

240 MAIN ROAD, BILTON,
EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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On behalf of

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING,
240 MAIN ROAD, BILTON, EAST YORKSHIRE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2009, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr Ken d'Andilly of Tamerek Services Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the erection of a new domestic dwelling and detached garage at 240 Main Road, Bilton, East Yorkshire (NGR TA 1583 3271). The archaeological work was made a condition of planning permission (application DC/09/03819/PLF/EASTSE), and was defined by a specification produced by the Humber Archaeology Partnership (SMR case no PA/CONS/15913).

The only archaeological feature identified by the watching brief was a 1.32m wide and at least 0.54m deep pit, seen in the western end of the northern most trench for the new house. This was presumed to be a medieval or early post-medieval cess pit, although no dating evidence was uncovered. It may have been associated with former medieval occupation sited along the south side of Main Street, or perhaps lay within the outlying parts of a medieval moated site which lies just to the west of the development. An intact medieval or early post-medieval whetstone was also recovered from just beyond the southern boundary of the development site.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2009, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr Ken d'Andilly of Tamerek Services Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the erection of a new domestic dwelling and detached garage at 240 Main Road, Bilton, East Yorkshire (NGR TA 1583 3271).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was made a condition of planning permission, granted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 20th November 2009 (application DC/09/03819/PLF/EASTSE), and was defined by a specification produced by the Humber Archaeology Partnership (HAP) (SMR case no PA/CONS/15913; see Appendix 2).
- 1.3 The condition (number 3) on the planning permission stated that: "No development shall take place on the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (PPG 16, paragraph 30; Circular 11/95, Model Clause 55)"; this wording is slightly different to that given in the HAP specification. The HAP specification was used as the 'written scheme of investigation', and this was approved by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 5th March 2010 (application DC/10/30030/CONDET/EASTSE).

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The development site lies near the centre of a row of detached and semi-detached properties, between nos 238 and 242, on the south side of Main Road (the B1238 Hull to Sproatley road) and to the east of St Peter's Church (NGR TA 1583 3271) (see figure 1). Bilton village is now a suburb of Hull, located some 7km to the north-east of Kingston upon Hull, but the 1st edition (1856) Ordnance Survey map (sheet 227) shows it to be a small hamlet on the Sproatley road (see figure 3).
- 2.2 The new dwelling and garage was to be constructed on a previously occupied plot, the former house having been demolished prior to the start of the watching brief. The long narrow building plot extended south from the south side of Main Road, and measured a total of c.9.0m wide (east-west) by 46.0m long (north-south) (see figure 2). The new house was to be set back slightly from the main street, maintaining the frontage of the adjacent houses, while the garage was to be sited at the south-eastern corner of the plot.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological work took account of, and followed, the specification produced by the local archaeological curators, the Humber Archaeology Partnership (see Appendix 2). More general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999) was also considered. The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the construction of the new dwelling and garage, to recover information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed.
- 3.2 The positions of all monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan, and more detailed drawings were made as necessary. A photographic record was also maintained. Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete

stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of five archaeological contexts were recorded; these are all described in the following text as four digit numbers (e.g. 1005). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate.

- 3.3 The footings were excavated using a small tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. The house footings took the form of a rectangle, measuring 5.90m wide (east-west) by 11.50m long (north-south), positioned on the east side of the plot, while the garage footings to the south measured 3.35m wide by 6.50m long (see plates 1 and 2). The garage trenches were excavated to an average depth of 0.7m while the house trenches were between 1.1m and 0.7m deep; all the trenches were 0.8m wide. The contractors laid a gravel access track along the full length of the plot prior to excavating the footings. A total of three visits were made to the site to complete the archaeological recording, on 17th, 19th and 20th May 2010.
- 3.4 With the agreement of the developer and landowner, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (site code BMS 10; accession number 2010/85). A number of artefacts were observed in the field immediately beyond the southern boundary of the site, including burnt animal bone, a small sherd of Humberware pottery, other more recent pottery and a small whetstone; only the latter was retained for the site archive.

