

**Archaeological Scoping Report 2018,
210 Carlton Road,
Athersley South, Barnsley,
South Yorkshire,
S71 2AP, SE3563708589
Site Code: CRB18
Client: Northern Town Planning Ltd
Planning Application: tba
County Archaeologist's Reference Number: n/a
OASIS number: n/a-**



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Non-technical summary. AAG Archaeology were commissioned by Northern Town Planning Ltd to produce a scoping report on land to the rear of 210 Carlton Road, South Athersley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S71 2AP (SE3563708589). The potential development area (PDA) is a site of around 1.179 acres or 4771m² in use as a paddock and small allotment with a garage/workshop at the end of what was once presumably the back garden of the large bungalow at 210 Carlton Road, now the access track. The site has no apparent archaeological potential.

Acknowledgements. I would like to thank the following for their assistance on this project: Graham Northern.

1 Introduction

1.1 AAG Archaeology were commissioned by Northern Town Planning Ltd to produce a scoping report on the archaeological potential of land to the rear of 210 Carlton Road, South Athersley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S71 2AP (SE3563708589).



Site location plan. Showing location of development area (red). Image data: Google, DigitalGlobe ©2018.

2 Site Description

2.1 Athersley is a village in the St Helen's ward of Barnsley Metropolitan Council, South Yorkshire. The village is dominated by a post-war housing estate which is split into Athersley North and Athersley South, the only estate in Barnsley to be divided in such a way, Laithes Lane separating the two areas. The adjoining New Lodge estate is separated from Athersley North by Wakefield Road, but other neighbouring estates such as Smithies and Monk Bretton, which share the S71 postcode, are not as noticeably separated. The potential development area (PDA) lies behind semi-detached housing on a SE-facing curve of the B6132 Carlton Road, this housing pre-dates the Athersley South estate and is separated from the estate by the PDA. Houses on the southern side of the road are in Monk Bretton ward, the ward boundary formerly followed the back of the Carlton Road properties on the southern edge of the PDA. The PDA consists of the large bungalow at 210 Carlton Road, the access track from Carlton Road, a workshop/garage (Photo 7), stables and chicken shed, and a small garden in the form of an allotment plot, around a small field used as a paddock (Photo 8).

3 Geology and Topography

3.1 Bedrock Geology. Formerly referred to as solid geology by the British Geological Survey. The bedrock geology in this area is part of the Woolley Edge Rock, a massive Coal Measure sandstone. This sedimentary bedrock was formed 315 to 318 million years ago during the Carboniferous Period in an environment dominated by rivers. These rocks are detrital, ranging from coarse-grained in the N, becoming fine-grained further southwards and form beds and lenses which reflect their fluvial origin in the channels, floodplains and levees of a riverine or estuarine environment (British Geological Survey).

3.2 Superficial Geology. Formerly referred to as drift geology by the British Geological Survey. The area is unsurveyed, no superficial deposits have been recorded in this area (British Geological Survey).

3.3 Topography. The PDA occupies part of the summit of what was once known as Smithy Hill. The built-up residential nature of the area means that this is not now as obvious as it once was. The first edition Ordnance Survey (1854-1855) shows the summit of Smithy Hill, marked by the 350' contour, which seems to stand about 50' above the surrounding area. The OS spot heights in the roadway of Carlton Road to the S are 9' (103.6m aOD) to 10' (102.9m aOD) lower than the 350' contour. The boundary of the PDA appears to follow the 350' contour shown on older maps. The summit of Smithy Hill lies between the stables and the southern boundary of the PDA and is around 107m aOD. The ground slopes away gradually to the E, with a steeper fall to the N.

4 Historic Map Regression

4.1 On Jeffery's Plan of 1767-1770 the PDA appears to be just on the edge of, or just inside Athersley Woods.

4.2 The first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale map of 1854-1855 shows the PDA largely occupying the summit of a rise called Smithy Hill, marked by a 350' contour, which seems to stand about 50' above the surrounding area. Carlton Road is called St Helen's Lane at this time and the ward boundary with Monk Bretton lies on the northern side of the road, giving the priory ownership of the road and anything built on the frontage of the northern side of the road. Athersley Wood is still visible to the W of the PDA but can be seen to have undergone some clearance. An 1872 Carlton Estate Map (Sheffield City Archives WhM7661) confirms that the PDA is part of the estate of the Wortley family, *CRB18 210 Carlton Rd, Barnsley*

Barons of Wharnccliffe. The estate boundary follows the former township boundary, along what is now the back of the properties on the N side of Carlton Road.

