

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



Archaeological Observation
Investigation and Recording
at
St James Terrace
Selby

Planning Reference: 8/19/548E/PA: 2005/0009/FUL

National Grid Reference: SE 6134 3230

Site Code: WB2005.080

for

Mr J K Elsworth

Watching Brief Report Number: 810

November 2005

Contents

Summary.....	2
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Archaeological Background.....	4
3. Methodology.....	4
4. Results.....	5
5. The Finds.....	7
6. Discussion.....	10
7. Acknowledgements.....	10
8. References.....	11
9. Appendices.....	12

List of Figures

Figure 1 Site location plan

Figure 2 Plan showing the location of the foundation and service trenches monitored within the development

List of Plates

Plate 1 The site of the development

Plate 2 The northern foundation trench showing the modern wall sitting on top of the 19th century wall

Plate 3 The foundation trenches under excavation with the modern wall foundation visible in the western trench

Plate 4 Detail showing the nature of the deposits revealed

Summary

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the construction of a studio dwelling at 1 St. James Terrace, Selby, North Yorkshire.

Monitoring of the excavations revealed a sequence of deposits dating from the 19th century. No evidence was recovered for any earlier occupation on the site.

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. K. Elsworth, during groundwork associated with the groundworks associated with the construction of a studio dwelling at the rear of 1, St. James Terrace, Selby, North Yorkshire. (*Figure 1, Plate 1*).

Site Code: WB2005.080
National Grid Reference: SE 6134 3230
Planning Reference: 8/19/548E/PA: 2005/0009/FUL