4 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The name 'Bilton' appears to derive from Billa's farm and is probably of Anglian origin; it is first named as *Billeton* in the 1086 Domesday Book (Smith 1937, 46-47). A carucate of land at Bilton, which had belonged to Halfdan in 1066, had by 1086 passed to Drew de Bevrère, the majority landowner in Holderness; his undertenant was Franco, an ancestor of the Fauconbergs. Walter de Fauconberg, later Lord Fauconberg, was the tenant in Bilton in the mid 13th century, and the estate later descended, as an appurtenance of Rise Manor, to the Neville family (Kent 2002, 125). St John's church in Beverley also held a larger manor of three carucates in Bilton in 1086. It was held by Stephen of Marfleet, but subsequently passed by marriage to William of Bilton. By a complex series of marriage settlements, divisions, acquisitions and sales, the manor was, by the mid 18th century, in the possession of sisters Catherine Dawnay and Mildred Bouchier (Kent 2002, 125-126).
- 4.2 The Domesday Book records that 13 villeins worked two ploughlands on the archbishop's estate while four villeins worked one ploughland on Franco's estate. There were 69 individuals listed in the poll tax of 1362, although this may also have included the residents of nearby Ganstead. In 1672 only 26 houses in Bilton were assessed as being liable for the hearth tax, and the population level had fallen to only 89 residents in 1911. Later field names suggest that the medieval open fields, which included North and East Field, were enclosed in the early 17th century. The farm land was a mixture of pasture and common, and there was a considerable area of arable, as evidenced by the earthworks of ridge and furrow, now mostly ploughed out, seen on aerial photographs to the south of the village.
- 4.3 The 19th century maps show that most of the few farms and houses in the village lay on the north side of the Hull to Sproatley road, either side of Back Lane, although most of this area has now been developed (see figures 2 and 3). The church lay on

the south side of the main road, together with a moated site c.100m to the east. The medieval chapel, originally dedicated to St Mary Magdalen, had been dedicated to St Peter by 1823, and it was rebuilt by the lord of the manor, Payn Dawnay, to a design by G T Andrews. It re-opened in 1852, and was built in a 13th century style, with an undivided nave and chancel, a north vestry, south porch and western double bellcot (HSMR 4955; Kent 2002, 127-128). The moated site most likely represents the site of a manor house, recorded in 1557, which may well have been occupied by the main manorial tenants (HSMR 1538). The northern half of the site was built over in the 1950s, as part of the linear development on the south side of the main road which includes 240 Main Road, although the southern half survives as well-preserved earthworks in a pasture field, with ridge and furrow earthworks to the east. It is possible that the moated site replaced an earlier small fortified house built on a circular earthwork or motte ('Swan Hill'), which lies just to the south of the vicarage, and which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (HSMR 709). However, although this site is traditionally thought of as being a medieval motte, this has not been proved and it is also possible that it could represent a post-medieval garden feature associated with the adjacent former vicarage.

- 4.4 Very little previous archaeological investigation has been undertaken in Bilton. Cropmarks of trackways and rectilinear enclosures seen on aerial photographs to the south of the village might indicate the presence of Iron Age settlement, and significant Iron Age occupation has been found further to the north-west around Ganstead. The important moated site and 'Swan Hill' have not been the subject of any archaeological research, and the continued and significant expansion of the village since the 1960s does not appear to have been accompanied by any archaeological recording. However, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken to the west of Beech House, on the north side of Main Road in July 2009, but no features of interest were recorded (Adamson 2009).

