

ERECTION OF TWO DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED
PARKING, LAND SOUTH OF 107 AUCHINLECK CLOSE,
DRIFFIELD, EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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Report no: 2009/352.R01
Version: Final
Date: March 2011
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On behalf of

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING,
ERECTION OF TWO DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING,
LAND SOUTH OF 107 AUCHINLECK CLOSE,
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2010, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr C H Ward of Ward Properties to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the erection of two new dwellings and associated car parking at Auchinleck Close, Driffield, East Yorkshire (NGR TA00815590 centred). The watching brief was made a condition of full planning permission (application DC/09/02847/PLF/EASTNN).

Despite the area in question having some archaeological potential, the watching brief carried out during the initial topsoil strip for the two new dwellings produced nothing of archaeological interest, and no archaeological deposits or artefacts were uncovered. The site did contain two modern service trenches, one live and one abandoned, and the very abraded remnants of a furrow, possibly representing the remnants of former ridge and furrow cultivation.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2010, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr C H Ward of Ward Properties to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the erection of two new dwellings and associated car parking at Auchinleck Close, Driffield, East Yorkshire (NGR TA00815590 centred).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was made a condition of full planning permission, granted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 9th November 2009 (application DC/09/02847/PLF/EASTNN). The condition (number 4) stated that: "No development shall take place 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 by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details (PPG 16 para. 16; Circular 11/95, Model Clause 55). A 'Written Scheme of Investigation' was subsequently produced by EDAS (see Appendix 2); this was approved by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 16th February 2011 (application DC/10/30650/CONDET/EASTNN) following advice from the Humber Archaeology Partnership (ref SMR/PA/CONS/15798).

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The development site lies on the south side of the A614 road, just to the west of Driffield in East Yorkshire (see figure 1). Auchinleck Close runs south from the main road, through an existing housing estate. The area of the proposed new development lies in a corner plot between Nos. 106 and 107, on the west side of the main spine road (at NGR TA00815590 centred) (see figure 2).
- 2.2 The site lies at 19.87m above Ordnance Datum and, prior to development, the site was a mixture of grass and concrete/tarmac hardstanding. The site is surrounded by other houses, part of the large Auchinleck Close housing estate. The soils of the area are classified as a typical brown calcareous earth of the Coombe 1 Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983) while the solid geology is Lower Cretaceous Chalk, overlain with glacial sand and gravel (Institute of Geological Sciences 1979). Earlier coring work on land just beyond the southern end of Auchinleck Close, encountered solid chalk at a depth of 6m (Kate Dennett, *pers. comm.*).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief was defined by the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' (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 work was to monitor the groundworks (topsoil stripping and excavation of foundation and service trenches), in order to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth and significance of any archaeological features which might be present and which might be damaged by the development.
- 3.2 The majority of the watching brief was carried out during a single visit, in icy then rainy weather conditions, on 6th January. A wheeled mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket was used to strip off the areas of tarmac and concrete in advance of the watching brief, as well as four small areas of turf around the periphery of the site (see plate 1). The remainder of the site strip was monitored continuously, down to the clean natural chalky shale (012), which was evident over the whole site, at

c.0.28m below the former land surface. In the absence of any archaeological features observed during the topsoil strip, the excavations for the two house foundations were not monitored. However, a return visit was made on 15th February to check on one feature during drier weather when visibility was better.

- 3.3 Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual three digit context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of 12 archaeological contexts were recorded (see Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of the monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan at 1:100 scale, and one more detailed section drawing was produced at 1:10 scale. A photographic record was maintained using a digital camera. Levels OD were obtained from an existing site survey provided by the developer.
- 3.4 Given the absence of significant archaeological results or finds, and in accordance with current East Riding of Yorkshire Museum policy, no archive for the project was deposited with the museum, although site notes, plans and photographs have been retained by EDAS (site code ACD 11).

