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THE BRIGANTIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT of
LAND to the WEST of SCALBY ROAD,
SCARBOROUGH,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

A report to Ashley House plc



15th October 2006

THE BRIGANTIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE

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NORTH YORKSHIRE**

(TA 0154 8997)

A report to Ashley House plc

Percival Turnbull

15th October 2006

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CONTENTS

Summary	page 1
Introduction	paras 1-4
The Site	para 5
The Historical Background	paras 6-10
Surviving Buildings	para 11
Archaeological Background	paras 12-17
Discussion	paras 18-21
Bibliography	page 9
List of Figures	page 10

Figures 1-10 follow page 10

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LAND to the WEST of SCALBY ROAD, SCARBOROUGH,
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SUMMARY

On instructions from Ashley House plc an archaeological assessment has been undertaken of land on the west side of Scalby Road, Scarborough. The site is currently occupied by the clubhouse, playing field and car-park of a rugby club, at 440, Scalby Road, YO12 6EE.

There is evidence for prehistoric activity in the general area of the proposed development site, but not for anything close to the site itself; there is a Bronze Age find-spot some way to the west, and Neolithic features have been recorded further south. There is no evidence of local activity during the Roman period.

During the Middle Ages, the site was part of the settlement of Newby, one of several hamlets and villages in the immediate area. Several 18th century buildings opposite the site probably represent the core of historic Newby.

A general lack of evidence, and the damage caused by landscaping and former building activity, indicate that the archaeological potential of the proposed development site should be considered to be low.

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INTRODUCTION

1. On instructions from Ashley House plc an archaeological assessment has been undertaken of land on the west side of Scalby Road, Scarborough. The site is currently occupied by the clubhouse, playing field and car-park of a rugby club, at 440, Scalby Road, YO12 6EE (Fig. 1).
2. The National Grid Reference for the site is centred at TA 01548997.
3. This assessment has been carried out in advance of submission of a planning application for redevelopment of the site as a 'health village', including a private hospital, sheltered accommodation and other facilities.
4. Assessment work has been carried out by Percival Turnbull between the 3rd and the 13th of October 2006. Sources consulted have included the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter referred to as HER) and the North Yorkshire County Records Office, as well as available published sources. A site inspection was made on 6th October.

THE SITE

5. Physically, the proposed development site may be considered in three parts:
 - (i) The car-park (Fig. 2) has, of course, been levelled and is under a hard asphalt surface. The surface slopes down slightly to the Scalby Road frontage to the east, where it is rather higher (by an estimated 30 cms) than the level of the adjacent pavement and road. This might simply indicate the amount of hard-core or make-up beneath the asphalt; the slight difference of level is however reflected on the eastern side of the road, so that Scalby Road itself (the A171) seems to be slightly sunken.
 - (ii) The buildings of the Rugby Club (Fig. 2)- the clubhouse, bar etc., and a gymnasium which looks like a very modern addition, are of no great age and of no real architectural or historical interest. The core of the group is the clubhouse, which seems to have been built cheaply in the ?1950s: the structure is largely of timber and the roof of man-made tiles. Some later additions are undistinguished, with felted flat roofs, and the modern gymnasium at the southern end of the group is of no interest. Some sub-surface disturbance due to foundations and services is likely, but there is no external evidence of major intrusions, such as extensive basements.
 - (iii) The playing fields (Fig. 3) consist of a single rugby football pitch, and an open stand to the west. The ground has plainly been landscaped, to secure a level playing surface, and may be seen to have been cut down by about a

metre at the south end; the excavated fill has presumably been spread over the northern end. Natural surfaces are therefore likely to have been truncated over about half of this area.

THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

6. The site lies within the curtilage of the mediaeval settlement of Newby, between the villages of Scalby and Throxenby. The place is first heard of as *Newby* in 1244: the name itself suggests that it might have been created shortly before that date. It seems always to have been small; its population in 1822 was but forty. The main village street followed the line of Scalby Road; successive editions of the Ordnance Survey map (Figs 4-7) show the continuing existence on the west side of the road of Newby and Hollytree Farms, and of some farm buildings on the eastern side of the road, just north of the site under consideration. These last indicate that the width of the road has probably not increased significantly, and that the lines of the frontages of each side of the historic settlement survive. Evidence for early occupation of the western side of the road is slight: though the area has been largely built up, especially during the mid-20th century, the pattern of mediaeval crofts may be traced through successive Ordnance Survey editions, and is still visible today, as a series of long, narrow properties fronting the eastern side of Scalby Road: even on the First Edition of 1854, this pattern is not really apparent to the west of the road. It is on balance probable that Newby followed the 'two-row village with green' pattern usual with 'planned' villages of the high Middle Ages, but traces of the original pattern seem to have been fairly well erased in the area of the proposed development site.

7. Newby Farm appears to be a rebuilding of a mansion, Newby Hall, built by Christopher Keld, Esq., in 1660 (Cole, 1829).

8. Newby was one of several settlements associated with Scalby (Domesday's *Scallebi*), which in 1086 was part of the manor of Falsgrave. Shortly after the Conquest, Scalby became the property of the Percys, who granted it to the Abbey of Whitby. It subsequently (*tempore* Edward III) became the property of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, from whom it descended to his daughter Blanch, married to John Gaunt. He eventually received an assignment of lands left by her father, and was in her right made Duke of Lancaster in 1363 (*Ibid.*).

9. To the south of the proposed development site lay the mediaeval village of Throxenby (sometimes *Throstenby*), centred on TA 01508900. It is first mentioned in a document of 1175-89. An ancient paved road, running along the side of Throxenby village and now known as Moor Lane, can be shown not to be, as once was thought, Roman (Trevor Pearson in litt. To NYCC, 7/vii/01). According to HER, there is some earthwork survival at the site of Throxenby. The site seems always to have been small: the '*extent of mediaeval occupation is likely to have been defined by a c. 20 m. strip running along the west side of Throxenby Lane, with a further c. 40 m. wide enclosure to the rear probably representing the extent of mediaeval crofts or individual plots of land. A later post-mediaeval manor house may also lie within or close to the present Throxenby Hall*' (Ed Dennison Archaeological Services, 2003 A). It is, in any case, clear that the present proposed development site is well to the north of any area likely to be affected by the mediaeval village of Throxenby.

10. A second 'lost' mediaeval village lies close to the proposed development site: the settlement of Hatterboard (Haterbeg, Haverbeg, Atterburge) was first mentioned in 1167-8, and seems to have become a township in 1349 (VCH, 1908). It was centred at TA 01708960, and earthwork remains have been physically destroyed by the landscaping of school grounds. Again, it is too distant from the proposed development site to suffer any direct impact from it.

SURVIVING BUILDINGS

11. The general area around the site is now built up (apart from some open ground immediately to the south), largely with semi-detached houses most of which seem to have been built in the 1940s and 1950s: some of them are very good examples of their type. Some buildings remain from an earlier period of landscape history: the more significant of these may be considered in turn.