4.3 The second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale map of 1892 shows a small slag heap just over the ward boundary and set back a little off what is now Carlton Road, to the WSW of the PDA. At this larger scale trees are visible along the ward boundary to the west, which may suggest that Athersley Wood previously covered the westernmost of the two fields on this side of Carlton Road and had extended to the very edge of the PDA, if not further, at some prior point. The 1894 second edition Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale map shows the same situation.

4.4 By the third edition Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale map of 1906-1907 the Royston Council Water Works have been built on top of Smithy Hill on Carlton Road, presumably taking advantage of the height to pressurise the local supply. Further to the WSW there appear to be short streets of terraced housing facing onto the northern side of Carlton Road, just inside the urban district boundary. The nearby Athersley Wood is shown for the last time, being cleared at some point after this.

4.5 The 1931 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale County Series map shows that housing has been built along the northern side of Carlton Road as far as Number 184 "The Nest", which has a 1925 date stone. When seen on satellite imagery, the later houses to the ENE (and the infill to the WSW) have red ceramic tile roofs compared to the slate roofs of the earlier properties. The PDA remains undeveloped.

4.6 The post-war houses on the northern side of Carlton Road are shown on the 1955-1956 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 plan and the roads of Athersley Estate South have been laid out and housebuilding is underway at the time of surveying. By the 1961 Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 plan all the housing to the N of the PDA has been built. On the 1970-1978 plan at the same scale, light industrial buildings have started to appear on the PDA, a cluster at the bottom of the back gardens of 206-208 Carlton Road and a long extant building against the northern perimeter. These buildings are not shown on any of the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 plans between 1973 and 1993.

5 Aerial and Historic Photographs

5.1 Environment Agency LiDAR 50cm resolution digital terrain model (DTM) and digital surface model (DSM) images do not show anything of interest in the PDA, there is no trace of ridge-and-furrow or other cultivation methods. A smooth patch of ground around 8m x 8m centred approximately on SE3562808582 may be an artefact of modern activity such as a tied horse (confirmed by site visit). Satellite imagery did not show anything that could be interpreted as archaeological.

6 Archaeological and Historical Background

6.1 Prehistory. A ¿Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead and scraper were found in 1969 in Monk Bretton at SE360078 (HER **03027/01**). These are the only prehistoric finds within 1km of the PDA.

HER	Name	Type	OS	Period
03027	Monk Bretton	lithics	SE360078	¿Neolithic

Table 1. Prehistoric sites and finds near development area.

6.2 Romano-British (AD43-410). An orichalcum dupondius of Nero was found on the cricket pitch at Monk Bretton. This is the only verified Roman archaeology within 1km of the PDA. A Roman coin is thought to have been found on the former Crevesford School playing fields, but no precise details are known.

HER	Name	Type	OS	Period
00585/01	Monk Bretton Roman coin	find	SE362077	Roman

Table 2. Roman sites and finds near development area.

6.3 Early medieval (410-1066). There are no early medieval sites of finds known within 1km of the PDA.

6.4 Medieval (1066-1485) and post-medieval (1485-c1830). The first known record of Athersley is from 1369, when it was written as 'Hattirslay', which is thought to come from the Old English name Aethelred and the word lea, meaning 'Aethred's forest glade'. Known as 'Hattersley' in 1379, it had become 'Ethersley' by 1591.

6.5 The most relevant archaeological site to the PDA is the medieval well (HER **03676/01**) and chapel (HER **02236/01**) of St Helen's. A chapel at the St Helen's Well site, then known as St Elen was first mentioned in 1237, built over or alongside the well and run by monks from Monk Bretton Priory, who charged visitors to the well. The placename element 'St Helen' seems to have appeared shortly after the Dissolution. The prior of Monk Bretton had a retiring house at the well chapel and the waters were said to have healing powers, attracting pilgrims. Dr Dennis Ashurst did voice some concern that the stonework found in the 2001 evaluation couldn't be dated and the remains could equally be a medieval holy well or a post-medieval cattle trough. A well backfilled in the eighteenth century and a brick-lined drain made with fifteenth or sixteenth century bricks indicated a well used between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries with elements remaining in use into the nineteenth and twentieth century. Medieval activity around the site but not definitely associated with the well was also identified. After the Dissolution in 1538 the Blitheman family purchased the chapel. The house was ruined by 1784 and the last buildings of St Helen's Farm were demolished in the 1970s.

6.6 Medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow was identified less than a kilometre away at Monk Bretton Miners' Welfare Ground (HER **04749**). As can be expected medieval archaeology tends to be distributed closer to the priory at Monk Bretton with only the St Helen's well and chapel representing the period in the St Helen's ward.

