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4035 parish

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| SNY | 9759 |
| ENY | 1868 |
| CNY | 2980 |
| Parish | 4035 |
| Rec'd | 445104 |

BBC Broadcast Tower, East Cliff, Abbey Lane, Whitby, North Yorkshire

archaeological evaluation

ASUD Report 1025

October 2003

Archaeological Services University of Durham

on behalf of

Crown Castle UK Ltd

Altrincham Business Park, George Richards Way, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 5GL

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological work carried out in advance of development work to be undertaken within the compound of the BBC Broadcast Tower, East Cliff, Whitby, North Yorkshire. The assessment comprised the excavation of two 3m by 3m trial trenches on the proposed sites of the new anchor blocks.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Crown Castle UK Ltd and conducted by Archaeological Services University of Durham in accordance with a specification provided by North Yorkshire County Council, and a project design (reference ASUD PC03.60) provided by Archaeological Services.
- 1.3 The site of the proposed development lies within the area of Scheduled Ancient Monument 13284, Whitby Abbey and Dark Age Settlement.

Results

- 1.4 No archaeological features were revealed by the excavations. The only feature uncovered was a cable trench running approximately northeast - southwest in Trench B.
- 1.5 In view of the lack of evidence provided by the excavations, no further archaeological work is recommended in connection with the work on the mast here.

2. Project background

Location

- 2.1 The site is situated at NGR NZ 9042 1138, immediately to the north of Coastguard Cottages, Abbey Lane, East Cliff, Whitby, North Yorkshire. It is bounded on the north by a disused quarry and to the east by the Coastguard station.

Development proposal

- 2.2 The proposed development consists of two 3m by 3m square areas within the compound of the BBC broadcast tower. The two areas represent the pre-determined locations for the repositioning of two concrete anchor blocks. The relocation of the blocks is being undertaken as a temporary solution to the threat posed to the existing anchor points from the effects of coastal erosion.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to evaluate the nature, extent and potential significance of any surviving archaeological features within the proposed development area. This assessment was undertaken to allow informed decisions to be made about any further archaeological works that might be required in advance of development.

Specification

- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a specification provided by North Yorkshire County Council Archaeology Section, and a project design (reference ASUD PC03.60) provided by Archaeological Services.

Dates

- 2.5 Fieldwork was undertaken on 13th October, and this report was prepared after the completion of fieldwork.

Personnel

- 2.6 Fieldwork was conducted by Ed Blinkhorn, Martin Railton and Richard Annis, the Project Manager. This report was written by Ed Blinkhorn, and the illustrations were prepared by Linda Bosveld.

Archive

- 2.7 The project code is WEC03, for **Whitby East Cliff 2003**. The recording and evaluation archive will be transferred to Crown Castle UK Ltd or to the county Sites and Monuments Record, as directed by the client.

3. Landuse and historical background

- 3.1 This has been discussed in the assessment report prepared by Archaeological Services in May 2003, report number 993. The land to either side of the compound has produced evidence of occupation from the Iron Age to the high medieval periods; the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument. When the transmission mast was first erected, in 1969, an excavation of unknown

size found evidence of sleeper trenches and quantities of medieval pottery. The exact location and circumstances of this intervention are unknown.

4. Excavations

- 4.1 Two trial trenches were excavated; both measured 3m by 3m in size. At each of the excavations the gravel and underlying plastic membrane was removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and the exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand. The weather was fine and dry and the soils were dry and fairly hard. The locations of the excavations are shown in Figure 1.

Trench A

- 4.2 This trench measured 3m by 3m in size, although a small area in the southeast corner was left unexcavated due to the presence of kerbstones. It was oriented approximately northeast - southwest. Topsoil was not present and had presumably been cleared in 1969, when the mast was erected. Dark brown clay was found to a depth of 0.10m and underlying this was a mid reddish-brown silty clay. No archaeological deposits or features were identified in this trench, and no pre-modern artefacts were recovered.

Trench B

- 4.3 This trench also measured 3m by 3m and was oriented approximately northeast - southwest. As in Trench A, topsoil was absent and both subsoils found in that trench were represented, although the upper clay was found to a depth of 0.20m. A telecommunications cable trench was found running northeast – southwest. Once again, no archaeological deposits were identified here.

