
THE LODGE, HOWDEN SECONDARY SCHOOL,
DERWENT ROAD, HOWDEN.
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OSA REPORT No: OSA10WB14.

June 2010.

OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA10WB14

SITE NAME: The Lodge, Howden Secondary School, Howden.

COUNTY: East Riding of Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 7537 2863

PLANNING REFERENCE NO: DC/09/04728/REG3

SMR REFERENCE NO: PA/CONS/16064

ON BEHALF OF: Quibel & Son (Hull) Ltd

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GRAPHICS: Graham Bruce

FIELDWORK: Graham Bruce

TIMING: Fieldwork
10th June 2010
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June 2010

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1.0 Abstract.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by On-Site Archaeology at the site of the former Lodge, Howden Secondary School, Derwent Road, Howden. The work involved the monitoring of ground works on the site for the construction of two semi detached dwellings, following demolition of the existing dwelling.

The natural clay was revealed across the full footprint of the new houses. A single feature was revealed, which was entirely excavated by hand. This was undated, was very irregular in plan and profile and was almost certainly a tree hole. The natural clay was sealed by a thin soil horizon, from which a single abraded sherd of medieval pottery was recovered. This deposit is likely to represent an earlier agricultural soil and it was sealed by modern topsoil.



Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 7537 2863)

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2.0 Site Location.

The development plot is located in the town of Howden. It lies at National Grid Reference SE 7537 2863, and the modern ground level is at approximately 4m AOD. The site is bounded to the north and south by Derwent Road, and to the west by Howden Secondary School. Until recently the site had been occupied by an existing building, The Lodge, which was demolished as part of the current development.

3.0 Archaeological Background.

The site of the proposed development lies within the historic core of the medieval town of Howden, which was a major pre-Conquest administrative and ecclesiastical centre. Flatgate forms the northeastern end of the main thoroughfare and, together with Bridgegate and Pinfold lane, is thought to be one of the earliest streets in the town. Occupation is known to have extended eastwards along this street in the medieval period. Watching briefs undertaken during construction work on the northern side of Flatgate, directly to the south of the proposal site, have identified several features dating mostly from the 13th and 14th centuries, including boundary ditches, a possible well and a sequence of ground-raising or levelling deposits. (The above information is provided by Humber Archaeology Partnership).

4.0 Methodology.

The watching brief was carried out following demolition of the existing building. Due to the shallow depth of deposits the removal of the existing footings and stripping of topsoil revealed the natural clay over the full footprint of the new houses. Individual foundation trenches excavated into the natural were not therefore monitored.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the watching brief. These involved the completion of a written description for each deposit, structure or cut encountered, along with plans and/or sections drawn to scale. A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained.

