

Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was carried out to monitor the ground works associated with the construction of a garden room at 20, Castledyke South, Barton upon Humber.
- The development site is adjacent to the documented Anglo Saxon Castledyke cemetery and immediately south of the medieval town ditch.
- The ground works exposed a steep-sided posthole at the west end of the foundation trench: a superficially succeeding pit-like feature may have been associated with this, a situation difficult to clarify given that no artefactual remains were recovered.

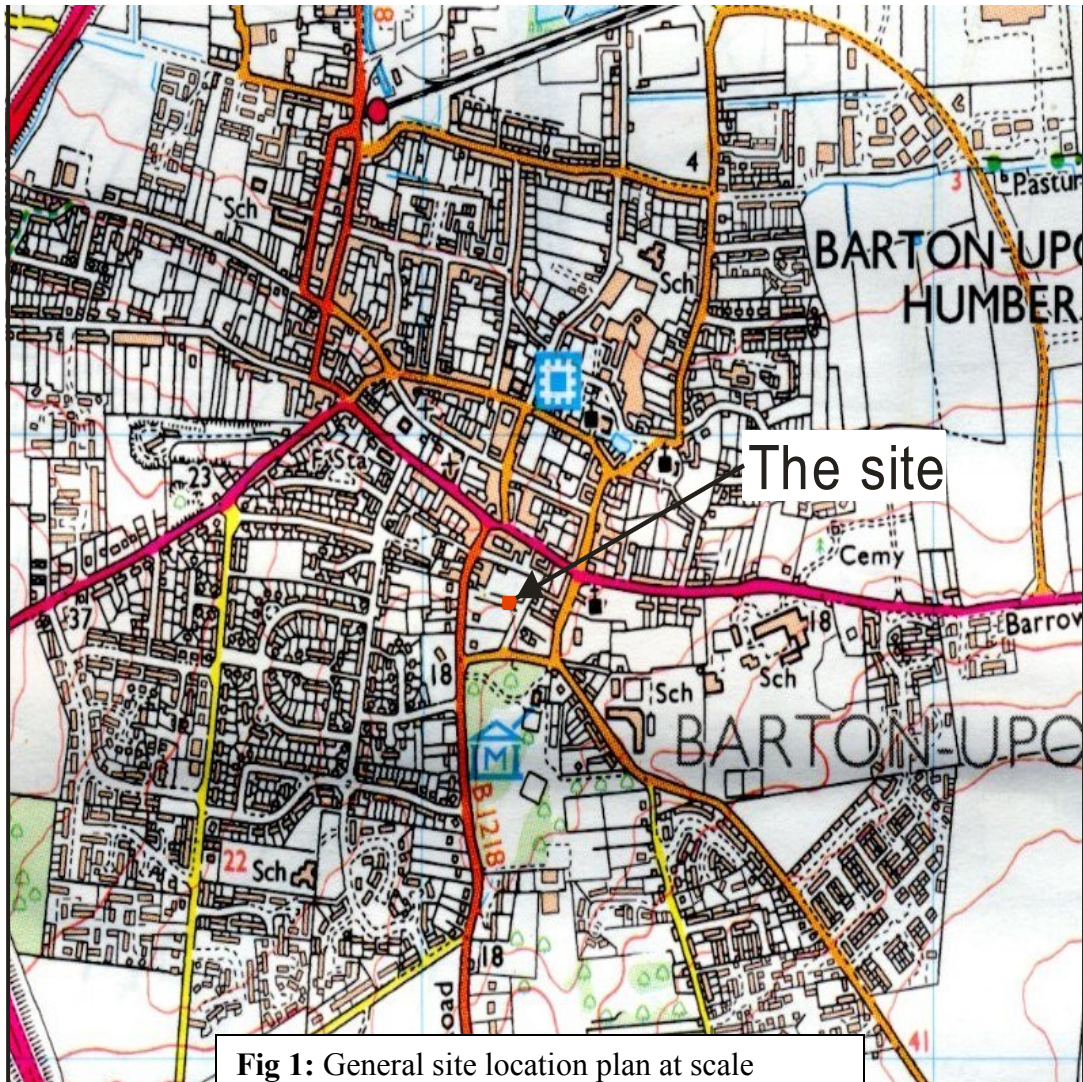


Fig 1: General site location plan at scale
1: 12500
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Mr. C Welch on behalf of Miss B.M. Welch, to carry out an archaeological watching brief to monitor all ground works associated with the construction of a single-storey extension/garden room at 20 Castledyke South, Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire (planning ref; PA/2008/0188).

These works were undertaken by the author between the 23rd and 24th June 2008 to fulfill the objectives of a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) and approved by North Lincolnshire Council. This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, EH (1991) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, IFA (1999).

2.0 Site location and description

Barton is situated on the south bank of the Humber estuary, approximately 18km northeast of Scunthorpe, in the administrative district of North Lincolnshire. The site lies towards the centre of the town, between the Market Place and Baysgarth Park. It is bounded at the south and west by residential properties, at the north by an empty plot of land (site of the Castledyke Anglo Saxon cemetery) and it fronts onto Castledyke South at the east.

The local topography rises at the west, where the underlying geology is comprised of Welton Chalk overlain by Glacial Till (BGS, 1978).