- (i) The most important historic building in the area is the parish church of St Laurence (HER no 326903; Listed, grade II*), which lies some 700 metres north-west of the site: church and site are not intervisible, and are separated by blocks of 20th century housing. The proposed development may be considered to have no detrimental impact on the church or its setting. The church has its origins in about 1200, but exhibits several periods of rebuilding and alteration, and has been heavily restored. A war memorial and sundial associated with the church are separately Listed.
- (ii) The public house known as the Rosette, near the corner of Scalby Road and Hackness Road, is not Listed, and is a rather undistinguished building: a public house of the same name has however stood on the site since 1854, at the latest.
- (iii) A cluster of buildings, originally farmhouses and farm buildings, stand on the east side of Scalby Road opposite the development site. Of these, the most important is probably Newby Farmhouse (HER 326914; Grade II), of the early 19th century and built of dark red, Flemish bond brick on a stone plinth and with freestone coping and kneelers. The building has a central staircase hall and is of two storeys, with symmetrical three-window front. It has brick end stacks, a string course at 1st floor level, and a dentilled eaves cornice. All openings have channelled wedge lintels with keyblocks (Fig. 8).
- (iv) Newby Barn (HER 326915; Grade II) is immediately north of Newby Farmhouse. This barn, built of coursed sandstone rubble under pantiles, has a datestone of 1675 and has been raised and extended in the 18th century. It is of one-and-a-half storeys and two bays. It has a rebuilt external stone stair and coped gable walls with moulded kneelers. The front of the barn forms one side of Newby Pinfold (*vide infra*) (Fig. 9).
- (v) The Pinfold (HER 326917; Grade II) is a rectangular enclosure, with rounded corners, formed on two sides by rubble walls with cambered coping stones; on the east, by the barn; and to the south by the wall of the Quoits Ground (*vide infra*). It dates from the mid-18th century (Fig. 9).

- (vi) The Quoits Ground (HER 326918, Grade II) is defined by its adjacent buildings (*supra*) and dates from the mid-18th century (Fig. 9).
- (vii) There is a Pigsty (HER 326916, Grade II) 25 metres to the north-east of Newby Farmhouse; built of coursed sandstone rubble under a modern roof, it is a quarter-circle in plan, with a row of six round-headed and one flat-headed feeding troughs in the curved wall. It may be as early as the late 17th century.
- (viii) No 431 Scalby Road (HER 326919; Grade II) represents another former farmhouse, of the mid-18th century, built of coursed, herringbone-tooled sandstone under a (?later) slate roof and with brick stacks. It is of central stairwell plan, two rooms deep, with a two-storey, symmetrical three-window front. The central, six-panelled door has a patterned radial fanlight under a pedimented stone hood supported by corbels (Fig. 10).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

PREHISTORIC

12. The only prehistoric find known to have been made anywhere close to the proposed development site is of a Bronze Age axe of palstave type (HER 12686), found near Hackness Road some time before 1952; it is recorded by the Ordnance Survey as TA08NW135, and was found in the area (National Grid Reference) TA 012899. This is about 300 metres west of the proposed development site. The axe is in Scarborough Museum (accession no 16.49).

13. There are also several prehistoric finds recorded only as coming from the parish of Scalby: there is no reason to suppose that any come from anywhere near the development site, and all are recorded as 'Scalby' rather than 'Newby'. They may be briefly considered as follow (each is referred to by the number of the OS Antiquities Card):

- (i) TA 09SW 1. Later Bronze Age metalwork hoard. This seems to have been found over 2 kilometres to the east of the area here under consideration.
- (ii) TA 09SW 3. Find of gold torque, supposed to be of Later Bronze Age date. It is now lost.
- (iii) TA 09SW 4. Earlier Bronze Age cremation, in an urn and accompanied by arrow-heads (presumably flint, barbed-and-tanged) and a 'pygmy cup' or miniature vessel.
- (iv) TA 09SW 10. Collared urn, from a barrow at Scalby.
- (v) TA 09SW 11. Earlier Bronze Age decorated shaft-hole axe from Scalby or Scalby Beck.
- (vi) TA 09SW 12. Bronze Age 'axe-hammer' or large shaft-hole instrument.

- (vii) TA 09SW 14. Flanged axe from Scalby Beck.
- (viii) TA 09SW 15. A second 'axe-hammer', kept in a school at Scalby but not necessarily of local origin.

14. The presence of prehistoric deposits a short distance to the south of the site have been confirmed during an archaeological watching brief at High Farm, Throxenby (Ed Dennison Archaeological Services, n.d.), where pits containing Neolithic Grooved Ware ('Rinyo-Clacton') pottery were recorded. These probably represent a badly truncated settlement site of the type described by Manby (1974).

