

Broadacres Housing Association & Cecil M Yuill Ltd

Linden Grove, Great Ayton

Archaeological Walkover Report

Ref: D122642

March 2009



Revision Schedule

Linden Grove, Great Ayton. Archaeological Walkover Report March 2009

Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
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Summary

Scott Wilson has been commissioned by Yuill Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological walkover and rapid assessment of land at Linden Grove, Great Ayton, North Yorkshire.

The aim of the study was to establish the potential for the presence of archaeological remains within the site through the rapid analysis of archaeological, documentary and cartographic sources. A site visit was undertaken in order to assess the current nature of the site, to determine the potential for archaeological remains and/or deposits to occur and to assess the impact that modern activities have had upon these.

1 Introduction

Foreword

- 1.1 Scott Wilson was commissioned by Yuill Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological walkover and rapid assessment of a proposed development area off Linden Grove, Great Ayton. The research was carried out during February and March 2009.
- 1.2 The aim of the assessment was to determine the potential for the presence and survival of archaeological remains and historic structures/features within the proposed development site and to assess the extent of modern disturbance.

Site Location and Land-use

- 1.3 The proposed development area is situated on the outskirts of the village of Great Ayton. The site covers an area of c.0.5ha centred upon NGR NZ 558 111.
- 1.4 The site is bounded to the east, west and south by residential properties. A cemetery lies to the north of the site. At present the site is un-used and overgrown.

Geology

- 1.5 The Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 33 indicates that the solid strata for the site comprise Jurassic Redcar Mudstone Formation, overlain by till (boulder clay) and undifferentiated drift.

Aims and Objectives

- 1.6 The aim of the study is to assess the cultural heritage resource within the proposed development area through the collation of existing written, cartographic, pictorial, photographic and electronic evidence. It will identify the likely character, extent, quality and significance of the known or potential archaeological resource.
- 1.7 The specific objectives of the walkover assessment were:
- to identify known archaeological sites within or in the vicinity of the proposed development area;
 - to assess the likely survival of buried archaeological deposits across the site, the significance of these deposits, and the potential impact of the development upon them;
 - to assess the significance of the built heritage and the potential impact of the development on it;

- to assess the impact that former impact intrusive activities have had on archaeological deposits/levels;
- to assess the need for further intrusive and non-intrusive investigative works, where necessary, to provide further information from which to make recommendations;
- to formulate a strategy for further works, if appropriate.

2 Methodology

The Study Area

- 2.1 The research area was initially defined by a 500m radius centred on the proposed development area. However, due to the relatively low number of archaeological events within the defined radius, the search area was extended up to 4km. This provided a more general archaeological background to the site and wider study area.

Site Visit

- 2.2 A site visit to assess the current ground conditions and archaeological and historical potential of the site was undertaken on 12th March 2009. All observations on the present layout of the site are based on the site visit.

Sources

National Monument Record (NMR)

- 2.3 Records of all known sites, find spots and buildings of archaeological/historical significance within the study area were obtained from the NMR. These have been identified in this report by their Monument Number and catalogued in Appendix 1.

Cartographic Sources

- 2.4 A selection of historic maps were analysed in the production of this report. These included the Thomas Jeffreys' Map of the County of York 1772, and Ordnance Survey editions. These were obtained from the Record Office for North Yorkshire and Landmark® Information Group.

Textual Sources

- 2.5 Published and unpublished textual sources were consulted during the compilation of this report.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 No significant records exist in the NMR for the proposed development area. Therefore a chronological history of the wider area has been presented to place the site into context.

Prehistoric

- 3.2 Despite the location of the proposed development area within a known prehistoric landscape, there is little evidence from the site itself. The broader landscape includes evidence of communities dating from the early prehistoric represented by the discovery of stone axes 1.3km south of Great Ayton, and by a number of cairn burials spread along the ridge on Hutton Moor, approximately 4km north east of the site.
- 3.3 Material evidence for prehistoric and later prehistoric activity from within the study area comes from a number of isolated finds. A late Bronze Age hoard discovered 1.5km north east of the site at Roseberry Topping in 1826, included socketed axes, gouges, a hammer, a possible dagger sheath, a lump of jet and a large piece of copper. Later prehistoric activity is represented by a standing stone, over 2km north east of the site, which is believed to be the remains of an avenue or stone circle, and an Iron Age, possibly Roman, beehive quern discovered to the north of Langbaugh Hall, approximately 700m north of the site.
- 3.4 Evidence for settlement includes an Iron Age hilltop enclosure at Great Ayton Moor. Limited excavation during 1953 and 1955 identified the remains of a roundhouse, hearth and pottery fragments (Tinkler and Spratt 1978).

