

SCARBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

SITE 35 CASTLEGATE,
SCARBOROUGH

NATIONAL GRID REF TA 04875 89000

SITE CODE CG/04

DATE 22 MARCH 2004

MONITORING CARRIED OUT BY SUE GALLOWAY

REPORT BY CHRISTOPHER HALL

NYCC HER	
SNY	9141
ENY	2141
CNY	3155
Parish	4899
Rec'd	30/7/04

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 35 Castlegate, Scarborough. The watching brief was carried out in response to a planning condition imposed on planning decision 03/1828/FL (condition 6).
- 1.2 The site is located on the eastern side of Castlegate, in the core of the medieval Old Town. It is flanked on the south by 35 Castlegate, a mid 18th century house on stone foundations (and therefore possibly earlier).
- 1.3 The development the subject of the archaeological condition on the planning permission was the erection of a single storey garage. There was a previous approval in 1989 for the erection of a two storey extension (reference 4/10/3348/PA) which was the subject of an archaeological condition. That condition was fulfilled by an archaeological excavation which was published in 1992 (Pearson, 1992).

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 In view of the fact that the site had previously been excavated, and the current proposals involved the re-excavation of the backfill, the watching brief took the form of machine monitoring. It was envisaged that the foundations of the new garage would be no lower than, and therefore not impinge upon, the earlier archaeological discoveries.
- 3.3 Photographic record. The photographic record comprises colour prints to record all archaeological features encountered.
- 3.4 Finds and site archive. All artefacts and the site record will be deposited with the Scarborough Museums Service in accordance with SAHS practice.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The site lies within Scarborough's medieval town in an area defined by the County Archaeologist for planning purposes as of archaeological importance
- 4.2 The 1990-91 excavation confirmed an overall picture first glimpsed in a trial excavation of 1989 (SAHS 1989), that the site has been open ground since the middle ages. It appears that the north of the town became increasingly deserted throughout the late medieval period. Even in the middle ages, there is no firm evidence that a building stood on this site, except that a drain may have been a wall or foundation drain. A building may have stood to the east of the site, evidence being that the drains flow from this direction and the presence of tile debris across the site.

5.0 Results

- 5.1 The excavation was carried out by machine positioned on the street initially using a toothed bucket for the demolition and removal of the frontage wall, but in the critical lower stages using a toothless ditching bucket. Material was dragged towards the street from the east. The excavation was monitored from above from the top of the west facing section left from the previous excavation and a complete photographic record made of the works.
- 5.2 The material removed was found to consist of overburden re-deposited at the site following the previous excavation. At the eastern side of the site natural clay was encountered. This had previously been encountered and exposed during the 1990-91 excavation.
- 5.3 At the western (street) end of the site the backfilled trench of the previous excavation was encountered but not penetrated and the modern fill remained in place.

- 5.4 Partial collapse of the south facing section of the present excavation revealed deposits previously exposed in the 1990-91 excavation. These were interpreted as being the same as the ashy yard layers 122/129/131/133 encountered in the previous excavation. No new archaeological evidence was revealed as a result of this partial collapse.
- 5.4 The only exception to this was along the street frontage where the removal of the boundary wall revealed a 300mm wide strip of archaeology not exposed in the 1990-91 excavation. This contained 18 sherds of medieval pottery and was identified as the same as Context 126 in the 1990-91 excavation, ie no new archaeology was revealed
- 5.5 It is confirmed that the recent excavation works have not damaged in-situ archaeology nor have they revealed new archaeological evidence about the site
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6.0 Interpretation

- 6.1 The work recently carried out does not add to or change the interpretation in Interim Report 18.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 The watching brief indicated that the foundation works did not adversely impact upon important archaeological deposits and the Planning condition may be discharged .

