

Land to the rear of
31 High Street, Bempton,
East Yorkshire

Interim Report

LS Archaeology



LS Archaeology
www.lsarchaeology.co.uk
lsarchaeology@gmail.com
01953 618 279
0791 248 5125

Luigi Signorelli BA MA

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Site:	Land to the rear of 31 High Street, Bempton, East Yorkshire
Site Codes:	BEMPT 15
County:	East Yorkshire
NGR:	TA 522527 470191
Planning Application No:	DC/11/01374/PLF
Development:	Erection of 3 no. dwellings, related access road and car park area, on the land rear to 31 High Street
Date of Issue:	10/06/2015
Site Dates:	12/01/2015 26-27/03/2015
Project by:	LS Archaeology, Whitwell on the Hill, North Yorkshire YO60 7JJ - Tel: 07912485125
Client:	John Cartwright

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	III
LIST OF FIGURE.....	IV
1. SUMMARY.....	1
2. INTRODUCTION	1
3. SITE LOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT	2
4. SUMMARY OF PHASE 1 AND 2 FIELDWORK RESULTS	3
5. PRELIMINARY INTERPRETATION	6
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	7

List of Figure

FIGURE 1: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA (IN RED). IMAGE FROM GOOGLE EARTH.-----	1
FIGURE 2: SITE LOCATION ORDNANCE SURVEY © CROWN COPYRIGHT -----	2
FIGURE 3: PLAN OF SITE SHOWING THE PHASES OF THE WATCHING BRIEF AND THE FINDINGS (IN YELLOW) -----	3
FIGURE 4: THE STRIPPING OF TOPSOIL FOR THE ACCESS ROAD, LOOKING DOWN TOWARDS GILLUS---	4
FIGURE 5: LANE STRIPPING OF TOPSOIL FOR CAR PARK AREA, LOOKING NORTH -----	4
FIGURE 6: TOPSOIL (MADE UP GROUND) AND NATURAL DEPOSIT-----	5
FIGURE 7: THE SOUTH FOUNDATION, LOOKING EAST -----	5
FIGURE 8: MODERN PIT-----	6

1. Summary

- 1.1 This is an interim report of the first two of the three phases of archaeological watching brief planned to take place at the land to the rear of 31 High Street, Bempton (Figure 1). The first 2 phases of field work took place between January and March 2015. This revealed a single pit and the foundation of the former boundary wall, during the development ground works.
- 1.2 The Phase 1 ground works was for the reduction of the ground surface related to the access road and car park areas. Phase 2 consisted on the monitoring of the removal of the former swimming pool and excavation of the foundations for two dwellings (Figure 3). There is no date currently set for the Phase 3.
- 1.3 The area monitored under archaeological watching brief (Phase 1 and Phase 2), revealed no significant findings. A modern single pit and the foundation of a former boundary wall running on a north to south direction were the only two features recorded.



Figure 1: Proposed development area (in red). Image from Google earth.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 An archaeological investigation was carried out by LS Archaeology as the land to the rear of 31 High Street, Bempton (Figure 1). Three phases of the development were planned; this interim report concerns Phase 1 and Phase 2 only. It is,

therefore necessarily limited and should be considered only as a preliminary summary of findings at this stage. Phase 1 took place over one day on 12th January 2015. The second phase took place over two days: 26th and 27th March 2015. The third phase will take place at a yet undetermined date in the future and will consist of the monitoring of the foundations and related services of the third dwelling. A final report will follow the completion of Phase 3.

- 2.2 The investigation was commissioned by Mr. J. Cartwright, in response to an archaeological planning condition placed on his development. The condition was set by East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) on the advice of The Humber Sites and Monument Record Office, the curatorial section of The Humber Archaeology Partnership, in line with the policies set out in *National Planning Policy Framework*, Section 12 '*Conservation and enhancing the historic environment*' (Dep. of Communities and Local Government, March 12)
- 2.3 It was the opinion of HSMRO/HAP that 'it is likely that groundworks in this area would encounter below ground deposits relating to activity dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods; whilst there is also the potential for encountering deposits from earlier periods'.
- 2.4 The 'Written Scheme of Investigation' (WSI) of the site was prepared by Humber Archaeology Partnership (Goodyear 2014), whereby it proposed the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.
- 2.5 The archaeologist on site was Luigi Signorelli, LS Archaeology.
- 2.6 The site code allocated for this project is BEMPT15. The site archive will be included in the final report.

3. Site location and development

- 3.1 Archaeological investigation and recording (watching brief) was undertaken at the land to the rear of 31 High Street, Bempton (**Figure 1, Figure 3**). The site lies within the village of Bempton, which is located in the north east of the East Riding of Yorkshire. The proposed development consists of a plot of land located to the north of Gillus Lane, to the west of Church Lane and to the south of High Street.

