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RMG (A1) Construction JV
A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project

Wetherby-Walshford Borrow Pit, Kirk Deighton (NGR SE 415 514)
(Report No. 002)

Planning Reference Number ref. no. C6.136.162 CMA

N. Y. C. C.
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank RMG for commissioning the work. The site work was carried out by Paul Clark, Lisa Smith, Dawn Harrison, Zoe Clarke, Chris Swain, Bob Hamilton, Julia Henderson and Dave McNicol. The report was written by Paul Clark and Kathryn Blythe, and the drawings were by Emma Carter.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 As part of the A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project, a planning application (ref. no. C6.136.162 CMA) was submitted by RMG for borrow pit extraction in fields north-east of Wetherby, North Yorkshire (Fig 1). The planning application was accompanied by an environmental assessment (Department of Transport 1993), which highlighted the potential for archaeological deposits to exist in the area. This was followed up with archaeological evaluation work and a geophysical survey was undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford in February 2003, which identified significant anomalies with archaeological potential within certain areas of the application site (GSB 2003).
- 1.1.2 North Yorkshire County Council agreed planning permission in principle on the condition that a programme of archaeological works was agreed with the County Archaeologist. The Borrow Pit application area included c. 20ha of land occupying parts of two gently undulating fields, which were investigated by geophysical scanning. Eight blocks of detailed survey, covering some 10ha, were undertaken based on the scanning. Given the significant results in the north field (*ibid*) and that RMG did not require the full area demarcated as the borrow pit, the works were confined to the southern field (immediately north of Loshpot Lane – geophysical survey areas Areas D, E, F, G, H and I).
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced following consultation with the Local Authority Archaeologist (North Yorkshire County Council) in order to address the archaeological implications of the proposed A1 DBFO Project Borrow Pit (Kirk Deighton) excavation (*Appendix 1*). The document was prepared in accordance with the regulatory provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts and the guidance set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archaeology.
- 1.1.4 As per the original WSI, the topsoil strip across the site was carried out in two phases (Fig 2), with the first phase undertaken by a tracked 360° using a toothless ditching bucket. At the end of the stripping of Phase 1, a methodology review was undertaken, and it was decided that the remaining area, Phase 2, would be stripped using ‘box scrapers’ under continuous archaeological supervision (*Appendix 2*).
- 1.1.5 An interim Archaeological Report (D2D/H/AR/R/192) and corresponding drawing (D2D/H/AR/D/203) were produced for the site in July 2003 as part of the certification process to allow the construction works to proceed. This Archaeological Report provides a summary of the results of all the work in the Borrow Pit area in order to satisfy the terms of the condition attached to the planning application. It should be noted that the results have been assessed as part of the scheme-wide A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project Post-Excavation Assessment report (OA North 2004). Similarly, the analysis of the

results has been incorporated in the forthcoming scheme-wide A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project post-excavation analysis report.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.2.1 The A1 DBFO Borrow Pit (NGR SE 415 514) is located in the Parish of Kirk Deighton, to the east of the existing A1 road (Fig 1) and adjacent to the new A1(M) road. The area was in a gently undulating field to the north of Loshpot Lane, comprising well-drained fine and coarse loamy soils of the Bishampton 1 soil association formed from a till and glaciofluvial drift parent (Ordnance Survey 1983).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 METHODOLOGY

2.1.1 The fieldwork in Phase 1 was undertaken using the specific methodology detailed in section 3.2 of the Written Scheme of Investigation (*Appendix 1*); namely, archaeologically supervised topsoil stripping using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and full recording of any archaeological features encountered. Following a review meeting at the end of Phase 1, a decision was taken to change the methodology and use 'box scrapers' for Phase 2.

2.2 ARCHIVE

2.2.1 The results of the work have been archived together with the main A1 Darrington to Dishforth project archive. All project records, finds, photographs etc. have been processed, cross-referenced, sorted and indexed according to the OA's standard archiving procedures; this will result in a fully documented site archive.

2.2.2 The archive and finds for the work carried out under this Written Scheme of Investigation will be deposited with Harrogate Museums Service and will meet their requirement with regard to the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.

