

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Devonport Hospitality Ltd

16-18 The Front
Middleton One Row
Darlington

archaeological watching brief

report 5610
September 2021

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief conducted for a development at 16-18 The Front, Middleton One Row, Darlington. The works comprised the monitoring of two foundation trenches to the rear of the property.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Devonport Hospitality Ltd and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

- 1.3 No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered during the watching brief.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at 16-18 The Front, Middleton One Row, Darlington (NGR centre: NZ 3523 1232). It covers an area of approximately 0.1 ha. The site is located within Middleton one Row, with car parking, residential housing and farmland to the north, east and west, and The Front to the south, with the river Tees beyond.

Development

- 2.2 Planning permission has been granted for a development at 16-18 The Front, Middleton One Row including the partial conversion of an hotel to residential apartments, manager's accommodation, a two storey extension and reconfiguration of the rear garden, car park and service yard. The planning application reference number is 19/01165/FUL.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the watching brief programme was to identify and record any archaeological features uncovered during groundworks.

Research objectives

- 2.4 The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region. The scheme of works was designed to address the following agenda items:

Later Medieval

MDi Settlement

MDvii Medieval ceramics and other artefacts

Specification

- 2.5 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference 20348DS) and approved by the planning authority.

Dates

- 2.6 Fieldwork was undertaken w/c 16 August 2021. This report was prepared for September 2021.

Personnel

- 2.7 Fieldwork was conducted by Jamie Armstrong. This report was prepared by Jamie Armstrong, with illustrations by Janine Watson.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.8 The site code is MOR21, for Middleton One Row 2021. The archive has been prepared for deposition and will be transferred to the County Durham Archaeological Archives as soon as is practicable. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS project (OASIS). The OASIS ID number for this project is archaeoI3-43115.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of the works, the development area comprised a yard area to the rear of 16-18 The Front, Middleton One Row. A car parking area lay to the north.
- 3.2 The area occupied a gentle east facing slope with mean elevations between 45m OD in the west to 39m OD in the east.
- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Permian and Triassic calcareous mudstone of the Roxby Formation, which are overlain by Devensian diamicton till (www.bgs.ac.uk).

4. Historical and archaeological background

- 4.1 A planning, heritage & design and access statement and addendum (England Lyle Good 2019 and 2020) for the development was prepared in support of the planning application.
- 4.2 The route of a Roman road is known on the west side of the village. The road crossed a bridge over the Tees, the remains of which may have been visible in 1834 and were noted during recent diving in the river. However, there has been no excavated evidence to confirm the line of the road beyond Middleton St. George on to Chester-le-Street. The road is often referred to as Cade's Road, after the antiquarian John Cade, who proposed its existence and course in 1785.
- 4.3 The village of Middleton One Row has medieval origins and originally comprised a single row of houses on the north side of a village green. To the west of the village the scheduled ancient monument of Tower Hill motte castle is located.
- 4.4 The development area is located within the medieval core of the village.
- 4.5 The development area is within a conservation area; this contains several Grade II listed buildings, and Tower Hill scheduled ancient monument, as well as many unlisted historic structures.

5. The deposit sequence

Introduction (Figure 2)

- 5.1 Two foundation trenches were monitored during the watching brief. Trench 1 was located against the north face of the building, while trench 2 was located to the north of a boundary wall.

Trench 1

- 5.2 This trench was 10.4m long (east-west) and extended 3m from the north face of the building. The trench was 0.85m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m. Natural subsoil, a pinkish boulder clay [2] was encountered at a depth of 0.1m. It was overlain by a deposit of dark grey silty-clay with inclusions of modern building detritus [1: 0.1m thick]. No features of archaeological significance were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 2

- 5.3 This trench was 10.4m long (east-west) and extended 5m from the north face of the boundary wall. The trench was 0.85m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. Natural subsoil, a pinkish boulder clay [2], was encountered at a depth of 0.4m. To the west the natural subsoil was overlain by an intermittent layer of grey silty-clay [4: 0.2m thick], possibly a buried soil horizon. To the east the natural subsoil was overlain by a deposit of dark grey silty-clay with inclusions of modern building detritus [3: 0.4m thick]. Both deposits were overlain by a sand aggregate [5: 0.2m thick] which formed part of the car park to the rear of the property. No features of archaeological significance were identified and no artefacts recovered.

6. The artefacts

- 6.1 No artefacts were recovered.

7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 7.1 No material suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment was identified.

8. The archaeological resource

- 8.1 No archaeological resource has been identified in either trench.

9. Sources

England Lyle Good 2019 *Devonport Hotel, Middleton One Row: Planning heritage & design and access statement*.

England Lyle Good 2020 *Devonport Hotel, Middleton One Row: Planning heritage & design and access statement – addendum*.

