An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the former Forge Works, Chinley, Derbyshire.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In advance of a proposed planning application for the redevelopment of land at the site of the former Forge Mill, Chinley, Derbyshire, Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) were commissioned by Copperleaf, to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site and the surrounding area.

The desk-based assessment showed that part of the proposed redevelopment area is a non-designated heritage asset. The Forge works, Chinley, was founded as a paper mill in the early 1800's. The 1st edition 25" OS map (1851) names the site as 'Forge Mill (Paper)' and shows the large mill pond with a range of buildings to the north-west, linked with the Peak Forest Tramway via sidings running along the west end of the pond. By c.1900 the site changed to the production of textiles (a dye/bleach works) and later passed to J.J. Hadfield. The 2nd OS map edition 1898 shows it as 'Forge Mill (Bleaching)', as does the 3rd edition, by which time the original building appears to have been altered or rebuilt and a new large building and chimney are in place. The site was sold to Dorma in the early 20th century who produced bed linen and cotton prints at the site. The bleach mill was extended at this time. In 2005 the site was sold to Kaleidoscope Colouration Ltd but the company went into administration. The site was largely demolished in 2008.

Although not specifically within the majority of the proposed redevelopment area, the entire southern site boundary is defined by the Peak Forest Tramway and its associated monuments. All of the tramway and its associated monuments are non-designated HER sites. The tramway was opened in 1796 and continued in use until the mid 1920's. These non-designated sites are considered within this report as some of the features back directly onto the site. The Peak Forest Tramway has been the subject of a detailed survey by ARCUS (2006).

This desk-based assessment has demonstrated that the main areas of concentrated activity within the Forge Works site comprise the former factory zone (Zone A), with some continuation of these works and built water management towards the eastern extent of the site (Zone C). The historic mapping shows that an area to the south of the now canalised Black Brook (immediately south of the currently extant chimney) was the original site of the earliest paper mill in the early 1800's. Later, structures including the chimney and settling tanks were built on the north side of the brook.

A number of the surviving remains relating to the factory (chimney, buttressed walls, loading shed) and, most frequently, built water management features associated with the works, remain unrecorded although their significance has been reduced by extensive demolition and infilling. These features would benefit from low-level archaeological recording such as photographic recording during an archaeological watching brief. This work could be dealt with by a condition attached to the planning permission.

The present plan for the re-development appears to incorporate the remaining aspects of built-water management around the Black Brook into its design. It is recommended that this is ensured, and that an archaeological watching brief is undertaken in any areas where there is a chance for remains to be impacted upon during construction.

The present plan for the re-development appears to incorporate the numerous non-designated heritage assets associated with the Peak Forest Tramway into its design. It is recommended that this is ensured, and that an archaeological watching brief is undertaken in any areas where there is a chance for remains to be impacted upon during construction.

If redevelopment was to occur in Zones B2 and B3 then under PPS Policy HE 6.1 a field evaluation might be required. However, the present redevelopment proposals depict no built structures in Zones B2 and B3 and no further work may be required. It is considered that B1 is of low archaeological potential.

The sole area where sub-surface archaeological deposits relating to the early mill works might survive is beneath the existing concrete pads and later foundations within Zone A. At present the level of truncation of earlier deposits by later interventions is unknown. The central portion of Zone A is the sole area where Derbyshire County Council may decide that highly targeted pre-determination archaeological evaluation in the form of evaluation trenching is required (perhaps after removal of the concrete pad).

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

In advance of a proposed planning application for the redevelopment of land at the site of the former Forge Mill, Chinley, Derbyshire (see Appendix 4), Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) were commissioned by Copperleaf, to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site and the surrounding area (see Figure 1).

The Forge Works site has previously been the subject of a Built Heritage Assessment and walkover survey by Scott Wilson in 2007/8, shortly after the bleach works closed. However, the report was never completed. As the Forge Works was not a designated heritage asset, the site was then largely demolished post-2008 and ownership of the land changed. The now-demolished built-heritage is not the concern of the current planning application, however, reports undertaken by Woodford Remediation (2008) and ARCUS (2006) provide valuable information on the site whilst the buildings were standing and, where appropriate, relevant contextual information has been included in this report. In addition, Annie Bingham, Senior Consultant at Scott Wilson has kindly made accessible the archive from the incomplete Built Heritage Assessment and walkover survey.