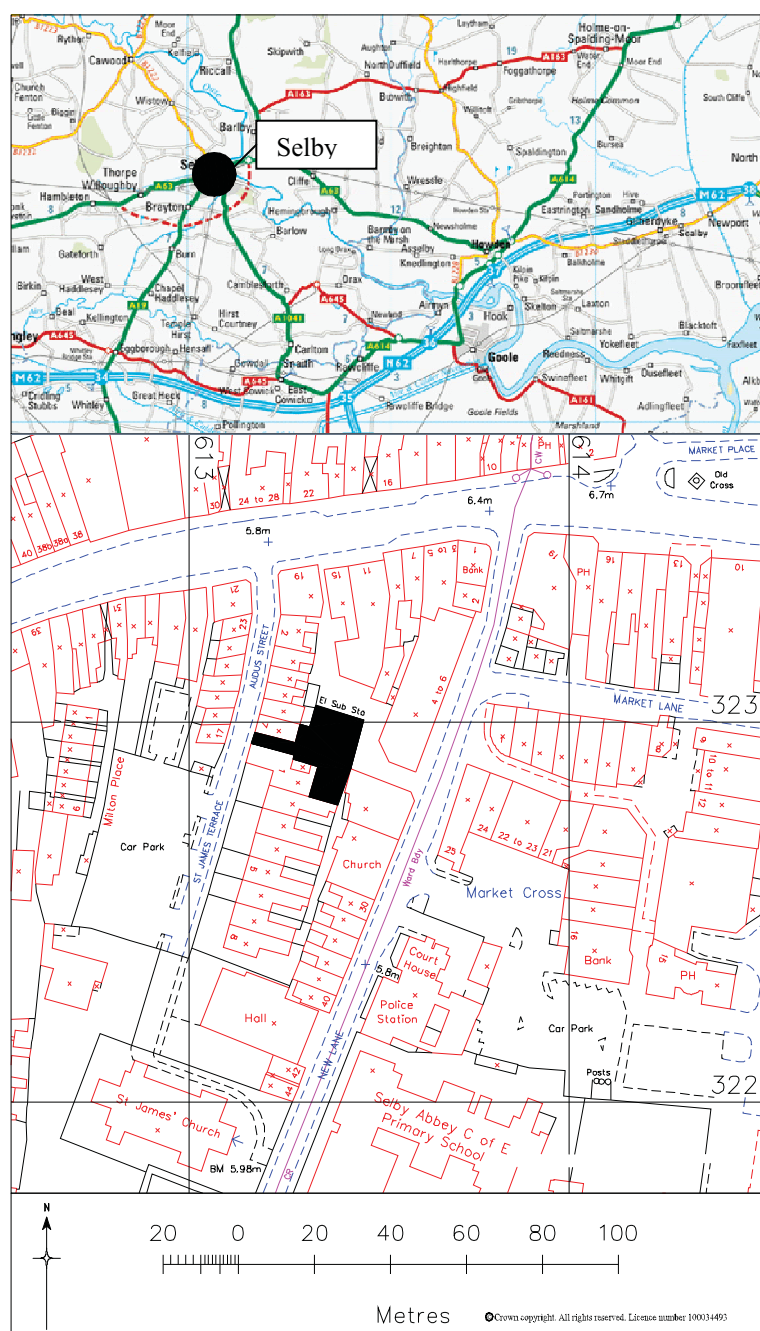


Figure 1 Site location plan

The development site is located within a courtyard formed at the rear of 1 St. James Terrace by the junction of the rear boundaries of properties fronting onto St. James Terrace to the west and properties fronting onto New Lane to the east. The car park and delivery area for WH Smith, which itself fronts onto Gowthorpe, lies immediately to the north.

2. Archaeological Background

The site of the development lies within the core of the medieval market town of Selby. It is reputed to be the birthplace of Henry I, during Williams' suppression of Northumbria in 1068. Selby Abbey itself was founded in 1069, being granted its charter from William in 1070. The street plan of the modern town of Selby appears to follow the medieval pattern, with the central market place at the west of the abbey leading onto Gowthorpe, the town's main thoroughfare. The plot boundaries of the properties leading off Gowthorpe may follow the lines of medieval burgage plots, although the presence of areas named Finkle Street and Micklegate immediately to the north of the abbey may imply that the core of the town lies slightly further to the north. The standing buildings in this part of Selby all appear to date from the 19th century.

3. Methodology

The on-site work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology, in accordance with the written scheme of investigation produced by the Heritage Section, North Yorkshire County Council in response to a condition placed upon the planning application. Planning Reference: 8/19/548E/PA. 2005/0009/FUL.

'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 monitoring of the digging of foundations and service trenches. A series of five visits were made to the site between the 24th and 28th of October 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 foundation trenches were recorded, as were the depth sequences of any exposed stratigraphy. 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

Site work began with the excavation of foundation trenches for the new building, using a small Kubota 360° excavator with a 0.50m-wide toothed bucket. The new building covered an area of approximately 39m² with the foundation trenches being 6.50m long, north to south and 6m long east to west. The trenches were generally 0.70m wide and varied in depth from 0.95m to 1.40m

The western foundation trench was approximately 6.50m long by 0.70m wide and 0.95m in depth. The stratigraphy sequence revealed consisted of approximately 0.35m of crushed stone and gravel (01), overlying approximately 0.40m of a dark grey-brown, almost black, gritty sandy silt (02). This deposit contained occasional mortar lenses, charcoal fragments, and brick and tile fragments. Pottery retrieved from this context dated from the 19th century. This in turn overlay grey-brown sandy silt (03), at least 0.20m thick, which did not appear to have either visible inclusions or finds. It is possible that this layer is naturally-deposited. This stratigraphy was also visible within the north-facing section of the northern foundation trench.

The northern foundation trench followed the line of a modern boundary wall which had been built on the remains of a previous 19th century wall. Machine-made 19th century brickwork extended down for at least 0.70m. It was not possible to determine whether a cut was visible for the construction of this wall. The stratigraphy visible in the south-facing section, consisted of approximately 0.5m of modern demolition rubble and hardcore (07) containing machine-made brick fragments, overlain by a thin layer of tarmacadam. This in turn overlay what appeared to be a spread of rubbish (08) approximately 0.35m deep and consisted mainly of sherds of broken pottery and glass. This again overlay grey-brown sandy silt (03), which was also visible in the trench base. Overall dimensions of this trench were approximately 6m x 0.70m wide x 1.05m deep.