Petts, D, & Gerrard, C, 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham

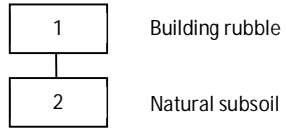
Appendix 1: Data table

Table 1.1: Context data

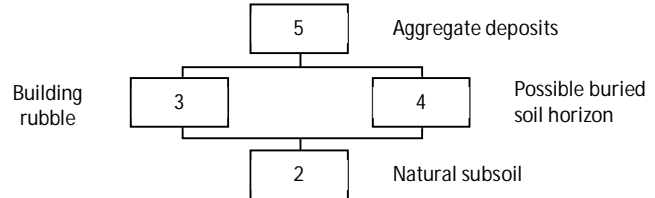
No	Area	Description
1	1	Modern building rubble
2	1 & 2	Natural subsoil
3	2	Modern building rubble
4	2	Possible buried soil horizon
5	2	Aggregate deposit

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrices

Trench 1



Trench 2





Photograph 1: Trench 1
section, looking east



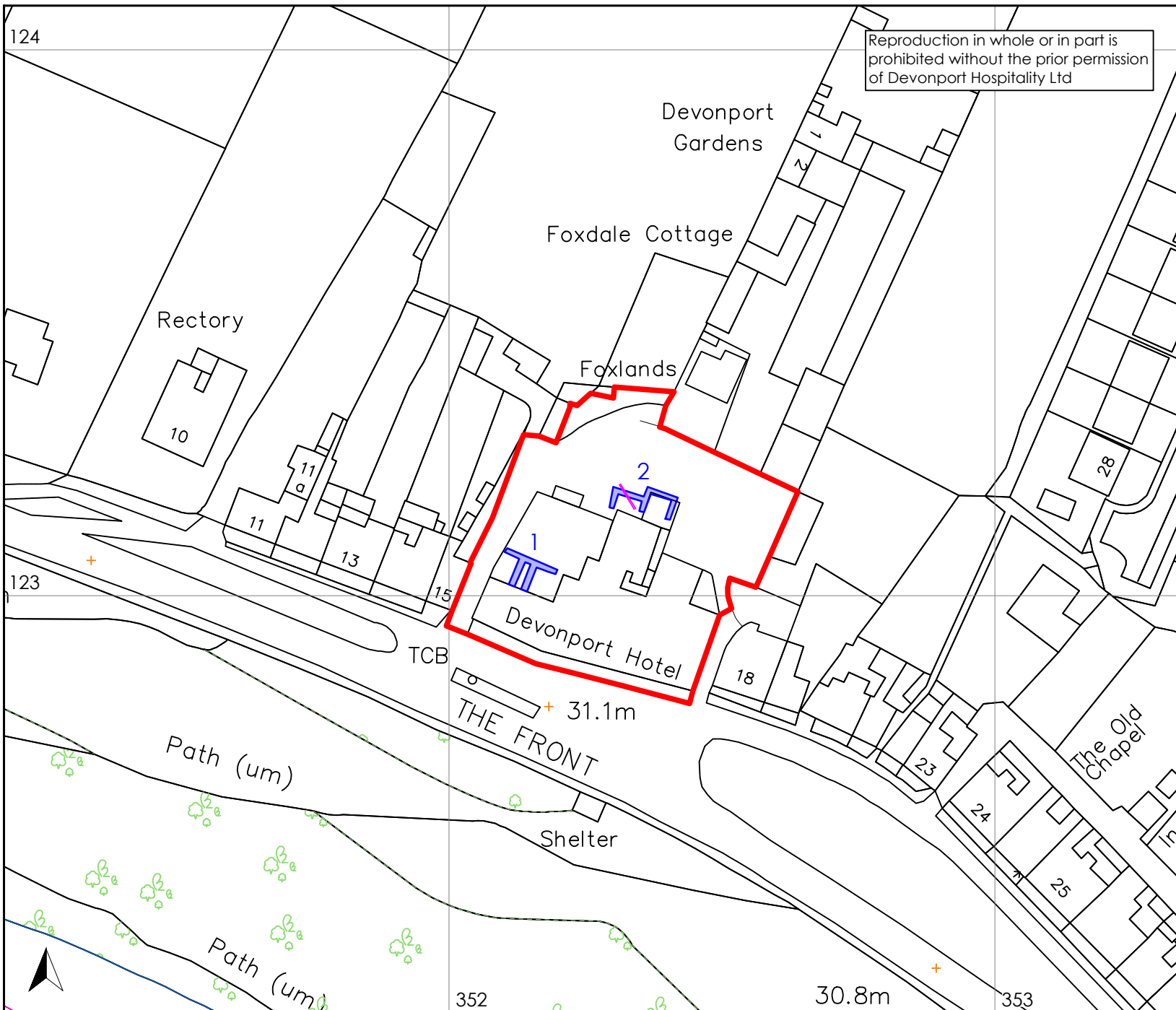
Photograph 2: Trench 2
section, looking north

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site boundary

0 1km
scale 1:20 000 for A4 plot



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


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Figure 2: Location of watching
brief

0 50m
scale 1:1000 for A4 plot

-  site boundary
-  area monitored
-  gas pipe