

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SHOVEL PITTING, LAND OFF TRENCHARD DRIVE, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE

Site Location: Trenchard Drive, Buxton
NGR: SK 06747 70987
Proposal: Development of the site for residential development
Prepared for: Persimmon Homes (North West)
Status of WSI: Draft, for approval

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Persimmon Homes have obtained planning permission for a residential development on the site of the former University of Derby Campus in Buxton. The application was supported by the submission of a Desk-Based Assessment & Heritage Statement (Stenton 2018). The desk-based assessment identified that the majority of the site had low archaeological potential due to the disturbance caused by the construction and demolition of the former campus buildings. There was, however, a small area on the northern edge of the site that did not appear to have been disturbed by modern development.
- 1.2 A condition, no. 18, has been placed upon the planning consent relating to archaeology. The condition requires:

Condition 18

a) No development shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing, and until any pre-start element of the approved scheme has been completed to the written satisfaction of the local planning authority. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and

1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording

2. The programme for post investigation assessment

3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording

4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation

5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation

6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation

b) No development shall take place other than in accordance with the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (a).

c) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (a) and the provision to be made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

1.2 Steve Baker, the Derbyshire County Council Archaeologist, has been consulted about the requirements of the condition and this has identified that the main concern is the potential for artefact scatters and associated features at the northern edge of the site, to the north of Trenchard Drive. The conclusions of the discussions with Steve Baker were:

1. that works should initially determine if artefact scatters were present;
2. this would be undertaken by means of a programme of shovel pitting;
3. a report will be produced on the results of the shovel pitting;
4. the results of the shovel pitting will be reviewed and the need for, and scope of, any further works will be determined by the results of the shovel pitting;
5. as a guide
 - a) if no artefact scatters are identified, further archaeological works are unlikely to be required;
 - b) if artefact scatters are identified, further archaeological works will be required;
6. If further works are required they will be subject to a separate Written Scheme of Investigation.

1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to discussions with Steve Baker. The work will be carried out in accordance with this WSI, and according to the principles of the Institute for Archaeology (IfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.

2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site (centred on NGR SK 06747 70987) is located at Harpur Hill, approximately 2.7km to the south-east of Buxton, Derbyshire (Figure 1).

2.2 The site was formerly occupied by the University of Derby campus. The buildings have been demolished and the land is currently scrub, with bunds, former paths and access roads, and areas of ground disturbance. The main part of the site is bounded by Trenchard Road at the north-west, the University of Derby sports centre at the north-east, Hillside at the east and Burlow Road at the south. A small part of the site is located on the north side of Trenchard Drive. Ground levels vary across the site.

2.3 The underlying geology in the majority of the site is Bee Low Limestone Formation (BGS). Superficial deposits of Diamicton Till overlie a substantial part of the site's central area (BGS).

3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

3.1 The site does not contain any designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings and does not lie within a conservation area.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

4.1 The site lies on the south side of Harpur Hill, downslope from Fox Hill Barrow Scheduled Monument. Extensive prehistoric activity in the area is demonstrated by both Fox Low bowl

barrow Scheduled Monument and a Mesolithic flint-working area on Harpur Hill. The extent of the flint scatter is not known and it could extend down the slope to the site.

5 AIMS

5.1 The aims of the evaluation are:

- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological remains present
- to investigate the potential for artefact scatters to lie within the site
- to determine if the flint scatters identified on Harpur Hill extend into the area of the site.
- to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional, and national context and for an assessment of the significance of the archaeology of the proposal area to be made
- to provide information to enable the local authority to determine if there are any requirements for further archaeological mitigation for the site.

6 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

6.1 The evaluation will comprise a programme of shovel pitting.

Please note that further stages of work or mitigation measures could be required by the local authority, depending upon the results of the evaluation.

6.2 A total of up to 40 shovel pits will be excavated on a 5m grid across the site. The grid will extend across the area north of Trenchard Drive that has not been disturbed by modern development. This area covers approximately 13m by 70m shaded in blue on Figure 1. The grid and shovel pit locations will be established by GPS. The pits will each measure 0.25m x 0.25m and will be excavated down to the top of the subsoil, around 0.3m, and the surface of the subsoil will be cleaned. The turf will be removed separately to enable replacement on completion.