6.7 Monk Bretton Priory, originally a Cluniac house, later became an independent Benedictine Priory, monasteries such as these typically owned large estates which included whole manors. Monk Bretton was the second largest monastery in South Yorkshire until its dissolution in 1538. As such it is likely to have held the PDA. The monks also owned the smithies further to the W from which Smithies and Smithy Hill take their name which also suggests the PDA was on monastic land. The smithies are described as wheel-driven in 1589 and as such must have been situated on the River Dearne.

6.8 Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538, the chapel of St Elen was sold to Jasper Blitheman, who sold it to Richard Corbett in 1562. From there passing into the Wortley family estate, the family were one of three landed gentry families that owned over half of the freehold land in South

Yorkshire. An 1872 map showing the PDA as part of the Wortley estate, with the boundary still following that of the old township boundary between St Helen's and Monk Bretton, suggests that the PDA may have been connected to the chapel of St Elen, rather than being directly owned by Monk Bretton Priory.

HER	Name	Type	OS	Period
03676	St Helen's Well	monument	SE358088	med-postmed
02236	Chapel of St Ellen	monument	SE358088	med
04749	Monk Bretton Miners' Welfare	ridge and furrow	SE360081	med-postmed

Table 3. Medieval sites and structures near development area.

6.9 Victorian (c1830-1900). None of the industrial/Victorian remains listed in the South Yorkshire HER as being in within 1km have any relevance to the PDA.

6.10 Modern (1900-present). After WWII, Barnsley Council built large housing estates to rehouse families from the central part of the town. Under the Building Administration construction began in the late 1940s. What became Athersley South was built first, groundworks being complicated by the amount of dense woodland which had to be cleared. An influx of labourers into the area saw many staying on in the houses they had built and led to the decision to create a 'Phase 2' of Athersley, which became Athersley North.

6.11 St Helen's County Secondary School, used as a location in the film *Kes* (1969, Dir. Ken Loach) was located to the NNE of the PDA on Carlton Road, it opened in November 1963 as a secondary modern school. The school was amalgamated as part of the Edward Sheerien school in 1992 and was demolished in 2011.

6.12 Previous Archaeological Work. There has been no previous archaeological work on the PDA.

7 Site Visit

7.1 The site visit was carried out on 6 December 2018. There was no indication of past cultivation in the relief of the ground surface which had clearly been recently used as a paddock. Five boulders arranged in the centre of the paddock field can be seen to have drill and blast marks from quarrying (Photos 4-5). The western boundary is marked by a hedge and bank (Photo 1), but this boundary does not appear on any maps prior to the 1960s. The hedge is an imported species planted by the landowner and the bank is brief with modern building material protruding from it, of no antiquity. No surface finds of any antiquity were visible. There was more dumped building material near the northern boundary (Photo 6).

8 Discussion of Significance and Impact

8.1 As the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation Project (2007: Part III: 183) states during its discussion of inherited character, the large council estate developments around Barnsley by their very size have overwritten earlier field patterns. While there are some surviving boundaries on the margins of these estates the main roads are often the main surviving features of what was once a rural landscape, Carlton Road, formerly St Helen's Lane, is an example of this. At nearby New Lodge and Smithies, part of a farmstead survives as a nursing home, it was associated with an elite residence. The PDA is described as municipal suburbs built by 1939 in the Historic Environment Characterisation (2007: Part III: 182: f92). From a historic environment perspective there appears to

be nothing of historic or archaeological significance on the site available for discussion and little obvious potential for their discovery other than as chance finds. The residential character of the surrounding area and the status of the PDA as private land means that the development will have little or no impact on the historic environment or the character of the surrounding environment.

9 Conclusion

9.1 Based on a site visit, and reference to readily available records and resources, including historic map regression, there is no indication that the PDA has any archaeological potential. The lack of any known archaeological sites or finds in the area may indicate that this area was once forested as part of Athersley Wood. Even without tree cover the exposed, N-facing hilltop location, would not be optimal before the area was built up, as the prevailing winds tend to be from the southerly directions, meaning the post-medieval remnants of Athersley Wood could provide no protection.

10 Photographs



Photo 1. Western boundary of PDA.



Photo 2. Looking E across PDA from stables near western boundary.



Photo 3. Looking N across PDA from summit of Smithy Hill.



Photo 4. Quarried rocks on PDA showing drill marks. Scale 500mm.



Photo 5. Arrangement of quarried rocks on PDA. Scale 500mm.



Photo 6. Looking along northern boundary of PDA.



Photo 7. Yard at WNW end of access track. Looking roughly W.



Photo 8. Looking WSW across paddock field from gate.

Bibliography

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