Roman

- 3.5 Evidence for Roman activity within the wider study area comes from a number of discrete finds and historical reports. Elgee, in his book 'Romans in Cleveland', references two reports relating to Roman activity. At the site of the current village club, approximately 400m to the south of the site, it was reported that a number of Roman finds were unearthed during excavation. In addition, it was also stated in an undated newspaper report that Roman pottery was recovered from a cemetery site 1km south of the site. The current whereabouts of the finds allegedly recovered is unknown (Elgee 1923).
- 3.6 Additional stray finds include a possible Roman greyware vessel uncovered during non-archaeological excavations approximately 1.6km east of the site, and a beehive quern which had been incorporated into a farm track 2.5km to the north east of the site.

Medieval

- 3.7 Great Ayton is within the wapentake of Langbaugh, taken from the hamlet of Langbaugh a quarter of a mile to the north. Bulmer's *History and Directory of North Yorkshire* (1890) describes the early history of Great Ayton:

“Ayton Magna, at the time of the Domesday Survey, contained three distinct manors. These were subsequently united, and in the reign of Stephen, Great Ayton was held by Robert de Estoteville. It remained in the possession of this family until the reign of Henry III., when it passed in marriage to the family of De Wake. The next owners were the Nevilles, Earls of Westmoreland, but this, and all the other estates belonging to the sixth earl, were forfeited to the Crown upon his attainder for the very prominent part he took in the Rising of the North. James I. granted the manor of Ayton to his countryman, Sir David Foulis, Bart., who sold it in the following reign to Christopher Coulson, citizen of London.”

- 3.8 Although there is the suggestion of early medieval activity in the area (fragments of two 9th century cross heads were found in the vicarage gardens of All Saints Church), there is no further settlement evidence within the defined study area until the medieval period. All Saints Church, located 300m south west of the site, is a former parish church primarily of Norman date with extensive later remodelling. The nave is 12th century, with a chancel and porch added in the 13th century. The church was refurbished in the 18th century and underwent 19th century restoration including the building of vestry.
- 3.9 Traces of possible medieval settlement earthworks have been identified by aerial photographs. Ridge and furrow, a hollow way and possible settlement related earthworks have been identified in the vicinity of the dispersed settlement of Langbaugh, 400m north of the site, centred on NZ 5566 1151. These remains were identified during English Heritage reconnaissance in 2003 (Ref: 17784/19-20).
- 3.10 Earthworks have also been identified relating to Tunstall medieval settlement, 3km west of the site. The village of Tunstall is recorded in the Domesday survey but fell into decline during the 14th century, probably from a combination of the Black Death and associated economic collapse, and early 14th century Scottish raids.
- 3.11 Approximately 2.3km north west of the site, at Nunthorpe Hall, earthworks have been identified which relate to a 12th century Cistercian nunnery and priory.

Post-medieval to Modern

- 3.12 The landscape around Great Ayton is still characterised by strip fields to this day and enclosure started to occur in the late 17th century. The traditional three fields of Great Ayton were Applebridge Field on either side of the current Stokesley road, Crabtree Field to the north of Yarm Lane, and Wood Field in the vicinity of Cliff Rigg. The fields were divided up into furlongs and then strips and each were farmed by a different individual.

There were strict rules governing cultivation, and offenders were referred to the Manorial Court. The process of enclosing the old open fields, for the benefit of a few wealthy local landowners, started early in Great Ayton, in 1658, before the majority of enclosures that were put into effect by private Acts of Parliament in the eighteenth century.

3.13 Two important industries were started during the 18th century; the tile and brick works at Tile Sheds, and the alum works at Cockshaw. Leather tanning, linen weaving, and agriculture continued to be important features of the local economy. Ayton Bank Alum Works is a Scheduled Monument, located 3k east of the village containing the remnants of the quarry along with processing and transportation structures.

3.14 Historical Directories provide an insight into the character of the village during this period. The following text has been taken from Kelly's Directory of N & E Ridings of Yorkshire, 1893:

"Great Ayton consists principally of one broad street about a mile long, intersected by a small rivulet crossed by a stone bridge of two arches and two of wood; it is 3 miles north-east of Stokesley and 6 south-west of Guisborough, and has a station east of the village. The old church of All Saints, a low and ancient structure, was repaired in 1790, but is now used only for burials. Christ Church was erected in 1876 at a cost of £5,000 and consists of a chancel, nave, aisles, north porch and a tower with spire."

