

**Land to the Rear of 30 Bondgate  
Helmsley  
North Yorkshire  
SE 6130 8380**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Authorised by .....**

**Date:.....**

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**SE 6130 8380  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

***Non Technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Land rear of 30 Bondgate, Helmsley in May 2010, in order to fulfil a condition attached to Planning Application 09/00624/FUL. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the erection of 1 no. three bedroom dwelling with associated parking, turning and amenity areas.*

*No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was undertaken in May 2010, by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Land rear of 30 Bondgate, Helmsley, York. The work was undertaken in accordance with a standard written scheme of investigation approved by North Yorkshire County Council.
- 1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to provide an appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the ground works, following the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5)*, and Policy C13 of the Ryedale District Local Plan.
- 1.3 All work was funded by Mr Brooksbank.

- 1.4 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

## **2. Site Description**

- 2.1 The site of the development is located at land to the rear of 30 Bondgate, Helmsley (SE 6130 8380).

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.1 The manor of Helmsley was first granted to Robert de Mortain, William the Conqueror's half brother in the period following the Norman invasion. However by 1120 Walter Espec, Justiciar to the Royal Court, had acquired the Manor. The state of anarchy within England at this time would certainly have acted as a stimulus for the building of Helmsley Castle by Espec, providing also a convenient base for his extensive estates in Yorkshire.
- 3.2 The early Castle built by Espec in the early to mid 12<sup>th</sup> century was likely to have been a courtyard castle consisting of two rectangular courtyards or Baileys enclosed by deep ditches. Following Espec's death in 1154 his estates were granted to his sister's husband Peter de Roos, and his descendent Robert de Roos is recorded in the Chartulary of Rievaulx to have 'raised the castle of Helmsley and Wark', after 1186 but before his death in 1227. One of Robert's sons, William, added a chapel after inheriting the castle from his father, and the castle remained with the de Roos family until 1478 when it was acquired by the crown. The castle eventually passed to Sir George Manners, and in the 1560s Edward Manners rebuilt the medieval domestic ranges as a Tudor house. In 1632 the castle passed to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham via the dowry of his wife Katherine Manners, however they do not appear to have occupied the castle.

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief were to record and recover archaeological remains, which could be affected by services works, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

#### **5. Methodology**

- 5.1 All the groundworks associated with the erection of the dwellings were monitored.
- 5.2 All excavations were undertaken using a back acting mechanical excavator using a toothed and a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision.
- 5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 5.4 All deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.
- 5.5 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a digital camera.

#### **6. Results**

- 6.1 All groundworks were watched under close archaeological supervision. The work involved monitoring the strip foundation footings associated with the erection of a three - bedroom dwelling with associated parking, turning and amenity areas. The topsoil varied in depth from 0.4 to 0.5 in depth with a loamy subsoil of between 0.3 and 0.5m. The foundation trenches were dug to a depth of between 0.8 and 0.9m due to the depth of accumulated topsoil, natural deposits were not encountered.