5. Finds and samples

- 5.1 All of the finds recovered in the course of the evaluation are of 19th- or 20th-century date and represent the scattering of domestic rubbish. No deposits capable of retaining environmental or other materials were found.

6. Evaluation and recommendation

- 6.1 The work has uncovered no evidence of significant activity in the small areas that were exposed. In view of the lack of evidence provided by the excavations, no further archaeological work is recommended in connection with the programme of engineering work presently under way here.

Appendix: the project specification

1.0 Location

- 1.1 The site is immediately north Coastguard Cottages, off Abbey Lane, in the East Cliff area of Whitby, North Yorkshire, at NGR NZ 9042 1138. It is bounded on the north by a disused quarry, on the east by the Coastguard station and Cleveland Way, and by Coastguard Cottages to the south.

2.0 Site Description

- 2.1 The development consists of two 3m by 3m square areas within the compound of the BBC broadcast tower. The two areas are to be used for re-located stay anchor blocks. The existing surface is tarmac. The new stay anchors are being created as a temporary solution to the threat to the existing stay anchors from coastal erosion. It is anticipated that within 5-10 years, the BBC broadcast mast will be re-located away from the threat of coastal erosion, and the site will be abandoned. The 25" OS map shows the area as open unfeatured land in 1928.

3.0 Archaeological Importance

- 3.1 The site is located within Scheduled Ancient Monument 13284, Whitby Abbey and Dark Age Settlement. Development works will require Scheduled Monument Consent from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and this brief is to support an application for SMC. Salvage excavations undertaken by English Heritage along the cliff edge further to the west have revealed extensive remains of a Dark Age settlement that are of national importance, and there is the potential for such remains to extend into the area of the BBC mast compound (Jennings, Muldowney & Wilmott 2003).

4.0 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The work is to mitigate the impact of the development. The main aim of archaeological work is to make a robust record of any remains within the 3m square holes to allow the results to be integrated into other archaeological work undertaken by English Heritage elsewhere within the Scheduled Monument. It is possible that rescue excavations may be undertaken in the future on the site of the transmission station in advance of coastal erosion, and all records must be sufficiently accurate and detailed to allow full integration with any future work.
- 4.2 As well as making accurate location records, the work will need to undertake investigative conservation for any finds and artefacts, to ensure that these are properly identified and packaged for long-term environmentally stable storage.
- 4.3 The aims will be achieved through the following methodology:
- a) limited desk-based assessment and map regression;
 - b) location survey;
 - c) intensive "watching brief";
 - c) investigative conservation of finds;
 - d) creation of long-term, environmentally stable archive;
 - e) a summary report on the results of the work.

5.0 Conditions

- 5.1 Although the Health & Safety Executive does not consider archaeological investigations to fall within the definition of "construction work" in the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 1994, no work on site should start until an archaeological project risk assessment has been submitted to Crown Castle UK Ltd. The archaeological contractor should comply with any reasonable directions of the BBC or its agents.
- 5.2 Crown Castle UK Ltd should provide for and make accessible all large plant and site equipment, including back-acting excavators (Hymac and mini-digger types), tippers, compressors and breakers, site huts, toilets, and shuttering. The archaeological contractor should provide hand tools and personal safety equipment.
- 5.3 The County Archaeologist and English Heritage should be informed of the name of the archaeological contractor and the start date of archaeological works at least two weeks prior to the commencement of operations.
- 5.4 Copyright in the documentation prepared by the archaeological contractor and specialist sub-contractors should be the subject of a licence in favour of North Yorkshire County Council and Scarborough Borough Council to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions.

- 5.5 This scheme summarises the elements of archaeological work needed to mitigate the impact of the development on archaeological interests as required by the Scheduled Monument Consent. It is **not** a contract or complete specification, and the County Heritage Unit makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. The details of implementation must be the subject of a contract between the developer and their selected contractor.
- 6.0 Access and Monitoring**
- 6.1 Access to the site should be arranged through Ben Stansfield, Crown Castle UK Ltd, Altrincham Business Park, George Richards Way, Altrincham, WA14 5GL, Telephone (0161) 927 4353. Enquiries about archaeological matters, references or data sources should be directed to the Inspector for Ancient Monuments, English Heritage Yorkshire, 37 Tanner Row, York, YO1 6WP.
- 6.2 The work will be subject to monitoring, the details of which should be agreed between the archaeological contractor and English Heritage.