5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF (see figure 4)

Observations

- 5.1 The ground at the south end of the plot, at the location of the new garage, had been heavily disturbed by tree root activity. The topsoil, a black/dark brown loose loam with occasional small building rubble fragments (1001) on average 0.35m deep, overlay a natural deposit of yellow/pale brown sandy clay (1002); this latter deposit was seen to a depth of 1.20m and it continued beyond the bottom of the foundation trenches (see plate 1). No archaeological deposits were visible in these trenches, although just over the southern site boundary at the edge of a cropped field, a medieval or early post-medieval whetstone was visible on the ground surface; this was recovered for the site archive (see below).
- 5.2 The trenches for the new house towards the northern end of the plot were cut to varying depths in order to gain a firm deposit for the build (see plate 2). The southern east-west aligned trench was the deepest, cut to a depth of 1.10m. The stratigraphic sequence here consisted of 0.70m of topsoil (1001) with the same yellow/pale brown natural clay (1002) seen in the garage trenches below. There were occasional deposits of a black silty clay in the lowest 0.10m level. A 19th century ceramic land drain was seen at the lowest level of the trench, running in the same direction as the trench, i.e. east-west. The northern east-west trench for the front of the house was cut to a depth of c.0.70m. Here, the topsoil and building rubble (1001) was 0.35m thick below which was once again the natural clay (1002).

- 5.3 The two north-south aligned side trenches for the new house measured 11.5m long by 0.80m wide, and both were cut to c.0.90m deep at their southern ends rising to 0.70m for the majority of their length. Further 19th century land drains were encountered in both trenches running virtually in the same alignments as the trenches. In the western trench, the land drain was exposed for the full length of the western edge, starting at 0.90m deep in the south and rising to 0.25m deep at the northern end. In the eastern trench, the drain only became visible in the eastern edge at the far northern end where it also rose to the 0.25m depth seen in the opposite trench. The stratigraphy of the eastern trench consisted of 0.35m of brick rubble and topsoil (1001), then a layer of tarmac 0.06m thick with the natural clay (1002) below. The western trench had various levels of topsoil to a maximum depth of 0.70m with building rubble up to 0.35m on top, below which was the natural clay (1002).
- 5.4 A single archaeological feature was observed towards the western end of the northern house trench, cutting into the natural clay (1002) and below the topsoil (1001). This was initially thought to be a ditch but on excavation was found to be a pit (1005); it was 1.32m wide and at least 0.54m deep, and had almost vertical sides which became more concave towards the base of the trench (see plate 3). The pit continued below the bottom of the excavated trench, although the base of the pit was probably concave. It contained a primary fill of a firm black silty clay (1004), up to 0.35m deep, sealed by c.0.2m of a medium brown gritty silt (1003). No dating evidence was found, but the fills had the general appearance and smell of old cesspit fills, probably of medieval or early post-medieval date.

Finds

- 5.5 No stratified finds were located within the excavated trenches, but a whetstone found just beyond the southern boundary of the site was retained for the site archive. This appears to be of a fine-grained sandstone and is complete. It is roughly rectangular in section, 108mm in length, 41mm x 36mm in section at the widest point, but is slightly shaped to fit easily into the hand. Two deep sharpening grooves are visible near the long edges of each of two of the surfaces, with a less clear example on a third surface (see plate 4). The grooves are up to 2mm deep, 2-3mm wide and on average 40-50mm in length, suggesting a controlled action rather than rough sharpening.
- 5.6 The small size of the hone and the nature of the sharpening grooves suggest that it was a hand-held workshop tool used for sharpening or finishing small objects such as pins or needles. Many other similar hones have been found in the area, of both sandstone and imported schist, mainly of medieval or early post-medieval date (e.g. Foreman 1991, 109-110 & fig 89; Foreman 1992, 126-127 & fig 68).

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evidence for a presumed cesspit and its associated deposits within the relatively small area covered by the excavated trenches is a strong indication of former occupation in this part of the village. The presumed cesspit lies c.8m back from the Main Street frontage, and it is possible that it formerly occupied the rear of a medieval toft (house platform) with the croft (garden plot) extending to the south, as far as the present site boundary. However, it is also possible that the pit is associated with the adjacent medieval moated site; the pit lies c.30m to the east of the north-east corner of the moat, in a position which could well have been occupied by ancillary service or agricultural buildings. Nevertheless, it is surprising that no other features were uncovered by the house trenches, which might have been

expected if medieval settlement was present in this area, although it should be noted that the extent and depth of the trenching was relatively limited.

