

**LAND ADJACENT TO THE COTTAGE, LOWER ROAD, HOUGH-ON-THE-
HILL, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

NGR: SK 92478 46532
Planning ref.: S08/0776
PCAS Job No.: 506
Site code: HOH 08
Archive acc. code: 2012.183

Report prepared for
Stephen Roberts Associates

by

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December 2012



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PI. 2: Services trench being excavated looking east
PI. 3: The depth of the ground terraced during later, unmonitored, phases of development

Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the excavation of a service trench for drainage for the construction of a new residence on land adjacent to The Cottage, Lower, Road, Hough-on-the-Hill, Lincolnshire

The proposed development site lies in an area of archaeological importance, approximately 800m to the south-west lies the remains of a motte and bailey earthwork; in the bailey lies All Saints church, which has a Saxon tower.

An archaeological watching brief carried out on land immediately to the west of this development site identified among other features a quarry pit used during the construction of the castle motte, and a medieval rubbish pit.

No archaeologically significant features were identified during the groundworks monitored.

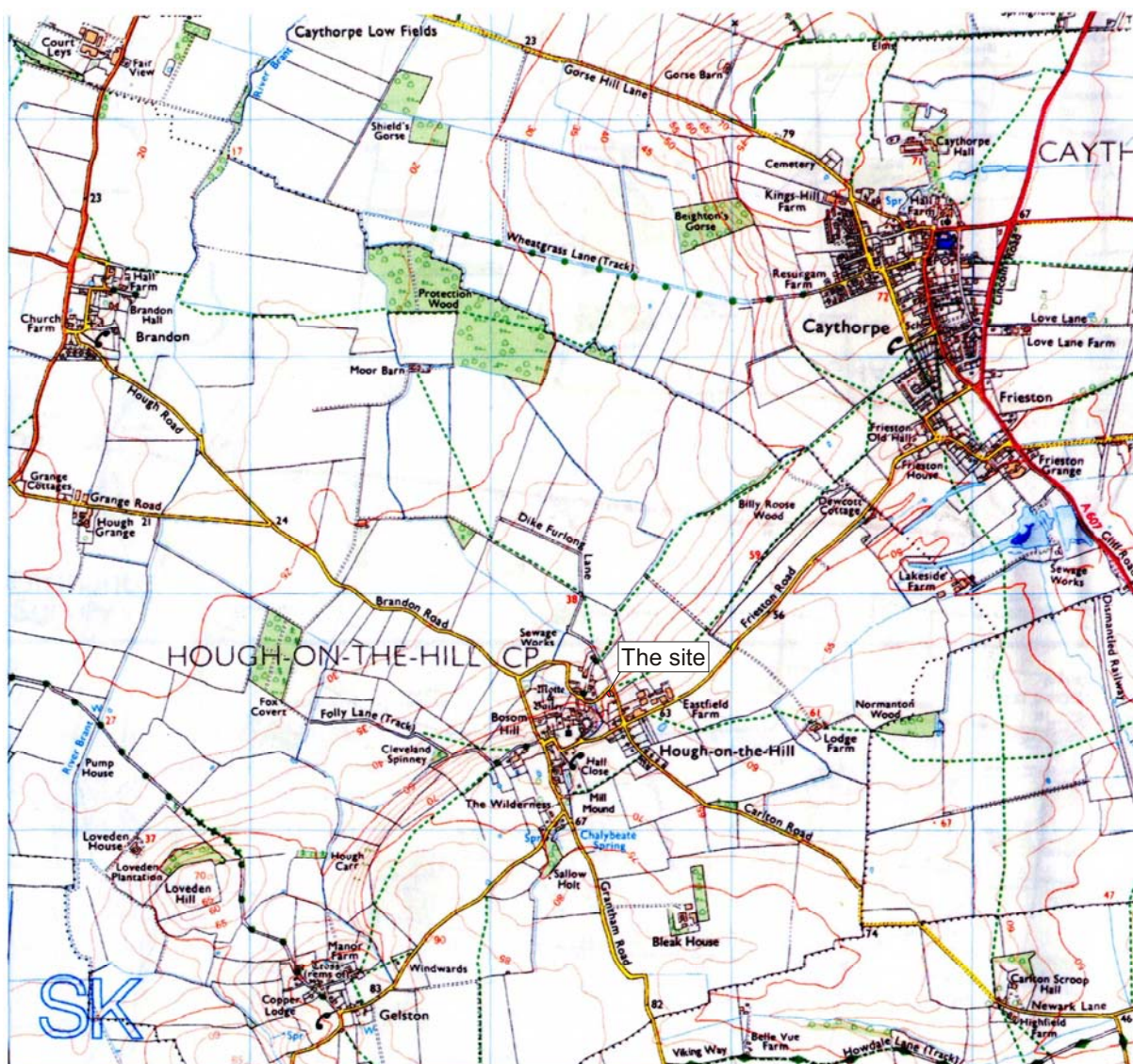


Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000: the position of the site is shown in red (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Mr. P. Oliver of Stephen Roberts Associates to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land at Lower Road, Hough-on-the-Hill.

1.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Hough-on-the-Hill is in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire, 11.3 km to the north of Grantham and 13.5km west of Sleaford. It is a small rural village,

The development area occupies approximately 1500m² of land on the south side of Lower Road. The plot is roughly rectangular, measuring approximately 60m north-south, and 25m east-west, with a narrow strip of land to the north-west to be developed as the property's drive.