4 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The entries on the Humber Sites and Monuments Record attest to the proposed development site lying within an area of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and occupation. Some evidence for this activity was uncovered during the construction of the RAF married quarters just to the south of the current development plots (at TA00725600) in the 1950s. These remains comprised ditches, and a number of gullies and post holes of Iron Age and Roman date which contained sherds of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, a rotary quern fragment, a bone handle, a possible chalk loom weight and a collection of animal bones. A crouched inhumation in a shallow grave was also found, but with no grave goods or dateable finds (Philips 1959).
- 4.2 Investigations undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS at a site at the Kelleythorpe Industrial Estate to the north of the A614, identified the presence of a number of ditches likely to be of Iron Age/Romano-British date in a field to the south of a cropmark site believed to be a "ladder" settlement of the same date (Abramson 1990; Holbrey 1994; Smith 2001). A number of Bronze Age burial mounds occupy locations to the west, north-west and north-east of the development site, indicated clearly on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1856) and later maps, the closest lying on the north side of the A614 to the north-west of the site.
- 4.3 Large-scale archaeological investigations have also been carried out on land to the south of the current development site, at the south end of Auchinleck Close. An initial geophysical survey in February 2003 identified a square enclosure, measuring c.55m square, at the west end of the site, together with a number of outlying features that may represent additional ditches (GeoQuest Associates 2003). These features are indicative of part of a relict field system, possibly associated with a ditched trackway that runs along the north side of the enclosure. Subsequent trial trenching was followed by open area excavation between March 2005 and October 2008 by Archaeological Services WYAS (Signorelli & Wheelhouse 2003; Walsh 2009). In summary, the ditched enclosure revealed by the geophysical survey was dated to the Romano-British period, although it may have a late Iron Age origin. A large pit and evidence of Romano-British subdivision of the attendant field system

was noted to the south of the main enclosure. Two phases of prehistoric activity were also identified on the site, as a small number of pits; the earliest of these dates to the late Neolithic period while a second group dates to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age. A cremation burial was also uncovered and this was radiocarbon dated to the Bronze Age. Medieval activity, in the form of a ditch and ridge and furrow cultivation, was also identified (Walsh 2009; Walsh, Manby & Roberts forthcoming).

- 4.4 Four other corner plots within the Auchinleck Close housing estate have been redeveloped in the recent past, and this work was also subject to a programme of observation, investigation and recording. These plots all lie to the north of the current application site, including one immediately to the north of No. 107. On all plots, little of archaeological interest was identified (Dennison & Dennett 2007).

5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF (see figure 3)

- 5.1 A narrow north-south aligned trench (007) had previously been dug for an electricity cable along the west side of the site, 2.6m in from the pavement. The trench measured 0.25m wide, and was filled with a firm brown sticky soil (008); the cable itself was covered with ceramic warning tiles. It was cut into the natural loose yellow-grey chalk marl (004), and it ran for a distance of 16.3m before the south end curved round to the west, dipping down to an unknown depth.
- 5.2 A similar trench, 0.30m wide and less than 0.33m deep with vertical sides and a flattish base (009), was noted running approximately east-west for 7.5m on the south side of the site, cut into the natural deposit (004) (see plate 4). The trench was filled with a firm grey-pink brown soil (010) containing a shaley chalk gravel, but there was little evidence in the section for any layered accumulation deposits or any dating material. The trench is most likely to be an earlier service trench, probably disused since the laying of the tarmac over the site. Some residual tarmac (002) also remained around the periphery of the site.
- 5.3 A linear cut (011), c.2.5m wide by at least 7.5m long, was exposed on the east side of the site after the initial surface strip (see plate 2). Initially appearing as a linear feature, additional stripping showed it to be more intermittent and averaging c.0.12m deep. The cut was filled with a soft grey-brown soil with chalky gravel (006). Examination of one of the house foundations showed that the cut extended up to 0.20m deep in places, and that the base had an undulating profile (see plate 3). No artefacts were associated with this deposit, and it is possible that the feature was related to earlier ridge and furrow ploughing on the site.
- 5.4 A small deposit of a loose brown loam containing rounded mixed riverine gravel (003) was noted at the north edge of the site, immediately beneath the 0.50m thick turf and topsoil (001); it lay adjacent to the adjoining property and may relate to a former gravel drive or path.
- 5.5 No further features, either modern or archaeological, were present in the clean natural shaley chalk gravel subsoil (012). It was not therefore thought necessary to monitor the cutting of the house foundations, although one return visit was made to confirm the absence of any other features.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Despite the area in question having some potential, the watching brief carried out during the initial topsoil strip for the two new dwellings produced nothing of archaeological interest, and no archaeological deposits or artefacts were uncovered.

