

SCARBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

4/6/04

Rec 19/8/04

NYCC HER	
SNY	9138
ENY	2548
CNY	3980
Parish	4899
Rec'd	19/8/04

**SITE** 15 PRINCESS STREET  
SCARBOROUGH

**NATIONAL GRID REF** TA 0476 8887

**SITE CODE** PS04

**DATE** 1 AUGUST 2004

**MONITORING CARRIED OUT BY** CHRIS HALL & SUE GALLOWAY

**REPORT BY** CHRIS HALL

**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 15 Princess St, Scarborough. The watching brief was carried out in response to a planning condition imposed on planning decision 04/00912/FL (number 11)

1.2 The site is located on the south side of Princess Street at the junction with Princess Lane (Figure 1) which bounds the site on the east.

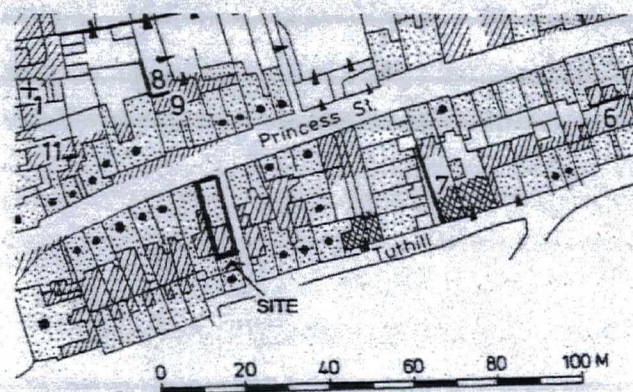


FIGURE 1: EXTRACT FROM 'AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF SCARBOROUGH'  
SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE SITE

1.3 The development the subject of the archaeological condition on the planning permission was the demolition of a structurally unsound rear

## **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 new walls were to be built off the same alignment as the old walls. The removal of the lower courses of the old walls was monitored and following complete removal the archaeology was recorded. Although the rear wing is three sided, monitoring was carried out on two walls only, as the structural engineer decided that the third (west) wall could remain in situ.
- 3.2 All archaeological deposits in were recorded on a section drawing at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film (Figure 2).
- 3.3 Photographic record. The photographic record comprises colour prints to record all archaeological features encountered.
- 3.6 Finds and site archive. All artefacts and the site record will be deposited in the Rotunda Museum in accordance with SAHS practice

## **4.0 Background**

- 4.1 Princess Street is one of the most historic streets in Scarborough, being on the medieval street alignment resulting from the founding of the Borough by Henry II in circa 1163. The site lies within an area defined by the County Archaeologist for planning purposes as of archaeological importance
- 4.2 The building is one of a pair with 13 Princess Street which appear to be double fronted from the street but are in fact divided by a passage at ground floor level. The rear wings of both houses are set gable end on to Princess Street. No 13 Princess Street was recorded by the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group in May 2003 and a draft report has been published. As part of this development No 15 Princess Street was recorded by the YVBSG in June 2004, but the report has not yet been published.
- 4.3 Stylistically the houses are said to date from about 1745 and this would be consistent with Vincent's map of 1745. However Cossins' map of 1725 seems to imply that the rear part of the site was developed earlier and this may imply that the rear wing pre-dates the main building.

## 5.0 Results

- 5.1 Although the house is built in red brick, the demolition revealed that the lower courses were built in squared coursed natural stone. This stone was 600 mm above floor level and 400 mm below floor level. The wall was set in a strong mortar.
- 5.2 The stone wall was found to sit on a thin layer of clay on top of a clay matrix containing some stone chippings. This stratigraphy was not penetrated since the concrete foundations were set in the area of excavation where the old stone had been removed.
- 5.3 The south-east corner of the wall was penetrated by a drain which was filled by silt. This drain contained a small number of artefacts of which the pottery was 19<sup>th</sup> century. The drain ran in a south easterly direction under Princess Lane so was not affected by the foundation works other than where the old wall was removed. It was not possible to investigate this drain further