The eastern foundation trench was also on the line of a boundary wall, with brickwork set on a 0.25m thick concrete foundation. The stratigraphy visible in the east-facing section was similar to that in the adjoining faces, namely deposits (01, 02 and 03), stone car-park consolidation overlying dark grey-brown, almost black, gritty sandy silt, overlying grey sandy silt. The west-facing section revealed approximately 0.40m of tarmacadam car-park surface and modern hardcore (04) overlying approximately 0.80m of gritty ash (05). This in turn overlay 0.20m of grey silty sand (03) which appears to cover the whole area of the site. Visible in the base of the trench was a light yellow-brown mottled sandy deposit (06), which is presumed to be the underlying natural. This gives an overall depth for this trench of 1.40m, which was necessary due to the unstable nature of the sections, which repeatedly collapsed during the excavation process, also resulting in a width of approximately 1.0m for this trench. Samples of pottery were retrieved from context (05), which date from the 19th century.

The southern foundation trench revealed the same sequence of deposits as previously described in the west foundation trench. That is, approximately 0.35m of crushed stone and gravel (01), overlying approximately 0.40m of a dark grey-brown, almost black, gritty sandy silt (02) overlying grey-brown sandy silt (03).

Small service trenches for water and electricity were excavated along the southern and western margins of the foundations, after they had been concreted. These trenches were excavated with a small Kubota 360-degree excavator with a small (0.30m) toothless bucket. The trenches connected up with existing foul-water pipes, and were approximately 0.40m wide by 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy visible within the sections consisted of context (01) immediately overlying context (02). No further finds were recovered.

With the completion of the foundation and service trenches for the new building, the fieldwork was concluded, no further groundworks being required.



Figure 2 Plan showing the location of the foundation and service trenches monitored within the development

5. The Finds

The Pottery

Peter Didsbury M. Phil.

Introduction and methodology

A total of 22 sherds of pottery, weighing 1570 grams and having an average sherd weight (ASW) of 71.4 grams was recovered.

All material was quantified by the two measures of number and weight, according to fabric within archaeological context. Data was entered on an Access database, which is supplied as an integral part of this report and which should be consulted on matters of detail where appropriate. Fabric codes employed in the database are set out in an appendix, below.

Discussion

Pottery was recovered from three contexts.

Layer (02), interpreted as a post-medieval occupation deposit, contained a single large sherd (complete profile) from a squat, handled mug in factory-produced Banded Slipware. It could have been produced at almost any time from the mid to late 19th century.

Layer (05), immediately beneath the modern car-park surface, produced 18 sherds, with an ASW of 63.9 grams. They constitute a fairly typical Victorian domestic assemblage, comprising kitchen and tablewares in Factory-Produced White Earthenwares, Banded Slipware, salt-glazed Modern Stoneware and Transfer-Printed White Earthenware. The database may be consulted for fuller details.

The transfer-printed wares in (05) contain examples of the ubiquitous ‘Willow Pattern’, which, in its present form, has been made from c.1800-1810 to the present day, at least fifty-four manufacturers being known to have produced it before 1880 (Coysh and Henrywood 1982, 402-303). The excessive cobalt on these examples might, however, suggest a later 19th-century date. There are also examples of a flatware rim with the very distinctive border which belongs to the ‘Gem’ pattern produced at the Don Pottery during the period of its ownership by Samuel Barker in 1839-1893 (Griffin 2003, no. 271). The border was used to frame a variety of scenes shewing lakes set amidst mountains and picturesque ruins. Also a probable Barker Don product is a sherd from a vessel with the ‘Wild Rose’ pattern. Originally deriving from an 1811 print showing the house at Nuneham Courtenay, near Oxford, this design was made by several manufacturers and was particularly popular during the 1830s to 1850s (Coysh and Henrywood 1982, 399-400). Both patterns were well represented in dumps of waster material from this pottery recently found at Thurnscoe and thought to include much material emplaced after 1877 (Didsbury 2004).

Layer (08), described as a spread of nineteenth-century rubbish, contained three sherds (ASW 69.3 grams). A Late Blackware pancheon is not closely datable within the 19th century, but both the other sherds are somewhat earlier than the mid to late

19th-century assemblage discussed above. A transfer-printed Pearlware cup is not likely to be much later than c. 1830, while a Creamware flatware rim could be as early as the 1780s. The rim is of 'Royal' shape, and can be paralleled in the 1807 Don Pottery Pattern Book (Doncaster Library Services 1983, nos 36, 45).