This piece of work has been undertaken in order for the archaeological implications of the proposal to be fully considered, as required by Steve Baker, Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council, and the advisors to the High Peak Borough Council Planning Department. Derbyshire County Council required that an assessment of available sources of archaeological information, excluding aerial photographic evidence, be consulted for an area of 1km around the site in the case of post-medieval and earlier remains and for an area of 500m around the site in the case of later remains. This desk-based assessment is needed to establish the likely archaeological significance of the site and the implications of the proposal.

If the assessment reveals insufficient information to fully clarify these issues, Derbyshire County Council may require further archaeological work to be undertaken. This request is in line with the current relevant planning policy, PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment, Policy HE6.1 (CLG 2010, 6) which states that:

"Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation"

1.2 Location and Land-Use

The proposed redevelopment site comprises an irregularly-shaped area of mostly brownfield land, either side of the valley of a small east to west flowing watercourse, the Black Brook. The site is located immediately south of the southern extent of the present-day village of Chinley (Figure 1). The site covers a total area of 12.44 hectares and is centred on grid reference NGR 404369, 382146. Topographically, the site is situated primarily at the base of the Black Brook valley at a height of c.184 AoD. The northern valley slope and top is located at the northern extent of the site at a height of c.200m AoD,

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and the southern extent of the valley rises towards its top within the southern extent of the site at a height of c190m AoD.

The site can be further broken-down into different components. Firstly, the central part of the site, the former industrial mill complex, now comprises a large area of mostly concrete pad revetted in up to three tiers to accommodate for the south (high) to north (low) drop of the valley beyond the southern extent of the Black Brook. An image from Google Earth taken in 2008 shows the extant factory buildings, which have subsequently been demolished (Figure 5). Some remnants of the former Forge Works and its ancillary buildings have yet to be fully demolished, and these will be discussed in Section 6. The site formerly also contained numerous chemical storage tanks, an effluent treatment plant and a mill pond (reservoir).

Secondly, there are two fields at the northern and southern extents of the proposed re-development site that are undeveloped agricultural fields. Thirdly, there is an area of undeveloped scrub at the eastern extent of the site that contains an area of former landfill.

The eastern extent of the site is bound by the Chapel-en-Firth sewage farm, with modern settling tanks immediately adjacent to the eastern site boundary. The northern extent of the site is bound by Forge Road and then by Chinley village and open agricultural land (mostly pasture). The southern extent of the site is bound by the Peak Forest Tramway Trail and beyond this agricultural land. The western extent of the site is bound by the gardens of Spring Meadow and a community hall. The Chinley and Whitehough Conservation Area is located further to the west. Much of the wider study area is occupied by open countryside which extends to the north and south. The village of Chinley is dominated by 20th century housing to the east.

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2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and Objectives

This report sets out the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment in advance of the proposed planning application. The main objective is to provide a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development and recommendations for further work. This assessment has been researched and prepared by Gareth Davies.

2.2 Study Area

The study area is defined as a circular area with a diameter of 1km around the site in the case of post-medieval and earlier remains, and for an area of 500m around the site in the case of later remains.

2.3 Scheme of work

The information within this report has been gathered from a number of sources, both primary and secondary, in accordance with the relevant English Heritage and Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance (EH 2006; IfA 2008; IfA 2009).

The following activities were undertaken as part of this updated assessment:

- A consultation of the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record office (HER), Darley Dale for the immediate environs of the proposed development site.
- A consultation of the National Monuments Record (NMR) held by English Heritage.
- A consideration of the Ordnance Survey maps of the site and its environs.
- Where relevant and accessible, a consideration of tithe apportionment maps, enclosure maps, early estate maps and other historical maps available in the Local Studies Library and Record Office, Matlock and the Local Studies Library, Glossop.
- Identification of the relevant planning policies and of any other factors which have a bearing on the cultural heritage of the site and surrounding area.
- Listed Buildings Records (www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/)
- www.MAGIC.gov.uk (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside)
- Relevant archaeological archive reports and historical journals and books held in the Local Studies Library, Matlock and the Local Studies Library, Glossop.

2.3.1 *Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)*

The HER held by the Derbyshire County Council was consulted in order to obtain information on the location of all non-designated heritage assets including findspots and monuments. During the collation of this information, information on designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monuments (SAMs) was also obtained. A list of these sites can be found in Appendices 2-3. Short reports (grey literature) on previous archaeological investigations

(Events) within or close to the study area were also consulted in order to help assess the level of preservation and potential for archaeological remains to survive within the study area (see Appendix 2-3).

