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**Reighton Sands Holiday Park,
Filey,
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

May 2007

Report No. 1664

CLIENT

Dacre Son and Hartley



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**Reighton Sands Holiday Park,
Filey,
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Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

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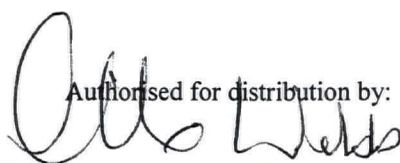
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) were commissioned by Dacre, Son and Hartley to undertake a desk-based assessment at Reighton Sands Holiday Park, Filey. This was undertaken in order to aid the submission of a planning application for the development of the site.
- 1.2 The study area is located at the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds on the North Yorkshire coastline, approximately 5km to the south of Filey and 10km to the north of Bridlington. There are two proposed development sites, known as Areas A and B, located on opposite sides of the holiday park and centred on TA 142 759. The study area consists of all land within the proposed development sites, along with a 1km radius (Fig. 1).
- 1.3 The purpose of this desk-based assessment is to identify and assess the significance of sites and finds of archaeological interest within the study area and gain a greater understanding of the wider historical landscape as a whole.

2. Methodology and Sources

- 2.1 The following sources of information have been consulted in order to meet the requirements of the desk-based assessment and are in line with guidelines laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001).

Archaeological archives and databases

- 2.2 Information on previous archaeological finds and investigations within the study area, including aerial photographs from the National Mapping Programme, was accessed from the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) in Northallerton. The East Riding of Yorkshire Archives and Local Studies Library, Beverley were consulted for historic mapping, as well as any further documentation.

Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments

- 2.3 Details of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments were accessed from the North Yorkshire HER.

Published and unpublished sources

- 2.4 A range of published and unpublished material has been researched and consulted. This includes local histories, together with general sources on the area and its wider archaeological and historical background.

Visual inspection of the site

- 2.5 Two site visits were carried out to assess the separate proposed development sites. These were undertaken on Thursday 22nd February and Wednesday 16th May to assess the survival of previously documented features and to identify any sites of archaeological interest that may survive on the ground. Photographs of the site have been taken and are presented in Plates 1 to 6.

Previous archaeological investigations

- 2.6 Several archaeological investigations have been carried out within the study area mainly comprising desk-based assessments and archaeological surveys. In particular, these studies have concentrated on the remains of World War II activity and maritime heritage (Harrison 2000; Foot and Thomson 2004; Buglass 2005; Roberts 2003; Pollington 2006). The coastline comes within an area covered by the 'Artefacts from the Sea' study, undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2003 and 2004, to assess archaeological finds along the coast between the River Tees and River Humber (Wessex Archaeology 2004). No archaeological excavations or geophysical surveys have been undertaken within the study area.

3. The Study Area

- 3.1 Any archaeological sites and artefacts that have been discovered within the study area have been given a numerical identifier and detailed in Section 5 and plotted on Figure 2. Where sites listed in the catalogue are mentioned in the text, the relevant catalogue number is given in bold-type.

Topography and geology

- 3.2 The study area is located on the western edge of the North Yorkshire Wolds on gently undulating land at a height of approximately 60m AOD. The land comprises fields and static caravans, which form part of the Reighton Sands Holiday Village. The north and north-east of the study area is bounded by the sea and cliffs, whilst to the west lies the A165 and the village of Reighton. The southern part of the study area gently rises towards Speeton Hills.
- 3.3 The underlying geology of the site includes Lower Cretaceous greensand and clay (Institute of Geological Sciences 1979). The soils comprise chalky till with fine loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980).

Identified archaeological sites, buildings and features

- 3.4 A total of ten archaeological or historic sites have been identified within the study area. These have been catalogued in Section 5 and each entry includes the relevant North Yorkshire HER Primary Record Number (PRN), Scheduled Monument, Listed Building or NMR number.

Designated sites and areas

- 3.5 No Listed Buildings or Scheduled Monuments lie within the proposed development sites or study area.

4. Archaeological Background

The Prehistoric Period

- 4.1 There is no evidence for early prehistoric activity within the study area, although flints have been recovered from upland areas and along the Great Wold Valley indicating Mesolithic activity (BHWB Ltd 2003). The site of Star Carr to the north-west of the study area has yielded finds of flints, wood, bone and horn, whilst environmental evidence from Willow Garth, 8km to the south of Reighton, suggests woodland clearance at this time (Lightfoot and Signorelli 2007).
- 4.2 No evidence for Neolithic activity has been recovered within the study area, although evidence for the domestication of cattle and grain crops has been found in the Yorkshire Wolds (Spratt 1993, 78; Manby 1975, 23). Large communal burial mounds and other ritual sites were constructed during this period, such as the four cursus monuments and a standing stone at Rudston to the south-west of the study area.
- 4.3 Whilst no evidence for Bronze Age activity exists within the study area, a number of round barrows have been found in the vicinity, such as those at Beacon Hill just to the south of the study area. A tumulus is also noted on the Ordnance Survey mapping to the south-west of the study area suggesting another possible Bronze Age round barrow (OS 1893) and is now part of a Scheduled Monument (SMNY848). Long distance linear earthworks are thought to have originated during this period, which may have defined tribal or territorial boundaries (Dent 1983, 35) and the 'Argham Dykes', which run from Rudston to Reighton, may be an example of this (Lightfoot and Signorelli 2007).
- 4.4 There is no evidence for Iron Age activity within the study area, but crop mark evidence of field systems have been identified just to the south of the study area and may date to the Iron Age. In the wider landscape, the characteristic 'ladder' settlements have been identified on aerial photographs of the Yorkshire Wolds (Stoertz 1997). These comprise enclosures flanking trackways, some of which form extensive complexes, such as those at Wetwang Slack and Garton Slack to the north of Rudston (Stoertz 1997, 51-55). Some of these have been excavated yielding evidence of corn driers and round houses and several demonstrate continuity into the Roman period (Dent 1983, 39; Bishop 1999). A ditched trackway was uncovered during recent excavations in advance of the A165 Reighton Bypass to the west of the study area and may be Iron Age in date (Lightfoot and Signorelli 2007). Square barrow cemeteries have been found 2km to the south-east of Reighton and at Rudston, 5km to the south-west (BHWB Ltd 2003). A chariot burial was also

discovered near Hunmanby railway station in 1907 (Sheppard 1907) to the north of the study area. Square barrows have also been found in the Great Wold Valley (Dent 1982).

