

NYC00121	
BN/	523
ED/	97
CT/	1624
Parish	2110
Rec'd	13/06/2000

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

EAST ROAD, NORTHALLERTON, NORTH YORKS

PRE-CONSTRUCT

ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.

S 523
E 97

2110
DRAFT Rec'd 13-6-00
INCORPORATES
AMENDED TEXT
BUT NOT DIAGRAMS

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
East Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire**

Central National Grid Reference: ^{SE!} NZ 3702 9375

Written and Researched by M. J. Randerson and R.H Taylor-Wilson,
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, June 2000

Project Manager : R.H. Taylor-Wilson

NYCC HER	
SNY	523
E 97	97
QNY	1624
Parish	2110
Rec'd	13/06/00

Commissioning Client:
W.A. Fairhurst & Partners (on behalf of Tesco Stores Limited)
1 Arngrove Court
Barrack Road
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE4 6DB

Tel: 0191 221 0505

Contractor:
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Northern Office
10 Dryburn Park
Durham
DH1 SAD

Tel: 0191 383 1359

©Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
June 2000

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
1. Non-technical Summary	1
2. Introduction	2
3. Planning Background and Research Objectives	3
4. Archaeological and Historical Background	5
5. Geology and Topography	6
6. Archaeological Methodology	6
7. The Archaeological Sequence	8
8. Conclusions and Recommendations	11
9. Bibliography	14
10. Acknowledgements	14

Illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Trench Location
Figure 3	Trench 1
Figure 4	Trench 2
Figure 5	Sections 1, 2 and 3

Appendices

Appendix A	Assessment of Pottery
Appendix B	Stratigraphic Matrix
Appendix C	Context Descriptions

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1 1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological field evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at East Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire. The site's central National Grid Reference is SE 3702 9375.
- 1 2 The field evaluation was undertaken between the 23rd and the 26th May 2000. The commissioning Client (on behalf of Tesco Stores Limited) was W A Fairhurst & Partners.
- 1 3 Two trenches were investigated, which revealed evidence dating from the medieval, post-medieval and modern eras.
- 1 4 Trench 1 contained a large sub-circular cut feature, possibly a disused well, and a posthole. Both features were dated by ceramic evidence as being of medieval origin.
- 1 5 Trench 2 contained a NW-SE orientated gully, of medieval or earlier date, and two pits, both dated by ceramic evidence to the medieval period. A number of deeply cut modern features, mostly service trenches, were also recorded in this trench.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (hereinafter PCA) in advance of a proposed commercial development by Tesco Stores Limited at East Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire. The site is approximately 0.5 hectares in size and its central National Grid Reference is SE 3702 9375 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by W A Fairhurst & Partners, on behalf of Tesco Stores Limited (hereinafter the Client). The fieldwork was undertaken under the supervision of Mark Randerson and the project management of Robin Taylor-Wilson, between the 23rd and the 26th May 2000.
- 2.3 The site lies to the east of the High Street, the spine of Northallerton's commercial centre. To the west, the site is bounded by the rear of the properties 126–135 High Street. To the north, it is bounded by an alleyway extending back from the High Street. To the east, it is bounded by East Road, which swings round to the west to skirt the southern edge of the plot occupied by the existing Tesco supermarket and car park, these lying immediately to the south of the area investigated during the archaeological evaluation (Figure 2).
- 2.4 The archaeological field evaluation was undertaken as part of an overall scheme to mitigate the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource. Prior to the field evaluation PCA had undertaken an archaeological watching brief at the site during the excavation of geotechnical boreholes and trial pits. This provided a baseline consideration of the potential for archaeological survival across the development site and allowed an appraisal of the impact of the proposals upon the archaeological resource.¹
- 2.5 The main purpose of the field evaluation was to assess the nature, date, extent and significance of archaeological remains within the western portion of the development area, thereby allowing precise details of an additional archaeological mitigation strategy to be formulated.
- 2.6 During the field evaluation, two Temporary Bench Marks were transferred to the site from the Ordnance Survey Bench Mark (+41.07m OD) located upon the south-eastern corner of H M Youth Custody Centre to the east of the site. These Temporary Bench Marks had values of +41.31m OD and +40.84m OD.
- 2.7 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefacts will be ultimately deposited at the Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 2DR.