The site did contain two modern service trenches, one live and one abandoned, and the very abraded remnants of a furrow, possibly representing the remnants of former ridge and furrow cultivation.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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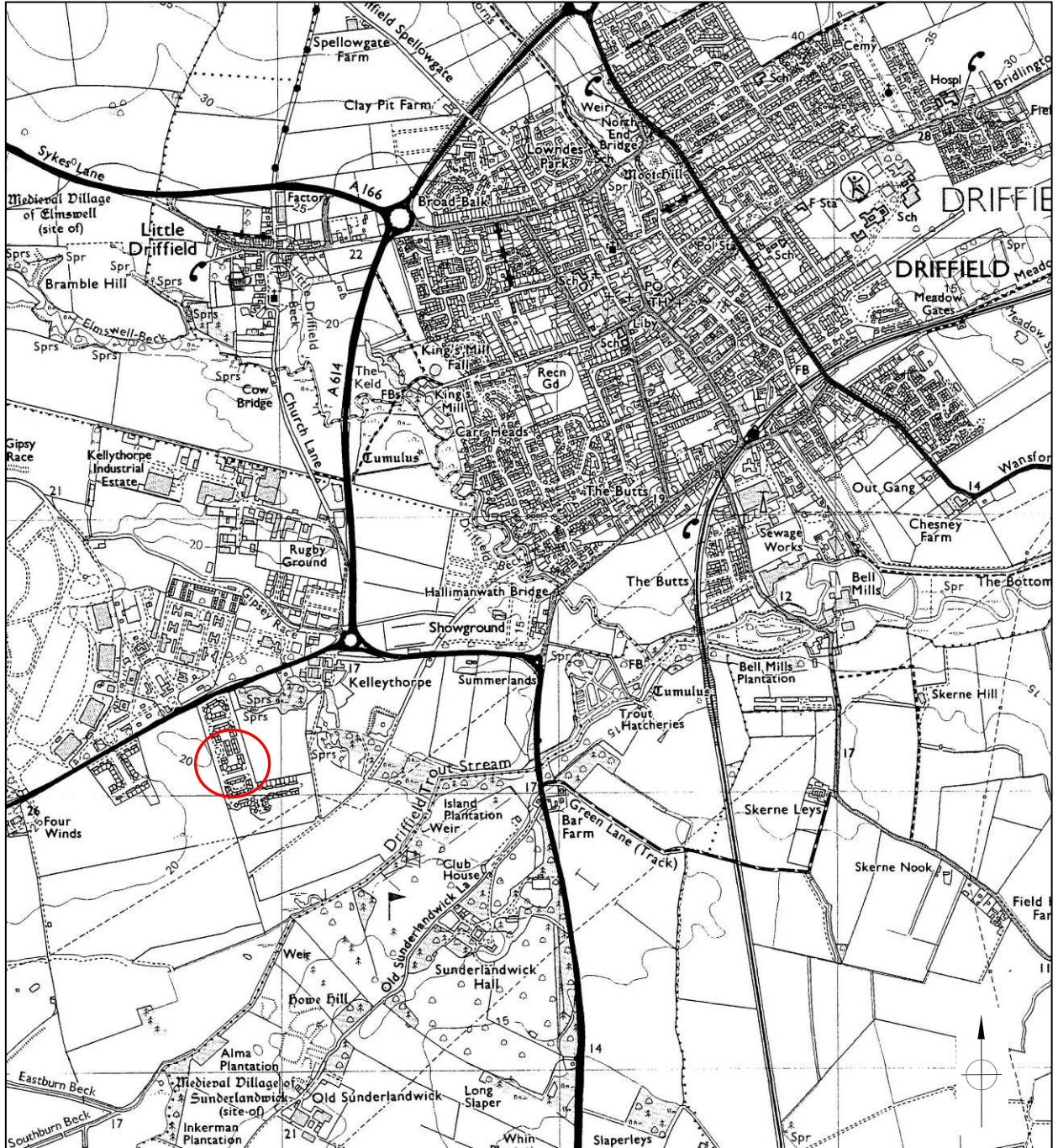
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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

