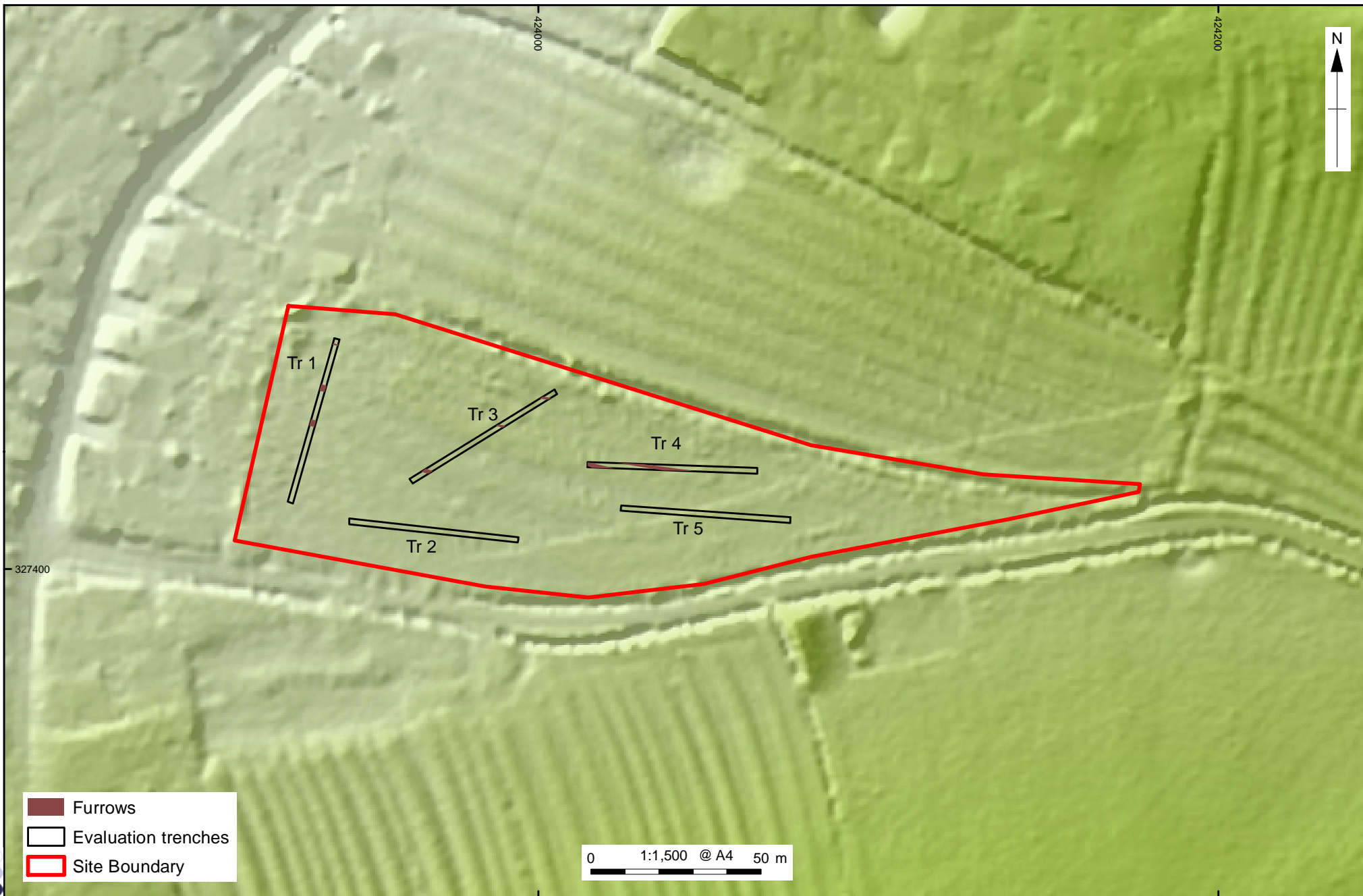


Site Boundary

0 1:1,500 @ A4 50 m

Figure 2: LiDAR survey results

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Figure 3: Trench locations overlaying LiDAR



Plate 1: Trench 2 looking south-west (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 2: Trench 3 looking north (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 3: Trench 4 looking south-west (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 4: Trench 1, Section 101 through furrow 103 looking west (1m scale)



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX20ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA
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