ROMAN

15. No Roman or Romano-British finds are recorded anywhere in the vicinity of the proposed development site. The existence of a Roman fort at Scarborough is, of course, well-established, as is that of the series of signal stations on the coast nearby.

MEDIAEVAL

16. The main issues concerning the mediaeval background of Newby and of the proposed development site have already been considered. Some archaeological work has been carried out which helps to illuminate the archaeological potential, rather than the historical context, of the site:

- (i) Excavations at Newby Farm (Pearson, 1989) examined an eroded field bank, which was considered to be a possible mediaeval field boundary. Although mediaeval pottery is recorded from the rear of the farmhouse, intact mediaeval deposits seem to have been elusive.
- (ii) At Throxenby, truncated mediaeval pits and ditches have been recorded during an archaeological watching brief (Ed Dennison Archaeological Services, n.d.). Geophysical survey at this site has led to the conclusion that archaeological potential is low (Ed Dennison Archaeological Services, 2003 B).
- (iii) At 'Hatterboard', excavations in 1987 found stone building foundations dating from about 1300 (*Yorks Arch. J.*, 42, cited in HER).

'INDUSTRIAL' SITES

17. A few structures of significance in the field of 'industrial archaeology' are in the vicinity of the proposed development site, though none is directly affected by the development proposals. The sites are:

- (i) Newby Bridge, rebuilt 1956 on the site of an earlier bridge. National Grid reference TA 01389033.
- (ii) Scalby Bridge, built 1804. TA 01388999.

- (iii) Newby Mill (site of- the mill was demolished in the 1950s) TA 02709703.
- (iv) The 'Sea Cut', 'New Cut' or 'Great Drain' passes to the north of the proposed development site on the line TA 97308842-TA 01000000.

DISCUSSION

18. In terms of the physical topography of the proposed development site, it appears that potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits is limited: the grounds have been landscaped at least once, with visible impact on surface levels, and any earthwork traces of, in particular, mediaeval settlement or other use have long gone. There is some potential for preservation of deposits under the car park and the northern part of the football pitch but, even if deposits did exist, truncation and other damage are very likely.

19. Existing buildings within the development site are of no historical interest.

20. There is no reason to anticipate the presence of prehistoric remains, or of remains dating from the Roman occupation of Britain. The single find-spot of a palgrave east of the site, and the presence of Neolithic pottery to the south, indicate the presence of prehistoric activity in the area, but neither spot is sufficiently close to the site to be of *direct* relevance.

20 The development site is close to the group of Listed buildings clustered around Newby Farm, and is important to their setting. Other buildings adjacent to the development site and on the same side of Scalby Road are of modern date. Well-designed modern buildings on the development site, at present rather ugly and glaring, should be an improvement and should enhance, rather than damage, the setting of the Listed buildings to the east.

21. The main issue must concern the relationship of the development site to the mediaeval settlement, apparently never more than a hamlet, of Newby. It is far from clear that the distinctly mediaeval pattern of toft-and-croft evident on the east side of Scalby Road ever existed on the western side; if it did, it had certainly disappeared by 1854, and the possibility must be entrained that Newby was never a typical two-row village, but a straggle of buildings along one side of the road. The presence on early Ordnance maps of a group of farm buildings immediately north of the site but apparently belonging to Newby Farm over the road might even be taken as supporting this idea. Even if the benefit of doubt is given to the idea of Newby as a two-row village, the weight of evidence suggests that the archaeological potential of the site should e considered as low.

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LIST OF FIGURES

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Fig. 1 | Site location |
| Fig. 2 | The Rugby Clubhouse |
| Fig. 3 | The Clubhouse and grounds from the west |
| Fig. 4 | The site in 1854 |
| Fig. 5 | The site in 1892 |
| Fig. 6 | The site in 1928 |
| Fig. 7 | The site in 1938 |
| Fig. 8 | Newby Farmhouse |
| Fig. 9 | Newby Barn, Pinfold and Quoits Ground |
| Fig. 10 | Former farmhouse, 431 Scalby Road |