- 6.2 The medieval or early post-medieval whetstone recovered from the edge of the adjacent field also adds further support to that there was earlier occupation in the area. While the crop in the field was at a reasonable height, and only about 1m of the perimeter soil was visible, it was clear that evidence for considerable human activity was present. Burnt animal bone and a small sherd of Humberware were visible on the surface together with other more recent pottery. These artefacts could of course be the result of activity specific to that area, again perhaps associated with the nearby moated site, or could be the result of manuring activity ('nightsoiling').

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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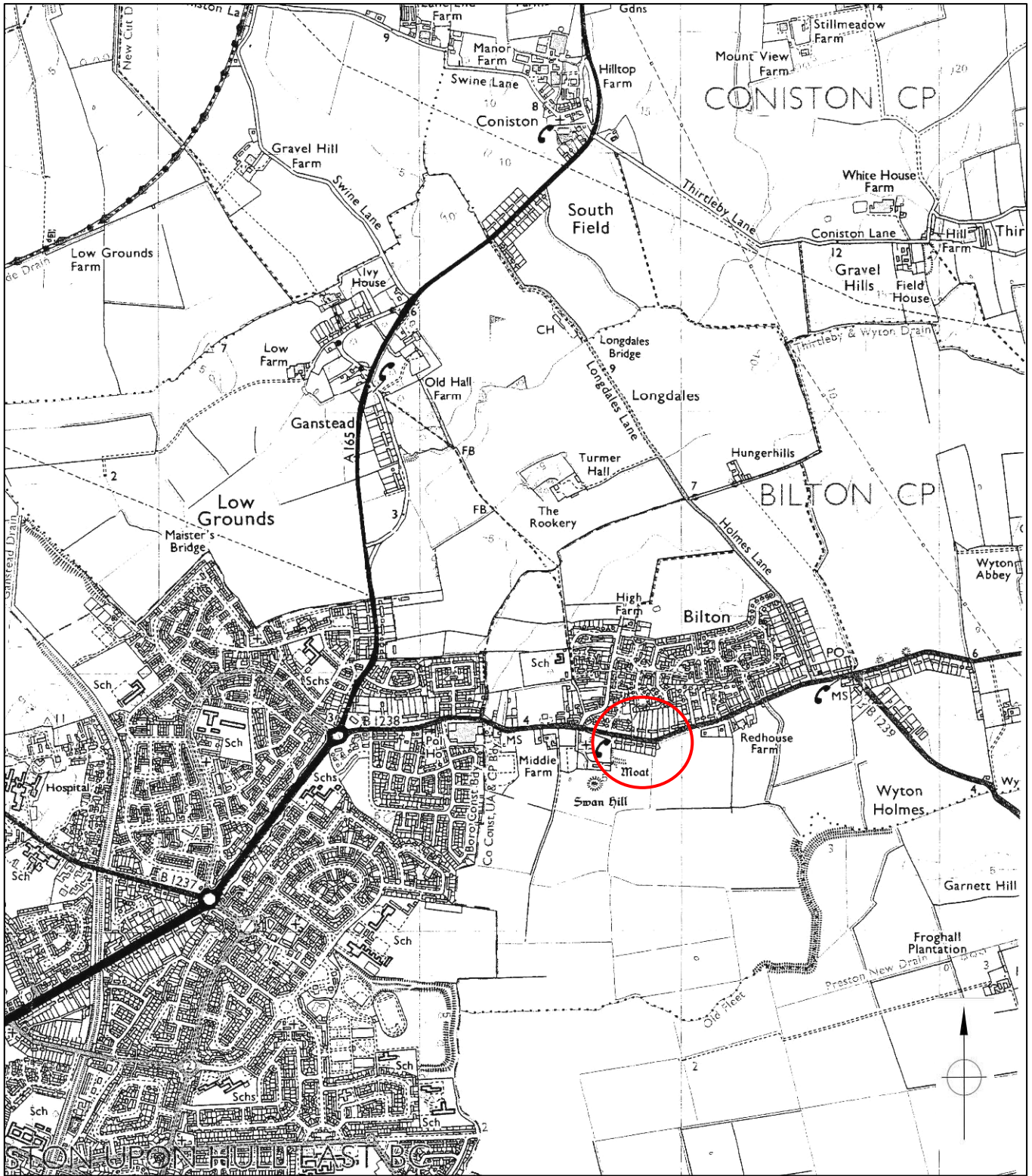
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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief at 240 Main Road was commissioned by the developer and site owner, Mr Ken d'Andilly of Tamerek Services Ltd. EDAS would like to thank him and the site contractors for their co-operation in carrying out the archaeological recording.