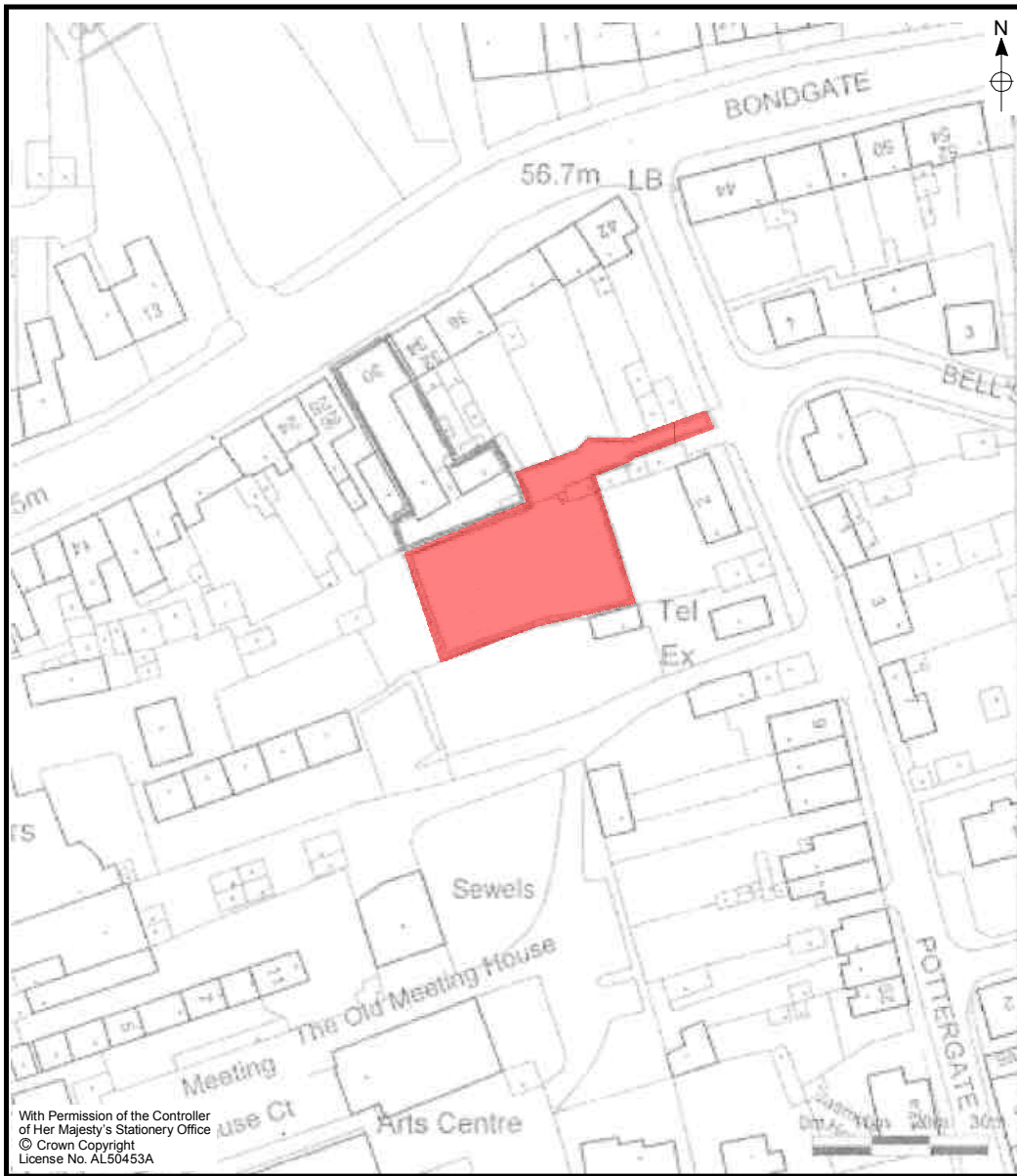
## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 Whilst all groundworks taking place on the site were watched under archaeological supervision, no finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.



Figure 1. Site Location





**Figure 2.** Location of Archaeological Watching Brief.



Plate 1. General View of Site. Facing South-west.



Plate 2. General View of Site. Facing West.





Plate 3. General View of Site. Facing East.



Plate 4. General View of Site. Facing North-east.



Plate 5. General View of Site. Facing South.



Plate 6. General View of Site. Facing North-east.





Plate 7. View of Footings.



Plate 8. View of Footings.





Plate 9. View of Footings.



Plate 10. View of Footings.

# MAP

## Archaeological Consultancy Ltd

### Land Rear of 30 Bondgate, Helmsley - 09/00624/FUL

An Archaeological Recording Brief will be undertaken on behalf of Mr Brooksbank during erection of 2. no. three bedroom dwellings, outbuilding and relocation of store together with associated parking, turning and amenity areas.

The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains, which could be affected by proposed development. The area is to be stripped under archaeological supervision and any features/deposits exposed excavated and recorded to correct archaeological standards

1. The work should not require the construction programme or development to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although some developers may give such a facility.
2. The WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements needed to comply with an archaeological planning condition. The scheme does not comprise a full specification, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. The details of implementation must be specified in a contract between the developer and the selected archaeological contractor.
3. The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) should be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI. The Archaeologist should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal.
4. Removal of overburden by machine should be undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where materials are exceptionally difficult to lift, a toothed bucket may be used temporarily. Subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by back-acting excavator but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist on site, and only with archaeological supervision. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Where reinstatement is required, topsoil should be kept separate from other soil materials.
5. Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.
6. Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they

should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The sampling of deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence should be a standard consideration, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available if appropriate.

7. Heavy plant should not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the Archaeologist on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision. Where reinstatement is required, subsoils should be backfilled first and topsoil last.

8. Upon completion of fieldwork, samples will be processed and evaluated, and all finds cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated, and properly stored. A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist will arrange for either the County Archaeologist or an independent post-excavation specialist to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to an appropriate museum or records office.

9. A report will be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report will contain planning or administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas will be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features will be illustrated with conventionally scaled plans, sections, or photographs. Where few or no finds are made, a summary report the form of a letter with plans will be submitted.

10. Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Unit (SMR), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage.

11. The County Archaeologist will be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work will be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If human remains are encountered, they will be exhumed subject to the conditions of a Home Office licence.