¹ Taylor-Wilson, 1999

3. PLANNING BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Planning Background

- 3.1.1 The archaeological field evaluation described within this report was undertaken as part of an overall mitigation scheme associated with the redevelopment of land immediately to the north of the existing Tesco supermarket on East Road, Northallerton
- 3.1.2 The need for early consultation in the planning process in order to determine the impact of development schemes upon the archaeological resource is identified in the document '*Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*'² The Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council is responsible for monitoring planning applications in Hambleton District and identifying instances that require archaeological mitigation
- 3.1.3 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by PCA during the excavation of geotechnical trial pits and boreholes prior to determination³ As a consequence of the findings, a standard PPG 16 condition was appended as Condition 2 to Decision 2/98/110/752N of 22nd December 1999
- 3.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological recording to mitigate the impact of the development was prepared in April 2000 by the North Yorkshire County Archaeologist⁴ Following discussions between W A Fairhurst and Partners, PCA and the County Archaeologist, a variation to the WSI was prepared by the County Archaeologist in May 2000⁵ The reason for this was two-fold, firstly, to take into account evolving construction and foundation design details and, secondly, to allow for a more detailed setting out of archaeological works for costing purposes
- 3.1.5 A corridor of archaeological sensitivity was defined by the County Archaeologist as part of the revised WSI The corridor measures c 30m wide east-west by c 70m long north-south The eastern extent of the corridor is a line extending north from the north-west corner of the existing supermarket The corridor encompasses the western wall of the new supermarket and any archaeological remains within it are likely to be severely affected by groundworks associated with the development

² Department of the Environment, 1990

³ Taylor-Wilson, *op cit*

⁴ Campling, 2000a

⁵ Campling, 2000b

3.1.6 To the east of the defined corridor there was considered to be a generally lower potential for significant archaeological remains due to the distance from the High Street properties. In addition, the archaeological watching brief had indicated that across the eastern half of the development area buried strata of ancient origin had suffered severe localised truncation as a result of former use - a garage, with subterranean fuel storage areas, had occupied the site prior to the redevelopment. Localised contamination of buried deposits by fuel was also an issue within this portion of the development area.

3.1.7 The trial trenching evaluation herein described was added to the overall archaeological mitigation scheme when the WSI was revised. The intention was that the findings of such an exercise would enable precise details of a further scheme of archaeological investigation to be formulated in advance of the development.

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The broad aim of the trial trenching evaluation was to ascertain the nature, date and significance of archaeological remains within accessible areas of the defined corridor of archaeological interest. The two trenches were sited near to each of the western corners of the new supermarket building, within the defined corridor.

3.2.2 Archaeological evidence from the site has the potential to illuminate the medieval and post-medieval history of Northallerton. The Heritage Unit's WSI set out a broad research agenda, with site specific research objectives to be formulated in the light of the findings of the evaluation. The broad research agenda can be summarised thus:

- evidence of generalised or repeated medieval or post-medieval activities, such as rebuilding, levelling, well-building and horticulture
- evidence for the layout or use of land as part of the development of the town core
- evidence for change of site activities from medieval to early modern times
- analysis of deposits to show, firstly, the taphonomy of their components, such as charred materials, ceramic building material, bone as a by product of food production and consumption against bone used in crafts, pottery sherds, and, secondly, the impact of repeated episodes of destruction on the archaeological record
- evidence for crafts or small scale proto-urban industries, such as brewing or butchery

3.2.3 Additional objectives of the project were to

- set out the background of the site, drawing together the results of previous archaeological, historical, and environmental work in the area
- compile a site archive consisting of all site and project documentary and photographic records, as well as artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material recovered
- compile a report that contains an assessment of the nature and significance of the stratigraphic, artefactual, and palaeoenvironmental data

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Northallerton is an ancient and historic town occupying a central position in the Vale of York between the Hambleton Hills and the River Swale. All Saint's Church in the town centre has a Saxon origin.⁶ By the time of the Domesday Book the town was called *Alvertune* and *Aluertun*. Like many northern towns, Northallerton was burnt and raised to the ground during the Harrying of the North by William the Conqueror. A castle was built on the north-western edge of the town in the 12th century only to be destroyed shortly afterwards on the order of Henry II. The Bishop of Durham's palace – the site of which is now a Victorian cemetery – was built c. AD 1200 a little to the east of the former castle.⁷ The town was destroyed on at least two occasions in the early 14th century by Scots marauders.