8.0 Annexes

Pottery catalogue
Photograph catalogues

9.0 References

Pearson, T An Archaeological Survey of Scarborough 1987

Pearson, T An archaeological Excavation adjacent to 35 Castlegate, Scarborough. SAHS Interim Report 18, 1992

SAHS Excavations at 35 Castlegate, Scarborough. SAHS Interim Report 8, 1989

FILM 1

SITE CODE CG04		SITE NAME Castlegate Watching Brief		
FILM NUMBER 1		FILM TYPE Colour Print		
DATE	FRAME NO	DIRECTION OF VIEW	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT
22-Mar-04	10A	South	South facing section showing layers from topsoil over stoney clay, loamy stone, with charcoal/ash layers over clay and washed beach pebbles to base	122 to 133
22-Mar-04	11A	N/A	N/A	
22-Mar-04	12A	West	RH SW corner-soil with shell pebble over ash/charcoal over clay sand	
22-Mar-04	13 A	West	West facing section showing layers of topsoil over rubble mix clay/soil & rock fragments, layers of charcoal & ash over dense clay onto sand and shell bottom	
22-Mar-04	14A	South East	SE corner of site near pavement. Large stones from base of old wall	
22-Mar-04	15A	N/A	N/A	
22-Mar-04	16A	South	S face - flow line of clay and thin line of ash/charcoal with sand/clay/pebble bottom	

FILM 2

SITE CODE CG04		SITE NAME Castlegate Watching Brief		
FILM NUMBER 2		FILM TYPE Colour print		
DATE	FRAME NO	DIRECTION OF VIEW	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT
22-Mar-04	7	East	First dig to demolish wall (brick) on pavement side	
22-Mar-04	8	North East	E face corner demolition of wall on pavement side	
22-Mar-04	9	North West	W face corner showing height of soli fill in relation to house end wall 7 brick retaining wall	
22-Mar-04	10	North	N face demolish of brick wall shows old stone wall base to house end	
22-Mar-04	11	North	N face demolish of brick wall	
22-Mar-04	12	West	N face demolish of brick wall in relation to pavement	
22-Mar-04	13	West	N face demolish of brick wall in relation to street & house	
22-Mar-04	14	Elevated	Eas facing demolish of wall to pavement	
22-Mar-04	15	North East	NE corner/elevated view of demolish of brick wall	
22-Mar-04	16	West	West facing view of site before excavation showing position of buildings in relation to excavation	
22-Mar-04	17	North	N facing street to sea front	
22-Mar-04	18	South	S facing view of site in relation to buildings above site	
22-Mar-04	19	North	Back (stone) garden division walls	
22-Mar-04	20	West	Back stone possibly medieval wall	
22-Mar-04	21	South	Back stone possibly medieval wall	
22-Mar-04	22	South west	SW corner possibly medieval wall	
22-Mar-04	23	North	Old stone foundation to bottom of house wall	
22-Mar-04	24	Elevated north	Cut of digger	
22-Mar-04	25	North West	Corner showing N stone foundations & W soil infill	
22-Mar-04	26	North West	NW corner exposed stone wall & soil infill	
22-Mar-04	27	West	View of site partial clearance	
22-Mar-04	28	Elevated East	Showing reveal of clay under top soil	
22-Mar-04	29	Digger	Digger	
22-Mar-04	30	West	Showing depth of soil	
22-Mar-04	31	West	Corner showing stone base to house wall & soil below brick wall	
22-Mar-04	32	South	Corner showing soil infill	
22-Mar-04	33	South	South base corner showing reveal of clay/rock shell & ash layers	
22-Mar-04	34	South	Depth of soil to clayey area of shell & ash charcoal level	
22-Mar-04	35	South	Showing depth of soli to clayey/shell & dark ash level	
22-Mar-04	36	South east	Corner showing reveal of clayey area & ash level line	
22-Mar-04	37	East	Clayey level	

