

Summary

- A programme of archaeological trial trenching was undertaken in advance of residential development on land off Dam Road in Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire.
- The site is situated close to known areas of Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon settlement activity.
- Five trenches were excavated in order to assess the archaeological potential of the development area, exposing a largely natural sequence of modern topsoil overlying natural alluvial clay. Two small pits and a possible soakaway of post-medieval to early modern date were exposed in Trench 5.



Figure 1: Location of site in red, at scale 1:25,000
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Keigar Homes Ltd. to carry out a programme of archaeological trial trenching in advance of a proposed residential development on land off Dam Road in Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The fieldwork, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Field Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (IFA 1999), and a specification prepared by this company (Clay 2008a).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within six months of the completion of the project, under the museum site code BNDD.

2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 Barton upon Humber is located on the southern Humber shore, approximately 18km north-east of Scunthorpe. The site is to the north of the town centre, to the west of Waterside Road and north of Dam Road.
- 2.2 The proposed development area comprises a broadly rectangular block of land of c.0.25 hectares, which is currently open waste ground. It is bounded to the east by properties fronting onto Waterside Road, with a recent residential development to the south and industrial buildings to the north and west. The site centres on NGR TA 0279 2262, and lies at a height of approximately 4m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.3 The local geology comprises Cretaceous deposits of Ferriby Chalk, overlain by Estuarine Alluvium (British Geological Survey 1983).

3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 A planning application has been submitted for a residential development of fourteen dwellings with associated garages, access and services on land off Dam Road (Planning Reference PA/2007/2011). Prior to the determination of the application, North Lincolnshire Council requested the undertaking of a programme of archaeological works; the first stage comprising a desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of the site, which was submitted to the planning authority in January 2008 (Clay 2008b).
- 3.2 Following the submission of the desk-based assessment, a second stage of works, involving the undertaking of a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial excavation was required. This second phase of work was initiated to identify and accurately characterise the nature and extent of the archaeological resource within the proposed development area. Determination of the planning permission has been deferred until the results of this programme of archaeological fieldwork are known.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 There is limited evidence of prehistoric activity in Barton upon Humber, which is restricted to a small number of isolated findspots, such as a Neolithic stone axe from the east of the town (Archaeology Data Service (hereafter ADS) Reference: NMR_NATINV-79040).
- 4.2 Excavations in advance of the construction of the Willows residential home in the 1960's identified a substantial Romano-British site comprising pottery scatters of 2nd to 4th century date,

roof tile and a metalled trackway, located approximately 120m to the east of the site. Further pottery scatters have been recorded in the town (ADS Reference: NMR_NATINV-79040), and a coin of the Emperor Constans (AD333-350) was found in the south of the town (ADS Reference: NMR_NATINV-79045). Further artefactual material of 2nd to 4th century date has been found around St. Peter's Church and East Acridge, suggesting a focus of settlement activity for the Roman period in this area of the town (Bryant 1994).

- 4.3 Barton upon Humber developed as a major urban centre in the Anglo-Saxon period. Numerous archaeological interventions carried out in the town have identified a substantial settlement that was enclosed by a defensive ditch and palisade. A 6th to 7th century inhumation cemetery of some 209 individuals was excavated on Castledyke South, to the south-east of the site (Sawyer 1998). A further cemetery, of 9th century date, was located underneath St. Peter's Church, with approximately 30 graves emptied prior to the construction of the church in the 10th century (*ibid.*). Evidence of 5th/6th century buildings have also been identified beneath the nave of the church, which may represent the core of the earliest phase of the Saxon settlement of Barton (Lyman 2004). The church occupies a slightly elevated position, away from the lower lying areas to the north which are likely to have been subject to seasonal flooding from the Humber.
- 4.4 The Haven at Barton, which facilitated waterborne trade, is believed to be a man made structure of probable Anglo-Scandinavian date. The components of the Haven comprise the north – south drain running parallel to Waterside Road, which was fed by two east – west aligned drains, one running along the line of Dam Road, and the other following the line of Butts Road/Pasture Road. All three met immediately to the south-east of the proposed development area, and the outfall of the two east – west drains served to keep the channel to the Humber free of silt (Bryant 1994).
- 4.5 By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Barton upon Humber was a prosperous town with a weekly market and a ferry across the Humber. The principal landowners at the time were Earl Hugh and Gilbert of Ghent. Gilbert's estate was clearly the larger, as it included the ferry and the market, as well as two mills and a church with a priest (Morgan and Thorne 1986).
- 4.6 Despite the development of Hull as a rival port in the early 14th century, the prosperity of the town and urban expansion continued into the medieval and post-medieval periods, with a gradual westward shift of the settled area. This coincided with the development of a planned grid of streets, much of which survives to this day, centred around Fleetgate and High Street (Pevsner and Harris 2002).
- 4.7 Cartographic evidence collated during the desk-based assessment of the site suggests that it has been unoccupied since at least the 18th century, and was probably used as seasonal grazing prior to the Enclosure of the parish in 1793 (Clay 2008b).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The programme of trial trenching entailed the excavation of five trenches, Trenches 1, 3 and 5 measured 10m x 1.6m, and Trenches 2 and 4 were 5m x 1.6m. The locations of the trenches were agreed in advance with the North Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record Officer and are shown on figure 3.
- 5.2 Machine excavation of the trenches was carried out using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless dyking bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed under close archaeological supervision in spits not exceeding 0.1m in depth, until the first archaeologically significant horizon was exposed. Sondages were excavated by machine at the end of each trench in order to observe the natural stratigraphic sequence and to aid drainage of surface water. Further excavation was then carried out by hand.