4.2 Like many medieval towns Northallerton developed along a main market street. Buildings front the modern High Street with long narrow plots to their rear. The surviving form of these properties indicates that they broadly follow the boundaries of medieval plots held on burgage tenure. Plots were often delineated through the insertion of fences or the digging of boundary ditches. The effect was to parcel out the backlands and such plots were held by people who earned on trades and crafts independently of agriculture, though they often cultivated parts of their plots and kept livestock in outhouses. Middens and cesspits were often dug in the rear parts of the plots well away from the dwelling.

4.3 The site described in this report occupies a backlot situation such as that described above, with the supermarket development affecting ten burgage plots. The plots fronting the High Street may have had some of their ancient boundaries removed during the post-medieval period in order to form larger plots as street frontage properties were amalgamated and rebuilt. The existing High Street frontage is largely 18th century. The remains of these ancient boundaries could well survive at the site, and there was also potential for features, such as those described above, to be encountered.

⁶ Saywell, 1885

⁷ Page (ed.), 1914

4.4 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1857) shows the site straddling several well-defined gardens to the rear of properties fronting the High Street, with two buildings occupying the south-eastern portion of the site, these evidently amongst the earliest buildings to front East Road, which was known as Back Lane at the time. The 1894 Ordnance Survey map shows that there had been further development on the Back Lane frontage within the site.

4.5 The aforementioned watching brief undertaken by PCA in 1999 represents the only archaeological intervention at the site prior to the field evaluation. Although limited in scale, the watching brief demonstrated that there had been little or no horizontal truncation of archaeological strata across the development site. This implied that evidence of anthropogenic activity from the Anglo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval periods would survive at the site, if it had ever been present.

5. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Geology

5.1.1 The solid geology of the Northallerton area is formed by the Triassic Mercia and Mudstone Group. Superficial deposits consist of Pleistocene glacial material, including till (boulder clay) and sand and gravel, as well as glaciofluvial sand and gravel.⁸

5.2 Topography

5.2.1 The town of Northallerton occupies a secluded position in the Vale of York between the River Swale and the Hambleton Hills. The development site lies to the south-east of the ancient core of Northallerton, where street level is at c. +41.0m OD. The site itself is basically flat, although there is an imperceptible slope up to the north.

⁸ Frost, 1998

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 All fieldwork at the site was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) ⁹ PCA is an IFA 'Registered Archaeological Organisation'
- 6.2 Archaeological investigations were conducted in two trenches (Trenches 1 and 2) during the field evaluation (Figure 2). The trenches were sited within the archaeologically sensitive corridor of land that will be affected by construction groundworks along the line of the western wall of the new supermarket. Trench 1, located in the northern part of the corridor, was rectangular in shape, and measured 3.28m north-south and 5.17m east-west. Trench 2, located in the southern part of the site, was also rectangular in shape, measuring 4.71m north-south and 3.16m east-west.
- 6.3 During the field evaluation, ground reduction was undertaken using a JCB back-acting mechanical excavator. A 1.6m wide, non-toothed bucket was utilised and the work took place under the direct guidance of the supervising archaeologist. All undifferentiated topsoil or modern overburden was stripped down, in spits of approximately 100mm thickness, to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. Spoil was mounded neatly at least 1.20m from the edge of each trench.
- 6.4 Subsequent excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with recognised archaeological practice and following the methodology set out in PCA's 'Field Recording Manual' ¹⁰. Following machine clearance, the sections and the base of each trench were carefully cleaned using hand tools. At least one long section in each trench was drawn at a scale of 1:10. The base of each trench was planned at a scale of 1:20 relative to a baseline established along the trench. The position of each trench baseline was determined relative to a site baseline, which was in turn precisely located using appropriate surveying equipment.
- 6.7 Archaeological deposits were recorded using a 'single context planning' system. Features, deposits and structures were recorded on *pro forma* context record sheets.
- 6.8 Within appropriate archaeological horizons, partial excavation, half-sectioning, the recovery of dating evidence, or cleaning and recording of deposits was preferred to full excavation, and was practiced wherever was possible. Where necessary, intrusive modern features, for example the lower portions of service trenches, were removed completely by hand, using mattocks and shovels, prior to the investigation of earlier strata in order to remove the risk of contaminating archaeological deposits.
- 6.9 Photographic recording employed both colour transparency and black and white print formats.