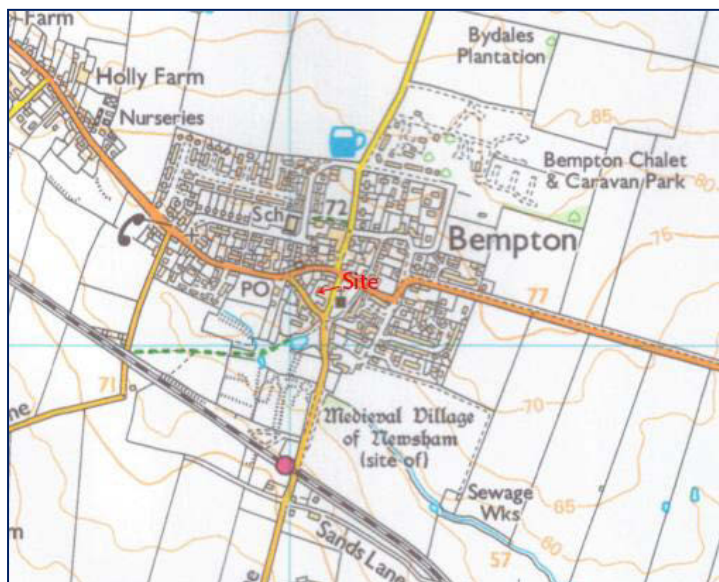


Figure 2: Site location Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright

- 3.2 The upper drift geology

in this area comprises: Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period and the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions. The bedrock geology consists of: Flamborough Chalk Formation - Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 71 to 85 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (British Geology Survey).

3.3 The development (Appl. DC/11/01374/PLF) is for the construction of three dwellings, associated access road and car park areas.

3.4 In Phase 1 the ground at the rear of the property was reduced in order to create the access road and car park. Phase 2 consisted of: the complete removal of the former swimming pool and excavation of the foundations of dwelling 1 and 2. Phase 3 will consist of the excavation of the foundations and related services for dwelling 3.

4. Summary of Phase 1 and 2 Fieldwork Results

4.1 On the 12th January the stripping of topsoil for the access road and car park area took place. Subsequently, on 26th and 27th March a watching brief was implemented during the removal of the former swimming pool structure and the excavation of the dwelling 1 and 2 foundation trenches.

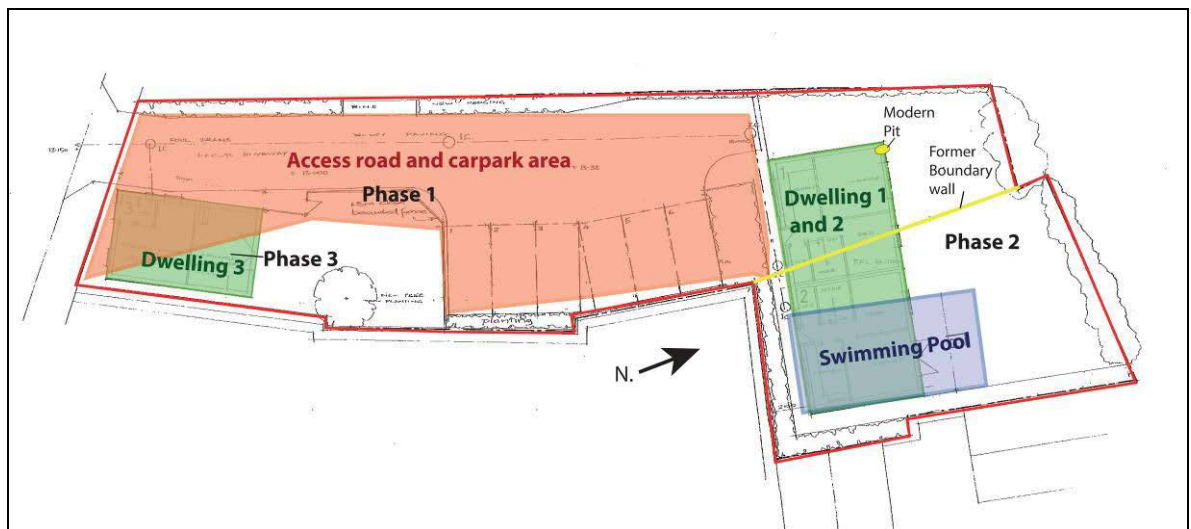


Figure 3: Plan of site showing the phases of the watching brief and the findings (in yellow)

4.2 The access road fronting Gillus Lane and the related car park areas required raising to a level of approximately 0.50m above ground level. This was achieved by using hardcore material deposited above a terram membrane. Initially ground reduction involved the removal of 0.10m of made up ground consisting of rubble and garden material. This was done to facilitate the deposition of the above

mentioned material. The reduction of the ground surface was not sufficient to impact on any underground possible historical events (**Figure 3**).