The site is centered on NGR TA 0316 2172

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission (planning reference; PA/2008/0188) was granted by North Lincolnshire Council to construct a single-storey extension/garden room at 20 Castledyke South. This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance; to record archaeological remains that would be disturbed or destroyed as a result of development.

4.0 Archaeological Context

Although there is very little evidence for early prehistoric activity in the parish of Barton-upon-Humber, a Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age beaded ditch was discovered during the excavation of the Castledyke Anglo Saxon cemetery (Bryant 1994). This was located to the north-east of the present development under the Mill Inn Car park, and to the west of Whitecross Street (Fig 2, inset plan).

The later prehistoric period is similarly poorly represented; limited to an Iron Age pit on the site of the Kimberly Clark factory and part of a quern stone, the location of which is uncertain.

Excluding a countersunk coin of the Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD), Roman archaeology is mostly confined to the period between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. A Roman road was discovered during excavations at East Acridge in the 1960s (north-east of the present development) which may have connected with the south end of the presumed Humber ferry crossing at South Ferriby. Several more excavations within the town have produced finds from this period, although only one structure has been identified (Hamilton and Savage, 2005).

The site now occupied by St. Peter's church was a focus for settlement in the Early Saxon period: remains of buildings dated to the 6th-7th centuries have been discovered, as well as two metal tracks (*ibid.*). To the south of, and contemporary with, the occupation site was the Castledyke cemetery, which contained between 400 and 500 graves: some of these contained rich grave goods, suggesting that Barton was already a prosperous trading town (Watkins and Whitwell 1987). The cemetery was first discovered in 1939 during the digging of an air-raid shelter on the empty plot adjacent to the present development and despite several excavations its full extent has never been established.

During the 9th century, graves were cut into a layer of silting sealing the early Saxon occupation at St. Peter's church. This utilisation of the former occupation site as a cemetery suggests that the cemetery at Castledyke had become redundant. Excavations have revealed that a 9th century Saxon Manor (located below the present Medieval Tyrwhitt Hall approximately 350m north-east of the present development) became the focus for late Saxon settlement. The manor was situated within a large sub-circular enclosure which covered approximately 5 acres, and its shape is still apparent in the road layout today.

The tower and chancel which formed the primary phase of St. Peter's Church are believed to have been built in the period immediately prior to the Norman Conquest, and it is assumed that during this period a planned layout of properties and streets evolved with the church as the new focus for the town (Hamilton and Savage, 2005).

The Domesday Book records a church with its priest, as well as two mills, a ferry, and, most significantly, a market: only six Lincolnshire towns held market charters, which were granted by the King, showing that Barton was a significant trading centre in the early medieval period (Williams and Martin, 2003). Barton's prosperity is further evidenced by the construction of a second church, All Saints (later St. Mary's) in the 12th century. The town was fortified in the 1140s during a period of civil unrest. The location of Barton Castle is still uncertain, but the town ditch is fossilised in the street name 'Castledyke', part of which was discovered between St Peter's Church and Tyrwhitt Hall.

In the 14th century, when the port of Kingston-upon-Hull found royal favour, the fortunes of Barton-on-Humber declined as river-borne trade was diverted. Towards the end of the medieval period, Barton's population fell to below a thousand, and civic records from the beginning of the 17th century describe a town largely dependent upon agriculture and livestock (Hamilton and Savage, 2005).

5.0 Methodology

Following excavation, all relevant section surfaces were cleaned and examined to determine the presence/ absence of archaeological deposits and to assess the general stratigraphy of the site. Spoil upcast was monitored for artefactual remains.

Sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Context information was recorded on standard pro-forma context record sheets. A colour and monochrome photographic record was maintained throughout the scheme, examples of which are appended to this report.

6.0 Results

The earliest deposit exposed was the natural (solid) geology. This comprised chalk (105) and was encountered at 0.20m below the modern ground surface at the east of the site and 0.40m at the west.

Cut into the natural was what appeared to be an isolated posthole [106]. This contained a deposit of homogenous, dark red-brown silty clay (103) (Fig 2). Seemingly cutting [106] was a pit [104] which contained 0.22m of mid-red-brown silty clay (102), beneath a second similar fill (101) that incorporated frequent inclusions of flint (Plate 3). It is suggested that the pit/posthole configuration may in fact have been a single feature; the pit element providing an access platform, perhaps designed to assist a deeper post placement. However, it should be noted that the internal stratigraphy of this feature(s) did not displace an interface between contexts (102) and (103) (ie a post-pipe). No dating evidence was recovered.

A layer of dark black – brown silty clay topsoil formed the modern ground surface. This varied in depth from 0.40m at the west to 0.20m at the east.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Despite the proximity of this small development to the Castledyke Anglo-Saxon cemetery, and its location immediately south of the medieval town ditch, only one, possibly two undated features were encountered. The lack of any associated dating evidence has precluded the placing of these remains within a secure archaeological context.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology applied was commensurate to the scale of this development. It allowed a rapid appraisal of the archaeological potential to be established, which was deemed to be moderately high in this area. Human remains were not exposed by the ground works, although such remains may well survive within adjacent areas.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr. C Welch for this commission.

10.0 References

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11.0 Site Archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This will be deposited at North Lincolnshire Museum within six months. The global accession number for this scheme is BNDH