5.0 Results.

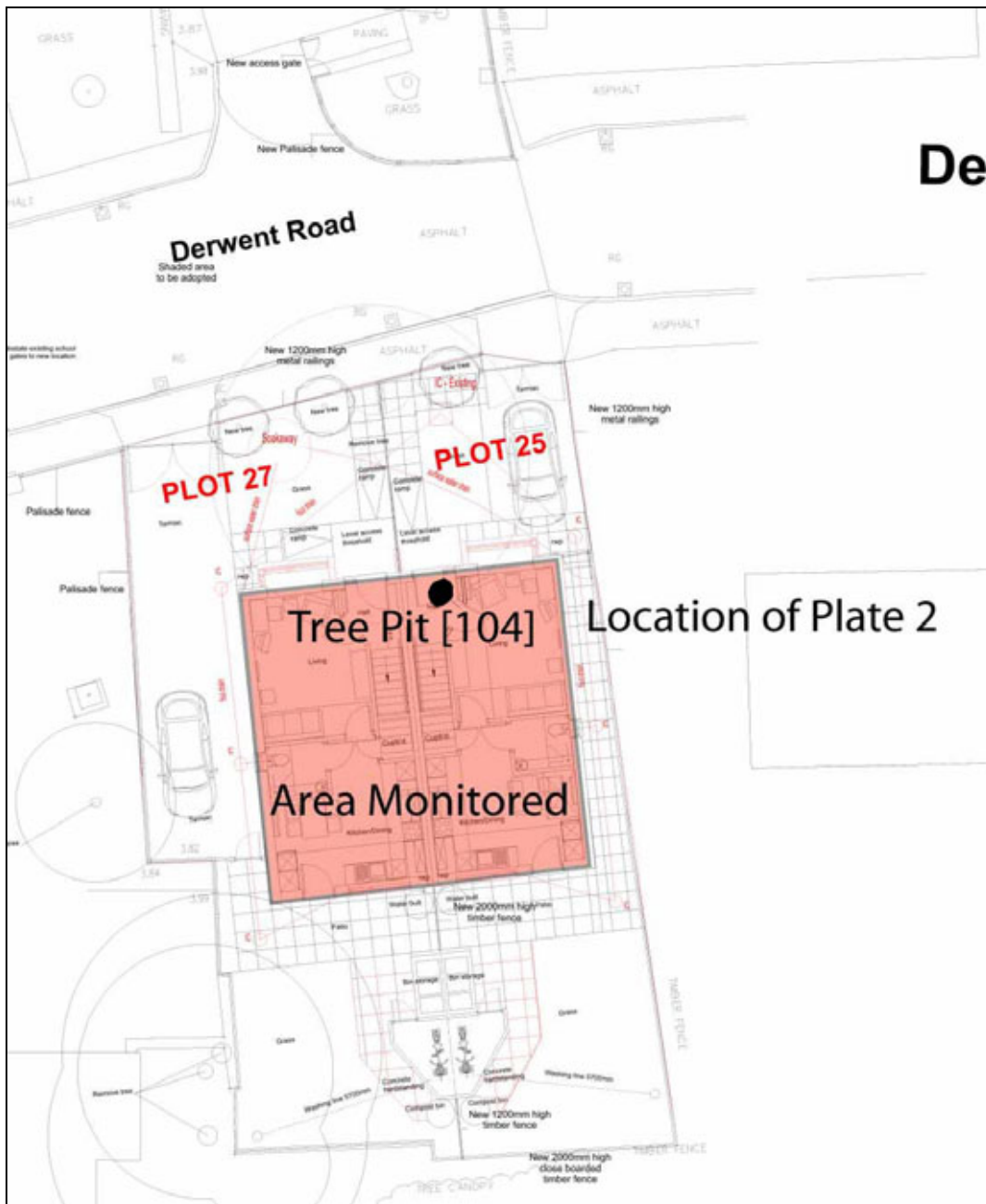


Figure 2. Areas of archaeological investigation

The earliest deposit encountered was (102) the mid yellow clay natural. This was encountered at an average depth of 0.40m below the existing ground level (around 3.55m AOD) (see Plate 1). The natural was overlain by a subsoil deposit (101) of mid reddish brown silty clay, 0.10m to 0.15m thick, from which a single sherd of heavily abraded medieval green glazed pottery was recovered. The uppermost deposit present was (100) the recent mid grey clay silt topsoil, which was a maximum of 0.30m thick (see Plate 2).

Close to the northern edge of the excavated area a possible archaeological feature [104] was observed cutting into the natural. This was approximately oval, with a maximum diameter of 1.00m and up to 0.15m deep. The sides were very irregular, including several offshoots, that

almost certainly represent rotted out roots. The fill (103) of mid grey clay silt contained occasional flecks of Ceramic Building Material (CBM), but no other artefacts. The similarity of this fill with the modern topsoil suggests that this feature is of recent date, and its irregular nature indicates that it is either formed by a tree root, or if it was originally a cut archaeological feature, it has subsequently been very heavily disturbed by root action.

6.0 Discussion and Conclusions.

The watching brief did not encounter any archaeological features that could confidently be assigned a pre-modern date. The probable medieval soil horizon overlying the natural is likely to represent agricultural or horticultural activity. The site appears therefore to have lain within gardens or fields to the rear of properties fronting Flatgate during the medieval period.

7.0 Appendix 1 ~ Archive Index.

7.1 Context List.

Context no.	Description	Thickness	Extent
100	mid grey brown clay silt topsoil	0.30m	Tr
101	mid reddish brown silty clay	0.15m	Tr.
102	Firm yellow clay natural	-	Tr
103	mid grey clay silt	0.15m	1.00m x 0.60m
104	Irregular oval feature with several "offshoots" representing roots	0.15m	1.00m x 0.60m

7.2 Drawing Register.

Drawing no.	Description	Scale	Initials	Date
1	Annotated site drawing showing monitored areas	-	GB	10/06/10

7.3 Photographic Register.

Frame no.	Description	View	Scale	Inits and date
1-4	General views of site	varies	-	GB 100610
5-13	(103) pre exc	varies	1m	GB 100610
14-15	Remains of previous house footings	varies	-	GB 100610
16-20	[104] post exc	varies	1m	GB 100610
21-25	Sample trench section 1	E & NE	1m	GB 100610
26-28	Sample trench section 2	S & SE	1m	GB 100610
29-34	General views of site	varies	-	GB 100610

8.0 Appendix 2 ~ The Plates.



Plate 1. General view of site looking south



Plate 2. Section through deposits encountered looking east



Plate 3. (103) prior to excavation looking north