3. RESULTS

3.1 PHASES 1 AND 2

- 3.1.1 The stripping of the area identified a series of features, the earliest of which was an alignment of 18 pits (Group **103**). Other features included ridge and furrow (Group **104**), three ditches and a stone spread (**9**) (Fig 2). In addition, a number of depressions, filled with earth and rubble, were noted. They were probably natural undulations in the boulder clay, which have been levelled to improve the ground for agriculture.
- 3.1.2 Possible pit alignment **103** may be of some significance. The 18 pits formed a north-east/south-west alignment, which turned westwards at its northernmost extent (Fig 3). The spaces between the pits ranged from 0.50m to 2m. All the pits were completely excavated in an attempt to recover as much dating material as possible. The shape of the pits in plan was typically rectangular, and the dimensions varied from 1.25m to 1.50m in width and 1.25m to 2.50m in length. Typically, the pits contained two fills, neither of which contained any dating evidence.
- 3.1.3 In only one instance did the pits intercut, an anomalous, sub-circular pit (**37**), slightly out of line at the northern end, truncating pit **35**, and they were more likely to have been dug over a short duration rather than in a protracted sequence. A single radiocarbon determination obtained from carbonised plant material in the primary fill of pit **53**, towards the northern end of the alignment, produced a date of 410–200 cal BC (2285±35 BP; SUERC-3444/GU-12369). This would suggest that the pit had started to fill during the Middle Iron Age and was, therefore, unlikely to have been dug much earlier. While pit alignments have been dated to the Early Bronze Age (Harding 2003), there are Iron Age examples recorded to the south at Ferrybridge (WYAS 2002; 2003; Richardson 2005, 208).
- 3.1.4 The remains of part of a system of ridge and furrow (Group **104**), orientated north-west/south-east, could be clearly identified across the northern area of the site. The furrows cut into two of the pits in Group **103**.
- 3.1.5 Three ditches were excavated in the southern area. Ditches **13** and **16** ran parallel, on a north-west/south-east alignment. Ditch **6** was orientated north-east/south-west. None of the ditches contained dating evidence and only small areas of the features were observed. A spread of burnt stone (**9**) was located in the area close to the ditches, but its function is uncertain. It may represent a localised area of burning.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The presence of a possible prehistoric pit alignment is of local and regional significance. This type of feature is most commonly associated with the Neolithic and early Bronze Age, though Iron Age examples are known from Ferrybridge (Richardson 2005).
- 4.1.2 The remainder of the feature types encountered are common across the A1 (M) excavation areas and are of limited archaeological significance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Department of Transport 1993 *A1 Motorway Wetherby - Walshford Section: Environmental Statement 2, Archaeology Report*

Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 2003: A1 Darrington to Dishforth Borrow Pit Area Geophysical Survey Report 2003/11

Harding, J, 2003 The Neolithic and Bronze Age monument complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire, and its landscape context, Desk Top Assessment http://thornborough.ncl.ac.uk/desktop_assessment/desktop_contents.htm

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WYAS, 2002: *A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project Ferrybridge Advance Archaeological Works: Further Archaeological Works Report, Unpublished Report NO.1011, Leeds*

WYAS, 2003: *A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project Ferrybridge Advance Archaeological Works: Updated Project Design, Unpublished Report NO.1097, Leeds*

APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

RMG (A1) Construction JV

A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project

Written Scheme of Investigation

Watching Brief

Wetherby to Walshford

A1 DBFO Borrow Pit (Kirk Deighton)

(Report No. 001)

RPS Planning Transport and Environment

May 2003

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As part of the A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project, a planning application (ref no. C6.136.162.CMA) was submitted by RMG in January 2003 for borrow pit extraction in fields 3km to the north-east of Wetherby, North Yorkshire (NGR: SE 415 514, approximate centre).
- 1.2 The planning application was accompanied by an environmental assessment, which highlighted the potential for archaeological deposits to exist in the area. This was followed up with archaeological evaluation work and a geophysical survey was undertaken by GSB in February 2003 (*A1 Darrington to Dishforth Borrow Pit Area Geophysical Survey Report 2003/11*; see drawing D2D/H/AR/D/092 attached). This survey identified significant anomalies with archaeological potential within certain areas of the application site.
- 1.3 North Yorkshire County Council have indicated planning permission in principle. There is a draft archaeological condition attached to the planning consent, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to be agreed with the County Archaeologist.
- 1.4 This Written Scheme of Investigation has therefore been produced in order to address the archaeological implications of the proposed A1 DBFO Project Borrow Pit (Kirk Deighton) excavation. RMG has taken the decision to extract material only from the southern part of the Borrow Pit (D2D/H/AR/D/092; affecting Areas D, E, F, G, H and I). This document contains specific procedures for carrying out archaeological works in this field. With the decision not to extract from the northern and small western fields the archaeology in these locations will remain undisturbed and is not therefore

addressed in this document.

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- 1.5 This document has been prepared following consultation with the Local Authority Archaeologist (North Yorkshire County Council) and is submitted in compliance with this condition. Archaeological arrangements for the Borrow Pit are to be conducted in accordance with the regulatory provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts and the guidance set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archaeology and Planning.

1. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.1 The area under investigation lies to the east of the existing A1 road and adjacent to the proposed upgraded route on the Wetherby-Walshford Section of the A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project.
- 1.2 The Borrow Pit application area includes c. 20ha of land occupying parts of two gently undulating fields, which have been subject to geophysical survey. Approximately 20ha were investigated by scanning. Eight blocks of detailed survey, covering some 10ha, were undertaken based on the scanning.



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- 1.3 The site conditions have not changed significantly since the GSB survey. The majority of the area was seeded, while a small strip in the southern field was ploughed. The soils of the area comprise well drained fine and coarse loamy soils of the Bishampton 1 soil association formed from a till and glaciofluvial drift parent (SSEW 1983).

2. RESEARCH DESIGN

- 2.1 There is no published archaeological research framework for this region and objectives have been constructed with reference to previous archaeological works in this area.
- 2.2 The previous archaeological investigations carried out in the vicinity of this area have suggested Romano-British and medieval activity. It will be a primary objective to investigate for signs of land use and management from these periods.
- 2.3 Immediately to the north-west of the Borrow Pit application area is the site of the former presumed manor and associated moat at Ingmanthorpe Hall. The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) describes the site as a moated manor dating from the twelfth to fourteenth century. There is some suggestion that the hall could have an origin earlier than the twelfth century (a documented Domesday Survey reference mentions Germundstorp, meaning Germund's farm, the name then becoming Ingmanthorpe). Previous geophysical surveys (GSB 1993, ASUD 2002) identified anomalies of possible archaeological significance along the proposed road corridor. Currently archaeological trenching and open area excavation is providing further information regarding the character, date and function of this medieval site. It will be important to be familiar with this latest work in order to make informed judgements regarding the nature of any archaeological deposits in the southern field.
- 2.4 Numerous anomalies of archaeological interest have been detected in the northern field recently surveyed by GSB. A clear rectangular enclosure approximately 32m by 28m, possibly of Romano-British date, has been located close to the road corridor while further north a weak, but well defined, circular anomaly some 25m in diameter has been identified. Elsewhere in the northern field, linear anomalies and pit-type anomalies have been identified, which may be of archaeological interest.
- 2.5 In summary, the SMR and the geophysical survey show a juxta-position of archaeological sites surviving in the area of the northern Borrow Pit field, which extend into the area of Ingmanthorpe Hall, which lies beyond the Borrow Pit area. These sites represent a sequence of local events, presumably spanning the Romano-British to late medieval period. Each site occupies a discrete position in the local landscape. Whilst this implies a degree of spatial awareness, without further chronological information it is not possible to establish whether this arrangement represents, in part or whole, a process of settlement shift. As outlined above, it is not RMG's intention to pursue

extraction in the northern field, the archaeology would therefore remain undisturbed.

- 2.6 From the evidence examined to date, the southern Borrow Pit field appears to have limited archaeological potential. The geophysical data is dominated by parallel linear anomalies approximately 8m apart which are likely to indicate land drains, with ploughing trends also visible in the data. Several discrete pit-type anomalies have been identified and while these could be archaeological, their form and lack of associated linear features suggests a possible natural origin. Ditch type anomalies have been located in the south and east of this field. These may indicate former field divisions.
- 2.7 It will be necessary to define whether or not these anomalies are archaeological in nature. There appear to be no discrete settlement sites, as revealed to the north, but the question of settlement design and landscape planning may need to be addressed if evidence for this emerges.
- 2.8 In summary, research aims for investigation will consist of identifying and recording any evidence for settlement and land management within the southern field that may relate to the more robust archaeological evidence found in the northern field. Relationships to Ingmanthorpe Hall and associated medieval settlement will be important considerations to bear in mind during fieldwork in this area.

3. SCHEME OF WORK

- 3.1 RMG only require use of the southern field for borrow pit. The extraction work will begin at the boundary between the northern and southern fields and works will gradually move southwards through the southern field. A phased programme of extraction operation is shown on the attached plan (D2D/H/AR/D/117/A-D).
- 3.2 Following analysis and interpretation of GSB's latest geophysical results (Appendix 1), it has been decided that an archaeological watching brief will take place during the first phase of the stripping. One, or two 360 degree tracked excavators, fitted with toothless ditching buckets will be employed under the direction of an archaeologist(s). Machining will take place in spits, a maximum of 0.2m in depth, down to a level where archaeological deposits become visible. Where archaeological features are encountered, these will be investigated and recorded to the level commensurate with their perceived level of significance.
- 3.3 At the end of the stripping of Phase 1, a review of the topsoil stripping methodology will be undertaken at a site meeting between the County Archaeologist, OA and RPS. Should the geophysical anomalies have been proved to be of archaeological significance, then stripping of the remaining phases will continue with a 360 degree excavator and toothless bucket. Should the anomalies not be archaeological, then topsoil stripping will be continued with 'box scrapers' under continuous supervision.

