ERECTION OF FOUR DWELLINGS, AUCHINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD, EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd 18 Springdale Way Beverley East Yorkshire HU17 8NU

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2003, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Blacklow Services Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the erection of a four individual new dwellings at Auchinleck Close, Driffield, East Yorkshire (NGR TA00855618 centred). The watching brief was made a condition of full planning permission (application DC/03/00176/PLF/BRIDW).

Despite the area in question having some archaeological potential, the watching brief during the erection of the four new dwellings produced nothing of archaeological interest, and no archaeological deposits or artefacts of note were uncovered. All of the four individual development plots showed some degree of disturbance from modern services while Plot 1 contained the remains of an electricity sub-station. One steep-sided flat-bottomed feature was noted in Plot 3, which could have been a post hole, although no dating evidence was recovered and it could easily have been a modern feature.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2003, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Blacklow Services Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the erection of a four individual new dwellings at Auchinleck Close, Driffield, East Yorkshire (NGR TA00855618 centred). The watching brief was made a condition of full planning permission (application DC/03/00176/PLF/BRIDW).

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Auchinleck Close is a residential development which extends SSE from the south side of the A614 Driffield to Bainton road in the parish of Kirkburn, to the south-west of Driffield (see figure 1). The development previously formed part the airmen's married quarters of Alamein Barracks.
- 2.2 The four individual development plots were located around the edges of the existing central block of residential housing; Plot 1 lay in the north-east corner between houses 87 and 126 (at TA0083056160), on the site of a former electricity substation, Plot 2 lay in the north-west corner between houses 120 and 121 (at TA0075056140), Plot 3 lay on the north side of an open space on the east side of the block between houses 118 and 119 (at TA0077056090), and Plot 4 lay on the south side of the same open space between houses 108 and 109 (at TA0078556030) (see figure 2). The plots are bounded by residential housing to the north and south, by the road of Auchinleck Close to the east and west, and by open fields beyond to the east and west. Prior to the watching brief, all four plots were grassed and had recently been used as recreation areas.
- 2.3 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 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief work was defined by a specification produced by the local archaeological curators, the Humber Archaeology Partnership (see Appendix 2). The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks (topsoil stripping and excavation of foundation and service trenches), in order to record any evidence relating to archaeological deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed by the works.
- 3.2 The watching brief was undertaken as a series of separate site visits, according to the schedule of the developer and service engineers who were required to do the pre-development work on site. The four plots were developed individually; Plots 1 and 2 were developed during August-September 2003 (Plot 2 followed by Plot 1) while Plots 3 and 4 were developed during October 2003. The turf, topsoil and some subsoil were stripped across each of the plots to a maximum depth of 0.38m, using a mechanical excavator with a 6ft wide toothless bucket; this work was monitored continuously. The archaeological monitoring of the foundation trenches was also carried out during several separate site visits. The c.0.6m wide trenches were dug to a depth of c.0.45m from the stripped surface, using mechanical excavator with a 2ft toothed bucket. On Plot 1, a foundation trench on the north-east

side of the development had to be dug to a depth of 2.2m in order to clear an adjacent drain. Trenches to the south were widened manually to facilitate the removal of parts of what was thought to be a former electricity sub-station.

- 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. Due to the extended and fragmented nature of the watching brief, context numbers were recorded in separate blocks for each plot, the first of the three digits signifying the plot number (e.g. 201). A total of 35 archaeological contexts were recorded for the whole site (see also Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of all monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plans at 1:100 and 1:50 scales, with more detailed section drawings produced at 1:10 scale. A photographic record was maintained using 35mm colour prints. Levels OD were obtained from an Ordnance Survey bench mark located at the north end of Auchinleck Close.
- 3.4 With the agreement of the developer, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (site code AKD 03; accession number 2003.50). No artefacts were retained from the watching brief.

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 (Philips 1959). These remains comprised ditches, 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.
- 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, 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 Archaeological investigations have also been carried on land to the south of the current development site, at the south end of Auchinleck Close. An initial geophysical survey 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. A number of other geophysical anomalies were noted in the central and east parts of the site, of which some are likely to represent modern land drains and ploughed out ridge and furrow, although others may be earlier in date.

4.4 A subsequent archaeological evaluation, by means of trial trenching, confirmed and expanded on the results of the geophysical survey (Signorelli and Wheelhouse 2003). A total of five evaluation trenches were positioned to target the geophysical anomalies as well as those areas not suitable or amenable for detection. The three trenches at the west end of the site produced the best results. Trench A contained two linear ditches, a gully and a possible pit, Trench B contained a large pit, three linear ditches and a post hole, and Trench C contained two linear ditches and a small pit. The artefact assemblage included sherds of very late Iron Age and early Roman pottery. The pit in Trench B contained a large proportion of the artefact assemblage, including over 80 sherds of pottery and items of metalwork, which included iron nails, an iron ring, a copper-alloy ring handle and an iron hair pin. The small pit in Trench C yielded 14 sherds of probable late Bronze Age pottery and pieces of worked flint/chert. Animal bone and a scarce quantity of charred plant material were also recovered from the excavated features. The majority of the archaeological activity was of very late Iron Age or Romano-British in date, but with material from earlier periods represented. In particular, there is the possibility that Bronze Age activity may have occurred on the site, prior to the establishment of the later enclosure and field system.