- 5.3 Archaeological features were sample excavated in order to determine their depth, profile, orientation and where possible, date and function. Hand excavated slots were also undertaken to examine the natural profile. A full written record of all archaeological features and deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeological Associates context sheets, accompanied by plan and section drawings at scales 1:50 and 1:20. A photographic record was also maintained, in colour slide and monochrome formats, and selected prints have been included as an appendix to this report (Appendix 1).
- 5.4 The fieldwork was carried out by a team of four experienced field archaeologists, supervised by Mike Daley. It was undertaken over a period of four days, Monday 28th to Thursday 31st January 2008.

6.0 Results

6.1 Trench 1

- 6.1.1 Machine excavation of the trench removed a 0.5m deep topsoil layer, 100, comprising a dark brown silty clay. The topsoil directly overlay a deposit of orange/brown alluvial clay, 101, which produced a single sherd of 12th century Beverley Orange Ware. Hand and machine excavated sondages through this deposit showed it to be consistent to a depth of at least 1.25m below the existing ground surface.
- 6.1.2 Two ceramic land drains of probable 19th or 20th century date were identified in the trench, aligned north-west to south-east and south-west to north-east respectively.

6.2 Trench 2

- 6.2.1 The topsoil in this trench was a 0.4m deep dark brown silty clay, 200, overlying orange/brown alluvial clay 201, which was up to 0.55m deep. A machine excavated sondage showed this deposit to seal a compact brown/grey clay, 202, which was consistent to 1.6m below the modern ground surface.

6.3 Trench 3

- 6.3.1 The topsoil in Trench 3 was a dark brown silty clay, 300, identical to that in Trenches 1 and 2. It was slightly shallower, at approximately 0.25m deep, and sealed 301, a 0.3 to 0.4m deep layer of grey/brown alluvial silt that was similar to 101 and 201 in Trenches 1 and 2 respectively.
- 6.3.2 Layer 301 was removed by machine and sealed 302, a 0.25m deep layer of blue/grey clay reflecting alluvial deposition in an oxygen reduced environment. This in turn sealed 303, a compact brown/grey clay similar to 202 in Trench 2.

6.4 Trench 4

- 6.4.1 The topsoil in Trench 4 was a 0.2 to 0.3m deep dark brown silty clay identical to that in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. It sealed an alluvial deposit, 401, comprising orange/brown clay.
- 6.4.2 The east end of the trench was extended with a machine excavated sondage, which exposed a brown/grey natural clay, 402, approximately 1.2m below the modern ground surface.

