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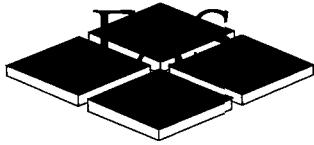
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
FRIARAGE CP SCHOOL
SCARBOROUGH**

REPORT
October 1997

On behalf of

Building Design & Management
NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
County Hall
Northallerton
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APPENDIX 1: Archaeological Specification

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document reports on an archaeological investigation undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council's Building Design and Management Unit. A programme of works was commissioned as a condition of planning consent for the development of a small area in the precinct of the Friarage C P. School, Longwestgate, Scarborough (NGR TA 0452 8889).

The programme required a brief cartographic search to determine whether there were earlier buildings on the site (Appendix 1, Archaeological Specification para.68). The development area was then subjected to an archaeological evaluation commencing with the close monitoring of the removal of the tarmac (para.70). After the removal of the overburden any archaeological features or deposits were then to be defined and characterised (para.69) and a mitigation strategy developed to determine whether to conserve any archaeological remains by modifying the foundation design, or to preserve by record through the archaeological excavation of any remains prior to development (para 72)

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

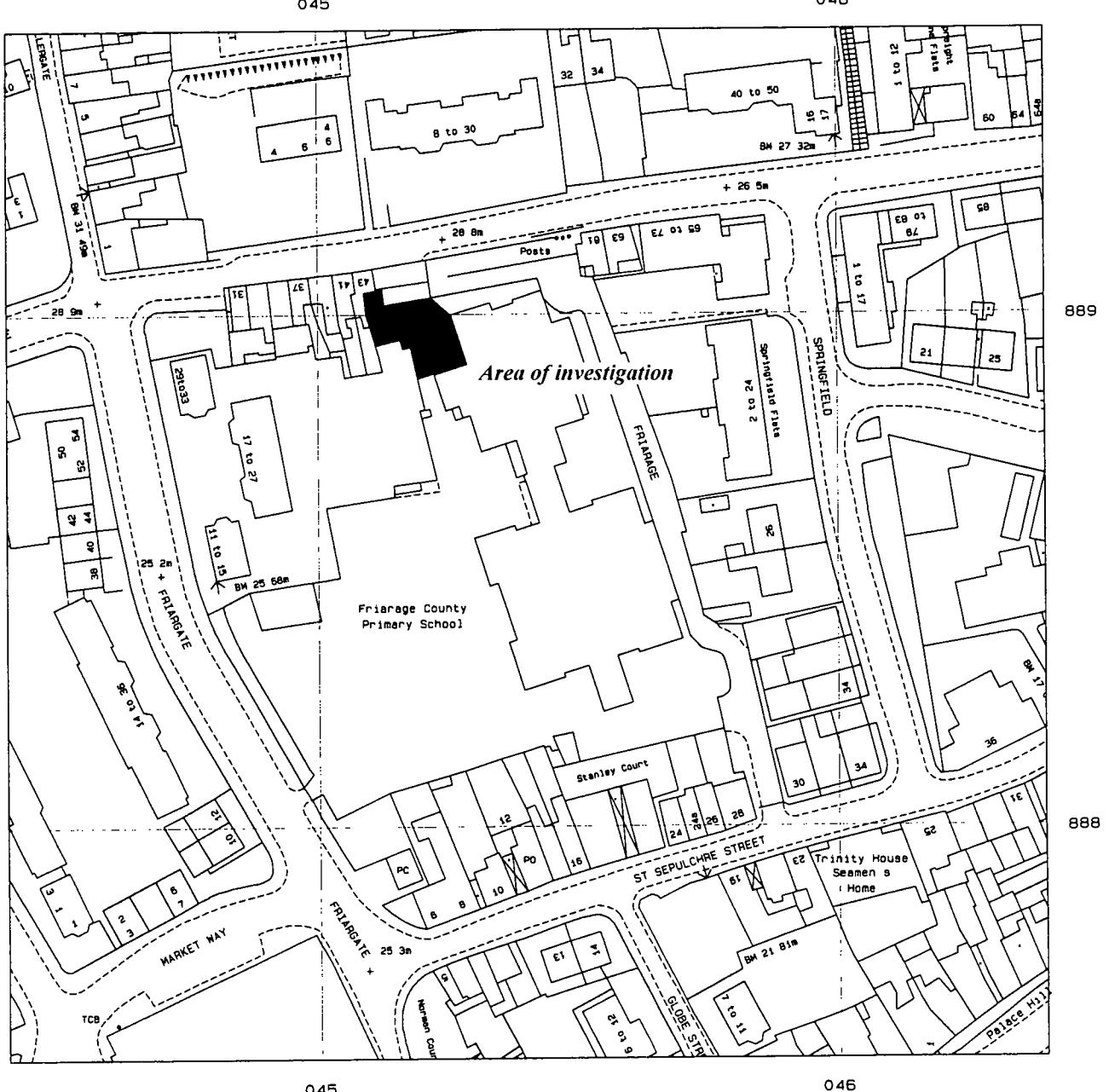
The Friarage School is situated in the northern part of Scarborough town centre, in the middle of an almost square plot clearly defined by four roads, Longwestgate, Friargate, St Sepulchre Street and Springfield. The development site was situated in the north western corner of the school playground (Fig 1), and was entirely covered with a tarmac surface which sloped down very slightly from north to south. To the north of the area was a row of houses fronting onto Longwestgate and a pedestrian ramp leading up to the street. Within the development area along the northern limit was a toilet block to be demolished during the construction programme. To the west of the site was a high brick wall, part of which pertained to a house on Longwestgate, and to the east were buildings belonging to the school.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Appendix 1, para 58-64)