Scheme of Works

7.0 Desk-based Assessment & Map Regression

- 7.1 Standard cartographic and archaeological record information should be assessed, and maps produced, where appropriate, to identify the locations and outlines of significant features on or near the site. Contractors are directed to seek further information from Rachel Newman of the Whitby Research Forum, the National Monuments Record at Swindon, and the Centre for Archaeology (English Heritage) as well as other relevant standard sources. The Conservation Plan for the Whitby Abbey Headland, obtainable from English Heritage, should be consulted. Contractors should cost for consultancy and search fees to acquire this information.

8.0 Locational Survey

- 8.1 The proposed anchor placements should be located accurately with both Global Positioning System data, and measured theodolite / EDM traverses or triangulation from known benchmarks. Raw data should be tabulated in an appendix of the report, and accurate scaled plans should be prepared to show the anchor placement locations in relation to nearby buildings, roads and cliff edge. The accuracy of mapping should be on the order of plus or minus 0.05 m. Mapping should also be recorded digitally in .dxf format.

9.0 Intensive Watching Brief

- 9.1 The removal of overburden (that is loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) may be undertaken by machine. The machining should be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI, and undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where surface materials or foundations are exceptionally difficult to lift, they should be broken up first, and a toothed bucket used temporarily to open up the materials for lifting. Overburden should be removed only to the top of archaeological remains in the first instance. Subsequent to archaeological investigation, subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by machine but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist, and only with archaeological supervision.
- 9.2 Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to a Section 42 Licence from English Heritage. All metal finds should be properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.
- 9.3 Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed by excavation works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and scientifically record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The application of archaeological science to artefacts and samples is a standard requirement for all archaeological investigations, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available as appropriate to the potential of the site. The Archaeologist should allow for the Regional Science Advisor for English Heritage to visit the site and provide advice as needed.
- 9.4 At least two sides of each anchor placement hole should be recorded by scaled section drawings. If any detailed stratigraphy is encountered, then all four sides of each hole should be recorded in this manner. All features should be recorded by scaled plan drawings. All

sections and plans should be checked to make sure that cross-drawing context boundaries join up.

10.0 Investigative Conservation and Archive Preparation

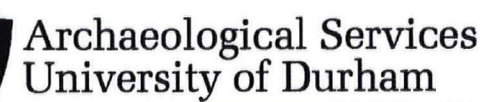
- 10.1 Upon completion of fieldwork, samples should be processed and evaluated, and all finds subject to investigative conservation, such that they are identified, assessed, spot-dated, and properly stored under environmentally stable conditions. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist should arrange for the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to Scarborough Borough Council Museums Service.

11.0 Summary Report

- 11.1 A summary report should be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report should contain administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas should be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and natural features. All significant features should be illustrated with conventionally scaled plans, sections, or photographs. Where few or no archaeological remains are found, it may be acceptable to provide the report in the form of a letter, with plans and digital data appended.
- 11.2 Six (6) copies of a hard-copy summary report, with appended digital data, should be produced, one (1) each under separate cover for the Whitby Museum, Scarborough Museum, the County Heritage Unit, English Heritage, Crown Castle UK Ltd, and the BBC.
- 11.3 English Heritage should be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by English Heritage.

References





Jennings, S, Muldowney, L & Wilmott, T (2003). *Excavation & Evaluation at Whitby 2002*. CfA News 4 (Winter 2002-3), Newsletter of the Centre for Archaeology (English Heritage).



on behalf of

Castle Crown UK Ltd



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|---|---------------------|
|  | levels |
|  | stone wall |
|  | brick wall |
|  | post and wire fence |

**BBC Broadcasting Tower, East Cliff,
Abbey Lane, Whitby, North Yorkshire**

Archaeological evaluation

Figure 1

Location of excavated trenches (in red)