⁹ Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999

¹⁰ Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, 1999

- 6 10 Two Temporary Bench Marks, +41 31m OD and +40 84m OD, were established on the site from an Ordnance Survey Bench Mark (+41 07m OD) located upon the south-east corner of H M Youth Custody Centre to the east of the site

7. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

Note Discrete stratigraphic entities (e.g., a cut, a fill, a deposit) were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, and these are indicated in the following text as []. The archaeological sequence has been described by broad stratigraphic phases. These are indicated by Roman numerals (e.g., III)*

7.1 Phase I - Natural Geology

- 7 1 1 The natural sub-stratum was encountered in the base of both trenches. In Trench 1, the deposit consisted of mid to dark reddish brown clayey sand, [137], while in Trench 2, it consisted of mottled light to mid yellowish pinkish orange sandy clay, [119]

7.2 Phase II - Medieval (12th-14th Century)

- 7 2 1 Within Trench 1, two cut features of medieval date were recorded (Figure 3). A substantial sub-circular pit, [133], occupied the majority of the southern half of the trench, its exposed portion measuring 1.76m north-south by 4.14m east-west. Within the excavated portion, the edge of the feature initially fell with a moderate slope and then became near-vertical. It was excavated to a depth of 0.70m (as far as +39.68m OD), at which point excavation ceased due to the trench section reaching an unsafe depth (Figure 5). The feature was filled with homogeneous silty clay, [132], evidently representing a deliberate backfilling event.
- 7 2 2 The dimensions of feature [133], along with the uniformity of its backfill and its position in relation to the street frontage, strongly suggest that it was a well. While the main central 'chamber' that would be expected within such a feature was not exposed during the fieldwork, it is likely that it lay beyond the southern limit of the evaluation trench. The excavated portion of the feature yielded a mixed assemblage of pottery, broadly indicative of a 13th century date (see Appendix A). A small quantity of rather degraded animal bone was also recovered, along with what may have been a whetstone. A sample of the feature's fill yielded charcoal and low numbers of charred cereal grain, these probably being present through indirect means rather than via direct waste disposal. The only waterlogged seeds were durable varieties, indicative of preferential preservation due to poor conditions (see Appendix B).

- 7 2 3 Close to the eastern side of Trench 1, the shallow base of a posthole was recorded. This small, circular feature, [106], was c 0.60m in diameter and 0.27m deep. It had a silty primary packing fill, [105], and a silty secondary central fill, [104]. The latter suggested that a timber approximately 0.35m in diameter had originally been housed within the feature. A sherd of pottery, of 12th-13th century date, was recovered from fill [104], along with a scrap of burnt daub.
- 7 2 4 The dating evidence from posthole [106], although limited, implies broad contemporaneity between the structure with which the feature was associated and the putative well to the west. No other postholes were encountered within the trench, so it is difficult to be certain what type of structure this may have been. However, it can be reasonably assumed that the remains of associated structural elements lay beyond the limits of the evaluation trench.
- 7 2 5 Several features evidently of medieval date were recorded in Trench 2. Two pits were demonstrated to be of medieval origin, both of these being recorded adjacent to the edges of the trench (Figure 4). The southernmost of these features, pit [103], was a substantial feature, probably sub-rectangular in shape. It measured 0.75m east-west by more than 0.75m north-south and it was bottomed at +39.26m OD, being c 0.85m deep. The feature's primary fill, [107], a soft mid grey silty clay, produced two large fresh potsherds, one being part of vessel handle of 14th-15th century date, the second being medieval, possibly of European origin, but otherwise unidentified (see Appendix A).
- 7 2 6 A small quantity of rather degraded animal bone was also recovered by hand from the primary fill of pit [106]. A sample of the deposit yielded charcoal and a small quantity of charred cereal grain. This material probably did not arrive in the feature by direct disposal, but via run-off from nearby sources. A single waterlogged seed indicates that conditions within the pit were not suitable for organic preservation (see Appendix B). The pit's upper fill, [102], contained over 120 river cobbles of between 100mm and 200mm diameter, most probably dumped within the feature to consolidate the ground. An assemblage of pottery of 12th-15th century date was also recovered, including part of the same handle as was recovered from the primary fill.
- 7 2 7 The second medieval pit in Trench 2 was recorded adjacent to the western section. This sub-circular feature, [101], measured 0.98m north-south by more than 0.29m east-west and was bottomed at +39.37m OD, being 0.64m deep. Two soft clayey silt fills were recorded. The primary fill, [120], was largely unnoteworthy, while the upper fill, [100], contained frequent river cobbles, in similar fashion to the upper fill of pit [103] to the south. Deposit [100] yielded a collection of local sandy wares broadly datable to the 12th to later 14th centuries. One sherd, possibly of late 15th to early 16th century date, may have been introduced intrusively into the feature's upper fill. The original function of this feature may also have been as a refuse pit.

