

SCARBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PRELIMINARY REPORT

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT THE FORMER PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH, SCARBOROUGH**

NATIONAL GRID REF	TA 04655 8880
SITE CODE	PC/05
REPORT DATE	13 February 2006
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REPORT BY	CHRISTOPHER HALL

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This is a preliminary report on archaeological monitoring carried out in response to a condition imposed upon proposed residential development at the former Pentecostal Church, Eastborough, Scarborough.

1.2 The Planning condition (number 8) states:-

No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. The archaeological written statement of investigation shall address inter alia;-

- The archaeological supervision, monitoring and recording of the removal of the stone work which forms the base of the east wall if the stone is to be removed
- The excavation of the foundations for the any new wall to be erected to replace the present east wall or any under pinning which may take place on other locations
- The excavation of trenches for drains or other services both within and outside the building

1.2 The archaeological monitoring was carried out over the period 18 July-8 August 2005 and 14-25 November 2005 on the basis of a Project Design

prepared in May 2005 which itself followed from evaluation trenches excavated in March 2005 As the Project Design included an assessment of the history of the site, and a report on the findings of the evaluation excavation these are not repeated here.

1.3 An Interim Report is forthcoming.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The aim of the archaeological work was to secure compliance with the planning condition, to mitigate the archaeological impact of the works to the building and secure preservation by record or by designing a suitable archaeological response to archaeological finds This was achieved by:-

2.2 Monitoring and recording of the excavation of all the foundation trenches within the building for new cross wall etc. Note due to the height of the suspended floors above oversite it was not necessary for drainage runs to be excavated.

2.3 Following the removal of the upper courses of 19th century brickwork to the east wall, the recording of the in-situ stone followed by monitoring and recording of the hand removal of the stone lower courses.

2.4 Following the removal of the east wall the archaeological impact of the formation of the new foundations was proposed to be mitigated in consultation with the structural engineer:-

i) if there was no requirement to increase the foundation depth, the archaeological deposits and stratigraphy exposed to be fully recorded

ii) if there was a requirement to increase the foundation depth to be mitigated by hand trenching to preserve by record the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the affected area.

2.5 In the event it was decided to leave the stone wall in-situ and a different engineering solution formulated to founding the re-built east wall which consisted of a strip foundation along the inner face of the stone wall - this was monitored in accordance with 2.2 above, and item 2.4 did not need to be carried out.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on SAHS's pro-forma context sheets.

3.2 Sections and plans. All trenches were drawn in plan and section at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film.

3.3 Photographic Record. The photographic record comprises colour prints, and digital images to record all archaeological features encountered.

- 3.4 Post-excavation. Analysis of organic matter from context 7023 is being carried out by Palaeoecology Research Services Ltd. This will be included in the Interim Report as will analysis of pottery from this context which is being carried out by York Archaeological Trust.
- 3.5 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.

- 4.1 Evaluation trenches 1 to 6 were hand excavated in March 2005 in the main body of the nave near to the east wall. Generally these indicated that natural clay lay beneath the oversite concrete and rubble surface formed during the 1868 rebuilding of the church and that any pre-existing archaeology had been destroyed. The midden pits found in the 2003 excavation outside the building (PC/03) were not present inside the building. The natural clay had been disturbed by a rectangular cut containing one burial close to the side wall. This skeleton was not intact and had clearly been disturbed and re-buried, the remnants of the skeleton being carefully placed. This was interpreted as the disturbance during the 1868 re-building of a burial in an earlier phase of the church.
- 4.2 These findings described in 4.1 informed the methodology for further works carried out over the period 18 July-8 August 2005 and 14-25 November 2005. The machine excavation of 78.2 linear metres of 600mm wide foundation trenches was archaeologically monitored – this was all treated as trench 7. Again the findings were generally that the ground consisted of natural clay, although invaluable evidence was gained into the nature of an underfloor hot air heating system built in 1868. Two 19th century burials were located – these were contained within brick cists with stone flagged tops (context number 7027). These burials were left undisturbed and the foundation design made to bridge over them
- 4.3 In the south-west corner of the building two large areas of dark black organic material were found context numbers 7023,7024 and 7025. These organic deposits contained pottery, bone, fragments of leather, timber and textile. Feature 7023 was sample excavated and it was found that the organic material at this point was 2 metres deep, sitting directly upon and within natural clay. 7024 and 7025 were not excavated to their full depths. Initial analysis of some of the pottery from the trench indicates that the pit contains some of the earliest medieval pottery found in Scarborough, ie from the 12th century, which confirms the 2003 findings that these midden pits are some of the earliest medieval features in this part of Scarborough. In order to ensure the in-situ preservation of this material (which coincided with the need for structural stability), the foundation design at this point was modified to consist of a small number of 60mm bored piles with the foundation bridging between them. A permeable barrier of sand/Teram permeable

membrane/sand was provided between the concrete and the organic material. The organic material from 7023 is currently under analysis by Palaeoecology Research Services Ltd and the pottery from the same context by York Archaeological Trust

- 4.4 The east wall. It was originally intended to completely remove the east wall and rebuild it from new foundations and the method statement contained a suitable response to this. Following removal of the upper courses of brickwork, the stone wall was recorded, revealing that it had completely separate inner and outer leaves, the outer possibly being older. At this stage there was a fundamental change in the construction methodology when the decision was made to leave this substantial stone wall in place ie this feature is preserved and the ground now undisturbed. A new engineering solution was devised to provide new strip foundations alongside the inner face of the stone wall. Monitoring of the hand excavation of these foundation trenches showed that the stone wall was built off clay, and the midden pits found in 2003 did not pass under the wall. Exclusively medieval pottery was found in the vicinity of the wall indicating that it was likely to have been built within a relatively short time after the midden pits had gone out of use.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The monitoring of these works has shown that the foundations for the development have been carried out in such a way as to not damage significant archaeology.
- 5.2 The foundation works provided further evidence of the presence of midden pits in this area, which are relatively rare in Scarborough and this re-inforces the findings in 2003.
- 5.3 A fuller report on the combined archaeological work in 2003 and 2005 is forthcoming.