

2.8 *Embankment Cross*
(NGR TA 02230 79320. SMR 7222)

A post type wind mill of unknown period was excavated by Brewster, finds included nails, pottery and a clay layer, but little further information has been published.

2.9 *Newham's Pit, 1948-49. Medieval building and enclosure*
(NGR TA 02440 79420. SMR 7220)

The remains of a rectangular medieval building were excavated by Brewster, situated within a ditched enclosure immediately to the north of the Romano-British enclosure¹⁰. Although the site had been partially damaged by a mechanical excavator prior to investigation, a building measuring approximately 5.5m by 3.5m with two internal hearths was recorded by Brewster (1952).

2.10 *Inhumation & Beaker*
(NGR TA 02440 79570. SMR 7215)

The SMR records the discovery of an inhumation, found associated with a beaker which fell from the side of a sand and gravel pit. The body was of an adult female, and dates from the Early Bronze Age.

2.11 *Newham's Pit, Beaker*
(NGR TA 02450 79350. SMR 7216)

The SMR records that a Beaker was recovered some time during 1939-47 from the area of the inner ditch of the Romano-British settlement at Newham's Pit. This was found when part of the quarry face fell, and the exact provenance of the object is therefore unclear, and it is not known whether the vessel had been associated with an inhumation (Brewster, 1951).

2.12 *Iron Age/Romano-British pot sherds*
(NGR TA 02280 79360. SMR 7213)

During the excavation of the Beaker cemetery¹¹, a number of late Iron Age or early Roman pot sherds were found. One sherd contained calcite grits, while the others are

¹⁰ See Section 2.1, SMR No. 7217

¹¹ See Section 2.3, SMR No. 7210

described as having a corky fabric. These might be associated with either the Iron Age settlement¹², or with the Roman military station¹³.

2.13 Possible Hut circle and field boundaries

Aerial photographs of the region show a number of curvilinear crop-marks to the south-east of the proposed development which are probably of old field boundaries. In the same group of marks there appears a circular feature, which might represent a ring ditch or hut circle (NYCC Records Office, Aerial Photograph 67:215).

2.14 Possible Barrow group

Further crop-marks to the east and north-east of the proposed development form three circular marks, which might represent either ring ditches or a ploughed out barrow group (NYCC Records Office, Aerial Photograph 67:215).

¹² See Section 2.6, SMR No. 7235

¹³ See Section 2.1, SMR No. 7217



Figure 5. Archaeological Locations within the immediate vicinity of proposed development
Numbers refer to subsections of Section 2. Development area shaded red.

3.1 Analysis by period

3.1.1 *Late Upper Palaeolithic (c. 10,000 - 7600 bc)*

The Vale of Pickering holds some potential for the archaeology of this period, as indicated by discoveries made at Flixton Carr and Seamer Carr. Both these sites have produced Creswellian flint artefacts, and Spratt (1993) suggests that this area might have been part of the 'exploration zone' for Upper Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers. There is, however, no evidence of activity closer to the proposed development, and it is unlikely that material from this period would be disturbed.

3.1.2 *Mesolithic (c. 7600 - 3500 bc)*

Although this general area appears to have been widely exploited during the Mesolithic, (for example the landscapes around Seamer Carr (*NGR TA 040 830*), Flixton (*NGR TA 040 813 and TA 034 810*) and Star Carr (*NGR TA 027 810*) are renowned for discoveries of this period), there is no direct evidence for occupation or use of the development site itself during this period. Indeed, it would appear that Mesolithic sites in the Vale tend to focus on the 24m AOD sub-surface contour (P. Lane, pers. comm.), which lies to the north and is well below the elevation of this development. A few minor surface sites have been discovered on or near the Tabular Hills, but the majority of sites in East Yorkshire are focused on the sandstone moorlands (Spratt, 1993). Whether this apparent distribution of sites is due to factors of field work bias or later deposition is unclear, but it seems unlikely that any Mesolithic remains are located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

3.1.3 *Neolithic (c. 3500 - 1700 bc)*

As with the Mesolithic period, the general vicinity has revealed a number of Neolithic sites, but the majority seem to be located to the south, within the Wolds. Whether this distribution is due to a bias in archaeological field work rather than a true pattern of site distribution is questionable, but it is clear that the depth of recent deposition (alluvial, colluvial, and aeolian) in the Vale of Pickering may have obscured many potential sites of this period.