Previous archaeological and historical research suggests that the area covered by the town of Scarborough was exploited by man from the prehistoric periods to the present day, playing a particularly important role as a port in medieval times when it was one of the wealthiest towns in Britain.

The site of the Friarage School takes its name from the Franciscan Friary which once occupied this area immediately within the boundary wall of the Old Borough of Scarborough. It was founded in 1267 after a grant of land to the Franciscan Order.

The area seems to have remained largely undeveloped since the 1720s (see map evidence below) and in 1798 parts of the friary remained visible above ground. It therefore seemed likely that there



LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT AREA



SCALE
1:2500

FIGURE 1

would have been good preservation of archaeological deposits on this site.

During excavations for the foundations of the school in 1894 a number of skeletons were encountered, and although their precise location was not recorded it was assumed that they belonged to the monastic graveyard.

Thus, at the commencement of the development programme, it seemed likely that at least some medieval deposits would be encountered and possibly structures associated with the northern boundary of the monastic precinct.

2.0 CARTOGRAPHIC SEARCH

A brief cartographic study was undertaken based on a series of maps kindly supplied by the librarian of the Scarborough Room at the Scarborough Library in Vernon Road. Copies of most of them are included here (Figs 3-13).

c 1540 Fig 3 The earliest evidence is from a prospective drawing published in 1824 by J Cole and W. Wilson, copied from an original in the British Museum dated to 1485, although the Scarborough Librarian considers it more likely to date from c.1540. The drawing shows the Franciscan Friary church with a tower at the north western corner and open ground to the west and south.

1725 Fig 4 By this time there is no longer any sign of the friary on the map; the "Fryeridge" name appears in an open space amidst buildings fronting onto Long West Gate to the north, Dumble Street (now Friargate) to the west, St. Sepulchre Street to the south and the Cook Row to the east. On this map the south eastern part of the plot is labelled as St. Sepulchre Church Yard.

1745 Fig.5 Vincent's 1745 plan shows the same layout as before but with Cook's Row (not named) angled instead of curved and with a new road, not named here but later known as Batty Place, apparently developed on both sides. This road runs from Dumble Street near the north western corner of the Friary area eastward into the open area. St. Sepulchre's Church Yard is still shown in the south eastern corner

c 1770 Fig.6 A very similar plan to Vincent's although there is no mention of St. Sepulchre's churchyard and there are several trees laid out in avenues within the open area of "Fryeridge".

c.1790 Fig.7 Similar to the 1770 map there are now no trees. The area is divided up with formal gardens on the west and plots marked out on the former area of St. Sepulchre's churchyard.

- c 1810 Fig.8 The same map as before but with a small building added in the south eastern corner of the area. Batty Place is still not named
- 1828 Fig.9 This map does not show the entire Friary plot but suggests that the central area was cultivated as a large field whereas the eastern side is divided into plots and gardens behind the houses. Batty Place is named for the first time and houses are apparent both to the north and the south of it.
- 1842 Fig.10 This plan from a new survey by A.G. Tyson shows the same situation as the 1828 map, with Batty Place and its houses and gardens. The large open area still seems to be under cultivation and is called "Friargate". The south eastern corner now contains the Friends Meeting House and, to its west, a Methodist chapel.
- 1845 Fig.11 A more stylised map by S.W. Theakston shows Batty Place a little too far north and the friary area less built up. The central area is still under cultivation.
- c.1870 Fig.12 This map only shows roads and public buildings but the area is now known as Spring Gardens and Batty Place is still there, presumably with its housing.
- c 1910 Fig.13 This early Ordnance Survey map shows the same layout as the 1870 map. This is strange since the Friargate School was reported to have been built in 1894 but is not shown, whereas other schools in Scarborough are mentioned on the map

