

SCARBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Mr A Hayes
Hayes Associates
20 Alma Square
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Our ref 60QS11

6 July 2012

Dear Mr Hayes

60-62 Quay Street, Scarborough

Your client, James Corrigan has asked me to write to you in connection with the archaeology on the above site which is subject to a Planning application submitted in January 2012, currently undetermined reference 12/00089/FL.

In September 2011 your client sponsored a research excavation on this site which was carried out in accordance with the attached Project Design. Archaeological investigations were carried out under the direction of John Hinchliffe and me.

Two trenches have been excavated. Trench 1 was carried out over the period 16 to 25 September 2011 in 60B Quay Street and measured 1.5 by 5.8 metres ie about 25% of the floor area of this part of the site. Due to access problems, Trench 2 was not carried out until the period 1 to 4 June 2012 in 60A. The latter trench measured 1.6 by 4.5 metres which is about 20% of the floor area of this part of the building. I have set out below a resume of the findings – a fuller report will appear in due course.

Trench 1.

The northern end of this Trench ie the first 1.4 metres from the northern edge almost immediately came down on to natural clay some of which showed signs of natural re-deposition during the process of cliff slumping. This clay had been levelled off to form a platform for building probably during the early 18th century and at this time the stone retaining wall which forms the northern boundary of the site seems to have been underpinned.

In the remainder of Trench 1, the upper part revealed some brick structures which were interpreted as 19th cisterns surrounded by a fill of a similar date. Below this down to a depth of between 1.5 and 2 metres were layers of sea sand which had clearly been tipped and which contained a mixture of medieval pottery (some of it water abraded and re-deposited) and post medieval pottery. There were substantial quantities of furnace slag though no evidence of a furnace or forge. This sandy stratigraphy was interpreted as deliberate dumping in order to make up the land in the post medieval period before the building of the

cottage which formerly stood on this site. This confirms that in the medieval period there was no road along this part of what is now Quay Street – in other words the quay frontage was not continuous between the main part of the harbour and the landward end of the pier.

Along the western edge of the trench below the sand was a brick lined saucer shaped feature which seemed to have been constructed in two phases. we think is a spring or well in the cliff face and the brick layer may be a 'hard-standing' to aid the filling of barrels. This feature has been fully recorded.

Trench 2.

As with Trench 1, the northernmost 1.3 metres were levelled off natural clay. In this case however the clay was retained by a stone wall (which has been recorded). To the south of this the trench revealed a cellar which had been in-filled by pushing the previous cottage into it. The bricks recovered from this cellar confirm an early 18th century date for the cottages. The infilled cellar was 2.2 metres deep, with a floor of stone slabs built off naturally deposited beach sand.

No trench was put down in number 62 Quay Street due to the health and safety hazard from oil contamination.

We intend to monitor and record the foundation construction particularly immediately abutting the Quay street frontage where there may be either a wall to retain the dumped sand or the footings of the former cottage.

A brief report appears on the SAHSweb site www.scarborough-archaeology.org and a fuller report in our Interim Report series will be produced. In the meantime we feel that the level of investigation and recording carried out and intended is sufficient to allow the development to go ahead.

Yours faithfully

Christopher Hall
Field Officer SAHS