3.15 The Victoria County History for Great Ayton (Parishes: Great Ayton, *A History of the County of York North Riding: Volume 2* (1923), pp. 225-231), provides an insight into the character of the village and the level of industry it supported:

"The population is for the most part agricultural, though there are several quarries and iron ore mines in the parish. At the beginning of the 19th century Great Ayton was a manufacturing village containing three tanyards, a comb and horn manufactory, a common brewery, an oil-mill, a water corn-mill, a tallow chandlery and a brick and tile kiln. The tanneries were still in existence in 1849.

The village is of considerable size and consists of one long street, with an open place at the east end called the High Green. Here, no doubt, was held the market granted to Robert de Stutevill and his heirs in 1253. There are no records of this market, and probably the near neighbourhood of Stokesley soon made it unprofitable."

4 Historical and Current Land-use

- 4.1 The following presents an overview of the cartographic sequence from the 1772 Thomas Jeffreys' Map to the 1952 edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map.
- 4.2 An extract from Thomas Jeffreys' map of the County of York, dated 1772, shows the layout of the village of Ayton. Principal routes comprise Guisborough Road and Easby Lane, which cut a north-south swath through the village. East-west routes through the village consist of Low Green, Levenside to the south and the High Street. Settlement is centred around Low Green and the High Street and the church of All Saints is illustrated on the corner of Low Green and Guisborough Road.
- 4.3 On the first edition OS map dated 1856, the landscape around the village of Ayton is characterised by small strip fields. A field boundary forms the alignment of the current Linden Avenue to the south of the site. The area of the site itself is occupied by an enclosed field, bounded by hedgerows which are aligned roughly east-west.
- 4.4 Ayton is annotated as Great Ayton on the 1894 OS map. The site is still occupied by an enclosed field and a cemetery has been established on its northern edge. There is no change to the site on the later OS maps, although the 1928 map does illustrate the growth of the village, as residential properties extend north from the core of the village as far as Linden Avenue.
- 4.5 The OS map of 1952 similarly illustrates the rapid expansion in residential properties within the village. The area of the site remains undeveloped, but properties are now sited to the immediate south and east.
- 4.6 A visual inspection of the site was undertaken as part of the assessment. The site remains undeveloped, although the presence of an Anderson style shelter and the remains of a wooden shed, suggests the site has been used as allotments, or similar, in the recent past.



Plate 1: Dilapidated 'Anderson' style shelter

- 4.7 The site is bordered by a 1.8m closed boarded wooden fence on the east; closed wooden fencing panels to the south with properties beyond, and residential gardens to the west. The cemetery lies to the north and is separated from the site by a 1m high metal fence on top of a slight earthen bank. The bank is lined with mature deciduous and evergreen trees, as well as dense vegetation comprising holly and brambles.
- 4.8 The interior of the site is heavily overgrown and a thick blanket of brambles covers the majority of the area.



Plate 2: View to the south. Dense grass and brambles

- 4.9 Young deciduous and evergreen trees are also present within the site. The Anderson style shelter is located in the north of the site, adjacent to the remains of a wooden shed. Both structures are in a dilapidated state and fragments are strewn across the site. Fragments of the shelter appear to be formed of asbestos.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 No known archaeological sites have been identified within the proposed development area or within the immediate vicinity.
- 5.2 Previous land-use appears to have been primarily agricultural, and ploughing may have partially truncated shallow near-surface deposits. Conversely, due to the lack of later development within the site, truncation through ploughing appears to be the only activity that could have damaged sub-surface deposits. Therefore any archaeology present should be relatively well preserved.
- 5.3 The site is located away from the medieval core of the village and there are no known events of earlier settlement activity within the immediate area. It is unlikely that important deposits relating to medieval – modern periods will be encountered within the site. Previous land-use suggests that any remains present are likely to consist of field boundaries and evidence for related agricultural activity, and therefore the risk associated with these deposits is considered to be low.
- 5.4 Little is presently known regarding the potential for prehistoric and Roman remains within the bounds of the site. The majority of known activity within the wider area dating to these periods relate to isolated findspots.
- 5.5 However, the site has remained largely undeveloped throughout the modern and post-medieval periods and as such there remains a potential for as yet unknown prehistoric and Roman remains to exist within the site. The risk associated with archaeological remains dating to this period is therefore considered to be medium.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The proposed development site is currently unused and heavily overgrown. Previous land-use suggests it was used for agricultural purposes and possibly as allotments. The ground surface is very uneven and strewn with modern debris; as such, non-invasive survey, such as geophysics, is not recommended as the presence of debris would affect results.
- 6.2 In order to assess whether areas of important archaeological remains could be avoided at the design stage, it is recommended that trench evaluation be undertaken within the site.
- 6.3 Any strategy for evaluative fieldwork will be devised in consultation with the County Archaeologist.

