

Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for a new extension to the Tamarind Restaurant at 47 Market Street in Cleethorpes, North-East Lincolnshire.
- The site lies in the medieval historic core of the settlement.
- The watching brief exposed two intercutting undated ditches, representing probable former property boundaries.



Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Graeme Preston Architects on behalf of their client, Mr A Ahmed, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for extensions to The Tamarind Restaurant at 47 Market Street in Cleethorpes, North-East Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site monitoring, recording and reporting conforms to current national and local guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Field Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (IFA 1999), the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook (LCC 1998), and a specification prepared by this company (Clay 2007).

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 Cleethorpes is a coastal resort in the administrative district of North-East Lincolnshire, on the fringes of the south-eastern suburbs of Grimsby. The site is located on the south side of Market Street, in the historic core of Cleethorpes. The proposed extensions will be built to the rear of the property, comprising a store at the south end of the building, and a corridor along the west side of the building. The central National Grid Reference is TA 3053 0881.
- 2.2 The site lies on a drift geology of glacial till, overlying a solid geology of Flamborough Chalk (British Geological Survey 1990), at a height of approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum.

3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 Planning permission was granted for the construction of 'an extension to rear, installation of flue, and erection of wall and railings to front', subject to conditions (Planning Reference DC/1532/06/CRB). One of the conditions included the requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during all associated groundworks.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 Prehistoric evidence is abundant around Cleethorpes. There have been numerous stray finds of prehistoric lithic material, such as a Neolithic stone axe found on the beach to the east of the site (Archaeology Data Service Ref. NMR_NATINV-81902). To the south-west of the site is the Bronze Age Beacon Hill barrow where excavations in 1935 exposed six cremation vessels within the mound (May 1979). Numerous Romano-British coins have been found around Cleethorpes, attesting a limited degree of activity in this period.
- 4.2 The town of Cleethorpes comprises a series of small villages; Old Clee, Itterby, Oole and Thrunscoc, which were gradually merged into one town. Thorpe is a term derived from the Old Danish, meaning secondary or outlying settlement, suggesting that the gradual foundation of these outlying settlements may have begun in the Viking period (Cameron 1998). Clee, Itterby and Thrunscoc all appear in the Domesday Book, although Oole does not appear to have developed until later (Morgan and Thorne 1986). The development site lies to the east of Old Clee, in the area of Itterby or Oole, with Thrunscoc further to the south.
- 4.3 This pattern of scattered hamlets continued until the later 18th century, from which time it gradually developed as a seaside resort, a process which was rapidly accelerated by the arrival of the railway in 1863 (Pevsner and Harris 2002).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks were carried out using a tracked mini digger fitted with a 0.6m wide bucket, and were monitored by the author on Tuesday 7th August 2007. The footings were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m below the existing ground surface.
- 5.2 During excavation, all exposed plan and section surfaces were examined and periodically cleaned, in order to determine the stratigraphic sequence. Context information was recorded for each individual deposit on standard watching brief record sheets, and sections of the stratigraphic sequence and archaeological features were completed at a scale of 1:20.
- 5.3 A photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief, including general site shots and photographs of the sequence of deposits with appropriate scales and a north arrow. A selection of these photographs is included as an appendix (Appendix 1).

6.0 Results

- 6.1 Removal of the existing concrete surface exposed a layer of hardcore comprising tarmac, brick, tile and stone rubble that was up to 0.35m deep. Below this was 01, a 0.3 to 0.4m deep layer of dark brown/grey clay with occasional brick rubble, representing a former subsoil or ground raising deposit. This sealed a natural alluvial deposit of orange/brown clay, 02, which in turn sealed the natural clay, 03, which extended beyond the limit of excavation.
- 6.2 Two intercutting linear features, ditches 04 and 06 were identified in the south-easternmost part of the excavations, both running north-north-west to south-south-east. The stratigraphically earliest ditch, 04, contained a natural silting deposit of compact grey/brown clay, 05. It was cut on its east side by steep sided ditch 06, which was 0.75m wide and was filled by 07, a dark grey clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. Both features were undated.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 The watching brief exposed two undated linear features, running north-north-west to south-south-east. It is probable that they represent a former property boundary that predates the existing building, running perpendicular to the line of Market Street. The later ditch, 06, a probable recut of 04, had a darker fill with more charcoal flecking than the fill of its predecessor, which may suggest that there was more industrial or domestic activity taking place nearby than when the earlier ditch was filled in. No dating evidence was recovered to date this activity however.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

- 8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It showed the proposed development will have a limited impact on the archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Graeme Preston Architects, and their client, Mr Ahmed, for this commission.

10.0 References

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11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be submitted to North-East Lincolnshire Museums Service within six months.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking north.



Plate 2: Ditches 04 and 06 in southernmost part of the groundworks. Looking south-south-west.



Plate 3: Working shot during excavation of footings to the east of the existing building. Looking south-east.

Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Dark brown grey clay, occasional small stone and brick rubble	Former subsoil/ground raising deposit
02	Layer	Orange/brown clay, frequent chalk flecks	Natural alluvial deposit
03	Layer	Compact dark brown clay, occ grey clay lenses and chalk flecks	Natural clay
04	Cut	Linear ditch, aligned NNW – SSE. Steep sided. Contains 05	Undated linear boundary/drainage feature
05	Fill	Grey/brown compact clay, occ small gravel	Natural silting of ditch 04, cut by 05
06	Cut	Linear ditch, aligned NNW – SSE. Steep sided. Contains 07, cuts 05	Undated linear boundary/drainage feature
07	Fill	Dark grey clay, occ large sub-rounded stones, charcoal flecks	Natural silting of ditch 06