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REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING
(‘WATCHING BRIEF’) AT YE OLD SUN INN, COLTON,
NORTH YORKSHIRE

By Chris Fern BA MA FSA

October 2010 – February 2011

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Site: Ye Old Sun Inn, Main Street, Colton, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, LS24 8EP

Site Code: COLT'10/11

County: North Yorkshire

District Council: Selby

Planning Application No: 2009/1121/FUL; 2010/1125/DPC

SMR/HER No:

NGR: SE 543 448

Development: 'Change of use of existing dairy shop to enlarge the kitchen and provide staff toilet facilities to public house, together with extension to provide food preparation area; conversion of part of public house; together with an extension to create a new dairy shop and additional seating area for public house.'

Date of Issue: 17/02/11

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Commissioned by: Stuart Goldthorpe
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Client/Developer: Mr & Mrs Ashley McCarthy
Ye Old Sun Inn
Main Street, Colton
Tadcaster
North Yorkshire
LS24 8EP

Planning officer: Richard Sunter; Yvonne Naylor

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

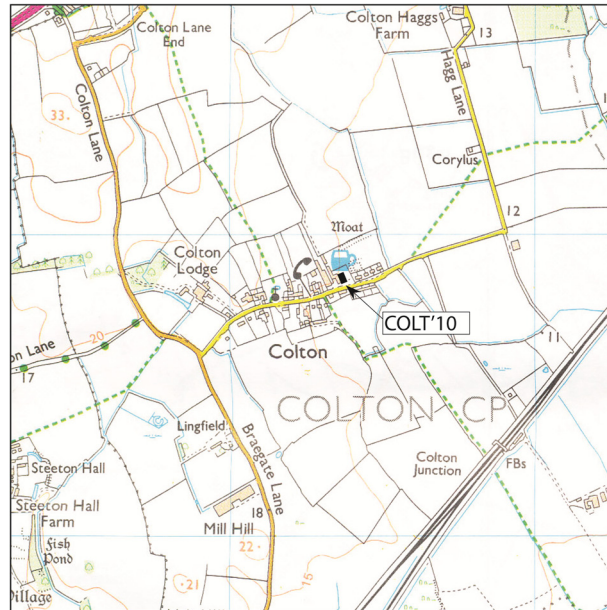
- 1.1 An archaeological recording brief ('watching brief') was carried out by Fern Archaeology at Ye Old Sun Inn (**Figure 1**), a Grade II listed building. This was during ground-works for two extensions to the eastern side of the building. The fieldwork took place between November 2010 and February 2011. Two of three areas, A–C (**Figure 2**), were monitored. Following negative results in Areas A and B, the watching brief was ended.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording, known as a 'watching brief', was carried out by Fern Archaeology at Ye Old Sun Inn, Main Street, Colton, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. It took place over 4 days, on 23rd–24th November 2010 and 14th–15th February 2011.
- 2.2 The archaeological recording was commissioned by 3P Construction Ltd. in response to an archaeological planning condition placed on the development by Selby District Council. The development comprised two extensions (2009/1121/FUL) to the building's eastern side.
- 2.3 The archaeological planning condition was set, in accordance with Policy ENV28 of the Selby District Local Plan, and in line with national policy guidance, PPG16 (DoE 1990) and PPS5 (2010) (Sunter 8/77/27P/PA). The condition states: '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.'
- 2.4 The planning condition was instigated based on the advice of NYCC Historic Environment Team (Nick Boldrini), who advised: 'The proposed development lies within the historic core of the village, and therefore has the potential for the survival of remains of medieval and later settlement. We therefore advise an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during ground-disturbing works associated with this development, and that a suitable scheme of archaeological recording should be undertaken over this site/area in response to the proposed development. This is in order to ensure that a detailed record is made of any deposits that will be disturbed.'
- 2.5 The archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the site was produced by Fern Archaeology (2010) and authorised by Selby District Council (2010/1125/DPC).
- 2.6 The archaeologist on site was Chris Fern, who operated in full accordance with professional standards, as defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).
- 2.7 The site code allocated for the project was COLT'10.

3 SITE LOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 Ye Old Sun Inn is located off Main Street, in the village of Colton, North Yorkshire. (**Figure 1**). This is at NGR SE 543 448. The inn is a Grade II listed building (MNY26428).