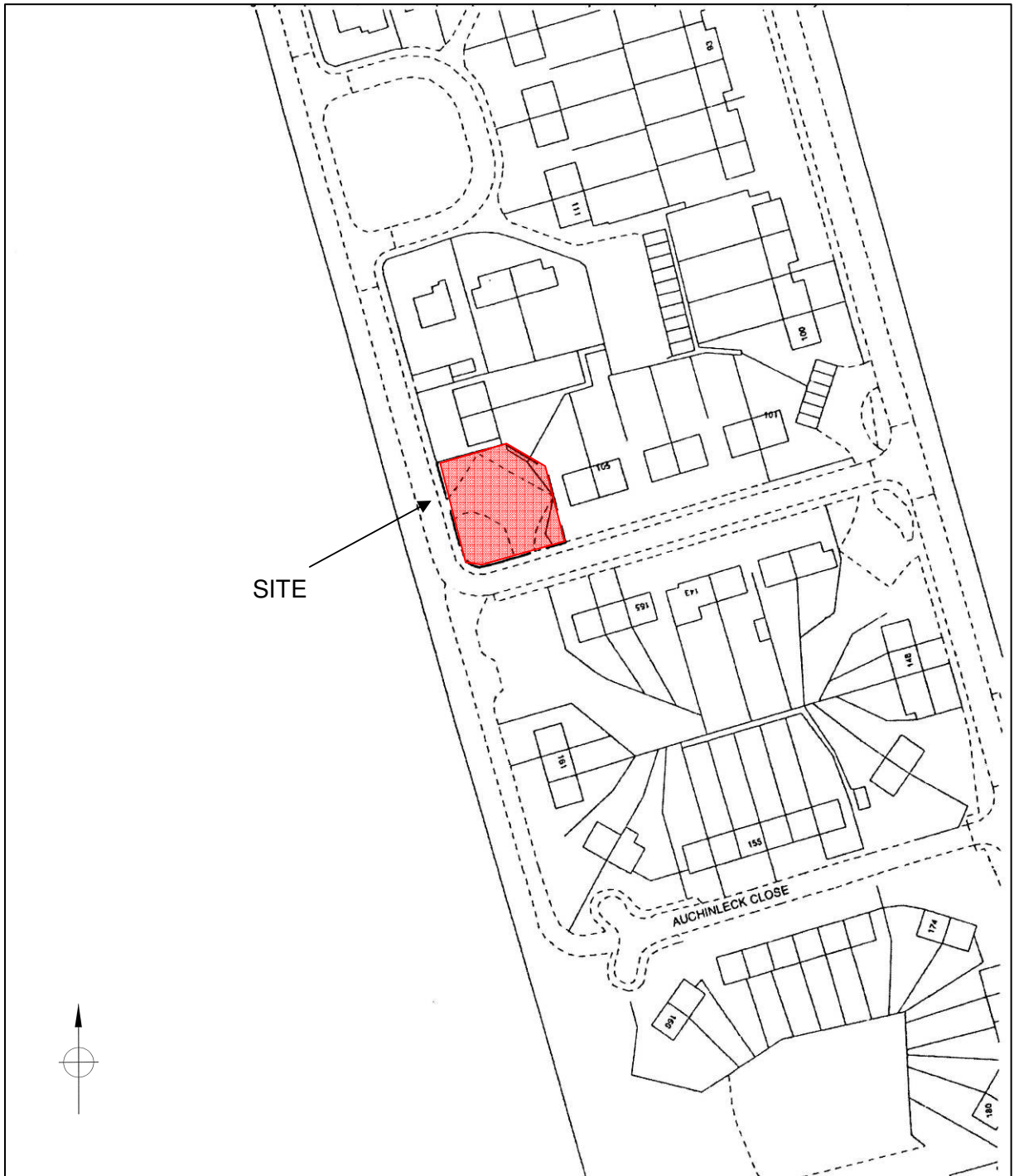
8.1 The archaeological watching brief was commissioned and funded by Mr C H Ward of Peter Ward Homes Ltd, and EDAS would like to thank him and the site contractors for their co-operation in carrying out the work.