FILM 3

SITE CODE CG04		SITE NAME Castlegate watching brief		
FILM NUMBER 3		FILM TYPE Colour print		
DATE	FRAME NO	DIRECTION OF VIEW	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT
22-Mar-04	1A	West	Corner showing start of clay shell below soil	
22-Mar-04	2A	West	Corner showing soil level below brick wall	
22-Mar-04	3A	Elevated	Back RH corner showing reveal of clay	
22-Mar-04	4A	South	Back RH corner showing layer of ash/charcoal above clay	
22-Mar-04	5A	S West	Corner showing reveal of clay bottom layer of charcoal /ash below soil	
22-Mar-04	6A	North	Old foundations & retaining wall to base of house	
22-Mar-04	7A	North	Clay reveal bottom, build of retaining wall stone and brick end	
22-Mar-04	8A	LH NW	Reveal of clay bottom	
22-Mar-04	9A	North	Clay bottom, retaining wall concrete below old stone wall foundation, brick above	
22-Mar-04	10A	West	View of cut into west facing section showing more distinct layers of topsoil infill of rubble, clay/soil rock fragments, distinct layers of ash & charcoal & clay over a sandy bottom mixed	
22-Mar-04	11A	South	Showing soil & layers of clay/shell/rock fragments/shell/ash charcoal/clay	
22-Mar-04	12A	West	5.6 m from wall - soil layer /stone & sand	104
22-Mar-04	13A	North	Clay bottom, concrete support wall to base of house wall	
22-Mar-04	14A	West	Brick wall over soil layer over rock/shell/clay base	
22-Mar-04	15A	West	As above - closer detail	126
22-Mar-04	16A	West	View of cut into top soil through to layers of stones mixed with sandy ash/stone fragments and clay bottom	
22-Mar-04	17A	North	Top view of excavation showing end of house wall, stone layer below later brick. Layers below showing soil mixed with stones and dense clay layer	
22-Mar-04	18A	Elevated west	reveal of base of above showing some stone in clay base	
22-Mar-04	19A	Elevated west	Showing reveal of clay under soil and stone top layers	
22-Mar-04	20A	Elevated west	Clay base & stone	
22-Mar-04	21A	Elevated	RH corner nr pavement remains of base of old stonework wall under pavement	
22-Mar-04	22A	East	Section of partial stone (wall?) in situ towards front of site at side of house wall see also 2/16	
22-Mar-04	23A	South	Ash/charcoal layers above clay	
22-Mar-04	24A	South	SW Corner of site ash/charcoal layer just above clay bottom showing areas of burning in darker red layer	122 to 133
22-Mar-04	25A	South	closer view of evidence of ash/charcoal and burning above layer of clay bottom	122 to 133
22-Mar-04	26A	S West	RH corner soil level & ash/charcoal layer above clay base	
22-Mar-04	27A	South West	Corner of site showing 'turn' of layers - clay & stones continuing with ash & charcoal layer continuing underneath also bottom layer of clay and sand layer following around	122 to 133
22-Mar-04	28A	West	Brick wall above soil layers of stoney rock above clay base	
22-Mar-04	29A	West	Soil top - layers of stone, rock, shell with heavy layers ash/charcoal	

FILM 3

22-Mar-04	30A	West	Closer view than 10A showing striations of ash & charcoal		
22-Mar-04	31A	West	As 29A		
22-Mar-04	32A	West	As 29A		
22-Mar-04	33A	S West	Corner of site RH showing soil level		
22-Mar-04	34A	Elevated west	Elevated view of site clearance		
22-Mar-04	35A	Elevated west	Elevated view of site clearance		
22-Mar-04	36A	Elevated west	Reveal of clay base		

FILM 4

SITE CODE CG04		SITE NAME Castlegate watching brief		
FILM NUMBER 4		FILM TYPE Colour print		
DATE	FRAME NO	DIRECTION OF VIEW	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT
22-Mar-04	1	West	Soil reveal & shoring of base of wall	
22-Mar-04	2	S West	Corner SW showing clay base & topsoil fill	
22-Mar-04	3	South	RH corner of site digger in action below building line of above terrace	
22-Mar-04	4	S West	RH corner reveal of ash , charcoal, gritty shell layers and clay base	
22-Mar-04	5	West	clay bottom	159
22-Mar-04	6	South	Layers of rock, shell fragments & ash/charcoal layer above clay	
22-Mar-04	7	S West	Corner showing clay base	
22-Mar-04	8	Elevated R Front	Front of wall near pavement - base of stone below brick wall	
22-Mar-04	9	South	Reveal of stones to base of brick front wall nr pavement	
22-Mar-04	10	S West	Showing ash line through sandy clayey shells & rocks above sandy base on clay	
22-Mar-04	11	South	Section showing line of the slope to the west of clay layer with strip of ash & charcoal supporting line of the upper layers gradually fading out	122 to 133
22-Mar-04	12	South	R front stones at base & side of later (non demolished) brick wall	
22-Mar-04	13	South	section showing stone & rubble base underneath later brick wall which is still in use as pedestrian barrier on higher section of steps. Rubble/ stone continues undeneath section of pavement to right side - not excavated	
22-Mar-04	14	Elevated east	pavement area of removed front wall	
22-Mar-04	15	South	Collapse of S face	
22-Mar-04	16	West	Front of brick front wall	
22-Mar-04	17	West	near completion of shoring of cleared site	