

SCARBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PRELIMINARY REPORT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT SPRINGFIELD, SCARBOROUGH

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REPORT BY CHRISTOPHER HALL

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SNY	8865
ENY	2114
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Parish	4899
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This is a preliminary report on an archaeological evaluation of a site at Springfield, Scarborough by Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society (SAHS), in advance of the issue of a Planning Consent. The pre-determination evaluation was carried out in the light of application 03/00923/A for the erection of two houses, and advice from the Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council, reference 4010 GF NYC 2949.
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out over the periods 18-22 February, 9-13 March and 9-13 April 2004 by members of SAHS. A project design approved by the County Heritage Unit preceded the evaluation. As the project design included an assessment of the history of the site, this is not repeated here.
- 1.3 Gail Falkingham archaeologist in the County Heritage Unit visited the site on 20 February and 23 April 2004 and provided advice.
- 1.4 An Interim Report is forthcoming.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to assess the level of archaeological survival and the response to it prior to the issue of a planning permission.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 Five trenches were hand excavated on the site, which is on two levels. At the lower level Trenches 12, 13 and 14 were excavated to assess the level of survival adjacent to an earlier trench (Trench 10) excavated in 1998. Trench 16 was a research trench adjacent to these and outside

the development area. On the upper level, due to constrictions of space only one trench, Trench 15, was excavated.

- 3.2 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on SAHS's pro-forma context sheets.
- 3.3 Sections and plans. All trenches were drawn in plan and section at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film.
- 3.4 Photographic Record. The photographic record comprises colour prints, colour transparencies and digital images to record all archaeological features encountered.
- 3.5 Post-excavation. Analysis of organic matter from Trench 16 is being carried out by Palaeoecology Research Services Ltd. This will be included in the Interim Report. Northern Counties Archaeological Service will examine some of the pottery.
- 3.6 Site archive and finds. All artefacts and the site record will be deposited with Scarborough Museums Service in accordance with usual SAHS practice.

4.0 Results. Trenches 12, 13/14 and 16

- 4.1 Trench 12 was put down to the west of previous Trench 10 and measured 2.2m by 1.5 in plan. Trenches 13 and 14 were originally excavated as two separate trenches but were combined to give a total size of 4.0 by 1.4 in plan. Trench 16, which was a research trench, was sited to the west of previous Trench 10 and Trench 12.
- 4.2 Trenches 12 to 14 were taken down to intact archaeology which was not penetrated. Working from east to west these comprised a stone cobble surface (F1408) and wall (F1311) and a stone slab surface (F1313 which is assumed to be the same as F1009 in former Trench 10) in Trenches 13/14. A wall (F1204) in Trench 12 was the same as wall F1002 in previous Trench 10. To the west of wall F1204 the trench revealed a rubble cross wall and a loamy deposit containing entirely medieval pottery.
- 4.3 Feature F1313, the slab surface, was interpreted as being exactly the same as slab surface F1009 found in previous Trench 10, whilst the relationship between both the slab surface and the cobbles with the wall F1311 is not fully resolved. The evidence gained from Trench 10 and Trench 16 where the archaeology was penetrated is that these slabs represent one of a series of floor levels as the ground has been raised, presumably due to a rise in the water table or subsidence of the building. It is known from both Trench 10 and Trench 16 that the deposits lie on a considerable depth of organic fill.

- 4.5 Trench 16 encountered a much more complex series of features comprising wall F1609 which is also the same wall as F1002 in trench 10 and slabs F1612 which are the same as F1009. Below the slabs were a further series of slabs, a wall drain and a spreader foundation to the wall. Organic material was encountered below a layer of clay thought to be deposited as a foundation 'raft' – this organic material was sampled and is being subjected to environmental analysis.
- 4.6 In view of the complex archaeology encountered in these trenches it is critical that mitigation measures are made in the foundation design for the proposed houses to ensure minimum intervention in the archaeology.

5.0 Results, Trench 15

- 5.1 Trench 15, which was the only trench put down on the upper level, measured 1.1m by 0.8m in plan. The size and location of the trench was restricted by the presence of off-street parking elsewhere on this part of the site – ideally the trench should have been larger and a further trench put down.
- 5.2 This trench encountered a stone wall in two phases, separated by a layer of clay. The upper phase was interpreted as being a wall associated with the almshouses, Taylor's Free Dwellings, which existed on the site. The lower wall was found to be sitting on a mid brown loamy clay containing entirely medieval pottery and interpreted as a relict ground surface upon which the wall sat.
- 5.3 In view of the restricted nature of the evidence it is recommended that further archaeological work needs to be carried out post-decision so as to determine the optimum foundation design and layout.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that any Planning permission is granted subject to the following safeguarding requirements by condition:-
- a) Lower area – appropriate mitigation measures should be embodied in the foundation design and implemented to ensure that in-situ archaeology at and below 17.98 AOD is preserved.
 - b) Upper area - the submission, approval and implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation is required