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**The Old Sand Pit  
Robin Hood Caravan Site  
Slingsby  
North Yorkshire**

**NGR SE 7015 7484  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Plan App 98/01122/fvL

SAM

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Slingsby  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Introduction**

The development area is located within the old sand pit on land to the east of the Robin Hood Caravan Site, off Green Dyke Lane, Slingsby, c. 10km west of Malton (Fig. 1 - SE 7015 7484). The development consists of selective landscaping within the disused sand pit to form an extension to the present caravan site (Figs. 2 & 3)..

Robin Hood Caravan Site stands on soils of the Badsey 2 Association, well-drained calcareous fine loams over limestone gravel (Mackney et al.).

On March 10th, 1999 a Watching Brief was undertaken during the landscaping of the eastern and northern areas of the site where any surviving archaeological deposits on the site were considered to be potentially threatened, as outlined in the Scheme of Works for the site (MAP 1999).

All work has been funded by the Robin Hood Caravan Park Ltd.

**Archaeological and Historical Background**

The site lies to the east of the medieval village of Slingsby, *Selungesbi* or *Eslingesbi* in the Domesday survey. The name means "*Sleng's* farm". The core of the medieval village lay around a Green c. 500m west of the site. The moated remains of a 17th century stone 'castle' lie at the west end of the Green, with another moated site around Wyvill Hall at the Green's eastern end.

Recent excavations at The Green found ditched boundaries and possible settlement-related features of Iron Age or Roman date. A medieval stone wall was apparently a boundary rather than related to a dwelling, and several pits of a similar date were also located (MAP 1998).

Excavations on the route of a pipeline that passed c. 500m east of the site uncovered Roman and Anglo-Scandinavian pits (MAP 1991).

The development site lies immediately adjacent to an Iron Age Square Barrow cemetery (SAM 1200 : Fig. 1). Although scheduled it is known that the northern part of this area was extensively quarried for sand during the Second World War (McKinder & Richardson pers. comm). Although islands of *in situ* archaeology could remain within the north-eastern corner of the site, any archaeological features/deposits seem highly unlikely to survive elsewhere in the sand pit, because of the apparent great depth of sand extraction.

### **Results**

Two particular areas of the site were reduced and removed (Figs. 2 & 3).

The north-eastern corner of the site (a total area measuring approximately 20m<sup>2</sup>) was considered to represent *in situ* deposits. Taken that the square barrow cemetery lies immediately to the east, it was considered to be potentially highly sensitive. The topsoil was carefully removed by a 360° excavator using a broad toothless bucket and the underlying area of exposed sands checked for the presence of any archaeological deposits/features. No activity was observed. The area was then reduced by spits to the required level.

The eastern side of the quarry was also watched whilst the gradient of the edge was battered to the required angle.

Within the northern/central portion of the quarry was a large area of spoil which needed to be removed (Fig. 2). This was machine reduced in spits and checked for features and associated finds. Excavation showed that the mound represented redeposited quarried sand with recent finds including corrugated iron and bottle glass. Beneath the spoil was a previous topsoil again with inclusions of bottle glass.

### **Conclusions**

No activity other than the dumping of recent quarry waste was observed within the central area of the site. Along the eastern and north-eastern boundary of the site no features were

recorded. Whereas it is impossible to discount that the cemetery may have extended into the area of the sand quarry in the past, there was no evidence of any graves along the eastern boundary.

### **Bibliography**

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- MAP 1991              An Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief at Green Dyke Lane, Slingsby. January-February 1991
- MAP 1998              Archaeological Excavations at The Green, Slingsby.