8.2 The site recording was undertaken by Kate Dennett on behalf of EDAS, and Kate Dennett produced the fieldwork records. Ed Dennison produced the final report and drawings, and the responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies remains with him.



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TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	MAR 2011
EDAS		FIGURE	1

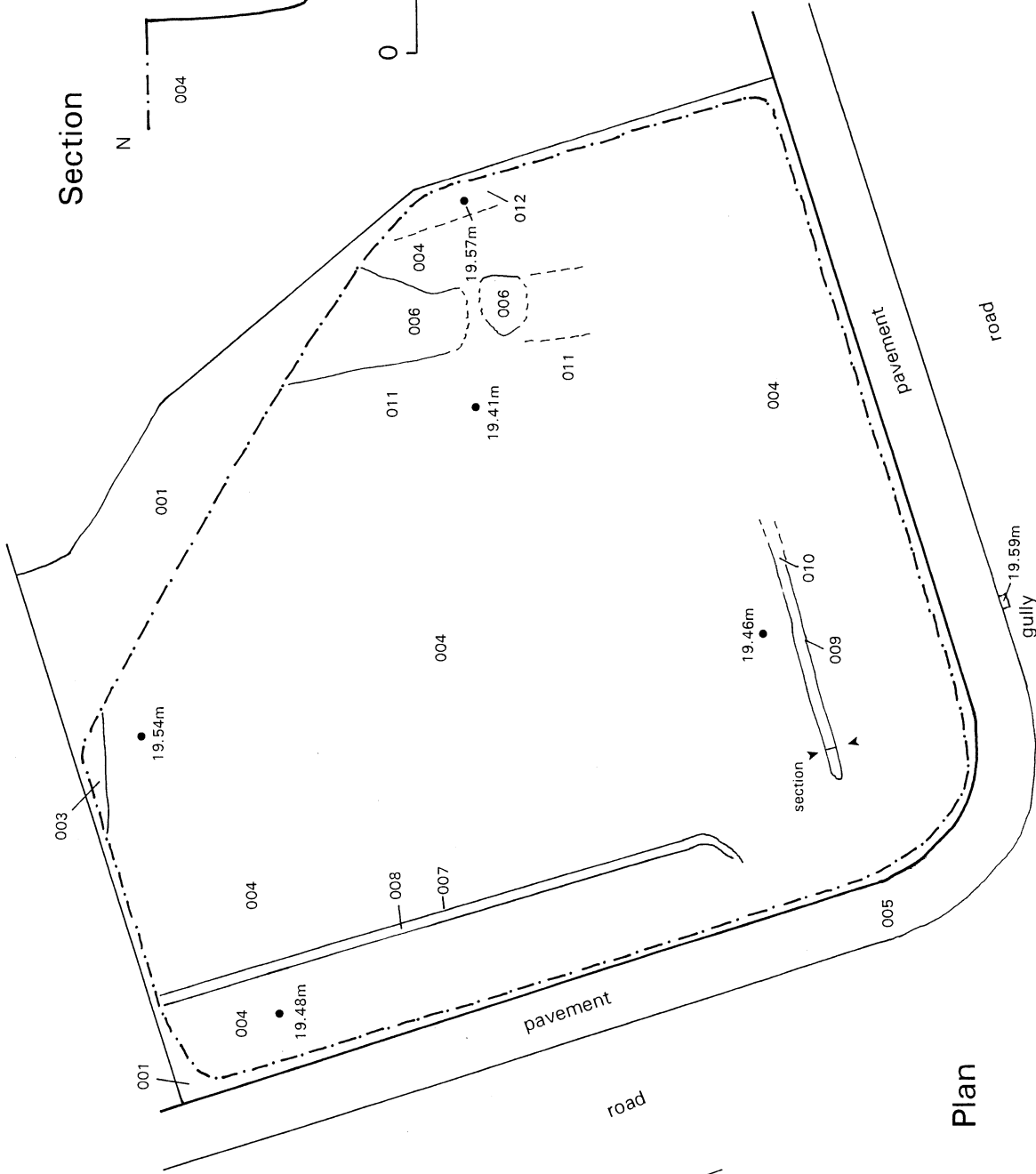
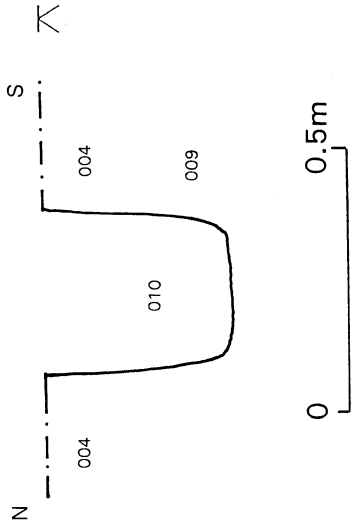