7 2 8 A truncated linear gully, [109], was recorded crossing Trench 2 on a NW-SE orientation. This feature, filled with a sandy silt deposit, [108], had been cut through by pit [103] close to the southern section of the trench. No dating evidence was recovered from the excavated portions of the gully. To the north-west, the feature did not survive in plan due to machine clearance of modern overburden, but what was probably the same feature was recorded in the western section of the trench, as gully [123]. This feature had been truncated by pit [101]. Stratigraphic evidence indicates that gully [109]/[123] was also of medieval or earlier origin. The alignment of the feature is worthy of note, as it follows a different orientation from that of the medieval burgage plot boundaries.

7 2 9 In both trenches, an extensive soil horizon sealed the cut features described above. In Trench 1, the silty deposit, [136], was encountered at a maximum height of 40.89m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.55m. It produced a mixed group of 13th-14th century pottery, with a single sherd of later medieval or early post-medieval pottery also present. The comparable deposit in Trench 2 was a silty clay, [118], which was recorded at a maximum height of +40.57m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.50m. Although no pottery was collected directly from layer [118], the unstratified assemblage from Trench 2 consisted of a small group of medieval material (13th-early 15th century) mixed with early post-medieval sherds. The soil horizon represented by deposits [118] and [136] probably accumulated throughout the late medieval or early post-medieval period, possibly indicating agricultural use of the backlands. The deposit would have been re-worked throughout the post-medieval period, allowing cultural material to become introduced.

7.3 Phase III - Post-medieval

7 3 1 Two soil horizons of post-medieval origin were recorded in section during the field evaluation, one in each trench. Trench 1 contained a substantial horizon, [135], of dark grey clayey silt, overlying layer [136]. It had a maximum thickness of 0.35m and was recorded at a maximum height of +41.21m OD. In Trench 2, deposit [117] consisted of dark brownish grey clayey silt, up to 0.23m thick. It overlies the earlier soil horizon, [118], and was recorded at a maximum height of +40.70m OD. These deposits are of post-medieval origin, possibly having accumulated during the 18th century, when clearance and rebuilding of the street frontage properties was undertaken.

7.4 Phase IV - Modern

7 4 1 Very little modern activity was evident in Trench 1. In fact it was limited to a thin (0.16m) layer of mixed hardstanding, [134], recorded across the southern part of the trench. This deposit formed the existing ground surface, at c. +41.35m OD. The unstratified pottery assemblage from this trench, derived from this layer and the underlying deposit, [135], was a small and fairly typical group of post-medieval and 18th century sherds, with one sherd of later medieval German stoneware (see Appendix A). There was no evidence of any modern activity that could have potentially damaged the underlying medieval stratigraphy in the trench.

7.4.2 Trench 2 produced more evidence of modern activity. Two modern electricity cable trenches were recorded within the trench. The first, cut [115], ran north-south at a depth of +40.02m OD. The second, cut [131], ran east-west at a depth of +39.92m OD. In the northern half of Trench 2, a slab of concrete, [121], directly overlies soil horizon [118]. It formed the existing ground surface at c. +40.90m OD. At its southern extent a drain trench, [124], crossed the trench on an east-west alignment. This cut reached a maximum depth of +40.32 OD. The southern half of Trench 2 was covered with a thin layer of tarmac, [112], at c. +40.90m OD. Hardcore make-up layers, [113] and [116] for the tarmac were recorded. The construction cut, [111], for a modern brick foundation pad was observed in the centre of the trench, cutting into the natural sub-stratum. It was not excavated.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Conclusions: the Archaeological Resource

8.1.1 The findings of the archaeological field evaluation described in this report demonstrate that activity conducted in the backlands of the High Street frontage properties during the medieval period extended far enough east to be present within the defined corridor of archaeological interest at the site. On the basis of the evidence encountered within the two trial trenches, it is probable that remains such as those encountered are evenly distributed along the corridor.

8.1.2 The geological and archaeological features and deposits encountered at the site can be assigned to four separate broad phases of activity:

- Phase I, the natural geology, was recorded in both trenches.
- Phase II was a period of medieval activity dated broadly to the 12th-14th centuries. Activity of this period was encountered in both trenches in the form of a probable well, a posthole, two pits, a ditch and a horticultural soil. In Trench 1, two sub-phases were recorded, while in Trench 2 there were three sub-phases of activity. In each case the final sub-phase was represented by an extensive soil horizon of late medieval/early post-medieval origin.
- Phase III was represented in both trenches by the accumulation of thick soil horizons during the post-medieval period, possibly the 18th century.
- Phase IV comprises modern activity in both trenches.