- 8.2 The on-site recording was undertaken by Vaughan Wastling of Humber Field Archaeology on behalf of EDAS, and he also produced the fieldwork records and a draft report. The whetstone was identified and described by Lisa Wastling. The final report was produced by Ed Dennison, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.



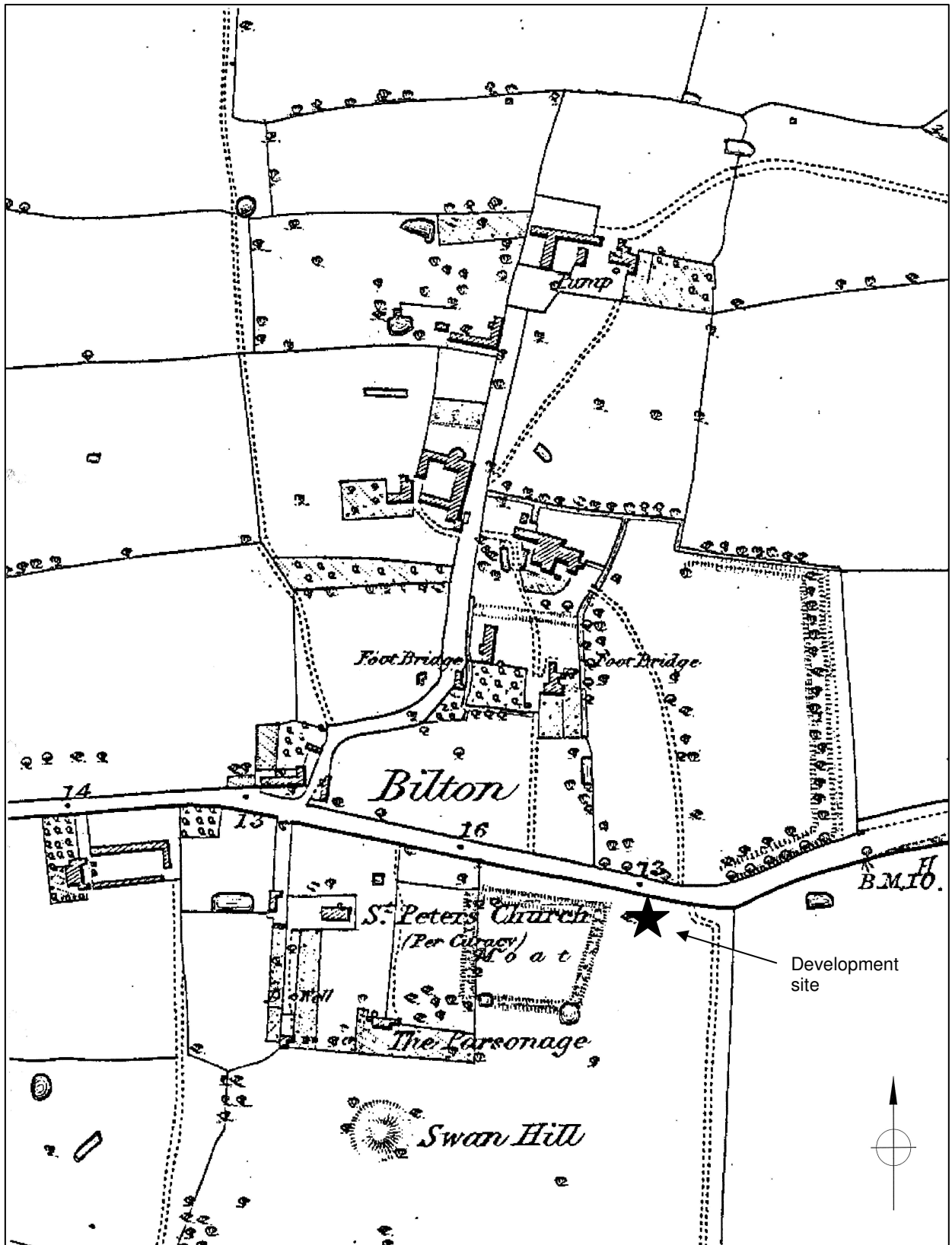
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PROJECT	240 MAIN ROAD, BILTON	
TITLE	GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE SEPT 2010
EDAS	FIGURE	1