6.3 The excavated material will be broken up and examined for artefacts with the spoil being sieved using a mesh of 1cm square.

6.4 The shovel pits will be backfilled with the spoil removed from them and turfs will be replaced.

Recording

6.6 A brief record will be made of each shovel pit. This will note:

- the location (OS) and height (mAOD) for each test pit
- the soil sequence and depths of soil horizons
- the presence of finds
- the presence of any archaeological features, if identified

6.7 Digital photographs will be taken to illustrate the range and types of soil profiles seen in the shovel pits. If archaeological features are identified the photographic record will comprise black and white film and digital photography. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.

Finds

6.8 All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the IfA guidance for

archaeological materials. All Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and post-medieval finds will be collected. Modern (19th and 20th century) material will not be kept unless it is of exceptional intrinsic interest. Finds will be bagged by shovel pit and material type.

- 6.9 All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.
- 6.10 In the unlikely event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice, the local Coroner, and curatorial archaeologist will be informed immediately. An osteoarchaeologist will be available to give advice on site.
- If **disarticulated** remains are encountered, these will be identified and quantified on site. The remains will be left in the ground and backfilled.
 - If **articulated** remains are encountered, these will be left in the ground and reburied.
- 6.11 Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, IfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and English Heritage guidance (2005).

7 SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 All recovered finds will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study. All finds will be cleaned prior to assessment. The material will be quantified (counted and weighted). Specialists will undertake a rapid scan of all excavated material.
- 7.2 All lithics will be scanned by the lithics specialist and unworked local chert separated off. Counts will be made of worked flints and the range of cherts and flints within the assemblages noted. Diagnostic pieces will be noted where they provide information on the periods represented in the lithic assemblage.
- 7.3 All collected ceramics will be quantified and the range of periods represented identified. For ceramic assemblages, any recognised local pottery reference collections and relevant fabric Codes will be used.
- 7.4 Materials considered vulnerable should be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures (e.g. glass composition studies, residues on or in pottery, and mineral-preserved organic material). Once assessed, all material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, in accordance with Watkinson and Neal (1998), IfA (2007) and Museums and Galleries (1992).

8 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

- 8.1 Upon completion of the site work, a report will be prepared to include the following:
- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
 - b) An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and

- dates when the fieldwork took place.
 - c) An account of the methodology and detailed results of the operation, describing structural data, archaeological features, associated finds and environmental data, and a conclusion and discussion.
 - d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including a plan of the site showing the location of the shovel pits. Distribution maps of finds recovered will be produced showing the quantity, date and type of artefacts as is appropriate based on the specialist assessments.
 - e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports where undertaken.
 - f) Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a context list and catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
 - g) A copy of the key OASIS form details
 - h) Copies of the WSI
 - i) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report
- 8.2 Three copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body. A bound and digital copy of the report will be submitted to the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist for planning purposes, and subsequently for inclusion into the Derbyshire SMR.
- 8.3 A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs. Catalogues of shovel pits, finds, samples, plans and photographs will be produced. ArchHeritage will liaise with the Buxton Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork to establish the detailed curatorial requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer and to complete the relevant museum forms. The relevant museum curator would be afforded access to visit the site and discuss the project results.
- 8.4 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the Local Authority and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.
- 8.5 Upon completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

9 POST EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION

- 9.1 The information contained in the evaluation report will enable decisions to be taken regarding the future treatment of the archaeology of the development site and any material recovered during the evaluation.
- 9.2 If further archaeological investigations (mitigation) take place, any further analyses (as recommended by the specialists, and following agreement with the Development Control Archaeologist may be incorporated into the post-excavation stage of the mitigation programme unless such analysis are required to provide information to enable a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised. Such analysis will form a new piece of work to be commissioned.
- 9.3 In the event that no further fieldwork takes place on the site, a full programme of post excavation analysis and publication of artefactual and scientific material from the

evaluation may be required by the development Control Archaeologist. If this is required, this work will be a new piece of work to be commissioned.