7 Bibliography

British Geological Survey, Stockton – 1:50,000 Series Geological Map, Solid and Drift Edition 1987

Bulmer, 1890. *History and Directory of North Yorkshire*

Elgee, F. 1923. Romans in Cleveland

Kelly's Directory of North & East Ridings of Yorkshire, 1893

Tinkler and Spratt, 1978. An Iron Age Enclosure on Great Ayton Moor, North Yorkshire. *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, 50

Victoria County History, 1923. Parishes: Great Ayton, *A History of the County of York North Riding: Volume 2*, pp. 225-231

Cartographic Sources

1772 - An extract from Thomas Jeffreys map of the County of York

1856 - Ordnance Survey Map

1894 - Ordnance Survey Map

1915 - Ordnance Survey Map

1919 - Ordnance Survey Map

1928 - Ordnance Survey Map

1952 - Ordnance Survey Map

Appendix 1

Catalogue of NMR Sites

Catalogue of NMR Sites

Monument Number	Type	Description	NGR	Date	Designation
27739	Findspot	Stone axes found to the south of Great Ayton	NZ 550 100	Neolithic	
27732	Findspot	Flint arrowhead found at Newton; currently in the British Museum (Sturge Collection)	NZ 571 130	Prehistoric	
32013	Burials	Round cairn, part of a group of seven spread along the ridge	NZ 596 126	Bronze Age	Scheduled
32014	Burials	Two round cairns on Hutton Moor, part of a group of seven spread along the ridge	NZ 596 125	Bronze Age	Scheduled
NY873	Burials	Great Ayton Moor Cairn cemetery and earthworks. Scheduled Ancient Monument	NZ 595 115	Bronze Age	Scheduled
27648	Findspot	Hoard found at Roseberry Topping in 1826. Artefacts included socketed axes, gouges, hammer, possible dagger sheath, lump of jet and large piece of copper. Currently held in Sheffield Museum	NZ 571 119	Late Bronze Age	
27734	Findspot	Standing stone; believed to be the remains of an avenue or stone circle	NZ 572 128	Late prehistoric	
N/A	Settlement	Hilltop enclosure at Great Ayton Moor		Iron Age	
27729	Findspot	A beehive quern discovered to the north of Langbaugh Hall	NZ 560 117	Iron Age / Roman	
27728	Findspot	Reportedly, Roman pottery was recovered from a cemetery site to the south of Great Ayton. Current whereabouts of finds is unknown	NZ 561 099	Roman	
27653	Findspot	Reportedly, a number of Roman artefacts were unearthed during excavations. Current location of finds is unknown	NZ 5583 1070	Roman	
27649	Findspot	Greyware vessel, possibly Roman, uncovered during non-archaeological excavations	NZ 575 110	Roman?	

27730	Findspot	Site of Roman beehive quern found built into a farm track	NZ 575 128	Roman	
27742	Church	Church of All Saints, Great Ayton. Primarily of Norman date with extensive c. 18th remodelling. Fragments of two c. 9th crossheads were recovered from the vicarage gardens	NZ 557 108	Medieval / 18th century	Grade II
31350	Settlement	Earthworks relating to Tunstall medieval settlement. Scheduled Ancient Monument	NZ 5275 1204	Medieval	Scheduled
27748	Settlement	Earthworks at Nunthorpe Hall, relating to c. 12th Cistercian nunnery and priory. Scheduled Ancient Monument	NZ 542 129	Medieval	Scheduled
1434015	Settlement	Ridge and furrow, a hollow way and possible settlement related earthworks identified from aerial photographs in vicinity of dispersed settlement of Langbaugh	NZ 5566 1151	Medieval	
31343	Quarry	Ayton Banks alum works, including remains of quarries, processing and transportation structures. Scheduled Ancient Monument	NZ 5888 1077	Post-medieval	Scheduled
1473530	Military	WWII anti-aircraft battery near Tree Bridge Farm	NZ 545 121	Modern	