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PROJECT		AUCHINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD	
TITLE			
SITE LOCATION			
SCALE	NTS	DATE	MAR 2011
EDAS		FIGURE	2

PROJECT	AUCHINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD		
TITLE	WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	MAR 2011
	EDAS	FIGURE	3

Section



Plan





Plate 1: Topsoil strip in progress, looking SW.



Plate 2: Linear feature 011 with fill 006 as revealed in initial topsoil strip, looking S.



Plate 3: Shallow depth of possible furrow (011/006) revealed in house foundation, looking NE.



Plate 4: Trench 009 and fill 010, looking E.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Area of site</i>
001	Friable brown loam top soil and turf with moderate amounts of small chalk gravel and flint fragments, <0.5m deep on N side of site, 0.28 at E side.	N & E side
002	Remaining tarmac with very firm grey chalky gravel, <0.08m thick.	Centre
003	Loose brown loam with high frequency of small rounded gravel, c.0.09m thick, overlying 012.	N side
004	Loose yellow-grey chalky marl with high frequency of flint and chalk fragments - natural deposit.	Whole site
005	Concrete abutting pavement edge.	Periphery
006	Fill of 011 - soft grey-brown soil with moderate amounts of small flints and chalk gravel.	E side
007	Linear cut for service cable, 0.25m wide.	W side
008	Fill of 007 - firm brown sticky soil and ceramic tile cable markers.	W side
009	Linear cut approx. E-W with vertical sides, c.0.3m wide and <0.33m deep, cut through 004.	S side
010	Fill of 009 - firm grey-pink brown soil with chalk gravel and loam at base.	S side
011	Linear cut running approx. N-S, c.2.5m wide and averaging 0.12m deep but up to 0.2m deep - possible ridge and furrow.	E side
012	Blanket layer of firm pink-brown shaley subsoil with moderate amounts of chalky gravel and flint.	Whole site

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: EDAS WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF), BETWEEN NOS 106 AND 107 AUCHINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD, EAST YORKSHIRE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A small residential development, comprising two three-bedroom houses, is proposed on an area of land between Nos. 106 and 107 Auchinleck Close, Driffield, East Yorkshire. There is reason to believe that below-ground archaeological deposits relating to an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement may exist on or near the site, and it is anticipated that any planning permission will be conditional on a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.2 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been produced by Ed Dennison of Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd, on behalf of the applicant, Peter Ward Homes Ltd. This document will be submitted in support of the planning application, in the hope that archaeological matters can be swiftly dealt with.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The development site lies on the south side of the A614 road, just to the west of Driffield in East Yorkshire. Auchinleck Close runs south from the main road, through an existing housing estate. The area of the proposed new development lies in a corner plot between Nos. 106 and 107, on the west side of the main spine road (at NGR TA00815590 centred) (see attached figure).
- 2.2 The site lies at c.22m above Ordnance Datum and the proposed development site is a mixture of grass and concrete/tarmac hardstanding. The site is surrounded by other houses, part of the large Auchinleck Close housing estate. The solid geology of the area is Lower Cretaceous Chalk, overlain with glacial sand and gravel. The soils of the area are classified as a typical brown calcareous earth of the Coombe 1 Association (Soils of England and Wales, 1983, Sheet 1 Northern England, 1:250,000).