8 1 3 The Phase II activity is of no little significance. It is indicative of usage of the site between the 12th and 14th centuries, a period when Northallerton was a thriving medieval town. Of note was a probable well and possibly contemporary structural evidence in Trench 1. Pits assigned to Phase II were encountered in Trench 2, where an enigmatic earlier sub-phase of activity was represented by a NW-SE orientated gully. It is assumed that the Phase II activity was associated with domestic occupation along what is now the High Street.

8 1 4 A relatively large assemblage of medieval ceramics was recovered from features in both trenches during the evaluation. The fills of two features of medieval date, the putative well in Trench 1 and a pit in Trench 2, were sampled for palaeoenvironmental evidence. The species composition of charred cereal grains within the deposits is similar to that found at other medieval sites in northern England but the relatively low quantities suggest that the material was probably not derived directly from domestic refuse. The presence of only durable waterlogged seeds within the deposits indicates poor organic preservation conditions at the site.

8 1 5 In Trench 1 the height at which archaeological remains of significance appear is c. +40.35m OD. In Trench 2 it is c. +40.10m OD.

8 1 6 The activity assigned to Phases III and IV appears to be of little or no archaeological significance. However, the possibility must be borne in mind that features, such as cess pits or wells, of post-medieval date could survive within the defined corridor of archaeological sensitivity, despite the fact that none were encountered during the evaluation. It is likely that the High Street frontage properties were redeveloped during the 18th century and evidence of associated backlot activity could be encountered.

8.2 **Conclusions: the Impact of the Development Proposals**

8 2 1 The new supermarket is to have piled foundations. A formation level will be established across the site prior to the commencement of the piling operation. It is intended that this level will be between c. +40.10m OD and c. +40.50m OD along the archaeologically sensitive corridor. All archaeological strata above the formation level will be completely horizontally truncated. The creation of the formation level will, therefore, cause localised horizontal truncation of archaeological remains of importance within the corridor of interest.

8 2 2 The pile cap configuration is variable with the foundation design. Within the northernmost third of the archaeologically sensitive corridor, the configuration of pile caps is at its most dense. Further south, the configuration is generally less dense. Pile caps will be generally inserted to a depth of +39.50m OD along the corridor of archaeological interest. The insertion of pile caps will, therefore, cause localised destruction of archaeological remains of importance within the corridor of interest.

8.3 Recommendations

- 8.3.1 The impact of the development scheme on the archaeological resource will be severe, particularly within the northernmost third of the corridor of interest due to the relatively dense configuration of the pile caps there. If archaeological remains are preserved in situ at the site it will be as a result of their chance survival beneath the development formation level. Therefore, it is recommended that a programme of archaeological excavation is required within the corridor of interest in order to preserve the archaeological remains by record.
- 8.3.2 Although the main construction programme is scheduled to begin in summer 2000, Naylor's warehouse is to remain in place until autumn 2000. Therefore, the corridor of archaeological interest has effectively been divided into three distinct areas. The availability of these areas for further archaeological investigation is variable due to the on-going programme of demolition at the site.
- 8.3.3 The area to the south of Naylor's warehouse (in which Trench 2 was located), measuring c. 30m east-west by c. 22m north-south, is clear of structures.
- 8.3.4 The area currently occupied by Naylor's warehouse, measuring c. 30m east-west by c. 22m north-south, will be unavailable for investigation until demolition of the structure is completed, currently scheduled for autumn 2000. Archaeological remains of importance probably survive beneath the building, although it was not possible to evaluate this area at the time of the fieldwork herein described.
- 8.3.5 The area to the north of Naylor's warehouse (in which Trench 1 was located), measuring c. 30m east-west by c. 26m north-south, is generally clear of structures, with the notable exception of a low brick building adjoining the Victorian chapel to the east. This structure, occupying the south-western corner of the northern area, is to be demolished during summer 2000. Access roads to the rear of several street frontage properties cross the northern area. Arrangements for the provision of new access roads would need to be implemented prior to archaeological investigations being conducted in this area.
- 8.3.6 To the west of the archaeologically sensitive corridor, the excavation of service trenches associated with the development should be subject to an archaeological watching brief in order to ensure that any significant remains disturbed during such works are adequately recorded.