Conclusions and recommendations

All the deposits appear to have been emplaced in the 19th century. There are clear indications of a mid to late 19th-century date in the case of layer (05), though the latest material from (08) appears to date from the earlier 19th century. There is no indication of site activity resulting in ceramic deposition earlier than the last quarter of the eighteenth century.

No further work on these assemblages is required. Material may be subjected to selective discard, if necessary, in which case a number of sherds would make welcome additions to the HAP pottery reference collection.

Table 1 Pottery Data

ID	CONTEXT	FABRIC	NUMBER OF SHERDS	WEIGHT OF SHERDS	REMARKS
1	008	LBLAK	1	159	Large pancheon, rolled rim.
2	008	PEARL	1	33	Cup base/lower body. Blue transfer print. Vignette in interior well shows flock of sheep beneath a tree, with stream, bridge and castle in the background.
3	008	CREAM	1	16	Plate rim. 'Royal' edge, cf. Doncaster Library Services 1983, nos 36, 45.
4	002	BANDSL	1	212	Complete profile of squat, straight-sided mug in lead-glazed yellow-buff ware. Raised bands of brown and blue slip.
5	005	MODSW	3	595	Two sherds from brown salt-glazed vessels, one an open form (basin or similar); body of greenish grey bottle, lead-glazed on exterior.
6	005	FPWW	4	151	Plain white basin sherd; plain white flatware with red-dipped edge; jug/ewer rim with white exterior with foliage design in relief, and blue-lined interior; body with dark, non-rimmed, abstract linear decoration.
7	005	BANDSL	3	78	From two vessels: tankard or jug with brown lines and blue zone in slip; open form rim with similar.
8	005	TPWW	8	326	Flat- and table-ware. Includes examples of 'Wild Rose' and 'Gem' patterns, both almost certainly Don products during the period of Barker ownership, and 'Willow Pattern'. Also a sherd with a print in brown of a large Gothic Church.

The Other Finds

Sophie Tibbles

Aims and Objectives

The following report will assess the potential of the bulk finds assemblage of the watching brief evaluation for further analysis.

The structure of this report is based on guidelines recommended by the Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group AD700-1700 (1993) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group (1991). It also aims to meet the requirements of MAP2, Phase 3, 'Assessment of potential for analysis', (English Heritage, 1991).

Introduction and Methodology

All artefacts from the St James Terrace watching brief were recorded using the Humber Field Archaeology *pro-forma* 'Bulk finds' sheets. Objects were packaged appropriately for long term storage, in accordance with conservation and museum guidelines.

The watching brief produced a small finds assemblage recovered from a spread of 19th century rubbish (08) and comprised two material categories. These were quantified by count and weight.

Vessel Glass

The two fragments of vessel glass consisted of one neck/rim shard and one base/body shard, with a combined weight of 525grams. Both were of olive green metal with mortar adhesions on all surfaces. The glass was of 19th century date and likely to be from wine or other beverage bottles.

Roof Tile

The fragment of roof tile had a weight of 190grams with a thickness of 17mm. This was identified as pantile. The characteristic moulding sand on one surface was not evident. This suggests the tile is of 20th century date.

Assessment of Potential

Due to its small size, the assemblage is of limited potential. It reflects the dumping of 19th century rubbish as noted during the evaluation (see main text).

Recommendations

No further work is deemed necessary for the bulk finds assemblage. None of the material is deemed worthy of retention.

6. Discussion

The following is solely the opinion of Humber Field Archaeology, and may not reflect that of the Heritage Section, North Yorkshire Council Planning and Countryside Unit, archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

The monitoring of the foundation and service trenches has revealed no evidence that the site was occupied in the medieval period. The 1851 ordnance survey map shows buildings occupying at least a part of the site and it is possible that the wall revealed in the northern foundation trench dates from this period. The finds recovered also suggest this site was not occupied until the 19th century.

It must be noted however, that this development is situated to the rear of properties fronting on to Gowthorpe, Aldus Street and New Lane and it is quite possible that deposits relating to the medieval period survive along these street frontages.