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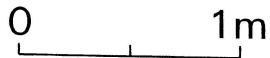
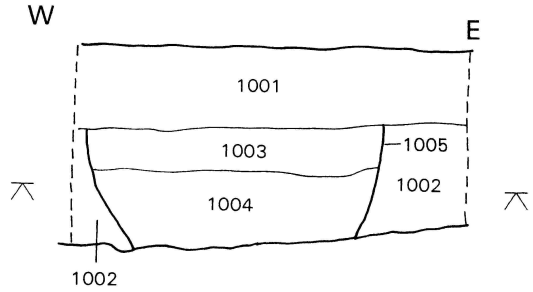
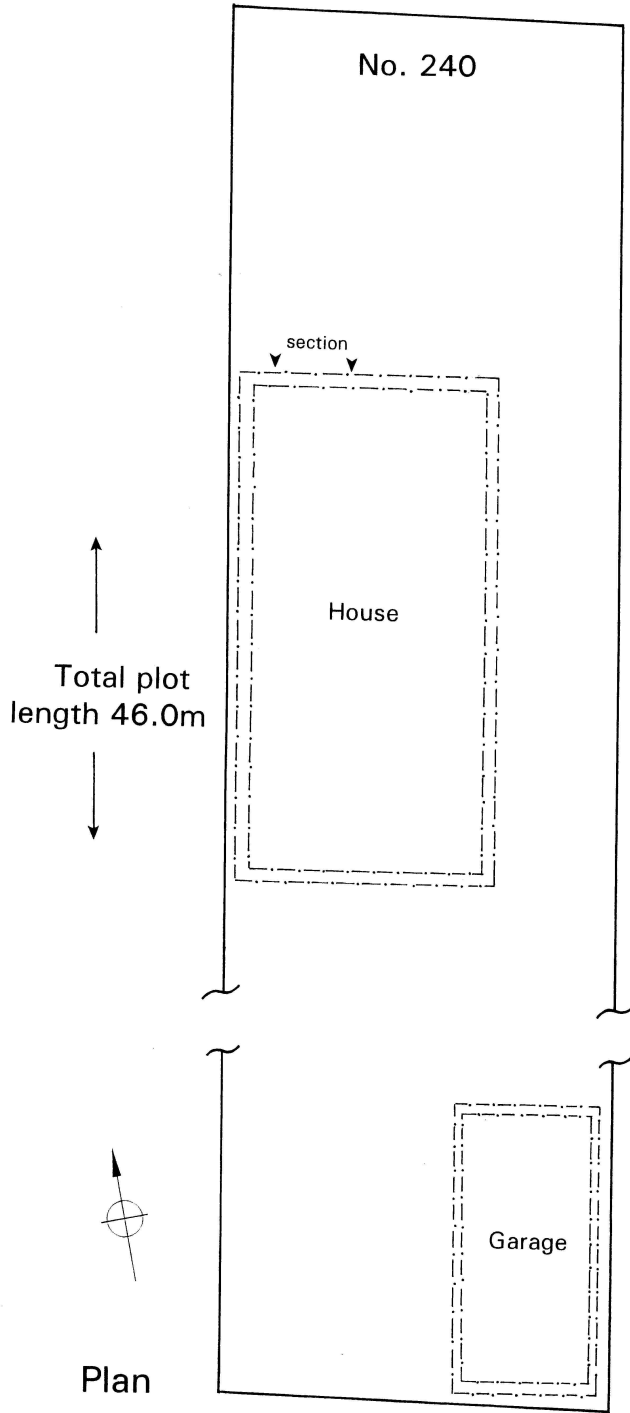
PROJECT		240 MAIN ROAD, BILTON	
TITLE			
SITE LOCATION			
SCALE		DATE	
NTS		SEPT 2010	
EDAS		FIGURE	
		2	



Source: Ordnance Survey 1856 6" map sheet 227.