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

3.1 FIELDWORK PROCEDURE

Initial clearance of the tarmac surface was undertaken using the teeth of the bucket of a back acting JCB mechanical excavator after which the bucket was changed for a toothless one to clear back the rubble hardcore preparation. Cleaning of the layer beneath this superficial disturbance was carried out by the removal of small artificial spits over the entire area using first the toothless machine bucket, then shovels and finally trowels to achieve a surface clean enough to define any archaeological features present.

A temporary bench mark AOD was set up with reference to an Ordnance Survey bench mark on a house in Friargate, and the development area and all features and context edges were mapped using a total station theodolite.

3.2 RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

The tarmac surface was 0.8-0.1m thick and proved to be very recent as there were Coca-Cola tins trapped beneath it. It was bedded on a layer of hardcore, c.0.25-0.30m deep, comprised of broken bricks and mortar and occasion fragments of yellow sandstone. At the base of this layer the rubble pressed into a layer of clay.

The surface of this clay layer was carefully cleaned in order to define any features cutting it (Fig 2) Most of the features recorded on the plan were associated with existing structures. In the north western corner were the remains of the foundation raft for the toilet block with ceramic drainage channels identical to those inside the block, and immediately to the south of the block was a manhole with one main outlet running south from it. Running into this drain from the west was a channel taking rain water from the gutters of the building to the west. Another drain ran from a downpipe on the north western corner of the present school building westwards until it turned to run parallel with the aforementioned manhole outlet. Other drainage features were encountered on the west side and a water main was seen to cross the south eastern part of the area.

Non-drainage features encountered were the foundation and brick floor of a small lean-to shed against the western limit of the area, and a few bricks along the eastern limit of the site which sealed the foundation trench for the school building and presumably once belonged to a brick, possibly herringbone-patterned, yard surface.

The clay layer into which all these features were cut was particularly disturbed in the southern half of the area and although several patches of dark soil were cleaned in an attempt to define features they all turned out to be shallow dumps and lenses of material containing modern debris

The clay layer itself gave the impression of being redeposited or disturbed subsoil, perhaps levelling for the construction of the school. Considering the present topography of the site, with the level of Longwestgate being a great deal higher than that of the school yard, it seemed more likely that the school construction was terraced into the natural subsoil and that this clay layer was in fact subsoil.

Four test trenches were excavated to a depth of c1.20m from the height of the tarmac and all four gave the same results, the layer was a homogenous stiff silty clay varying in colour from reddish brown (MC 5YR 4/3) to strong brown (MC 7.5YR 5/6) with occasional lenses of reddish brown sand and wisps of white silty clay. Occasional flecks and fragments of charcoal were noted throughout. No finds were recovered from this layer.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The map evidence suggests that the friary precinct was built up only around the perimeters after the decline of the monastery, and that the central area would have been fairly well preserved up until the construction of the present school. Given that the plot of land thought to have been that of the Friary precinct seems consistently to retain the same shape and size, at least throughout the post-medieval and modern periods, it is probable that the precinct wall of the friary lay beneath the houses which now front onto Longwestgate. The small area of the new development is likely to have been on or near the friary church (pers. comm. Dr. L.A.S Butler).

The road which first appears on Vincent's 1745 plan, and which remained in use, as Batty Place, well into the 20th century was probably slightly to the south of the development area, but even allowing for the inaccuracies of scaling up old maps, there should have been some indication on site of the buildings to the north of the road.

There was a noticeable lack of any residual medieval material on the excavated area, with only one small sherd of green glazed pottery from the tarmac preparation layer, and one fragment of possibly worked yellow sandstone sighted in the backfill of the school's foundation trench.

It is therefore suggested that the northern part of the friary precinct was terraced behind the properties on Longwestgate, cutting away all archaeological deposits and levelling the natural subsoil in order to create a uniform surface on which to construct the Friarage School in 1894.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of these investigations indicate that no further archaeological work is necessary on the development site and that a watchmg brief on the demolition of the toilet block would yield no further information.

Although the excavation of this part of the site revealed nothing of the friary, it is still likely that the southern half of the site contains well preserved deposits. Local passers-by who talked about the fact that skeletons had been found on the school site all suggested that they were in the lower, southern part of the site.

It is therefore recommended that any future construction work, particularly to the south of the present development area, be carefully momtored.