

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



Archaeological Observation
Investigation and Recording

at

Mount Pleasant
Reighton
North Yorkshire

Planning Reference: 05/00218/FL
National Grid Reference: TA 1262 7531
SMR Reference: 4001 C4398 ST
Site Code: WB2005.053

for

J. Mitchell

Watching Brief Report Number: 783
September 2005

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D.J. Jobling (*BA Hons*) September 2005

Summary

A watching brief was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the construction of a sand surfaced horse training area (ménage) at Mount Pleasant, Hunmanby Road, Reighton in North Yorkshire.

Monitoring of a select area of trenching revealed the presence of a natural sand layer underlying the current topsoil. No features were identified; however, a single piece of worked flint was recovered from the topsoil.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology, on behalf of J. Mitchell, during groundwork associated with the construction of livery accommodation for horses and the construction of a sand surfaced horse training area at Mount Pleasant, Hunmanby Road, Reighton in North Yorkshire (*Figure 1, Plate 1*).

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The development site is located to the west of the village of Reighton. The site is bound to the south by Hunmanby Road, to the west and east by fields and to the north by the gardens of residential housing within Reighton.

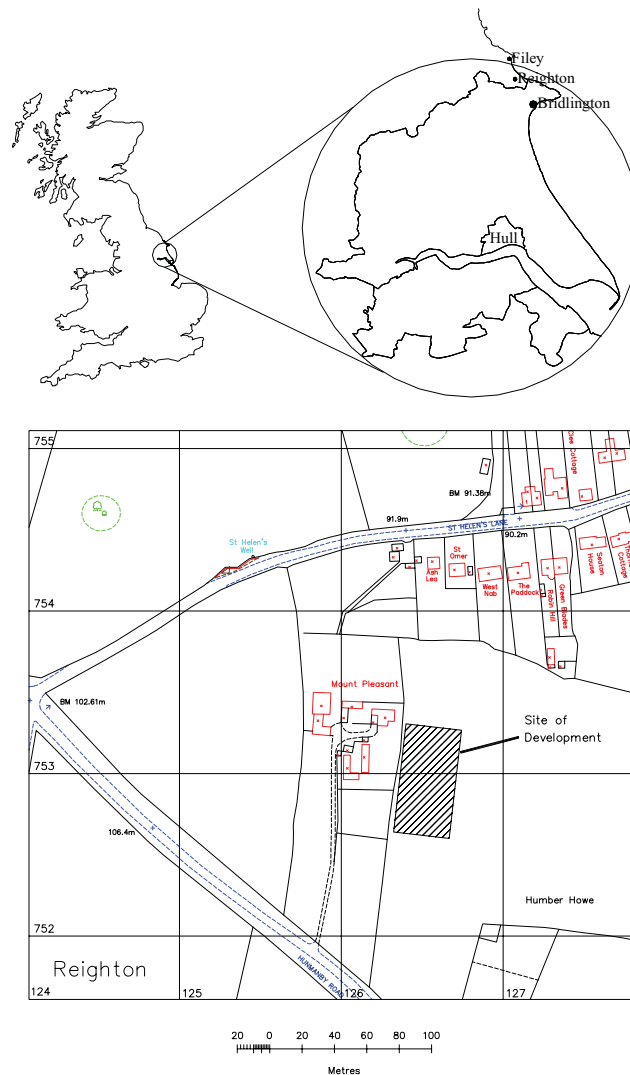


Figure 1 Site location plan.

2. Archaeological Background

The site of the development lies in an area of archaeological interest with high potential for the survival of remains dating from the prehistoric and later periods. The application site lies on the western edge of the shrunken medieval village of Reighton and earthwork remains of field boundaries and a holloway survive in the fields close to Mount Pleasant Farm. Scatters of prehistoric flint artefacts were identified during fieldwalking to the west and north-west of the application site, undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment for the proposed A165 Reighton bypass. There is potential, therefore, for the construction of the proposed horse training area to disturb the remains dating from the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later periods.

3. Methodology

The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology, in accordance with the written scheme of investigation produced in August 2005 by the Heritage Section, Countryside Service, Planning and Countryside Unit, North Yorkshire County Council in response to a condition placed upon the planning application. 05/00218/FL.

‘No development shall take place on the site until the application, or their agents or successors in title, 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 in writing by the local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. (PPG 16, para. 30; Circular 11/95, Model Clause 55)’

The scheme of works comprised the supervision of the excavation of a single L-shaped trench around the northern and eastern perimeter of the new horse training area. A single visit was made to the site on the 12th August 2005 during which time it was possible to monitor the excavation of the groundworks specified.

Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. The excavated dimensions of the trench was recorded, Where archaeological deposits/features were identified, context numbers were assigned and detailed descriptions were made, plans and sections were drawn and a photographic record was maintained.

Archaeological artefacts found during the fieldwork were bagged according to their context, and returned to Humber Field Archaeology for further specialist analysis.

4. Results

During discussions with J. Mitchell and the subcontractors undertaking the works on the application area it became clear that there would actually be very little in the way of below ground disturbance during the creation of the ménage and that this would be the only ground disturbance associated with this development.

The majority of the initial works comprised the clearance of an area of trees, hedges and fencing. The removal of the trees revealed only the dark brown topsoil (1001).

The site of the development slopes down from west to east. It was the intention to use the excess spoil from the previous works to create a new raised level for the ménage and two large spoilheaps were located to the west (*see Figure 2*). It was mentioned during the monitoring process, that some good topsoil would be needed for later ‘cleaning up’ of the site and therefore a shallow L-shaped trench was excavated with a ditching bucket on a JCB around the northern and eastern perimeter of the area for the ménage. This trench was generally just slightly wider than that of the bucket itself, 1m. The depth stayed approximately the same throughout, 0.20m to 0.30m deep, generally leaning towards the 0.20m depth mark.

The excavated trench measured 20m west to east along its northern extent, turning to the south at its eastern end for a further 60m to the south-eastern extent of the current area of works. The trench, although left open, had the upper portion of turf dumped straight back into it after the removal of the good topsoil, however, this did not hinder the monitoring of the base of the trench as this was completed in sections where each stretch could be viewed individually prior to the dumping of the turfs.

Only two deposits were exposed throughout the entirety of the excavated area. The basal deposit identified throughout the trench was the natural sand layer (1002) which varied in hue between light brown grey and light brown yellow, the compositional element remained constant. This was only lightly scraped across its top; no features were identified as cutting into the natural sands. This was sealed by the topsoil (1001) a rich and dark brown slightly sandy loam viewed between 0.20m and 0.30m thick.

A single waste fragment of flint was recovered from the topsoil (1001) and comprised of a retouched secondary flint flake, possibly used as a knife/scrapper (*see 5. The Finds*).

No further groundworks were undertaken during the monitoring period, and there were to be no additional groundworks undertaken which would cut into the original ground level.

