

Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for a new garage and games room at Humber Lodge, Old Post Office Lane, South Ferriby, North Lincolnshire.
- The site lies in an area of significant archaeological potential, with evidence of later Iron Age and Romano-British settlements having been exposed in the village. The site also lies within the traditional historic core of the village.
- The watching brief exposed a large undated linear feature running broadly north – south, as well as evidence for the levelling of the site prior to the construction of the buildings that formerly occupied the area.



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

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Barton Building Contractors Ltd. to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a new garage and games room at Humber Lodge, Old Post Office Lane, South Ferriby, North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site monitoring, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Field Archaeologists 'Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs' (IFA 1999), and a specification prepared by this company (Clay 2007).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within six months of the completion of the report.

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 South Ferriby is situated on the south bank of the Humber, approximately 15km north-east of Scunthorpe and 4km west of Barton upon Humber. The site is in the core of the village, to the west of High Street and to the south of Old Post Office Lane. The proposed development is on the west side of the plot, to the west of Humber Lodge, and was formerly occupied by brick outbuildings that were demolished prior to the commencement of the watching brief. The development area has a water feature and former garden area at its southern end, sloping downwards to the north, with two concrete floor pads to its north. These concrete pads are on two levels, with the lower one being at the north end of the site adjacent to Old Post Office Lane. The site centres on NGR SE 9878 2096 and lies at a height of approximately 18m OD.
- 2.2 The local drift geology comprises Vale of York glacial lake deposits of sand and gravel, overlying a solid geology of Ancholme Clay (British Geological Survey 1983).

3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 Full planning permission has been granted for '*the erection of a two storey building comprising domestic double garage and games room on the ground floor with office and store above*' (Planning Reference 2007/0158). Planning permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record'. This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990).

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 South Ferriby has been identified as an area with significant archaeological potential, particularly for the later Iron Age and Romano-British periods. A substantial Iron Age settlement was identified on the Humber foreshore to the north-north-east of the site, producing large amounts of metalwork and coinage, although it has since been destroyed by coastal erosion. Abundant Romano-British material was recovered from the same site, suggesting a continuity of settlement activity (May 1976).
- 4.2 Another probable Romano-British settlement has been suggested by the discovery of numerous pottery sherds and coins, as well as hearths and possible kilns at South Ferriby Sluice, to the west of the village. The same site has also produced Iron Age querns and a pre-Roman skeleton buried in a coracle (Archaeology Data Service Reference NMR-NATINV-63949). An

excavation undertaken nearby on the Humber foreshore in 1996 exposed a stretch of Roman road, running across the Ancholme Valley, probably to the settlement at Winteringham. It was built on a raised causeway of brushwood and limestone and was radiocarbon dated to AD 44 – 130 (Van de Noort 2004).

- 4.3 Recent excavations in advance of the construction of a new primary school, approximately 400m to the south-south-west of the site, identified a number of mid to late Iron Age burials, field systems and structures of Romano-British date, a possible Anglo-Saxon grubenhauser, and medieval field systems (Clay 2006). Nearer to the site, Romano-British burials were identified in the 1950's during the construction of houses on Queen Elizabeth Avenue (A. Williams' comments, February 2007). The Archaeology Data Service also records a late Roman cooking pot, human remains and a coin of Constantine I (AD 306 – 337) found during building work off School Lane, to the south-west of the site (ADS Reference NMR_NATINV-63957).
- 4.4 The Humber Estuary was a major route through which Saxon settlers entered the region, following the abandonment of Britain by the Roman administration in the 5th century AD. There is small amounts of evidence of this period from the village, including a possible Anglo-Saxon grubenhauser excavated on the site of the new school, and producing 5th and 6th century pottery (Clay 2006). Several brooches and a strap end of 6th century date were recovered from the Iron Age and Roman site on the Humber foreshore that has since been lost to the sea (ADS Reference NMR_NATINV-63946), which it has been suggested may indicate a possible cemetery (Leahy 1993). Viking period settlement is suggested by the place name, which derives from Old Danish and Old Norse components, and means 'the farmstead, village at the ferry' (Cameron 1998).
- 4.5 In the medieval period, South Ferriby was a thriving settlement with a role as a local market centre and a cross-Humber ferry. The Domesday Book records two landowners; Gilbert Tison whose estate included a church, a mill and a ferry, and Gilbert of Ghent, who also had control of a ferry (Morgan and Thorn 1986). It seems probable that one of these ferries crossed the Humber, and the other the Ancholme, which was much wider prior to its canalisation and the construction of the sluice gates at its head.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 Prior to the commencement of the watching brief, the existing buildings on the site were demolished down to the level of the concrete floor slab. Subsequent machine excavation was mainly carried out using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. The footings along the west side of the site were excavated using a 0.8m wide bucket. The groundworks were monitored by the author on Tuesday 15th, Thursday 24th and Friday 25th January 2008.
- 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 showing archaeological features and the general stratigraphic sequence were completed at scales of 1:20 and 1:50.
- 5.3 A photographic record (in monochrome and colour slide) was maintained throughout the watching brief, including general site shots and photographs of the sequence of deposits with appropriate scales and a north arrow.