2.3.2 *Archives Service*

The Local Studies Library and Record Office, Matlock and the Local Studies Library, Glossop were consulted in order to study historic documents specific to the proposed redevelopment area. Historic maps of the area were studied along with local history publications relating to the use and development of the study site. As the record office is presently partially closed, enquiries carried out here were limited.

2.3.3 *National Monuments Record (NMR)*

The NMR located at Swindon was consulted in order obtain information on non-designated monuments within the development area.

Designated heritage assets are now listed in full online at www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/ and this site was consulted for the study area. The results are discussed in the section 4.6 below.

No aerial photographic cover search or NMP (National Mapping Programme) standard aerial photograph transcription was undertaken for this desk-based assessment as requested by Derbyshire County Council.

2.3.4 *Web sources*

The web sources listed in the specification were consulted for this investigation:

- www.britishhistoryonline.com
- www.vision.port.ac.uk
- www.heritagegateway.co.uk
- www.pastscape.co.uk

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3. POLICY AND GUIDANCE

3.1 National

3.1.1 *Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5). Planning for the Historic Environment*
PPS5 (CLG 2010) is the policy statement which provides the overarching framework for conservation of the historic environment within the planning system and enshrines the historic environment as a material consideration within the planning process. This policy document draws together all historic considerations under a single unified policy and sets out the areas of responsibility for all stakeholders within the planning process. PPS5 Policy HE6.1 requires an applicant to provide a description of the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposed development. Where an application site is known to include, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, then applicants will be required to submit a desk-based assessment (this document), and where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the significance and potential significance of any heritage assets, then this information should be gained through field evaluation (CLG 2010, 6).

3.1.2 *PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*
This document provides guidance on the practical implementation of PPS 5 and is consequently a much more in-depth document than the policy statement itself. This practice guide "supports the implementation of national policy, but does not constitute a statement of Government policy" (CLG/DCMS/EH 2010, 6). This document has been presented by English Heritage as a 'live' document and is therefore intended to be subject to future changes as techniques and practice develop.

3.2 Regional and Local

3.2.1 *High Peak Local Development Framework*
Since the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies, Local Development Frameworks (LDF's) are the principal tools of planning strategy for a given area. The proposed redevelopment site falls within the High Peak Borough and the statement of planning strategy relating to the historic environment for this area is within the *Derbyshire Dales District Council and High Peak Borough Council Joint Core Strategy* Policy CS6:

> "Derbyshire Dales District Council and High Peak Borough Council will ensure that development proposals contribute positively to the character of the built and historic environment.
>
> This will be achieved by ensuring that development proposals affecting heritage assets are assessed so as to minimise the impact on their significance. Particular protection will be given to designated heritage assets including:
> - Listed Buildings.
> - Conservation Areas including their setting.
> - Historic Parks and Gardens.
> - Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
> - Archaeological sites or heritage features" (DDDC and HPBC 2010, 40).

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3.2.2 *The High Peak Borough Local Plan* of 2005 has a number of saved policies in the High Peak Borough Local Plan Saved Policies (2008). The following policies saved from the former High Peak Borough Council Local Plan are relevant:

Policy 23
BC8 - SETTINGS OF LISTED BUILDINGS

Planning Permission will not be granted for development which would materially harm the setting of a Listed Building in terms of its special architectural or historic character due to its use, scale, size, siting, detailed design, external appearance or illumination.

Policy 25
BC10 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND OTHER HERITAGE FEATURES

Planning Permission will not be granted for development which is likely to result in harm to a Scheduled Ancient Monument or other nationally important site, its setting or amenity value. Elsewhere, Planning Permission will be granted for development, provided that there will not be a significant adverse effect upon other known archaeological or heritage features, including Buxton's area of archaeological interest as defined on the proposals map

Where proposals will affect a feature or an area of archaeological interest, they will, where appropriate, include an archaeological evaluation of the site and a statement demonstrating how it is intended to satisfactorily accommodate or preserve the archaeological or heritage features. Where Planning Permission is granted, conditions will be imposed, and/or planning obligations sought, to ensure that: archaeological or heritage features are recorded and retained intact in situ; or where this is impractical, archaeological or heritage features are appropriately excavated and recorded, prior to destruction by development.

The local plan also has specific policies in relation to conservation areas. Policy BC5 states that planning permission within conservation areas and their settings will only be granted where the 'use, siting, scale, detailed design, external appearance and landscape treatment of the development will preserve or enhance the special architectural or historic interest of the area'.

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