One of the nearest Neolithic sites is Sammy Rider's Pit, at Flixton, where a row of pits or post holes were discovered with Grimston and Grooved ware pottery sherds in the fills (Brewster, unpublished).

Although there is no evidence to suggest that the development site itself is located on features of this period, there remains the possibility that Neolithic features could be present in the area.

3.1.4 *Bronze Age (c. 1700 - 600 bc)*

As Section 2 of this report has shown, both the general area and the immediate vicinity of the proposed development were extensively used during the Bronze Age. The proposed development appears to lie at the heart of a Beaker funerary complex, and remains of this period are therefore highly likely to survive in any undisturbed areas of the site.

3.1.5 *Iron Age & Romano-British (c. 600 bc - AD 410)*

The evidence from Grainger's Pit shows that Iron Age occupation occurred in the immediate area of the proposed development. On a broader scale, there has recently been an excavation at Potter Brompton which revealed an Iron Age square barrow cemetery (M. Johnson, pers. comm.). It would therefore appear that the local landscape was subject to both ritual and secular activity during this period, and the possibility of encountering Iron Age features cannot be discounted.

3.1.6 *Anglo-Saxon to Medieval (AD 410 - 1540)*

The village of Staxton has a pre-Conquest foundation date, the name being first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. The name means 'Stakk's farmstead', and demonstrates an Anglo-Scandinavian influence (Smith, 1937). It is clear from previous excavations that Anglo-Saxon remains are likely to survive in any unquarried areas of the site.

During the Medieval period the village of Staxton is thought to have been a centre for the production of Potter Brompton/Staxton ware, a type of coarse heavily-tempered pottery distributed widely throughout East Yorkshire. Excavations carried out by Brewster in the late 1940s unearthed what he interpreted as a number of kilns, located at NGR TA 01500 79050. This interpretation has been questioned by some researchers, but recent excavations at the same site produced large quantities of pot sherds and layers of burnt earth and ash (Hopkinson, in press). This recent evidence lends weight to Brewster's earlier findings, and it seems clear that pottery was being produced on a fairly large scale somewhere in the vicinity. Given this fact, and the location of the Hospitium and the medieval building at Newham's Pit, it seems the area was widely used at this time, and there is a good chance of further remains of this period being preserved in the area of the proposed development.

3.1.7 *Post Medieval (AD 1540 onwards)*

The only nearby archaeological feature from this period is probably the post mill excavated by Brewster, although the date of this structure is uncertain. It seems unlikely, therefore, that any significant post medieval remains would be present within the development area.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The site of the proposed development is clearly one of exceptionally high archaeological potential, with documented archaeological remains located in the immediate vicinity from the early Bronze Age through to the Medieval period. If one looks slightly further afield, to Flixton and Seamer Carrs, then the period of exploitation or occupation stretches back as far as the Upper Palaeolithic.

Much of the material from this particular site, however, will have been lost when it was opened for sand quarrying, and it is only the areas between the quarry pits which hold the potential for archaeological interest. At present, however, it is unclear as to whether the areas between quarry pits are remnants of the previous ground surface, or man-made spoil heaps created when the quarrying took place. Any recommendation for the scope of further archaeological work will obviously be dependant on establishing whether any areas of the original ground level will be disturbed by the works associated with the development proposal. If this proves to be the case, it is the opinion of this author, given the prolific evidence of archaeological features in the surrounding area, that further archaeological field work will be necessary on these areas.

A measured survey was made of the quarry pit immediately to the south of the A64, which currently has a tarmac surface (see Figure 2, above). Any development confined to this area would have no impact on archaeological remains, but interference elsewhere, or groundworks for access routes or landscaping at the margins of this quarry pit would require further archaeological work.

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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