

# Humber Field Archaeology

*Archaeological Consultants and Contractors*



Archaeological Observation  
Investigation and Recording  
at  
Church Hill  
Sherburn in Elmet  
North Yorkshire

Site Code: WB2006.031  
National Grid Reference: SE 4869 3336  
Planning Reference: 8/58/128B/PA

for

Hogg the Builder

Watching Brief Report Number: 907  
February 2007

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D. Atkinson, February 2007

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## Summary

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A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with an eleven dwelling residential development at Church Hill, Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire.

Monitoring of the groundwork associated with this development revealed the location of a well that had probably been in use in the 19th and early 20th century. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered.

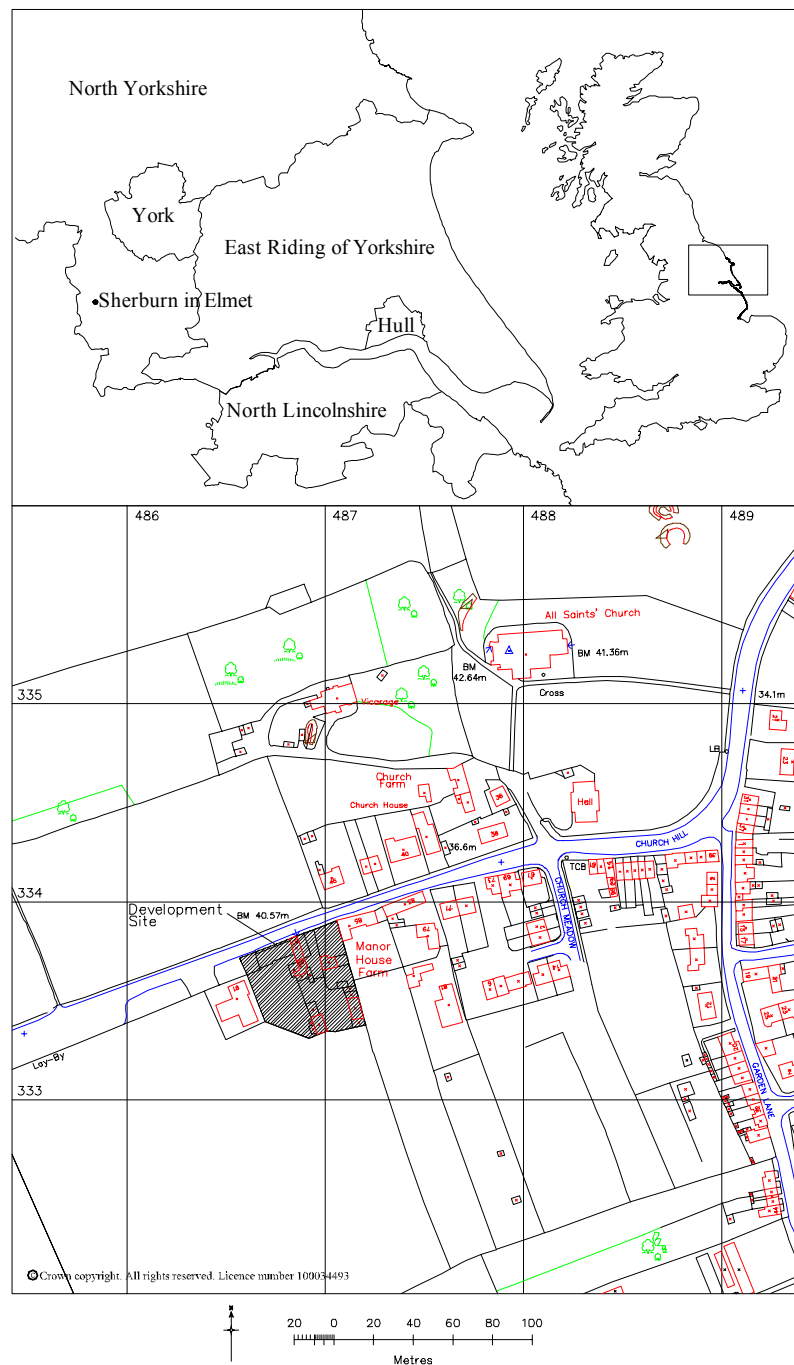
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# 1. Introduction

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This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology, on behalf of Hogg the Builder during groundwork associated with a residential development on land at 87a - 89 Church Hill, Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire (*Figure 1, Plate 1*).

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*Figure 1 Site location plan.*

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## **2. Archaeological Background**

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The site of the development lies in an area of archaeological interest. Sherburn in Elmet was an important settlement in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, with royal and ecclesiastical connections. The focus of the medieval settlement lay close to the church on the western edge of the present village.

It is likely, therefore, that any groundworks in this area would encounter archaeological deposits dating from the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and later periods.

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## **3. Background and Methodology**

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Planning permission was granted on the 16th March 2005 subject to several conditions. Condition 15 stated:

“No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local Planning Authority.”

Reason:

The site is of archaeological interest and to ensure compliance with Policy ENV28 of the Selby District Local Plan

The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology, in accordance with the standard written scheme of investigation (WSI) for limited archaeological recording (watching brief) produced by the County Archaeology Service, Heritage Section, North Yorkshire County Council.

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of the demolition and site clearance, the excavations for the access road, a large soakaway and the foundations for the new dwellings. A series of fourteen visits were made to the site between 3rd July 2006 and 6th February 2007.

Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. The excavated dimensions of the foundation trenches were recorded, as were the depth sequences of any exposed stratigraphy. Context numbers were assigned and detailed descriptions were made, plans and sections were drawn and a photographic record was maintained.

Archaeological artefacts found during the fieldwork were bagged according to their context, and returned to Humber Field Archaeology for further specialist analysis.

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## 4. Results

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The site was located on the south side of Church Hill, on the western edge of Sherburn in Elmet. It was bounded by Church Hill to the north, residential properties to the east and west and by agricultural land to the south (*Figure 2*).

An initial visit was made in July 2006 and a photographic record made prior to the demolition of the buildings that occupied the site (*Plates 1 and 2*). The demolition and site clearance work was undertaken in August 2006 (*Plates 3 and 4*). A topographical survey of the site, supplied by the developer, showed that the ground sloped down by approximately 2.5m from the northwest 41.00m O.D. to 38.50m O.D. in the southeast corner. Much of the demolition rubble was used in addition to imported stone to level up the southeast corner of the site (*Plate 5*). Following this, the east/west arm of the access road was constructed (*Plate 6*).

The soakaway to the rear of plots 5 and 6 was excavated first. This measures 7m by 5m and was 3.10m deep. It revealed (1001) grey brown loam with building rubble over (1002) natural limestone (*Plate 7*).

During the preparations for the excavation of the foundation trenches for plots 8 to 11 a stone-lined well (1003) was revealed in the area of plot 11 (*Plate 8*). It was approximately 1m in diameter and was 6m deep to water level. It is thought that this well probably dated from the 19th century.

The foundations for Plots 8 to 11 were 1.30m to 1.50m wide and up to 2m deep. They also revealed (1001) soil and rubble overlying (1002) natural (*Plates 9 and 10*). No archaeological features were identified.

The next set of foundations excavated, were for plots 1 to 3 on the street frontage. These foundations were between 0.50m and 0.60m wide and 1.20m deep (*Plate 11*). Again, beneath (1001) overburden was (1002) natural limestone and no archaeological features were identified.

On completion of these foundations, the new entrance and the north/south arm of the access road was constructed (*Plate 12*). This area was reduced in height by 0.50m down to (1002) natural before being stoned-up and surfaced.

Due to the lack of archaeological features or artefacts identified, permission was given by the North Yorkshire County Council Archaeology Service to conclude the watching brief prior to the excavation of the foundations for plots 4 to 7.



Figure 2 Site plan showing the location of the well, soakaway and foundation trenches within the development with the original site layout in grey.

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## **5. Discussion**

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The following is solely the opinion of Humber Field Archaeology, and may not reflect that of Heritage & Environment Section, North Yorkshire County Council archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

Monitoring of the groundworks associated with this development revealed the location of a stone-lined well which had the remains of a pump and lead piping. This was probably in use in the 19th and early part of the 20th century.

No other features or artefacts were identified during this programme of works. It is possible however, that the archaeological deposits survive in the surrounding area.

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## **6. Acknowledgements**

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Thanks are accorded to Wayne Battersby of Hogg the Builder and the on-site contractors for their help and co-operation during the course of this project.

The work was carried out in accordance with written scheme of investigation produced by the County Archaeology Service, Heritage Section, North Yorkshire County Council. The on-site recording was carried out by D.J. Jobling I McGrath and D.P. Rawson.

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## **7. References**

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Standard Written Scheme Of Investigation (WSI) For Limited Archaeological Recording (“Watching Brief”). County Archaeology Service, Heritage Section, North Yorkshire County Council.

Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), English Heritage, 1991.



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## 8. Appendices

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### Appendix 1 Context list

(1000) U/S, Unstratified.  
(1001) Topsoil/overburden  
(1002) Natural Limestone  
(1003) Well

### Appendix 2 Archive

#### **Project Details:**

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation undertaken during groundwork associated with an eleven dwelling residential development at Church Hill, Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire.

**Site Code:** WB2006.031  
**National Grid Reference:** SE 4869 3336  
**Planning Reference:** 8/58/128B/PA  
**Author** D. Atkinson **Date of fieldwork** 3rd July 2006 - 6th February 2007.  
**Report Number.** Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 906 February 2007

#### **Quantity**

4x A4 plastic sleeves contain the paper archive

#### **Summary of work**

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with an eleven dwelling residential development at Church Hill, Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire.

Monitoring of the groundwork associated with this development revealed the location of a well that had probably been in use in the 19th and early 20th century. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were recovered.

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- 1.2 Correspondence

##### **2 Site Data:**

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- 2.2 Staff site visit log
- 2.3 Site plans

##### **3. The Photographic Record:**

- 3.1 Photographic Catalogue
- 3.2 Contact Sheets
- 3.3 Reference Prints

##### **4. Miscellaneous:**

- 4.1 Development plans

##### **5. Final Report:**

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording at Church Hill, Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 907, February 2007.



*Plate 1 87a and 89 Church Hill viewed from the south*



*Plate 2 The east end of the development, viewed from the north*



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*Plate 12 Work in progress on the new entrance*

# Humber Field Archaeology

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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Excavation Watching Briefs  
• Finds Research • Post-excavation Analysis • Inter-tidal Work

Humber Field Archaeology is an independently-funded part of the Humber Archaeology Partnership, a partnership serving The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council