Figure 4: The stripping of topsoil for the access road, looking down towards Gillus



Figure 5: Lane Stripping of topsoil for car park area, looking north



Figure 6: Topsoil (made up ground) and natural deposit

4.3 After the removal of the swimming pool structure measuring 5.0m in width, 14m in length and in places (south) reached a depth of about 2.0m, all the sections were examined and no evidence of archaeological activity was present in this area. The upper ground consisted of a dark brown clay-silt sand material mixed with modern building rubble and measured about 0.40m in depth, overlaying a brown sandy clay natural deposit (**Figure 6**).

4.4 The foundations for dwelling 1 and 2 measuring 14.5m in long on the east to west alignment and 6.4m long on the north to south alignment, were excavated to an average depth of 0.9m and measured 0.7m in width.

4.5 During the excavation of the dwelling 1 and 2 foundation trenches the only archaeological evidence recorded was a single modern pit, and the foundation for a former boundary wall.

4.6 The pit, located towards the north west corner of dwelling 1, measured 1.8m in length 1.1m in width and 1.4m in depth. This feature was cutting from the topsoil and contained the remains of animal bones.



Figure 7: The south foundation, looking east

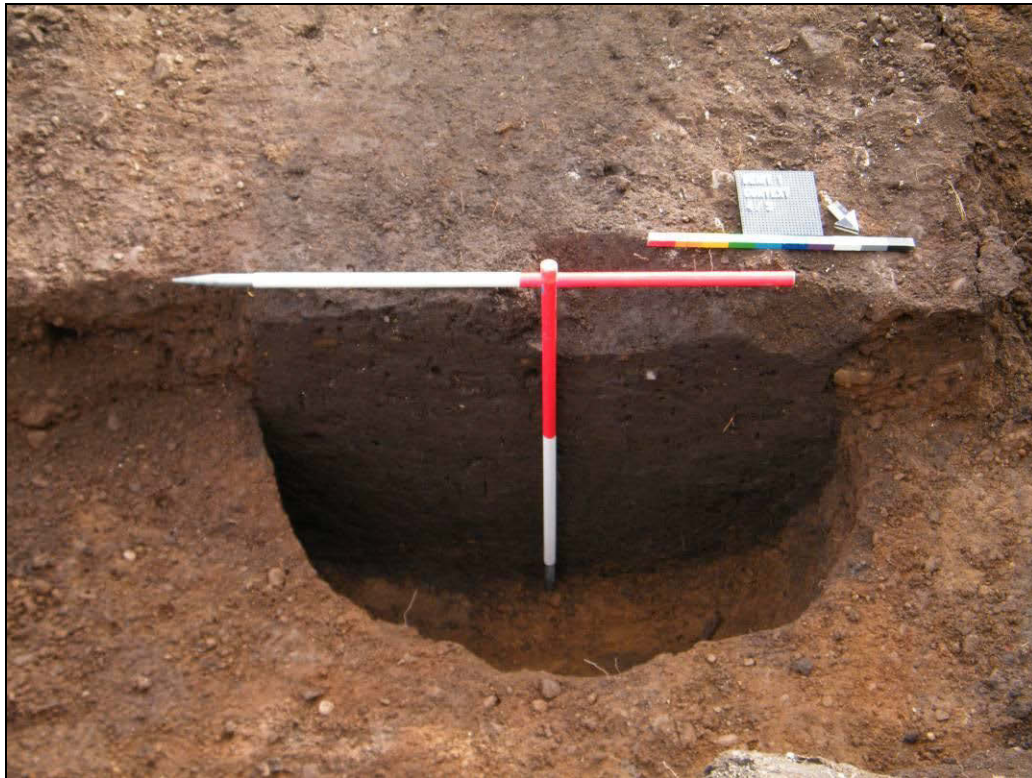


Figure 8: Modern pit

4.7 Along the north and south foundations of dwelling 1 and 2, evidence of a former boundary wall foundation were recorded. During the excavation fragments of 19th to 20th century pottery were observed among the fill of the foundation wall ditch.

5. Preliminary Interpretation

5.1 The findings in Phase 1 and Phase 2 indicate archaeology from the late 19th century and after. So far this has been limited to the northern part of the site where deep excavation has taken place. Further evidence may be discovered probably of a low density and of medieval date during Phase 3.

5.2 Based on the findings in Phase 1 and 2 the conclusion is that there is no evidence of medieval and late medieval activity within the area assessed, and the features recorded implies modern activity within the northern side of the site, most likely to be associated with farming.

6. Bibliography

Goodyear, J. 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Land Rear of 31 High Street, Bempton* (unpubl.)

2014 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; *Standard and guidance for a Watching Brief*

Luigi Signorelli
LS Archaeology BA MA
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