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Full planning permission is currently being sought for the above development. It is expected that the Humber Archaeology Partnership (HAP), who advise the Local Planning Authority on archaeological matters, will recommend that the application, if approved, be accompanied by an archaeological condition. This condition is expected to state that: *"No development shall take place 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 by the Local Planning Authority"* (PPG 16, para 30; Circular 11/95, Model Clause 55)".
- 3.2 Previous advice from the HAP on similar planning applications in this area suggests that this programme of archaeological work should comprise a scheme of observation, investigation and recording (i.e. a watching brief) conducted during all the below-ground works associated with the development. An earlier outline planning application for one retail unit on the same site was granted permission in July 2004 with a similar archaeological condition (application 04/03380, condition 11).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

- 4.1 The site of the proposed development lies within an area which contains the extensive remains of Iron Age and Romano-British occupation, traces of which were discovered in the 1950s during the construction of the nearby married quarters of the RAF station. More specifically, excavations in 1952 immediately to the south-west of the development site (at NGR TA00725600) uncovered a burial in a shallow grave and a number of ditches containing Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (Philips 1959). The focus of

occupation appears to have shifted to the south during the Romano-British period, where other finds were made.

- 4.2 More recently, a major programme of archaeological investigation, comprising geophysical survey, trial trenching and open area excavation, was undertaken between February 2003 and October 2008 over a large area of ground at the south end of Auchinleck Close. This work is currently being written up (Walsh *forthcoming*). In summary, a ditched enclosure revealed by geophysical survey has been dated to the Romano-British period, although it may have a late Iron Age origin. A large pit and evidence of Romano-British subdivision of the attendant field system was identified to the south of the main enclosure. Two phases of prehistoric activity were also identified on the site, as a small number of pits; the earliest of these dates to the late Neolithic period while a second group dates to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age. A cremation burial was also uncovered and this was radiocarbon dated to the Bronze Age. Medieval activity, in the form of a ditch and ridge and furrow cultivation, was also identified.
- 4.3 Four other corner plots within the Auchinleck Close housing estate have been redeveloped in the recent past, and this work was also subject to a programme of observation, investigation and recording. These plots all lie to the north of the current application site, including one immediately to the north of No. 107. On all plots, little of archaeological interest was identified (Dennison & Dennett 2007).

5 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological recording is to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be affected by the proposed development.
- 5.2 Any foundation and/or drainage trenches etc excavated for the new development will be subject to archaeological monitoring as they are being dug, so that any archaeological deposits that might be uncovered can be immediately identified and recorded. The same will also apply to any areas of topsoil stripping undertaken for the development, and this will be followed by detailed cleaning and recording of the exposed ground surface. Where mechanical equipment is to be used for the excavations (e.g. JCB or mini-digger), the main contractor will use a toothless bucket, to facilitate the archaeological recording.
- 5.3 If it becomes clear during the monitoring work that little of archaeological interest is likely to survive in specific parts of the site, the recording work may be halted in that part of the site, in consultation with the Curatorial Officer of the HAP. However, if structures, features or finds of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed, the archaeological contractor will be allowed time to clean, assess, and hand excavate, sample and record the archaeological remains, as necessary and appropriate according to the nature of the remains, to allow the archaeological material to be sufficiently characterised (see Section 7 below). Heavy plant or excavators will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until those remains have been recorded and the archaeological contractor has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.
- 5.4 The archaeological recording work should not cause undue delay to the overall programme of site works, and much can be achieved through liaison and co-operation with the main contractor. However, the main contractor and client will ensure that the archaeological contractor has sufficient time and resources to ensure compliance with all elements of this methods statement. It is likely that the archaeological recording will be accomplished through a number of separate site visits, the number and duration of which will be determined by the speed of the development and/or excavations. Access to the site will therefore be afforded to the archaeological contractor at all reasonable times.
- 5.5 Reasonable prior notice (minimum one week) of the commencement of development should be given to the archaeological contractor, who will then inform the HAP, so that they may attend or monitor the recording work if they so wish.