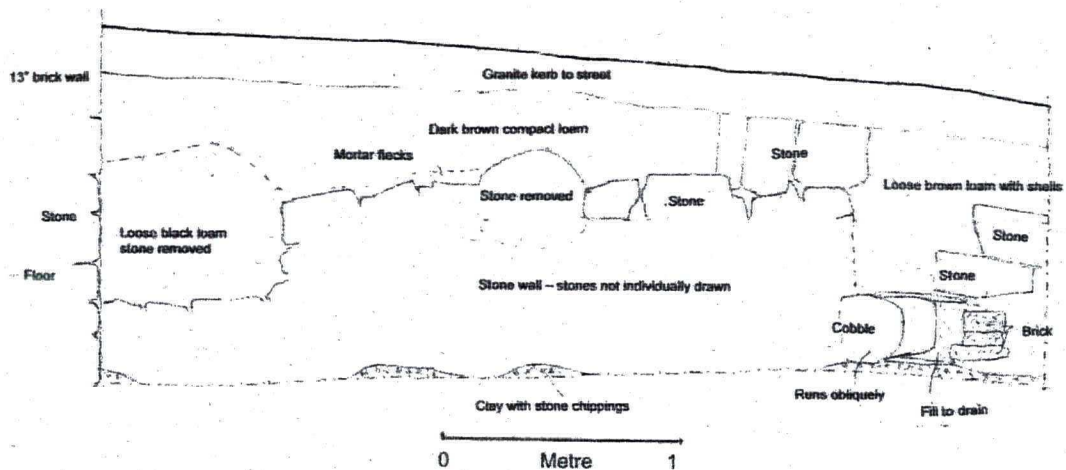


FIGURE 2: WEST FACING SECTION

## 6.0 Interpretation

- 6.1 In situ archaeology was not penetrated. The stone from the foundations appeared to be reused and it was not possible to say whether this was earlier than the brickwork above although the strong mortar would suggest a contemporary date. The archaeological investigation did not cast any light on the possibility that the rear wing pre-dates the main house
- 6.2 The construction works also revealed that the joists to the front floor were constructed of old ships masts and spars planed to allow floor boards to be fixed to one side. Figure 3 is a representative sample.

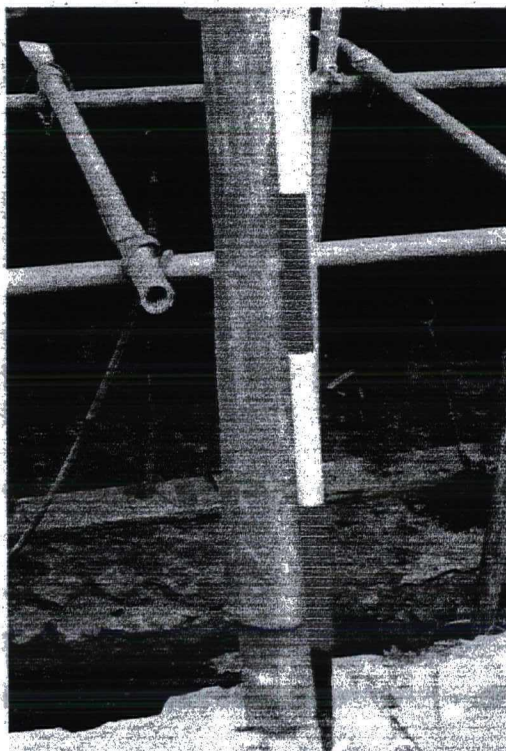


FIGURE 3: SHIPS MAST RECOVERED FROM FRONT FLOOR

## **7.0 Conclusion**

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

## **8.0 References**

Pearson, T An Archaeological Survey of Scarborough 1987

SITE CODE PS/04		SITE NAME 15 PRINCESS ST		
FILM NUMBER 1		FILM TYPE Print		
DATE	FRAME NO	DIRECTION OF VIEW	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT
01-Aug-04	1	East	West facing section - drain running under princess Lane	
01-Aug-04	2	South-east	West facing section - drain running under princess Lane	
01-Aug-04	3	East	North end of west facing section	
01-Aug-04	4	East	North end of west facing section	
01-Aug-04	5	East	North end of west facing section showing end of wall	
01-Aug-04	6	North	End of wing wall	
01-Aug-04	7	North	End of wing wall	
01-Aug-04	8	North	View along trench	
01-Aug-04	9	South	View along trench	
01-Aug-04	11	West	View along southern trench	
01-Aug-04	12	North	View along southern trench	
01-Aug-04	13	West	View along southern trench	
01-Aug-04	14	N/A	Detail of ships timber from front floor	
01-Aug-04	15	N/A	Detail of ships timber from front floor	
01-Aug-04	16	N/A	Detail of ships timber from front floor	
01-Aug-04	17	N/A	Detail of ships timber from front floor	
01-Aug-04	18	N/A	Ships timbers from front floor	
01-Aug-04	19	N/A	Ships timbers from front floor	
01-Aug-04	20	N/A	Ships timbers from front floor	
01-Aug-04	21	North	south facing section of southern trench	
01-Aug-04	22	North	south facing section of southern trench	
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