6.5 Trench 5

- 6.5.1 The topsoil in this trench, 500, was 0.4m deep and identical to the deposits sealing Trenches 1 to 4. It sealed an alluvial deposit of grey/brown clay, 501. This deposit was cut by three small sub-circular features, [502], [504] and [506], all located towards the centre of the trench. [504] was only 0.05m deep and was filled by a brown clay/silt, 505, which contained a single small fragment of hand made brick of 14th to 18th century date, and an oyster shell. [506] was slightly deeper, at 0.2m, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a natural silting deposit of brown clay/silt, 507, which produced no dating evidence.
- 6.5.2 The final feature in this group, [502], had an upper fill of very dark brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of cokey iron slag, 503. This deposit contained a range of finds including seven sherds of pottery of 19th to 20th century date, four 19th/20th century pantile fragments, fired clay fragments of 16th to 20th century date (possible brick and pantile), a fragment of 18th century clay tobacco pipe, part of a sandstone cattle trough, also of probable 18th century date, and animal bone. Removal of this layer showed that the cut for the feature had been lined with a wooden barrel, 508, which contained a fill of dark brown silty clay with frequent cokey material, 509, which was very similar to the overlying fill 503. The deposit contained two handmade brick fragments of 14th to 18th century date, two handmade brick fragments of 17th to 20th century date, and two 19th/20th century machine made brick fragments.
- 6.5.3 Following hand excavation of the upper part of the feature, it was half sectioned by machine, which showed it to be approximately 1.1m deep, with the base of the barrel in situ at the base of the cut.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 The evaluation exposed few features of archaeological significance. It demonstrated a largely consistent natural stratigraphic sequence, comprising a topsoil layer between 0.25m and 0.5m deep, overlying a sequence of natural alluvial clays most likely formed through flooding from the Humber Estuary. A single sherd of pottery recovered from one of these layers in Trench 1 suggests that flooding was still depositing clay in the medieval period, which accords well with cartographic evidence. Prior to the Enclosure of the parish, the area was known as 'The Ings', a name suggesting seasonally flooded marsh persisted in this area until at least the late 18th century (Russell and Russell 1982).
- 7.2 The only archaeological features identified were the three pits in Trench 5. The function of these features is unclear, although pit [502] had been lined with a wooden barrel and deliberately backfilled with a porous cokey material which may have allowed the feature to serve as a drain or soakaway, perhaps associated with the use of the area as a garden linked with adjacent dwellings. Dating evidence recovered from this feature covered the late medieval to early modern periods, but the more recent material in the finds assemblage suggests it was backfilled in the 19th/20th century.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

- 8.1 The trial trenching methodology employed was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It has shown that the proposed development will have a negligible impact upon the archaeological resource in this area.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Keigar Homes Ltd for this commission. The author would also like to thank the site staff; Phil Chavasse, Mike Daley, Alison Lane and Carina Summerfield-Hill.

10.0 References

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11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary and physical archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within six months, and can be accessed using the site code BNDD.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1, with slots excavated through natural alluvium. Looking north from south end of trench



Plate 2: Trench 3, looking south-east. This shot shows the sequence of alluvial deposition in the trench, with grey/brown clays 301 and 303 separated by blue clay lens 302



Plate 3: Trench 4, looking west. Taken from east end of trench



Plate 4: Trench 5, looking north. Taken from south end of trench



Plate 5: Excavation of the barrel lined pit [502] in Trench 5. Looking north-east



Plate 6: Section through pit [502], looking south

Appendix 2: Post-Roman pottery and CBM archive report

By Jane Young

Pottery Archive

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	action	date
101	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	A	jug	1	1	30	rim		early everted rim; splashed glaze	early/mid to mid/late 12th
503	LERTH	Late earthenwares		garden pot	3	1	86	BS		discarded	19th - 20th
503	WHITE	Modern whiteware		small jar	1	1	2	rim		discarded	19th - 20th
503	WHITE	Modern whiteware		small jar	1	1	9	base	stamped made in England on bottom	discarded	late 19th - 20th
503	WHITE	Modern whiteware		jar?	1	1	1	BS		discarded	19th - 20th
503	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	buff fabric	jar	1	1	176	base	external white glaze; internal buff	discarded	19th - 20th

Ceramic Building Material Archive

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	action	description	date
503	PANT	Pantile		4	30	discarded	soot; mortar	19th - 20th
503	FIREDCLAY	fired clay	hard red fabric	3	23	discarded	probable pantile; soot	late 17th - 20th
503	FIREDCLAY	fired clay	vitrified cream fabric	3	25	discarded	probable brick	16th - 20th
505	BRK	Brick	oxid calcareous fabric	1	3	discarded	handmade brick	14th - 18th
509	BRK	Brick		1	954	discarded	end; mortar; machine made?	19th - 20th
509	BRK	Brick	orange calcareous fabric + FE	1	1250		end; 105 x 83mm; possibly tapered	14th - 18th
509	BRK	Brick	fine oxid calcareous	1	495		corner; depth 76mm; handmade; mortar; struck upper	14th - 18th
509	BRK	Brick	hard purple calcareous fabric	1	270		handmade; sharp arises; mortar; depth 56mm; near vitrified; corner	17th - early 20th
509	BRK	Brick	fine bright oxid sandy fabric	1	605		handmade; end; 109 x 56mm; fabric includes common FE grains; rough base; worn upper surface	17th - early 20th
509	BRK	Brick	1	219		discarded	pierced rounded holes; drying grid pattern on surface	19th - 20th

Appendix 3: Other finds assessment

INTRODUCTION

A small assemblage of finds, comprising 4 items, was recovered from a single context. Metal, clay pipe and stone items were retrieved and, where datable, are all post-medieval. A large piece of stone was examined but not weighed.

CLAY PIPE

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

Condition

The single piece is in good condition and presents no problems for long-terms storage.

Results

Table 1. Clay pipe

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
503				1		1		Stem includes base of bowl and a small concave heel	18 th C

Provenance

The clay pipe was probably made locally in the Barton upon Humber area.