- 5.6 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of archaeological interest, will be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs (35mm black and white/colour prints and colour slides), scale drawings (plans and sections at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate), and written descriptions as judged adequate by the archaeological contractor, using appropriate proforma record sheets and standard archaeological recording systems.
- 5.7 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries are made that warrant more recording than is covered by this methods statement, immediate contact will be made with the developer and the Curatorial Officer of the HAP. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the recording work, in agreement with all parties concerned; these amendments might, for example, include the requirement to sample archaeological and/or environmental deposits. The possibility of temporarily halting work for unexpected discoveries will be discussed with the developer in advance of the development, and sufficient time and resources will be made available to ensure that proper recording is made prior to any removal.
- 5.8 If human remains are encountered during the course of the groundworks, they will be removed under the conditions of a Ministry of Justice burial licence, to ensure that they are treated with due dignity. The preferred option would be for them to be adequately recorded before lifting, and then carefully removed for scientific study, and long-term storage with an appropriate museum; however, the burial licence may specify reburial or cremation as a requirement.
- 5.9 The terms of the Treasure Act (1996) will be followed with regard to any finds which might fall within its purview. Any such finds will be removed to a safe place, and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will also be discussed and agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing.

6 REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 6.1 On completion of the archaeological fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and any finds will be cleaned, identified, assessed, spot dated, marked (if appropriate) and properly packaged and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. The level of post-excavation analysis will be appropriate to the quality and quantity of the finds recovered, and specialists would be consulted as necessary.
- 6.2 A fully indexed and ordered field archive will be prepared, following the guidelines produced by the National Archaeological Record. The archive will comprise primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive should also be prepared. Subject to the agreement of the landowner, the site archive will be deposited with any finds in the appropriate registered museum (East Riding of Museum Service). The proposed recipient museum will 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 HAP. The archaeological contractor will make an allowance for a minimum of one box in calculating estimates for the museum's storage grant.
- 6.3 With the exception of human remains, and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act - see above), all finds are the property of the landowner. However, it is generally expected that the finds will be deposited with the site archive. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will be agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing, and this will include contingency arrangements for artefacts of special significance. Any recording, marking and storage materials will be of archival quality, and recording systems will be compatible with the recipient museum. Copies of all recording forms and manuals will be submitted to the HAP prior to the commencement of site works, if these have not been submitted previously.

- 6.4 Within six weeks of the completion of the site work, a report will be produced by the archaeological contractor. This 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 copy of the developer's plan showing the areas monitored;
 - Sections and plan drawings with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales;
 - General site photographs, 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 watching brief, in the context of the known archaeology of the area;
 - Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary.
- 6.5 Three copies of the final report will be supplied, for distribution to the developer, the Local Planning Authority and the HAP SMR. A copy of the final report will also be included within the site archive. The HAP SMR will also receive an electronic version of the report in line with their current guidance, namely as a pdf file.
- 6.6 Where a significant discovery is made, consideration will be given to the preparation of a short note for inclusion in a local journal.

7 MONITORING

- 7.1 The archaeological recording work may be monitored by the HAP, and appropriate site meetings and liaison will be arranged as necessary.

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND INSURANCE

- 8.1 The archaeological contractor must comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 while undertaking the archaeological recording work, and Health and Safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters. The archaeological contractor undertaking the work must ensure that they are adequately insured, to cover all eventualities, including risks to third parties.

9 REFERENCES

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18 January 2011