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Figure 1: Location of site (1/25000).

- 3.2 The upper geology in this area comprises boulder clay. This was recorded on the site during the recording brief as context (C1000), with a Munsell Colour of 10YR 4/3, 'brown'.
 - 3.3 The site lies close to the 20m OD contour.
 - 3.4 The development comprised two extensions (2009/1121/FUL) to the building's eastern side, one to provide a new food preparation area, the other, additional seating and a shop. The former was approximately 4.5m x 6.5m in plan (Area A), the latter 7.5m x 9.5m (Area C). In addition, a new cellar and barrel shute (Area B) was excavated, 5m x 5m in size. The associated drainage works did not intrude below the level of made ground and so were not monitored.
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- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
 - 4.1 A section of the Tadcaster-to-York Roman road was recorded by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (WYAS) at the Colton Lane Junction at Bilborough Top, north-west of the site. The road was of cobbled-surface construction, over a sand and gravel agger, with a southern roadside ditch. The ditch was slightly later in date than the road, and contained a silver finger-ring of the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD (Gidman 2005).
 - 4.2 The village is recorded in Domesday Book, AD1086, as *Coletone/Coletune*, then held by Osbern d'Arques.
 - 4.3 The earthworks of the medieval moated-manor of Colton, known as 'Hall Garth Moat' (MNY17273) are visible in the field adjacent to the car-park, north-east of the public house. A rectangular moat survives as a shallow ditch, plough-damaged and partly overlain by modern gardens to the south. It is visible as cropmarks on air photos. A

further linear earthwork to the north could be evidence for a fishpond. Little else is known about the site (EH <http://www.pastscape.org.uk>).

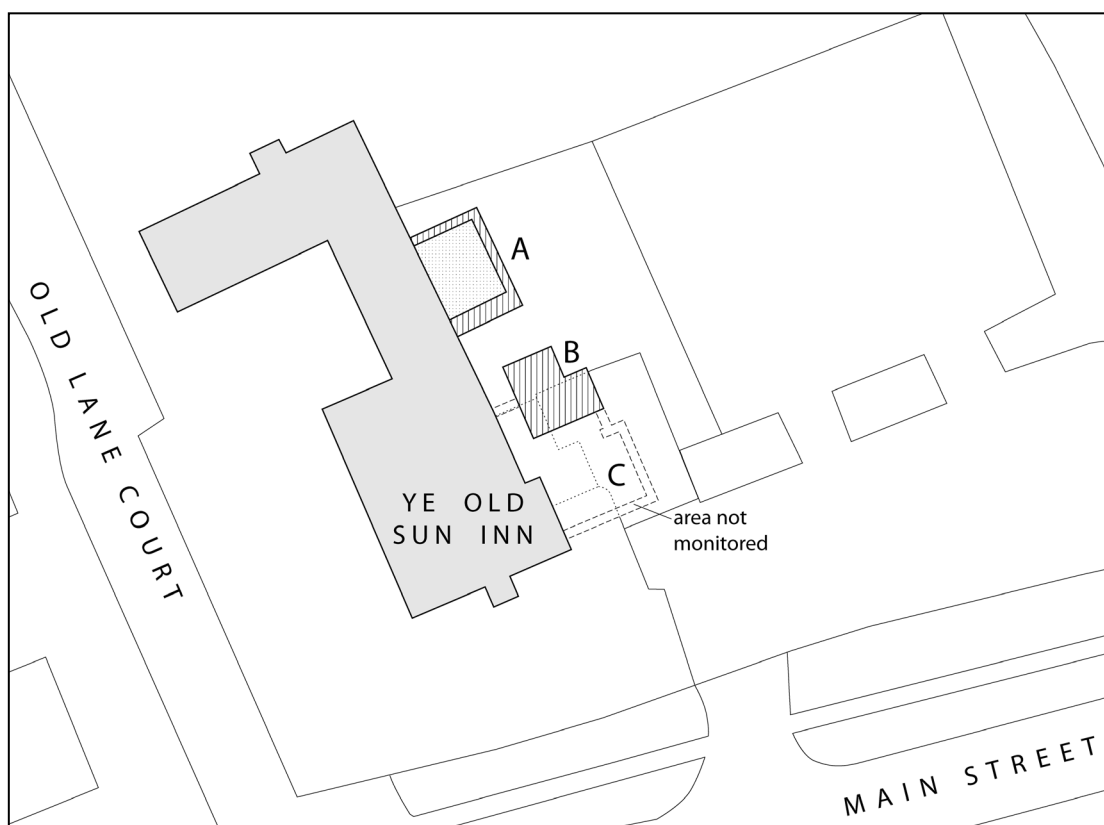
- 4.4 Ye Old Sun Inn Public House was originally a house of early 18th-century date. It was in use as an inn by the mid 20th century (EH <http://www.pastscape.org.uk>).