9. REFERENCES

- Campling, N , 2000a *New Tesco Supermarket, East Road, Northallerton Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological Recording to Mitigate New Supermarket Development at NGR 3702 9371*, unpublished document, Heritage Unit North Yorkshire County Council
- Campling, N , 2000b *New Tesco Supermarket, East Road, Northallerton Vanation to WSI Archaeological Recording to Mitigate New Supermarket Development at NGR 3702 9371*, unpublished document, Heritage Unit North Yorkshire County Council
- Department of the Environment, 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*, HMSO
- Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, IFA
- Frost, D V , 1998 *Geology of the country around Northallerton, Bntish Geological Survey Memoir for the 1 50,000 Geological Sheet 42 (England and Wales)*, The Stationery Office
- Page, W (ed), 1914 *The Victona History of the County of York North Riding, Volume 1*, Constable & Co
- Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, 1999 *Field Recording Manual*, unpublished document, PCA
- Saywell, J L , 1885 *The History and Annals of Northallerton, Yorkshire, Simpkin, Marshall, & Co*
- Taylor-Wilson, R H , 1999 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at East Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire*, unpublished archive report, PCA

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank W A. Fairhurst & Partners for commissioning the field evaluation at East Road, Northallerton, on behalf of Tesco Stores Limited. Particular thanks are due to John Robinson, for his liaison role, and Julie Middleton.

Thanks are also due to representatives of demolition contractor Walter Thompson, for their assistance during the fieldwork.

The authors acknowledge the contributions to the project of Neil Campling, the County Archaeologist and Gail Falkingham, the Assistant County Archaeologist. Comments on the first draft of this report by the former were particularly helpful.

The authors would also like to thank Chns Cumberpatch for the pottery assessment, Archaeological Services University of Durham for the plant macrofossil assessment and Sally Pickard for producing the graphics.

Appendix A - Assessment of Pottery

By C.G. Cumberpatch, BA PhD
Archaeological Consultant

Introduction

The pottery assemblage from ERN 99 was examined by the author on 5th June 2000 with a view to providing spot dates and a brief description of the pottery

The Pottery

Trench 1 Unstratified

The small group of pottery from Trench 1 included post-medieval and 18th century sherds, the former local sandy wares. A single sherd of later medieval German stoneware was notable as the only example of imported pottery

Trench 2 Unstratified

The material from Trench 2 consists of a small group of medieval (13th to early 15th century) and early post-medieval sherds

Context [100]

A small group of local medieval sandy wares dating to between the 12th and later 14th centuries. The one diagnostic sherd, a rod handle, appeared to be somewhat later, possibly later 15th to early 16th century

Context [102]

A small group of medieval pottery, including early material (12th to 13th century) and a handle with spots of purple glaze, most probably of a later date (later 14th to 15th century)

Context [104]

One sherd of medieval pottery (12th to 13th century) and a sherd of unidentified material, possibly daub

Context [107]

A group of two sherds. One of these is a fragment of a handle which joins with that from context [102] and appears to be of later 14th to 15th century date. The second sherd is currently unidentified, but may be European origin

Context [132]

A mixed group of medieval pottery, including splash glazed Tees Valley ware (12th to early 13th century), local sandy wares (of 12th to early 14th century type) and a handle decorated with thumb impressed band of clay (13th to 14th century). The group also includes a skillet handle and a perforated sherd

Context [136]

A mixed group of medieval pottery (predominantly local sandy wares of 13th to 14th century date) with a single sherd of later medieval or early post-medieval sandy ware. Unidentified material includes sherd of white ware and an unusual vessel base

Discussion

The pottery assemblage from ERN 99 is of considerable interest as it appears to span the medieval period and very early post-medieval periods (broadly the 12th century to the later 15th and early 16th centuries). The majority of the material is of medieval date, with the limited numbers of post-medieval sherds lying within the medieval tradition (Cistercian and Yellow wares are notable by their absence). The absence of later, intrusive material suggests that the site has seen relatively little disturbance, in spite of the presence of 18th century sherds amongst the unstratified material

Further work on the group could include the closer identification of the local sandy wares and a full description of the range of vessel types present. Some greater degree of chronological precision might be possible once this work has been undertaken

Appendix B - Plant Macrofossil Assessment

By Archaeological Services University of Durham

ASUD Report 679
June 2000

Contents

- 1 Summary
- 2 Project background
- 3 Methods statement
- 4 Results
- 5 Discussion
- 6 Conclusions and recommendations
- 7 Personnel
- 8 Acknowledgments
- 9 References

