



SPRING

ENABLING CLEAN GROWTH

The Trent Valley Railway and Rugeley Power Station are changes the site has witnessed in modern history.



HISTORY OF THE SITE

To inform our planning proposal and to help understand the potential heritage and archaeological value of the proposed site, we conduct a Historic Environment Assessment. We have included some of the findings below that give us some insight into how the land was used and worked since the arrival of humans.

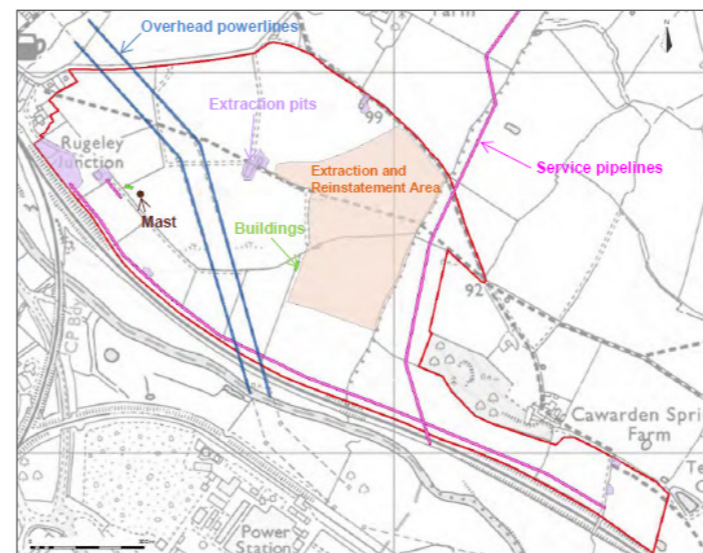
The earliest archaeological evidence for human activity around Colton and Rugeley dates to the Mesolithic period (15,000-5,000 years ago) and includes a temporary hunting camp located c.2km south-west of the Site and a Mesolithic-Neolithic flint scatter recovered by field walking approximately c.2.5km east of the Site. This evidence is indicative of seasonal occupation by small hunter-gatherer groups in the wider landscape during this period. No evidence for Mesolithic activity is recorded within the Site.

A large number of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments are recorded as cropmarks on the river terraces of the Trent with ring ditches the most common monument type. Evidence of such potential remains are recorded within the southern extents of the Site, these comprising a Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age ring ditch, recorded as a cropmark that may be the remains of a round barrow or possibly two.

The transition from the Bronze Age period into the Iron Age and Romano-British periods elsewhere across the county sees a change in landscape use from ceremonial to largely agricultural. Castle Ring Hillfort, located c.5km south of the Site, is the largest Iron Age site in the wider landscape and whilst the Site would fall within the hinterland of its associated settlement the full extent of its wider reach is unknown.

In the medieval period there were deer parks in the parish of Colton. Deer parks comprised enclosed areas of woodland and grassland and were used to manage and hunt deer and other wild animals, both for subsistence, but also as a form of entertaining for the wealthy. They are recorded in almost every county in England but were more prevalent in the Midlands and the south-east. Of the two recorded deer parks, the Site itself can be seen to occupy much of the southern part of that which is recorded by 1359 to have been established around what was later known as Colton Hall.

Documentary evidence records a possible glassworks to have been established within the Site during the 16th century although its precise location remains uncertain. A late post-medieval/modern brickworks is recorded to have been established within the north western extent of the Site, a number of associated clay pits to which are further recorded either side of the Trent Valley Railway line.



Areas have been subject to quarrying and landfill, as shown above. Pipelines and powerlines also cross the land. These activities are likely to have diminished the archaeological potential of the site.



The modern use of part of the north eastern area of the Site for the extraction of sand and gravel is further recorded and more clearly illustrated in the plans above. This has since been subject to landfill and subsequent landscape reinstatement. The development of the Rugeley Power Station 'A' and 'B' in the 1950s and 1960s is also noted to the south of the Site.

Our assessment has identified the Site to contain known non-

designated archaeological remains and to have a potential to contain unrecorded buried archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. We will conduct further surveys however what we have discovered so far would indicate that the known and potential archaeological remains identified for the Site are of low significance that would not constrain or prevent our proposal.

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