

11. ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

11.1 Scope of the Addendum

11.1.1 This Addendum covers the current hybrid application for Phase 1 development in the northern part of the site. It considers whether the changes to the application affect the overall conclusions and recommendations regarding the archaeology of the area and also considers the results of additional archaeological investigations that were undertaken after submission of the original Environmental Statement.

Changes to the Application

11.1.2 An Environmental Statement was prepared in August 2016 to accompany a hybrid planning application to Charnwood Borough Council for a Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) to Leicester, called 'Broadnook Garden Suburb'. The proposal is identified as a strategic priority in the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy 2011 to 2028. Since then some revisions have been made to the original application, primarily to the housing mix with an increase from 1,650 to 1,950 units plus a higher number of units of accommodation in the retirement village area. Consequently, the Borough Council has now confirmed an amended description of development and amendments to the Environmental Statement. In addition, a full planning application has been made for Phase 1 of the development (Planning Ref: P/16/1660/2) in the northern part of the SUE. The full planning application is for:

- (i) primary access proposals including signalised roundabout to A6 dual carriageway, site access works and two-way link to Loughborough Road via a second roundabout;
- (ii) internal access roads including northern boulevard to serve Broadnook Centre area, first phase housing and employment areas, gatehouses and Countryside Park;
- (iii) two areas of housing comprising a total of 193 dwellings;
- (iv) two gatehouses (north and south lodges);
- (v) Countryside Park including ground modelling, parkland, sports pitches, pavilion, parking, footpaths/cycleways, hard and soft landscaping, allotments and maintenance/recycling compound;
- (vi) structural woodland planting and ecology parkland;
- (vii) sustainable drainage proposals; and
- (viii) comprehensive landscaping proposals.

Additional Archaeological Investigation

11.1.3 The recommendations of the Environmental Statement were based on non-intrusive archaeological investigations that comprised

- i) desk-based assessment
- ii) fieldwalking surveys
- iii) geophysical surveys

11.1.4 It was recommended that proportionate and targeted trial trenching should be undertaken to confirm the fieldwalking and geophysical survey results. The non-

intrusive surveys had identified several potential areas of interest including three main foci of archaeological activity:

- a surface scatter of lithic material to the west;
- geophysical anomalies suggesting an enclosure associated settlement, likely to be of later prehistoric or Roman date to the north; and
- an Iron Age settlement to the east, already excavated in advance of construction of the A46 Leicester western bypass in 1998.

11.1.5 As part of the pre-determination work required for the Phase 1 application, a programme of evaluation trenching was undertaken by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in October 2017. The purpose of the evaluation was to investigate areas of potential archaeological remains that were identified by the fieldwalking and geophysical surveys.

11.1.6 The trenches focused on the proposed access roads into the site (initial groundworks), the areas of known archaeological activity (flint scatter and enclosures) and areas containing anomalies possibly associated with archaeological remains identified on the geophysical survey. A total of 48 trenches measuring 30m x c.2m were excavated. Seven trenches (3,4, 8, 9, 10, 41 and 44), all to the west of the A6, contained archaeological remains which had in all cases been truncated to a greater or lesser degree by medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

11.1.7 Trenches 3 and 4 were situated towards the central south-western part of the site. A single posthole was identified in Trench 3 which contained no finds although an Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from the topsoil whilst machining this trench. Trench 4 contained two undated linear features, the westernmost of which contained two flint flakes. A pit containing heat-cracked stones (not burnt in situ) was found towards the centre of the trench.

11.1.8 Trenches 8, 9 and 10 were located towards the northern part of the site, within the enclosure area identified from geophysical survey. A posthole containing seven sherds of Middle-Late Iron Age pottery was found in Trench 8. Three gullies were found in Trench 9, all containing Middle-Late Iron Age pottery, animal bone, flint debitage, and heat-cracked stones. A single flint scraper was also found. A further gully was found in Trench 10 which contained no finds but a large ditch in the same trench produced fragments of animal bone, two flint cores and flint-working waste.

11.1.9 Trenches 41 and 44 lay west of the two groups above. A ditch terminus or part of a large pit was found Trench 41 but contained no finds. Two undated postholes were recorded in Trench 44.

11.2 Discussion

11.2.1 The features recorded in Trenches 3, 4 and 44 had not been identified by geophysical survey in 2013, which strongly suggests that further undetected features could be located in the vicinity of these trenches. This is particularly so in the case of features which appear to be earlier than Iron Age in date as these are not so amenable to detection by means of geophysical survey.

11.2.2 The Middle-Late Iron Age activity recorded in Trenches 8, 9 and 10 is located in the central - northern part of the proposed development area in an elevated area of the

site. Trenches to the west and east of the possible Iron Age settlement were clear of archaeology but there may well be additional small features that remain undetected by the geophysical survey such as pits and postholes in the immediate vicinity.

11.3 Recommendations

11.3.1 The evaluation excavations confirmed the results of the geophysical survey and also identified features not seen on the geophysical survey. All of the evaluated areas will be impacted by the current design and will need an archaeological mitigation. Of particular interest is the area around Trenches 8,9,10 which lie within the Phase 1 area of development. A full strip map and record exercise is recommended to cover the whole of the area containing geophysical anomalies with a buffer extending beyond these known features, to be excavated until no further remains are encountered.

11.4 Conclusion

11.4.1 The interim conclusions in the Environmental Statement were confirmed by the programme of evaluation (Clapton 2017, 41). The overall strategy set out in the ES is not materially affected by the changes to the housing mix proposed for the SUE. In the first instance, a condition attached to a planning permission for Phase 1 development would secure the preparation and implementation of a Written Scheme of Investigation that details the scope of work for fieldwork, post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and publication as appropriate in advance of intrusive groundworks commencing. Additional investigation will be required during subsequent phases of development and can be secured through conditions on detailed planning applications. Further evaluation may also be required in advance of detailed planning permissions being granted for individual development phases.

11.4.2 Clapton Adam 2017 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Broadnook Garden Suburb, North of Birstall (Wanlip, Rothley, Thurcaston and Cropston Parishes) Leicestershire*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services Report 2017-192