The Roman Period

- 4.5 No evidence for Roman activity has been recovered within the study area, but crop mark evidence of field systems to the south of the study area may date to this period. An earthwork on Strenk Hill to the south-east of the study area may also date to the Roman period. More substantial evidence has been yielded from Rudston Roman villa (Stead 1980) to the south-west of the study area. The remains of late Roman signal stations have been excavated at Scarborough and Filey (Ottaway 2000). It has been suggested that the present A64 and A1039, to the north of the study area, follow the line of a Roman road (Margary 1973, 424).

The Medieval Period

- 4.6 The closest settlements to the study area comprise Reighton and Speeton, both of which incorporate '-ton' suffixes meaning farmstead, enclosure or manor in Old English suggesting an Anglo-Saxon origin (Gelling 1982, 50-52). The prefix for the former may be related to 'ric' meaning strip and may refer to the ridge upon which Reighton lies (Smith 1937, 107). Hunmanby is also located close-by and is Old Scandinavian for '*farmstead of the houndsmen*' (Smith 1937, 109). All three are noted in the Domesday book supporting the place-name evidence for their antiquity. Relatively little evidence has been recovered for Anglo-Saxon activity, although excavations close to Rudston to the south-west of the study area, have revealed a *grubenhous* and a posthole (Abramson 1996, 26).
- 4.7 Following the Norman Conquest, administrative hierarchies and sub-divisions were set up until they were replaced by the civil parish system in the 19th century. This area of Yorkshire was divided into wapentakes, which were subdivided into parishes and townships. Reighton lay in the wapentake of Dickering (Baines 1823) and the land comprised three estates in 1068, one of which was owned by the King (Faull and Stinson 1986). This land was later held by the Counts of Aumale and then the Salvin family until the 16th century. Other land in the area was part of the manor of Buckton, which was tenanted until 1403 by the Argham family. The Archbishop of York held some of the lands of Reighton, which later became part of the Jordan estate (Faull and Stinson 1986). Two medieval sites are known within the study area including a well (1) and earthworks to the south of study area at Strenk Hill that may date to the medieval period. There is medieval evidence in the wider landscape with the medieval villages of Speeton to the south and Reighton to the west and their associated field systems. Indeed, the village of Reighton is now a conservation area and contains several Listed Buildings (327016, 327017, 327018).

The Post-Medieval Period

- 4.8 In 1674, 38 households were recorded in Reighton, most of which were small one-hearth cottages (Allison 1974). Land ownership gradually became more centralised during this period and by the turn of the 19th century, there were only two major landowners in the area, the Stricklands and the Osbaldestons. Indeed, the enclosure map for Reighton shows that part of the proposed development site (Area A) was owned by Sir William Strickland (Fig. 4). It is possible that the rest of the proposed development site (Area A) that lies in Speeton parish was also owned by Sir William Strickland, although this is not annotated on the map (Fig. 3). No field boundaries appear to exist within the proposed development sites on these enclosure maps, apart from the boundary dividing Reighton and Speeton parishes. This boundary is present on all the Ordnance Survey mapping and remains of this boundary (5) are still apparent today (Plate 2).

Modern Period

- 4.9 The majority of archaeological sites identified within the study area relate to World War II defensive activities. These were recorded during the Defence of Britain project, which involved the compilation of extant anti-invasion defences, many of which line the British coast (Foot and Thomson 2004). These include numerous pillboxes (3, 4, 6, 7, 9; Plates 3 and 4), cubes (8), and an anti-tank block (10). Quarrying has occurred within the study area marked by disused pits on modern Ordnance Survey mapping. More recently, this area is known as a holiday destination with multiple caravan parks lining the coast.

Visual inspection of the site

- 4.10 The visual inspections of the sites revealed evidence of a former boundary in Area A, which divided the parishes of Reighton and Speeton (Plate 2). This was represented by two hedges, along with a slight bank and can be dated to at least the 18th century based on the enclosure maps (Figs 3 and 4). Two pillboxes were also noted during the site inspection (4, 6) dating to World War II (Plates 3 and 4), although only one lies within the study area. A bank running in a north-east/south-west direction was noted during the site visit to Area B and probably represents a former field boundary of post-medieval date (2; Plate 6).

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has highlighted a number of sites of archaeological interest dating from the medieval period to the 20th century within the study area. Two former boundaries have been identified within the proposed development sites (2 and 5). Site 2 appears to be a field boundary of probable post-medieval date, whilst Site 5 dates to at least the 18th century as evidenced by the enclosure maps of Reighton and Speeton parishes (Figs 3 and 4). Other sites of interest in the vicinity of the proposed development site comprise World War II defensive structures (3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10). Although there is no evidence for earlier settlements within the actual study area, prehistoric, Roman, and medieval activity is known in the surrounding landscape that may extend into the study area, such as field systems. Indeed, crop mark and earthwork evidence just to the south of the study area indicate this potential.

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