1. Summary

Excavations at East Road, Northallerton, by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited in May 2000 revealed medieval features including a well and a pit, from which material was sampled for evaluation

Plant macrofossil assessment has indicated the extent of organic preservation over time and the potential of the botanical remains present to produce environmental and socio-economic data

The contexts contained small numbers of charred remains and only durable waterlogged seeds, indicative of poor preservation conditions over time. The composition of charred cereal grain from both contexts corresponds well with previous research on medieval sites in northern England

The limited volume of flots for each context and the low numbers of botanical remains suggest that the provenance of the material is not likely to have been via direct disposal, but via run-off and infilling from nearby sources

No further analysis is recommended for either context due to the limited numbers of charred grain and poor conditions for organic preservation. However, if further archaeological excavation is required at the site then more samples should be taken for assessment of their potential to provide environmental and economic data

2 Project background

An archaeological evaluation at East Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited in May 2000 revealed features, including a well and a pit, provisionally dated to the medieval period. One context from the fill of each feature was sampled for environmental assessment. Results of the assessments will reveal the extent to which organic material has been preserved over time within the features and the potential of the material to produce environmental and socio-economic data

3. Methods statement

Both samples were manually floated and sieved through a 500 µm mesh. The residues and flots were retained and described. Flots were then scanned at up to x40 magnification for charred and waterlogged botanical remains. All remains were thus identified via comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services, University of Durham. Total counts of any charred species were logged. The abundance of each waterlogged species was noted on a scale of 1 (rare) to 5 (abundant)

4. Results

Context-Sample	107-2
Volume Processed	7,500ml
Volume of Flot	15ml

The flots were mostly composed of charcoal with lesser amounts of coarse sand, silt and clinker. Ceramic material was present in the sample residue. The only waterlogged species in the flots was elder, with an abundance of 1. Charred remains included (with totals) hexaploid wheat grain (4), oat grain (1), cerealia indeterminate (10), grass (1) and sorrel (1)

Context-Sample	132-1
Volume Processed	10,000ml
Volume of Flot	25ml

The flot matrix was predominantly charcoal, with clinker/cinder, mortar, coarse sand and two small mammal bones. Ceramic material was present in the sample residue. Waterlogged species (with abundance rating) included orache (1) and elder (1). Charred remains (with totals) included barley grain (2), breadwheat grain (4), oat grain (5), cerealia indeterminate (11) and legumes (3).

5. Discussion

The presence of only a single waterlogged elder seed in the pit fill (context 107) indicates that conditions within the pit were not suitable for organic preservation. In addition, 10 of the 17 charred remains found were too degraded for identification. The presence of wheat and oat in the flot corresponds with results from previous research on medieval sites in northern England (Huntley and Stallibrass, 1995). The low numbers of grain limit the amount of information that can be obtained from the data.

The flot of the pit fill sample was dominated by charcoal. The volume of fill however was small with respect to the volume of material floated. Charcoal therefore was not a dominant component of the fill. The origin of the charcoal is not likely to have been via direct disposal into the pit, but via run-off from nearby sources. This mode of deposition also explains the low numbers of charred cereal grain within the flot, as their presence is not from the direct dumping of waste into the pit.

Context 132 was taken from the fill of a well, with anticipated high potential for organic preservation. However, the only waterlogged seeds within the flot were low in number, and were durable seeds, indicative of preferential preservation due to poor conditions. As with the pit fill, charred cereal grains were present in the flot, the species composition of which corresponds to previous archaeobotanical data for northern England (Huntley and Stallibrass, 1995). The low numbers of grain suggest that the remains are not present due to direct waste disposal, but via indirect means. The small quantities of remains also limit the amount of data that the context can produce.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

Both the pit and well fills produced only small flots which were dominated by charcoal and contained low numbers of charred cereal grain. The species composition of the grain is similar to that previously found at other medieval sites in northern England. The presence of only durable waterlogged seeds within the flots indicates poor organic preservation conditions over time.

The limited numbers of charred grain and the preservation conditions within both contexts limit the amount of data that can be obtained and therefore no further evaluation or analysis is recommended.

7. Personnel

The bulk sediment samples were processed by Daniel Still and assessed by Jacqui Cotton, who also prepared this report.

8. Acknowledgments

ASUD gratefully acknowledges Robin Taylor-Wilson of PCA for facilitating this work

9. References

Huntley, J P and Stallibrass, S M (1995) *Plant and vertebrate remains from archaeological sites in northern England data reviews and future directions* Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland, Durham