6.0 Results

- 6.1 The first phase of groundworks entailed the levelling of a former garden area at the south end of the site, removing up to 0.6m of a very dark brown loamy garden soil, 001. This garden soil survived to a depth of 0.4m in the foundation trenches at the south end of the site, and was also evident along the east edge of the southern (higher) concrete floor pad.
- 6.2 Below 001 at the south end of the site, and below the southern concrete floor pad, was a dark grey sand, 007, with occasional brick and tile fragments. This was between 0.3 and 0.7m deep and was deepest towards the west side of the site. It was interpreted as a likely levelling deposit pre-dating the former buildings that occupied the site, but no dating evidence was recovered from it.
- 6.3 The fragmentary remains of a brick boundary wall, 006, was completely removed during the groundworks. The wall was set in a vertically sided cut, [005] approximately 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep. It was associated with the former buildings that occupied the site, following the line of the westernmost foundation trench.
- 6.4 A single large linear feature, [002] was identified in the footings, running on a broadly north – south alignment along the west side of the site. Its full width was not established, although it was in excess of 3m. Towards the south end of the site, the ditch was approximately 1.1m deep, although it became deeper towards the north end of the site. The fill, 003, was an archaeologically sterile natural silting deposit of loose brown/grey sand. The ditch was cut into the natural geology, 004, a light orange sand with frequent small sub-angular chalk inclusions.
- 6.5 The foundation trenches in the area of the southern (lower) floor pad showed that the levelling of the site in this area had completely truncated any earlier deposits, as it rested directly upon the natural sand, 004.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 The archaeological deposits identified on this site largely related to the former buildings and garden areas that occupied the site prior to their recent demolition. A single undated linear feature ran obliquely across the west side of the site. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the ditch, it stratigraphically predates the buildings that previously occupied the site, which appear on the 1891 First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the village. The linear also does not follow modern boundaries suggesting it probably pre-dates the existing system of roads and property boundaries.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

- 8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It demonstrated that the development has had a negligible impact on the archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Barton Building Contractors Ltd. for this commission, and for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

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 Lincolnshire Museum within six months, where it will be stored under the North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code SFAQ.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: The development area, looking south-west from Old Post Office Lane.



Plate 2: Ditch [002] at the south end of the site, looking north



Plate 3: Ditch [002] in the footings along the west side of the site. Looking north-east.

Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Layer	Dark brown loamy soil.	Former garden soil.
002	Cut	Steep sided linear feature, aligned north – south. Contains 003.	Boundary/drainage feature, undated.
003	Fill	Loose brown/grey sand.	Natural silting of ditch [002].
004	Layer	Light orange sand, frequent small subangular chalk.	Natural sand.
005	Cut	Vertically sided cut aligned NNE –SSW along west side of site. Contains wall 006.	Construction cut for wall 006.
006	Wall	Brick wall aligned NNE – SSW along west side of site. Contained by cut 005.	Former brick boundary wall along west side of plot.
007	Layer	Dark grey sand	Possible levelling deposit associated with former buildings.