PROJECT		240 MAIN ROAD, BILTON	
TITLE		1852 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	SEPT 2010
EDAS		FIGURE	3

Main Road



Section: West end of north house trench

PROJECT		240 MAIN ROAD, BILTON	
TITLE			
RESULTS OF RECORDING			
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	SEPT 2010
EDAS		FIGURE	4



Plate 1: Excavating foundation trenches for the garage, looking N.



Plate 2: Completed foundation trenches for the house, looking N.



Plate 3: Possible cesspit deposits in northern house foundation trench, looking N.



Plate 4: Side of whetstone showing two sharpening grooves and shaping.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
1001	Loose black/dark brown topsoil, with variable amounts of building rubble fragments, up to 0.35m thick.
1002	Firm yellow/pale brown sandy clay, at least 1.20m thick - natural deposit.
1003	Firm medium brown gritty silt up to 0.2m thick, secondary fill of 1005.
1004	Firm black silty clay up to 0.35m thick with smell of cess pit - primary fill of 1005.
1005	Cut for cess pit, 1.32m wide, at least 0.80m long and 0.54m deep.

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: HUMBER ARCHAEOLOGY PARTNERSHIP SPECIFICATION

SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

Prepared by the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office, for Mr Ken Dandilly.

Site Location: 240 Main Road, Bilton, East Riding of Yorkshire
Proposal: Erection of a dwelling and detached garage following demolition of existing (re-submission of 09/00152/PLF)
NGR (centre): TA 1583 3271
Planning ref.: DC/09/03819/PLF
SMR case no.: PA/CONS/15913
Date of issue: 1st December 2009

This brief is valid for one year from the date of issue. After this period, the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office should be re-consulted. This document should be read in conjunction with the Notes for Archaeological Contractors proposing to work in the area covered by the Humber SMR (dated January 1999): these notes are available on request from the Humber SMR.

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This brief is for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording to be carried out during groundworks associated with the erection of a dwelling and detached garage following demolition of existing, at 240 Main Street, Bilton, East Riding of Yorkshire.
- 1.2 The brief should be used by archaeological contractors as a basis for submitting a costed tender for the work required.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The development plot is located in the village of Bilton which itself is located to the north-east of Kingston Upon Hull. The site is bounded to the west and east by nos 238 and 242 Main Road respectively, to the north by Main Road itself and to the south by a field.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An application for full planning permission for this development was received by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 25th September 2009 (application no. DC/09/03819/PLF). Planning permission was subsequently granted on ... subject to an archaeological condition (no. 3), to secure a programme of archaeological work; the condition stated that:

"No development shall take place on the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details (PPG 16, paragraph 30)".

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The site of the proposed development lies close to a complex of crop-marks at the south-eastern end of the medieval village of Bilton. A series of rectilinear enclosures and trackways is visible at this end of the village, to the south of the medieval moated site and to the south of St Peter's Church. The north-western of the largest of these enclosures is clearly overlain by the medieval motte and bailey castle; this enclosure clearly belongs to an earlier pattern of settlement and land use; it must be pre-Conquest, and may well be much older (e.g. of Iron Age or Romano-British date). In fact, during archaeological work just to the south of the church, evidence of possible Iron Age/Romano-British activity was found.