- 3.4 If significant or extensive remains are identified, then the Local Authority Archaeologist will need to be informed so that the site can be defined as a Discovered Archaeological Site warranting Further Archaeological Works.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL

- 4.1 Environmental samples will normally be taken in quantities appropriate to the purpose of the sample and according to an extensive, systematic strategy. Waterlogged deposits to be sampled (10 litre for flotation for insects, 1.0kg for laboratory analysis of waterlogged plant remains) at 0.1m vertical intervals if appropriate. Waterlogged deposits also to be column sampled for pollen if appropriate. Column samples may also be recovered for soil micromorphology, ostracod, diatom, foraminifera and other analyses, where specialists recommend that these will be valid. Although animal bone survival is likely to be variable along the route, bulk sampling for small mammal bones and fish bones will be undertaken of certain features and/or deposits dependent upon soil conditions and feature types.
- 4.2 Where metalworking slags are recovered, for example in ditches associated with any settlement activity, then samples will be taken of the associated deposits to test for hammerscale. However, if significant spreads of metalworking debris and/or industrial features are unearthed, then site specific sampling strategies will be agreed with the appropriate OA specialist, Dr Gerry McDonell, who has been informed of the project and expressed his willingness to visit the Works if and when required.
- 4.3 Specialists will make site visits as appropriate to provide the necessary advice and to undertake the sampling themselves if necessary.
- 4.4 Radiocarbon dating – almost all sites will yield material suitable for either high precision dating or AMS dating if systematically sampled for carbonised plant remains. Material will be collected specifically for this purpose and suitable stratigraphic sequences will be targeted together with material in primary positions and associated with other datable material (eg. ceramics).
- 4.5 OA has established procedures for sampling and processing samples for radiocarbon dating and established relationships with reputable dating laboratories.
- 4.6 Other absolute dating methods may include thermoluminescence dating of pottery and daub, archaeomagnetic dating of hearths and dendochronology. Samples will be taken as appropriate.

5. ACCESS AND MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

- 5.1 The County Archaeologist will be given two weeks' notice of the name of the project manager for the archaeological contractor and the start date of archaeological works. It is RMG's intention that RPS will be responsible for the archaeological project management and design, with Rachel Morse the

Project Archaeologist; and Oxford Archaeology will be the Archaeological Contractor, with Dr Alan Lupton their Project Manager. These parties are acting in the same capacity on the A1M contract.

- 5.2 Archaeological works will be subject to a programme of monitoring. Details will be agreed between RPS/OA and the County Heritage Unit. This programme will include at least two site visits during fieldwork. The Curator of the Harrogate Museums Service will be invited to these monitoring meetings.
- 5.3 Access will be as specified by RMG, the main contractor responsible for the borrow pit extraction operation. All ecological and vegetation constraints will have been taken into consideration by RMG in conjunction with their Ecological designer RPS prior to the works commencing. Checking of services will be the responsibility RMG.

6. POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 Once all fieldwork has been completed the combined results of all the phases of the borrow pit work and the A1 D2D DBFO scheme will be assessed in a MAP 2 style document, summarising the potential for further analysis (post-excavation assessment and updated project design: for further definitions, see English Heritage 1991). The document will consist of a brief description of the stratigraphic sequences on each site. All available supporting data (eg. Finds, archival plans and historical sources) will be used in interpreting the stratigraphic sequence. The site data will be fully quantified by category (eg context records, site plans and historical sources) will be used in interpreting the stratigraphic sequence. The site data will be fully quantified by category (eg. Context records, site plans, pottery etc.) and will be assessed (where appropriate by specialists) for its research potential. The updated project design will contain fully worked up, resourced and costed proposals for the analysis and publication stages of the project. It is envisaged that the assessment report/post-excavation project design could be completed within six months of the completion of all on-site fieldwork.