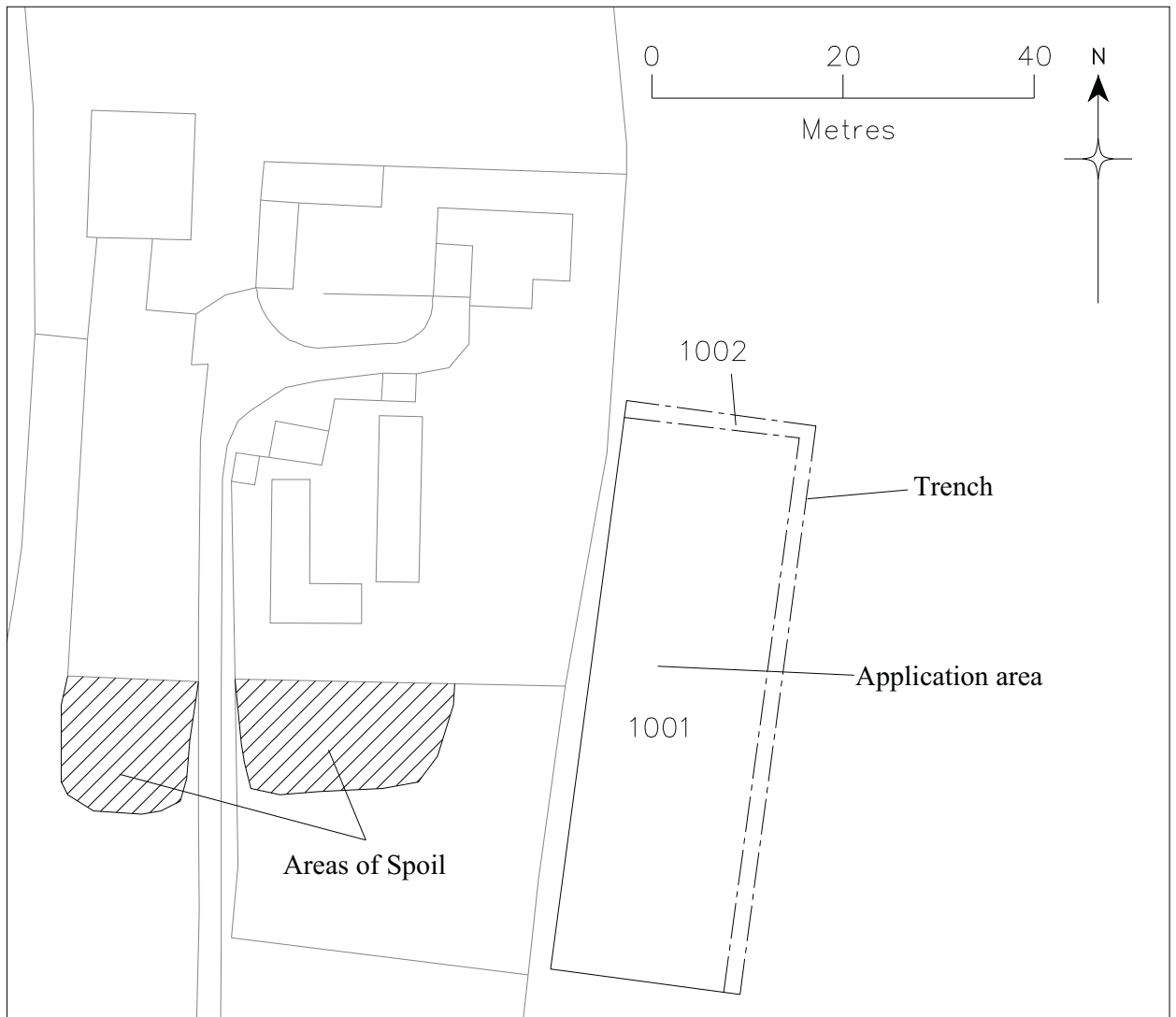


Figure 2 Plan showing the location of the menage within the development.

5. The Finds

A single artefact was recovered during the current programme of work and consisted of one material category: flint.

The Flint Ruth Atkinson (M.A.) (*pers. comm.*)

A secondary retouched flake of local flint was found during the course of the watching brief. The flake is incomplete but is retouched at the distal end and shows signs of utilisation, most likely as a knife or a scraper (*Plate 6*).

This flake is not diagnostic of a particular archaeological period, but does suggest that prehistoric people were using local flint within this area. Good quality flint is readily available within this area.

6. Discussion

There were no archaeological deposits or features identified during the groundwork associated with the creation of the ménage. The excavation of the L-shaped trench produced a single piece of worked flint which is prehistoric in date.

Although no archaeological deposits were revealed during the current programme of works, this was due mainly to the nature of the development itself. There is evidence of archaeological deposits within the vicinity however. It is therefore the recommendation of Humber Field Archaeology that should any further development take place in these areas then a suitable scheme of archaeological work should be implemented.

7. Acknowledgements

Thanks are accorded to J. Mitchell for help and co-operation during the course of this project.

The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the Heritage Section, Countryside Service, Planning and Countryside Unit, North Yorkshire County Council. The report text and illustrations were edited by D. Atkinson. The flint was identified by R. Atkinson.

8. References

Written Scheme of Investigation for Limited Archaeological Recording
Heritage Section, Countryside Services, North Yorkshire County Council.
August 2005.

Guidelines for Finds Work The Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group
First Draft, 1991.

Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), English Heritage, 1991.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1

Context list

(1000) U/S, Unstratified.

(1001) Topsoil. Mid to dark grey brown rich loam. Viewed up to 0.30m thick.

(1002) Natural sands (medium). Mid to light mushroom brown to mid brown yellow.
Viewed up to 0.02m thick

Appendix 2

Archive

Project Details:

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at Mount Pleasant, Hunmanby Road, Reighton in North Yorkshire.

Site Code: WB2005.053

National Grid Reference: TA 1262 7531

SMR Casework Reference: 4001 C4398 ST

Planning Reference Number: 05/00218/FL

Author DJ Jobling **Date of fieldwork** 12th August 2005

Report Number. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 783
September 2005

Quantity

5 x clear plastic A4 wallets contain the paper archive

Summary of work.

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3 The Photographic Record:

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12. Final Report:

Archaeological Observation, Investigation And Recording At Mount Pleasant
Hunmanby Road Reighton North Yorkshire. Humber Field Archaeology Watching
Brief Report Number 783 September 2005



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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Excavation Watching Briefs
• Finds Research • Post-excavation Analysis • Inter-tidal Work

Humber Field Archaeology is an independently-funded part of the Humber Archaeology Partnership, a partnership serving The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council