- 4.2 The motte of Swan Hill survives as a raised earthwork, enclosed by a single dry moat. This is a type of monument which first appeared in Britain after the Norman Conquest; the earthen mound would have been surmounted by a timber tower or keep. Over 600 surviving examples are known from this country, and most had a relatively short lifespan; the floruit of these castles was the 11th and 12th centuries, and few were occupied after the 13th century. It is assumed that the moated site to the east of the church was the successor to this castle.
- 4.3 Bilton was one of the holdings which had passed to Drew de Beviere by 1086 - who also owned the motte at Skipsea. His under-tenant at Bilton was Franco, an ancestor of the Fauconbergs. It is likely that this motte was built either by Drew, or by Franco, in the later 11th century. The Fauconbergs had taken over the manor by the mid 13th century, and it is likely that the moated site to the north was built by them to replace the previous cramped residence at the motte.
- 4.4 Any ground-works in this area may therefore encounter archaeological deposits ranging in date from the Romano-British period to the medieval period.

5 METHODOLOGY

Should the contractor consider continued monitoring unnecessary at any stage in advance of the completion of all groundworks, they should consult with the SMR Office as a matter of priority.

- 5.1 The proposed scheme of works shall comprise the monitoring of any stripping topsoil, and the digging of foundations and service trenches; these should be undertaken under archaeological supervision, or provision should be made for an archaeologist to view the open trenches after machining but before they are infilled. This is to enable the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered.
- 5.2 The developer's chosen archaeologist must be acceptable to the Local Planning Authority after consultation with the Sites and Monuments Record Office. Access to the site will be afforded to the developer's chosen archaeologist at all reasonable times.
- 5.3 Reasonable prior notice of the commencement of development is to be given to the archaeological contractor. A two-week period is suggested, where possible. The Sites and Monuments Record Office should be notified of the chosen contractor in advance of the commencement of archaeological fieldwork.
- 5.4 On completion of the work, an ordered archive should be prepared by the archaeologist and deposited with a registered museum. The proposed recipient museum must be contacted at the beginning of the project. A copy of the Archive Index and the name of the recipient museum should be sent to the Humber Sites and Monuments Record. Contractors should make an allowance for a minimum of one box in calculating estimates for the museum's storage grant.
- 5.5 With the exception of human remains, and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act) which should be reported to the coroner, all finds are the property of the landowner. However, it is generally expected that the finds will be deposited with the archive. A finds recovery and conservation strategy should be agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing. This should include contingency arrangements for artefacts of special significance. Any recording, marking and storage materials should be of archival quality, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. Copies of all recording forms and manuals must be submitted to the Archaeology Manager, prior to the commencement of site works, if these have not been submitted previously.
- 5.6 Within six weeks of the completion of the work, a report will be produced by the archaeologist, and submitted to the developer, the Local Planning Authority and the SMR Office. The final report should include the following (as appropriate):
- A non-technical summary;
 - Site code/project number;
 - Planning reference number and SMR casework number;

- Dates for fieldwork visits;
- Grid reference;
- A location plan, with scale;
- A plan of the developer's plan, with scale, showing the areas monitored (i.e. house block, garage, service trenches etc) indicating the position of archaeological features in relation to the foundations etc;
- Sections and plan drawings (where archaeological deposits are exposed) with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales;
- General site photographs (a minimum 35mm format), as well as photographs of any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts that are encountered;
- A written description and analysis of the methods and results of the archaeological fieldwork, in the context of the known archaeology of the area;
- Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary.

5.7 The archaeological contractor should also supply a digital copy of the report in PDF format to the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office.

5.8 Where a significant discovery is made, consideration should be given to the preparation of a short note for inclusion in a local journal.

5.9 All work shall be carried out in accordance with the developer's proposed timetable and shall not cause undue delay to the development unless otherwise agreed.

6 MONITORING

6.1 The work will be monitored under the auspices of the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office, who should be consulted before the commencement of site works.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

7.1 Health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters. All archaeologists undertaking fieldwork must comply with all Health and Safety Legislation. The archaeologist or archaeological organisation undertaking the work should ensure that they are adequately insured, to cover all eventualities, including risks to third parties.

Any queries relating to this brief should be addressed to The Sites and Monuments Record, Humber Archaeology Partnership, The Old School, Northumberland Avenue, Hull, HU2 0LN (tel: 01482 217466, fax 01482 581897).