

**SCARBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

SITE	ST MARY'S PARISH HOUSE SCARBOROUGH
NATIONAL GRID REF	TA 04385 88997
SITE CODE	PH/04
DATE	18-20 February 2004
MONITORING CARRIED OUT BY	Steve Bence & Sue Ogilvy
REPORT BY	Christopher Hall

NYCC HER	
SNY	8866
ENY	2140
CNY	3071
Parish	4899
Rec'd	30/4/04

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of a watching brief carried out by Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society (SAHS) at a development site at St Mary's Parish House, Scarborough. The watching brief was carried out in response to a planning condition (Number 2) imposed on decision 03/01268/FL.
- 1.2 The site is located at the junction of Castle Road and Auborough Street and consists of a building dating from 1955 roughly parallel to Castle Road and an extension of 1968 at right angles to it. The development, the subject of the archaeological condition on the planning permission, was the erection of a 4.8 metre by 3.1 metre conservatory extension in the re-entrant formed by the two legs of building on the south side.
- 1.3 The area in question is partially flagged and partially lawned. Examination of old Building Bye law records and examination of manholes on site indicated that this area was crossed by a number of drains.
- 1.4 The site was visited by Gail Falkingham of the County Heritage Unit on 20 February 2004.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological remains affected by the development and to provide an historical understanding of the site before foundation works for the new development commenced.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 The development required the cutting of a 1 metre deep and 450 mm wide strip trench to form the foundations of the dwarf wall to the conservatory. In view of the presence of the drains already referred to and the likely presence of deep foundation disturbance adjacent to the 1955 and 1968 buildings, the decision was taken to archaeologically excavate a length of the strip foundation in order to assess the likely survival of archaeological evidence – this would then allow an assessment to be made as to whether the hand excavation of the remainder of the trench, in areas of known disturbance, would need to be monitored.

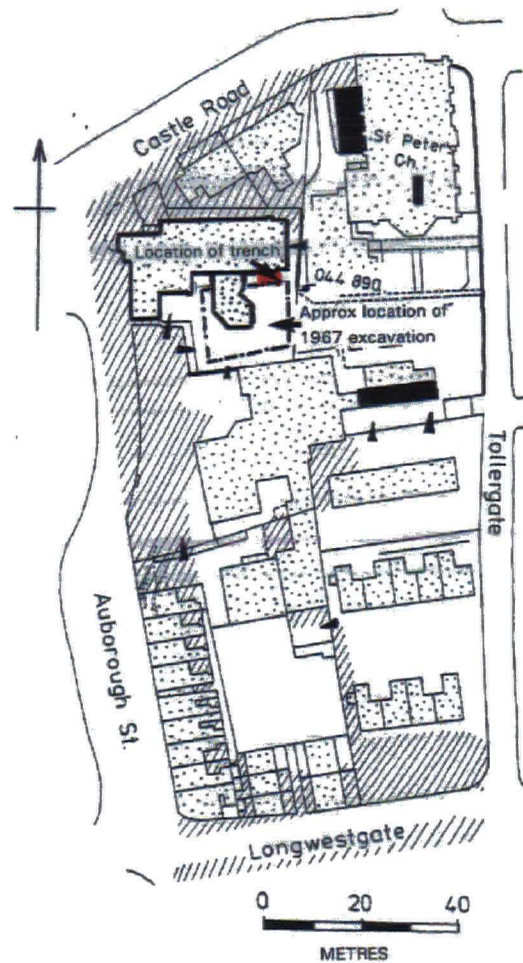


Figure 1
The site and its location

- 3.2 All archaeological deposits in the trench were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on SAHS's pro forma context sheets.
- 3.3 Sections - the section of the excavation was drawn at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film.
- 3.4 Photographic record. The photographic record comprises colour prints to record all archaeological features encountered.

- 3.5 Finds and site archive. All artefacts and the site record will be deposited with Scarborough Museums Service, in accordance with SAHS practice.

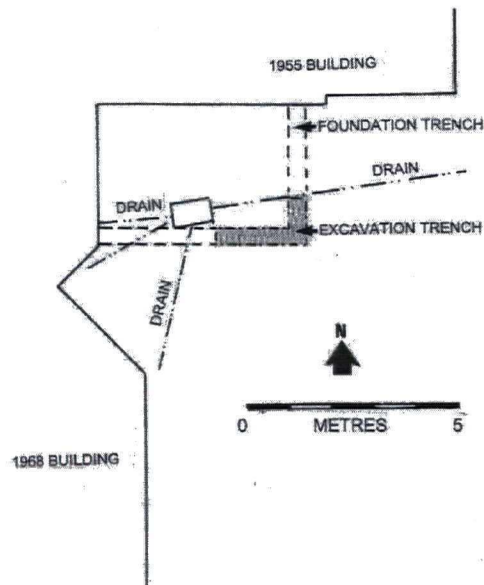


Figure 2 Location of Trenches

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The site lies within the medieval town of Scarborough, and within an area defined, for planning purposes, by the County Archaeologist, as an area of archaeological importance.
- 4.2 The site is immediately adjacent to the projected line of the western Oldborough defences. Archaeological recording in 1995 during the construction of the Parish house uncovered the top of a ditch, burnt areas and two parallel brick walls (Pearson, 1987, p.70). Subsequent work in 1967 prior to the erection of the extension to the Parish House recorded 1.75 to 4.4 metres of surviving archaeological stratigraphy (Farmer, 1979, pp.10-16). The remains were said to consist of Roman tile, 12th century town defences, 12-14th century pottery kilns and a late 14th century stone structure. Unfortunately, no fully detailed report of this archaeological work has been published and the published trench plan and section are not consistent with the location plan of the trench which shows the area of excavation very much larger than the drawn trench.
- 4.3 With the foregoing in mind, the excavation might have been expected to encounter remains of the medieval town defences and/or evidence of the medieval pottery industry. However, given the quality of the published material it was difficult to predict whether this area had been subject to a previous excavation.

5.0 Results

- 5.1 With the exception of a section of loosely set stones and brick at the northern end (F107), the trench encountered a mid to dark brown loamy soil to the full depth of its excavation. This loamy soil both butted against and was under the feature F107. The loamy soil progressively contained more clay with depth and a small area of natural was encountered at the northern end of the trench.
- 5.2 This loamy fill contained a mixture of both medieval and 19th century pottery, indicating that the material had been re-deposited.

6.0 Interpretation

- 6.1 The loose, loamy nature of the material and the mix of pottery indicated that the material forming contexts 102, 103, 104, 105 and 108 had been re-deposited relatively recently. It was not clear, however, whether this re-deposition was a direct result of the building work in 1955 and 1968 or of previous archaeological work.
- 6.2 The feature F107 was insubstantial and set on modern deposits. It was interpreted as material roughly thrown in to provide some protection to the modern drain.
- 6.3 No in-situ medieval or post-medieval remains or deposits were found.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 The watching brief indicated that the foundation works did not adversely impact upon important archaeological deposits.

8.0 References

Farmer, P An Introduction to Scarborough Ware and a Re-assessment of Knight Jugs, 1979.

Pearson, T An Archaeological Survey of Scarborough, 1987