- 9.4 If further site works do not take place, allowance will be made for the preparation and publication in a local and/or national journal of a short summary on the results of the evaluation and of the location and material held within the site archive.
- 9.5 The results of the work will be publicised locally e.g. by presenting a paper at the Derbyshire Archaeology Day and talking to local societies, as appropriate.

10 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 10.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 10.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

11 PRE-START REQUIREMENTS

- 11.1 The client will be responsible for ensuring site access has been secured prior to the commencement of site works, and that the perimeter of the site is secure.
- 11.2 The client will provide ArcHeritage with up to date service plans and will be responsible for ensuring services have been disconnected, where appropriate.
- 11.3 The client will be responsible for ensuring that any existing reports (e.g. ground investigation, borehole logs, contamination reports) are made available to ArcHeritage prior to the commencement of work on site.

12 REINSTATEMENT

- 12.1 Following excavation and recording the spoil from the shovel pits will be backfilled unless requested otherwise. The backfill material will be levelled and the turf replaced. ArcHeritage are not responsible for reinstating any surfaces, including reseeding, unless specifically commissioned by the client who will provide a suitable specification for the work.

13 TIMETABLE & STAFFING

- 13.1 The fieldwork is programmed for one week commencing 9th September and Post excavation analysis and reporting is programmed for three weeks from completion of the fieldwork.
- 13.2 The project will be managed by Glyn Davies (ArcHeritage Acting Operations Manager) and supervised in the field by Gary Millward (ArcHeritage Field Officer)
- 13.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:
- Human Remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd)
 - Finds Researcher – Nienke Van Doorn
 - Lithics – Dr Andy Myers and George Loffman
 - Medieval Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
 - Post-medieval pottery – Richard Jackson
 - Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues - Dr Rod Mackenzie

- Conservation - Ian Panter

14 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

- 14.1 As a minimum requirement, the Derby and Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist curator will be given one week's notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed and to discuss the requirement any further phases of archaeological work. ArcHeritage will notify the curator of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with the curator.
- 14.2 With the client's agreement illustrated notices will be displayed on site to explain the nature of the works.

15 COPYRIGHT

- 15.1 ArcHeritage retain the copyright on this document. It has been prepared expressly for the named client, and may not be passed to third parties for use or for the purpose of gathering quotations.

16 KEY REFERENCES

English Heritage. 2001. *Archaeometallurgy*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines.

English Heritage. 2002. *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*.

English Heritage. 2003. *Where on Earth are We? The Global Positioning System (GPS) in archaeological field survey*.

English Heritage. 2004. *Geoarchaeology: using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*.

English Heritage. 2006. *Guidelines on the x-radiography of archaeological metalwork*.

English Heritage. 2006b. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*.

English Heritage. 2007. *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscape – a guide to good recording practice*.

English Heritage. 2008. *Investigative Conservation*.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2007. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

McKinley, J. I. and Roberts, C. 1993. *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*. Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper No. 13.

Museum and Galleries Commission. 1992. *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections*.

Neal, V., and D. Watkinson (eds). 1998. *First Aid for Finds: practical guide for archaeologists*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, Archaeology Section; 3rd Revised Edition.

Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM). 2007. *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology*

Stenton, M. 2018 Land at Harpur Hill Buxton Derbyshire – DBA and HS. ArcHeritage Report No. 2018/24.

The Historical Metallurgy Society. 2008. *Metals and Metalworking: a research framework for Archaeometallurgy*.

See also the **HELM** website for a full list of English Heritage Guidance documents.