7. Acknowledgements

Thanks are accorded to Mr J K Elsworth and S & M Builders for help and co-operation during the course of this project.

The on-site work was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by G. Falkingham of the Heritage Section, North Yorkshire Council Planning and Countryside Unit. The on-site recording was carried out by N.G. Adamson. The report and illustrations were compiled by D. Atkinson. The pottery assessment was undertaken by Peter Didsbury and the other finds were assessed by Sophie Tibbles.

8. References

Armstrong, P. and Ayers, B. 1987 *Excavations in High Street and Blackfriargate, East Riding Archaeologist* Vol. 8

Coysh, A.W. and Henrywood, R.K. 1982 *The Dictionary of Blue and White Printed Pottery 1780-1880* (Woodbridge)

Didsbury, P. 2004 Assessment report on the pottery from Low Grange Farm, Thurnscoe, prepared for Northern Archaeological Associates

Doncaster Library Service 1983 *Don Pottery Pattern Book 1807*, facsimile reprint (Doncaster)

Griffin, J. D. 2003 *The Don Pottery 1801-1893*. Doncaster Museum Service (Doncaster)

Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Archives & Assessments for all Finds other than fired clay vessels Report of the joint working party of the Roman Finds Group and the Finds Research Group 700-1700, 1993.

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

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

Watkins, J.G. 1987 'The Pottery', in Armstrong and Ayers (eds) 1987, 53-182

9. Appendices

Appendix 1

Context list

- (01) Modern car-park surfaces
- (02) Ashy silt post-medieval occupation deposit
- (03) Sandy alluvial deposit
- (04) Modern demolition rubble/hardcore
- (05) Gritty ash
- (06) Natural sand
- (07) Modern car-park and hardcore
- (08) Spread of 19th century rubbish

Appendix 2

Fabric codes employed in the database

Fabric common names follow those of the Hull type-series (Watkins 1987), are in accepted regional or national use, or are self-explanatory.

Code	Common name/remarks
BANDSL	Banded slipware
CREAM	Creamware
FPWW	Factory-produced white wares
LBLAK	Late Blackware
MODSW	Modern stoneware
PEARL	Pearlware
TPWW	Transfer-printed whiteware

Appendix 3

Archive

Project Details:

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken during groundwork associated with the construction of a studio dwelling at 1 St. James Terrace, Selby, North Yorkshire.

Site Code: WB2005.080
National Grid Reference: SE 6134 3230
Planning Reference: 8/19/548E/PA: 2005/0009/FUL
Author N. Adamson, D. Atkinson **Date of fieldwork** 24th – 28th October
Report Number. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 810

Summary of work.

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the construction of a studio dwelling at 1 St. James Terrace, Selby, North Yorkshire.

Monitoring of the excavations revealed a sequence of deposits dating from the 19th century. No evidence was recovered for any earlier occupation on the site.

Index to Archive

1 Background:

- 1.1 Specification
- 1.2 Correspondence

2 Site Data:

- 2.1 Site notes
- 2.2 Context Sheets

3 The Photographic Record:

- 3.1 Photographic Catalogue
- 3.2 Contact Sheets
- 3.3 Reference Prints

4 The Finds Record:

- 4.1 The pottery Assessment Report
- 4.2 The pottery data
- 4.3 Bulk finds sheets
- 4.4 The Assessment of the glass and CBM

5 Digital Data:

- 5. 1 The digital archive is stored on CD and is held at HFA

6 Miscellaneous:

- 6.1 Development drawings

7 Final Report:

Archaeological Observation Investigation And Recording At St James Terrace Selby
Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 810 November 2005



Plate 1 The site of the development



Plate 2 The northern foundation trench showing the modern wall sitting on top of the 19th century wall



Plate 3 The foundation trenches under excavation with the modern wall foundation visible in the western trench



Plate 4 Detail showing the nature of the deposits revealed

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors

The Old School, Northumberland Avenue,
KINGSTON UPON HULL, HU2 0LN

Telephone (01482) 217466 Fax (01482) 581897

Email hfa@hullcc.gov.uk

www.hullcc.gov.uk/archaeology/hfaindex



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