7. SITE ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The project archive will be put together with the main A1 D2D archive. All project records, finds, reports etc will be processed, cross referenced, sorted and indexed according to the OA's standard archiving procedures, modified where necessary to conform to the requirements of the receiving museums. This will result in a fully documented Site Archive. On completion of analysis this will be expanded to incorporate the Research Archive. All records, drawings, and other paper media will be security copied to microfiche. This will be arranged with the National Archaeological Record. Copies of the microfiche will be lodged free of charge with the National Monuments Record and the relevant County Sites and Monuments Records. The archive and finds will be deposited with the receiving museums.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 8.1 Archaeological investigations do not fall within the Health & Safety Executive's definition of 'construction work' in Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994. However, archaeological works will not start until the appropriate archaeological project risk assessment has been prepared and will be recorded in RMG's Safety Management Plan.
- 8.2 The main contractor, RMG, will provide for and make accessible all large plant and equipment required for archaeological work including back-acting excavators (Hymac and mini-digger types), tippers, compressors and breakers, site huts, toilets, scaffolding planks and security fencing.
- 8.3 The archaeological contractor will provide his own small tools and personal protective equipment, as required within RMG's Health and Safety Management system.
- 8.4 The archaeological project manager is responsible for ensuring that all archaeologists involved in this work have undergone the RMG site health and safety induction.

9. REFERENCES

English Heritage (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects*

**APPENDIX 2: ADDENDUM TO WRITTEN SCHEME OF
INVESTIGATION**

RMG (A1) Construction JV

A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project

Written Scheme of Investigation

Watching Brief

Wetherby to Walshford

A1 DBFO Borrow Pit (Kirk Deighton)

Addendum to Report No. 001

RPS Planning Transport and Environment

June 2003

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As part of the A1 Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Project, a planning application (ref no. C6.136.162.CMA) was submitted by RMG in January 2003 for borrow pit extraction in fields 3km to the north-east of Wetherby, North Yorkshire (NGR: SE 415514, approximate centre).
- 1.2 The planning application was accompanied by an environmental assessment, which highlighted the potential for archaeological deposits to exist in the area. This was followed up with archaeological evaluation work and a geophysical survey was undertaken by GSB in February 2003 (*A1 Darrington to Dishforth Borrow Pit Area Geophysical Survey Report 2003/11*; see drawing D2D/H/AR/D/092 attached). This survey identified significant anomalies with archaeological potential within certain areas of the application site.
- 1.3 North Yorkshire County Council have indicated planning permission in principle. There is a draft archaeological condition attached to the planning consent, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to be agreed with the County Archaeologist.
- 1.4 This document is an Addendum to the Written Scheme of Investigation for Watching Brief previously submitted (ref. D2D/H/AR/R/103RevA, May 2003). It has been prepared following consultation with the Local Authority Archaeologist (North Yorkshire County Council).
- 1.5 Archaeological arrangements for the Borrow Pit are to be conducted in accordance with the regulatory provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts and the guidance set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archaeology and Planning.

2. SCOPE OF WORKS

- 2.1 Soils will be removed in spits of a maximum of 300mm (see WSI, 4.2).
- 2.2 Plant will not be permitted to run on the exposed surface, unless the Archaeologist has signed off agreed routes or areas as archaeologically sterile.
- 2.3 Should archaeological remains be identified, the surrounding area shall be fenced off to prevent damage to those remains from plant movements etc. prior to archaeological recording, as well as define safe "working areas" for archaeological staff. Such areas are to be delimited using netlon secured on road pins, or similar. The size of any such area is to be of sufficient size to allow remains to be adequately characterised and recorded, whilst permitting the Principal Contractor reasonable access to the rest of the Works.
- 2.4 Where archaeological remains have been identified and appropriately secured (see 2.3 above), the resulting "working area" shall be cleaned sufficiently to

allow adequate characterisation and recording of all archaeological features that may be present.

- 2.5 The archaeological contractor shall undertake a reasonable programme of metal detecting of spoil heaps, sufficient to allow recovery of a sample of artefacts which may be present within the topsoil, but mindful of health and safety in relation to loose stock piles and plant movements.

3. MONITORING

- 3.1 In addition to other monitoring requirements, the Archaeological Contractor shall invite the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor to visit the works, and facilitate any such visit. Any such visit is also arranged to allow RPS and RMG to be present.

4. POST-EXCAVATION REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 4.1 The Borrow Pit works shall be reported on separately from the rest of the A1 DBFO archaeological works, as it is subject to a separate planning application.
- 4.2 Any post-excavation work and reporting will be undertaken so as to satisfy the planning condition.
- 4.3 A suitably prepared archive is to be deposited with an appropriate receiving body. OA shall identify such an institution, and prepare the archive to meet that body's requirements.
- 4.4 The Archaeological Contractor shall ensure that a copy of the Final Report is to be sent to North Yorkshire County Council's Archaeologist (in addition to any other requirements to provide report copies).

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Borrow pit, Kirk Deighton

Figure 3: Pit alignment at WWBP