<http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.19701>

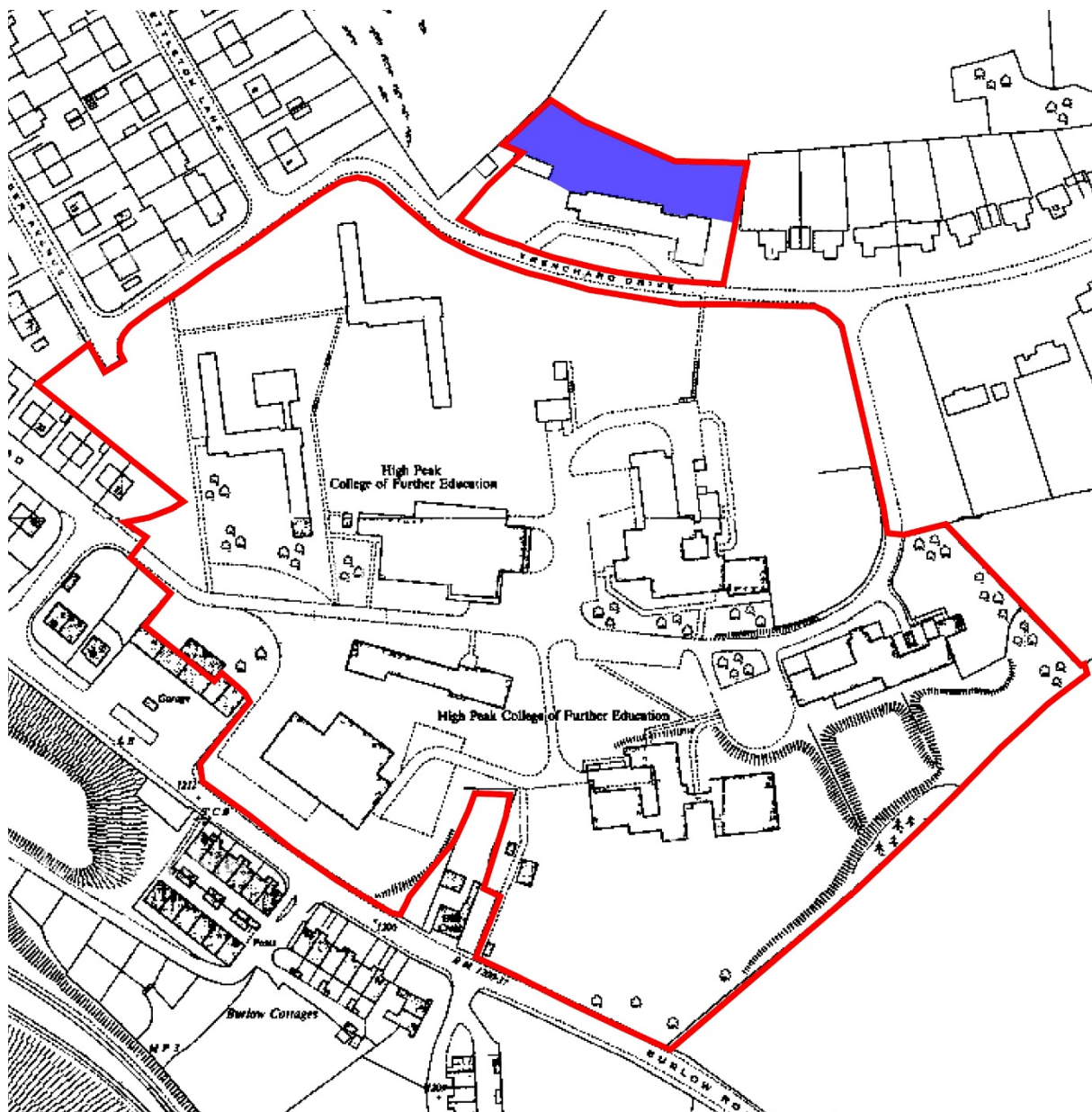


Figure 1 Site Plan with area for shovel pitting shaded in blue. Base map 1967 OS



ArcHeritage is a trading name of York Archaeological Trust. The Trust undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. We manage projects, provide professional advice and fieldwork to ensure a high quality, cost effective archaeological and heritage service. Our staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. Based in York, Sheffield, Nottingham and Glasgow the Trust's services are available throughout Britain and beyond.



© ArcHeritage

ArcHeritage, Campo House, 54 Campo Lane, Sheffield S1 2EG

Phone: +44 (0)114 2728884 Fax: +44 (0)114 3279793

www.archeritage.co.uk

© 2012 York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited

Registered Office: 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX

A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No. 1430801

A registered Charity in England & Wales (No. 509060) and Scotland (No. SCO42846)