The central National Grid reference of the site is SK 92478 46532

2.0 Geology and topography

The development site lies at an approximate Ordnance Datum height of 50m, and rises naturally to the south.

The solid geology of the development site is Middle Lias grey sandy clay and micaceous clay of the Jurassic period, with no overlying drift geology. (British Geological Survey, 1995).

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted by the South Kesteven District Council for a new residence to be developed with associated vehicular access on land off Lower Road, Hough-on-the-Hill (Planning Ref.: S08/0776).

The planning permission was subject to negative planning conditions, including a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording to take place during groundworks associated with the development.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Evidence for prehistoric land use around Hough-on-the-Hill is suggested by the Bronze Age pit alignment identified during work on a gas pipeline, approximately 1km to the east of the village (HER Ref. 36592). Field walking by a local historical group and ploughing on a local farm has suggested the presence of a Romano-British site to the west of the village (HER Ref. 34004, 30284).

Approximately 1.5km to the west of Hough-on-the-Hill is Loveden Hill, where several excavations throughout the last century have identified a large Anglo-Saxon cemetery dating from between the 5th and 7th centuries. It is largely a cremation cemetery, with over 1700 cremation burials and only 45 inhumations (HER Ref. 30289). Parts of the village church, All Saints, are dated to the late 10th century, suggesting occupation predating the Norman

Conquest, which is significant since the church stands in the area thought to be the castle bailey. A 12th century Augustinian Priory stood to the south of the church, however this has since been demolished.

It has been suggested that the motte now known as Castle Hill which lies to the south-west of the development site pre-dates the Norman castle which once stood upon it, however all that remains of the site are the associated earthworks.

Hough-on-the-Hill is first documented in the Domesday Book, where it is listed as Hache, meaning enclosure; the affix "on-the-Hill" is presumably a later addition due to its topographical location (Cameron, 1998). It is recorded as having land for 12 ploughs, 17 villagers, 14 Freedmen and 7 smallholders (Morgan et al, 1986). The village has remained a small rural settlement, mainly involved with agriculture, up to the present.

An archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to this development site conducted in 2003 revealed a quarry pit, probably associated with the building of the castle motte (HER Ref. 36498), in addition to a number of post medieval pits suggesting nearby occupation (HER Ref. 36499).

5.0 Methodology

The specification required that an archaeologist was present on site during the groundworks to monitor and record features with archaeological potential. The service trench monitored ran alongside an existing service trench for the adjacent property, and was largely excavated by hand. Later phases of the development commenced without the presence of an archaeologist.

Any recorded sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and plotted onto site plans provided by the client. This record is supplemented by a colour slide and black and white photographic record, alongside a digital photographic record, a selection of which is reproduced in Appendix 1. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS Trench Recording Forms, and an excavation site diary was also kept. Any finds were stored in labelled finds bags prior to their removal to PCAS offices for initial processing.

The archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the service trench was undertaken by Mike Rowe on 13th - 14th November 2008. Further groundworks associated with the development took place without archaeological supervision.

6.0 Results (fig. 3)

The excavation of the service trench on the northern edge of the development area exposed a natural limestone brash at a depth of 0.75m from the existing land surface. Above this, a 0.2m thick layer of mid yellow brown silty-clay subsoil was identified, which was covered by a mid brown silt topsoil, which was 0.55 thick.

No archaeological features were identified during the groundworks monitored.

No archaeological finds were recovered.

7.0 Conclusion

No finds or features were encountered during the monitoring and recording programme, suggesting that this part of the plot of land was not occupied previously.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that might have been present on the site during the first phase of work would not have been destroyed unrecorded, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process. The later stages of the development involved terracing the site; this not monitored by an archaeologist, thus it is likely that any archaeological remains have been destroyed.

9.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Stephen Roberts Associates for this commission.

10.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection') by December 2012.

11.0 Bibliography

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1995, *Boston: England and Wales Sheet 128, Solid and Drift Geology 1:50,000 Provisional Series*. BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham

Cameron, K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. The English Place-Name Society, Nottingham.

Morgan, P. & Thorn, C. (eds.), 1986, *Domesday Book*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, London

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Services trench being excavated



Plate 2: Services trench continued



Plate 3: The depth of the ground terraced during the later, unmonitored, phases of the development. Any archaeological features have likely been destroyed in this area. Looking north.

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Context Type	Description	Finds/Dating
(1001)	Layer	Mid brown clay-silt, 0.55m deep. Topsoil	19 th – 20 th century pottery noted but not retained.
(1002)	Layer	Mid yellow-brown silt-clay, with some grit inclusions, 0.2m thick. Subsoil	
(1003)	Natural	Limestone brash. Natural	

Appendix 3: OASIS summary

OASIS FORM - Print view

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OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: preconst3-138553

Project details

Project name	Lower Road, Hough-on-the-Hill, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording on Land adjacent to The Cottage, Lower Road, Hough-on-the-Hill, Lincolnshire.
Project dates	Start: 13-11-2008 End: 14-11-2008
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	S08/0776 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Visual Inspection"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN HOUGH ON THE HILL Land adjacent to The Cottage, Lower Road
Study area	1500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 92478 46532 53 0 53 00 28 N 000 37 17 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 46.00m Max: 50.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
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OASIS FORM - Print view

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Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Will Munford
Project supervisor	Mike Rowe
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Steven Roberts Associates
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Alison Lane (findsroom@pre-construct.co.uk)
Entered on	4 December 2012

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