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**Bolton Hall
Carr Head Lane
Bolton-Upon-Dearne
South Yorkshire**

Interim report

February 2017

Interim report for Bolton Hall, Carr Head Lane, Bolton-Upon-Dearne, South Yorkshire (BOLH)

Site

Bolton Hall, Carr Head Lane, Bolton-Upon-Dearne, South Yorkshire

NGR: SE 45054 02699

Date of Work

13 to 17 February 2017

Summary

The site was formerly occupied to the south by Bolton Hall Nursing and Care Home with road access from the north and landscaping within the immediate vicinity. The surrounding area comprises residential housing with some commercial activity to the north, including Frank Hoyland Funeral Directors, and an open park and recreation ground to the south. The proposed development consists of 28 dwellings with associated external works (Planning Application no. 2016/0926)

The underlying geology is Mexborough Rock (BGS 2017).

Bolton-upon-Dearne has been an important village since the Anglo-Saxon period. Following the Norman Conquest, during the reign of King John (1199-1216) some of the land in Bolton-Upon-Dearne was given to Reginald 'Raine' Malet by his father, and owner at the time, Robert Malet. He in turn gave the monks of Monk Bretton Priory a significant amount of land and half the shares in the mill (Sparks 1951). The exact location of the lands held by the monks is uncertain. However, local history claims that Bolton Hall was built on the site of a monastic building, and the human remains discovered there, as listed in the South Yorkshire Sites & Monuments Record and William White's Trade Directory of 1838, were those of monks (Sparks 1951; Dearne Local History Group 1988).

During the turn of the twentieth century Bolton Hall underwent several changes of ownership until bought by Wath Main Colliery and converted into a Social Club (Dearne Local History Group 1988). During the First World War it was used temporarily to house officers, and Nissen huts were constructed for army ranks within its grounds.

Following the Second World War, various application documents and plans were passed through Dearne Urban District Council by Messrs L & F Boardman for the conversion of Bolton Hall into a dwelling flat and clothing factory and the construction of a new building (garage). The whole site was demolished in 1970s on Health & Safety grounds prior to the construction of Bolton Hall Nursing and Care Home. The site has undergone development and landscaping with the construction of Bolton Hall Nursing and Care Home.

At the time of the evaluation Bolton Hall Nursing and Care Home at an advanced stage of demolition.

Fieldwork Results

The evaluation confirmed the survival of substantial archaeological remains relating to the post-medieval activity and Bolton Hall.

A single rock cut ditch (Fig. 1) was revealed to the east of the site. No dating evidence was recovered from this site, though it is not unfeasible to suggest that it may be part of the widespread system of field boundaries, trackways and enclosures of Iron Age and Romano-British date within the wider area.

The evaluation revealed the remains of the original Bolton Hall (figs 2 and 3) built from the turn of the nineteenth century. The remains comprised of postholes outside the building and the main basement area itself, including stairwell access, in the form of substantial sandstone walls below the current car park, which were exposed to a depth of 1.5m. The base of the walls were not identified as the tops of structures and utility apparatus were identified at this depth and were not accessible for investigation within the confines of an evaluation.

One of the purposes of the evaluation was to assess the survival and existence of the purported cemetery discovered during the excavation of the foundations for the original Bolton Hall. The evaluation did not find any evidence of human remains or funerary activity, though the reference to it in William White's Trade Directory of 1838 does not specify location or extent, and it could be that these remains were located elsewhere on site.

As well as the main hall, foundations for the ancillary buildings to the north were revealed, as were floor surfaces of later extensions and conversions. These comprised of sandstone walls, brick floor surface (Fig. 4), York stone flagged floor surfaces, concrete screed and slate damp course. The conversion of one of the ancillary buildings to a kitchen in the post war era contained a possible asbestos cement floor layer. Limited recording was done in this area.

Across the site there were indications of 20th century activity, including possible poultry house remains within the stratigraphy to the south-east of the site and a zigzag practice trench from the First World War, towards the south-west of the site. This was located to the south a concrete pad which is purportedly the remains of a Nissen hut base from which an escape tunnel was built.

Material recovered

- 4 sherds of post-medieval pottery including transfer ware, yellow earthen ware and salt-glazed ware
- 3 pieces of CBM
- 1 white glazed ceramic kiln fitting (possibly)
- 1 wood sample from the upper casing of a wooden utility pipe
- 1 wood sample from a single timber found within the former demolition material
- 1 bulk sample from the rock cut ditch

The material found is typical of the area and in character with the type of remains found.

Over lying the *in situ* remains were demolition deposits consisting of brick and crush rubble from the original Bolton Hall, which formed the made ground associated with the landscaping works for the later Bolton Hall Nursing and Residential Home, which was built on the site in the 1980s

Bibliography

Dearne Local History Group 1988 *Dearne Days Remembered*, Dearne Local History Group

Sparks, D. C. 1951 *The Story of the Ancient Parish of St. Andrew the Apostle, Bolton-on-Dearne*, Bolton Upon Dearne (Rev. Edition)

White, W. 1838 *History, Gazetteer, and Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire Vol II*, p.163 Trade Directory



Figure 1: Rock cut ditch



Figure 2: Trench 8 revealing the remains of Bolton Hall



Figure 3: Trench 8 revealing the remains of Bolton Hall



Figure 4: Brick floor of later phase of activity at Bolton Hall