Potential

As an isolated piece the clay pipe is of very limited significance and potential, other than providing some dating evidence.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Metal and stone artefacts were recovered, comprising 3 items in total.

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no problems for long-term storage. Archiving of the assemblage is by material class.

Results

Table 2. Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
503	Iron	Wire-drawn nail, round section, round head, post-medieval	1	2	Post-medieval
	Iron	Rectangular-sectioned nail/spike	1	18	
	Stone	Sandstone trough, 190mm high, straight external sides, rounded corner, concave interior; angled chisel-worked exterior, moderately smoothed interior, post-medieval	1	-	

Range

Two nails and part of a stone trough were recovered. One of the nails is of wire and clearly post-medieval, probably late. A stone trough, perhaps a stock trough for watering animals, was also recovered. This, too, is post-medieval.

Potential

The assemblage of other finds is of limited significance and potential. Some dating evidence is provided. Also, the fragment of stone is large and unlikely to have been moved from its initial point of discard. Consequently, it might provide functional evidence and indicate stock farming and watering in the vicinity.

SPOT DATING

The dating in table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3. Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
503	18th	

ABBREVIATIONS

CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

2003, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at <<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catId=3155>>

Davey, P. J., 1981, Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations, *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* 4, 65-88

Appendix 4: Glass assessment

By Rachael V. Hall Ba (Hons) MIFA

Summary

During archaeological investigations at Barton-Upon-Humber a small assemblage of modern glass was retrieved totalling three fragments, weighing 75g. The assemblage is catalogue below as Table 1.

Table 1

Context	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
503	Colourless, cylindrical bottle-mould made, 20 th century	1	22	
	Colourless, possible body sherd of Codd bottle, 19 th century	1	42	
509	Colourless, body sherd of moulded bottled with partial embossed lettering	1	11	

Condition

The assemblage is in a good and stable condition with no signs of weathering.

Potential

Due to the nature of the assemblage and its modernity no further analysis is recommended.

Appendix 5: Animal bone assessment

By Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 2 (23g) fragments of animal bone and 1 (64g) shell were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Allen Archaeological Associates at Dam Road, Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire. The remains were recovered from pit [502], representing a possible modern garden soakaway.

Results

The remains were generally of a good overall condition, averaging grade 2 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

A single fragment of bone displayed evidence of butchery, possibly associated with jointing of the carcass.

No evidence of burning, carnivore gnawing or pathology was noted on any of the remains.

Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone

Context	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
503	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	L	1	22	through midshaft
	Fish	Articular	X	1	1	by cod
505	Oyster	Shell	L	1	64	

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence/use of the animals on site.

References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Appendix 6: List of archaeological contexts

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
Trench 1			
100	Layer	Dark brown silty clay, frequent root disturbance and organic component	Modern topsoil
101	Layer	Compact orange/brown clay	Natural alluvial deposit
Trench 2			
200	Layer	Dark brown silty clay, frequent root disturbance and organic component	Modern topsoil
201	Layer	Compact orange/brown clay	Natural alluvial deposit
202	Layer	Compact brown/grey clay	Natural alluvial deposit
Trench 3			
300	Layer	Dark brown silty clay, frequent root disturbance and organic component	Modern topsoil
301	Layer	Compact orange/brown clay	Natural alluvial deposit
302	Layer	Compact blue/grey clay	Natural alluvial deposit formed in oxygen reduced atmosphere
303	Layer	Compact brown/grey clay	Natural alluvial deposit
Trench 4			
400	Layer	Dark brown silty clay, frequent root disturbance and organic component	Modern topsoil
401	Layer	Compact orange/brown clay	Natural alluvial deposit
402	Layer	Compact brown/grey clay	Natural alluvial deposit
Trench 5			
500	Layer	Dark brown silty clay, frequent root disturbance and organic component	Modern topsoil
501	Layer	Compact brown/grey clay	Natural alluvial deposit
502	Cut	Steep sided subcircular pit cut. Contains wooden barrel lining 508 and backfill deposits 503, 509	Cut for possible garden soakaway
503	Fill	Very dark brown silty clay, frequent cokey iron slag	Secondary backfill of pit [502]
504	Cut	Shallow sub-circular pit. Contains 505	Small pit or post hole
505	Fill	Brown clay/silt	Natural silting of [504]
506	Cut	Shallow sub-circular pit. Contains 507	Small pit or post hole
507	Fill	Brown clay/silt	Natural silting of [506]
508	Fill	Wooden barrel with base and sides in situ in cut [502]	Lining of [502] as possible garden soakaway
509	Fill	Very dark brown silty clay, frequent cokey iron slag	Primary backfill of pit [502]