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The supervising archaeologist was Chris Fern.
- 5.2 The guidelines for archaeological excavation issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008) were adhered to throughout, as was the WSI for Archaeological Recording (Fern 2010).
- 5.3 Archaeological deposits, layers and features were recorded as follows:
- 1) A single 'context' (C) recording system (starting at C1000) was used, with numbers allocated to each discrete deposit, layer and cut feature: in the text to follow, feature cuts are annotated in *[square brackets]*, while feature fills, layers and other deposits are given in *(round brackets)*.
 - 2) Each deposit was separately described by its soil type, Munsell colour, inclusions and finds, together with its extents; the site record was maintained in paper hardcopy, available in the archive.
 - 3) 10-megapixel digital photography was used.
 - 4) A drawn plan of the excavation was made 1/100 scale; the results have been digitised and are shown in **Figure 2**; the original drawings form part of the archive.
- 5.4 The site archive is held by Fern Archaeology.

6 FIELDWORK RESULTS

- 6.1 There were three areas of ground-works. For ease, they will be referred to in this report as Areas A–C. Their location is shown in **Figure 2**.
- 6.2 No archaeology was found during the monitoring of Areas A and B, and hence on the understanding that the site was probably 'archaeologically sterile' the watching brief was ended, with no monitoring of Area C. This was undertaken in accordance with clause 4.5 of the WSI and with the agreement of Lucie Hawkins, Senior Archaeologist at NYCC Heritage Section (email 17/02/11). Clause 4.5 states:
- 4.5 Monitoring will be fulfilled only in accordance with the following criteria: all ground-works that intrude below the level of the topsoil (or other 'modern' made ground layers) have been completed; all necessary archaeological recording has been completed; it is apparent that the site is archaeologically sterile (*premature cessation of monitoring will only take place with the permission of NYCC Historic Environment Team*).



Map provided by 3P Construction

Figure 2: Location of excavations, Areas A–C (1/500).

- 6.3 **Area A** (monitored 23rd–24th November 2010): This was a rectangular area, approximately 4.5m x 6.5m in size, excavated for a concrete raft-foundation. The strip-foundation trenches for the raft which ran around this area were dug using a machine excavator, fitted with a toothless bucket, to 0.60m wide by 0.80m deep. This was followed by the reduction of the remaining ground surface by 0.30m (**Photo 1**).

No archaeology or significant finds were encountered in Area A. The following stratigraphic sequence of two soils was recorded. The uppermost layer, 0.20–0.30m in depth, comprised a ‘black’ clayey, loam topsoil (or garden soil): Munsell Colour 10YR 2/1. It contained late 19th/early 20th century pottery and CBM (ceramic building material) fragments, but nothing earlier was observed. None of this unstratified and late material was retained.

Immediately under the topsoil was the natural geology, a compact and plastic ‘brown’ boulder clay: Munsell Colour 10YR 4/3. The ground-works did not penetrate through this geology.



Photo 1: Area A, after the completion of ground-works, looking west.

- 6.4 **Area B** (monitored 14th–15th February 2011): This was a roughly rectangular area, approximately 5m x 5m in size, excavated for a cellar and new barrel shute. After the initial removal of the topsoil, no archaeology was identified at the level of the natural clay subsoil. The ground was ultimately reduced to 2.5m below the standing surface (**Photo 2**).



Photo 2: Area B, looking south.

- 6.5 **Area C** was not monitored, on the basis of the negative findings in Areas A and B. This course of action was undertaken in agreement with NYCC HER and clause 4.5 of the WSI (Fern 2010).

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 No archaeology was encountered and there was no evidence for any residual finds of significance to suggest a presence on the site prior to the 18th-century date of the inn. This is despite the proximity of the development to the medieval moated-manor of Colton.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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