5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS (see figures 3 and 4)

Plot 1 - TA0083056160

- 5.1 The stripped area of plot measured c.13m by c.12.5m, to 18.42m OD. It was noted that the topsoil/turf layer (101) was particularly shallow (0.05m) on this plot, which was the second plot of the four to be dug. The stripping of the surface layers revealed a virtually rectangular feature (103), measuring 3.0m by 3.8m and cut into the loamy chalk gravel subsoil (102), in the north corner of the plot (see plate 1). It was filled with a very compacted, fine orange/brown silty loam (104) containing chalk gravel, flint, clay lumps and frequent small stones.
- 5.2 The rectangular feature (103) was recorded and the excavation of its north-east quadrant showed it to be a shallow scoop, 0.12m deep. A small fragment of concrete in the fill (104), close to the base of the scoop, suggested that it was a modern feature, probably machine dug, possibly a small area of hard-standing or the result of long term compaction from heavy machinery or equipment.
- 5.3 On the southern part of the plot, former major electrical installations had to be dealt with by contractors and what appeared to be a small junction box or cable connector (109) was left standing proud in this area after the stripping of the surface layers 101 and 102. There was some delay before this could be done. Topsoil stripping had revealed an approximately rectangular area of darker soil (105), c.5.5m long by 5.0m wide and less than 0.12m deep, containing fragments of metal, wire and plastic, and this was recorded on plan. The eventual excavation of the foundation trenches revealed several lengths of modern brick walls, formed by up to eight courses of modern brick, which were thought to represent the former electricity sub-station (107); the top of the wall lay at 18.29m OD and its 0.12m thick concrete foundation (108) was visible at a depth of 0.8m beneath the stripped surface in the deepest, north-eastern trench. The full plan of this building(s) was not fully exposed by the work and, as the soils were loose and unstable in this area, no attempt was made to draw sections or clean the base of the trench.
- 5.4 The north-east foundation trench was dug through the c.0.31m thick loamy chalk gravel subsoil (102) and the clean natural chalk gravel beneath (106) to a depth of 2.2m in order to clear an adjacent deep drain. The section revealed much

disturbance down to a depth of c.0.8m due to a series of electricity cables crossing the plot towards the sub-station; these were not recorded individually. The foundations reached a level of 17.97m OD and no features of archaeological interest were visible.

Plot 2 - TA0075056140

- 5.5 It was noted that the topsoil (201) in this plot was fairly shallow, only 0.09m deep, and it is possible that both this and Plot 1 were previously stripped in the mid 20th century when the RAF married quarters was laid out and most of the houses were built. The stripped area measured c.14.0m by 13.0m. Amorphous, shallow patches of clay (204), only 0.07m deep, were apparent on the surface of the chalk gravel subsoil (202) in the south-east corner of the plot; they may either have been natural features or possibly associated with the building of the adjacent houses. The loose chalk gravel subsoil (202) was between 0.18m and 0.48m thick, and lay on top of the natural creamy white chalk gravel (203) (see plate 2).
- 5.6 A modern service trench (205) 0.55m wide ran across the south-west corner of the plot. The fine gravel fill (206) of the trench was cut by two small rectangular slots (207 and 209), 0.5m wide by 1.00m long and 0.39m wide by 0.69m long respectively; they were filled with a firm light brown clay with chalk gravel (208 and 210) and appeared to be test pits or repair points for the pipe. No features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Plot 3 - TA0077056090

- 5.7 The stripped area for this plot measured c.17.0m by c.13.5m, with the stripped surface varying between 19.09m and 19.01m OD. A service pipe trench (303), 0.2m wide and c.0.35m deep, and backfilled with a fine loam with chalk gravel (304), was visible on the stripped surface, crossing the plot on a NW-SE alignment. The topsoil was only 0.11m thick (301) (see plate 3).
- 5.8 The junction between the c.0.24m deep subsoil (302) and the clean natural chalk gravel (305) beneath was very clear on this plot, but in places, narrow, steeply angled irregularities occurred, possibly due to frost action or root disturbance. One such steeply-sided feature (306), 0.24m wide and 0.21m deep, which could be interpreted as a possible post hole due to its flat base, was visible in the south side of the northernmost foundation trench; it was filled with a clean grey/brown loam (307). However, no dating evidence was recovered, and it could be a relatively modern feature. The foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of 18.64m OD.

Plot 4 - TA0078556030

- 5.9 There appeared to be a greater depth of topsoil (401), up to 0.24m deep, on this plot compared to the others, which may be due to a build-up of organic matter from adjacent trees. The stripped area measured c.14,0m by c.12.5m with the stripped surface lying at between 19.75m and 19.59m OD. The topsoil overlay the subsoil (402), which was up to 0.4m deep, which in turn overlay the natural chalk (409).
- 5.10 The topsoil stripping of the plot revealed a service trench (403), 0.25m wide and 0.3m deep, crossing the area on a diagonal north-south alignment, and filled with a firm loam and chalk gravel (404) (see plate 4). Two sewer trenches (405) and (407), 0.62m and 0.9m wide respectively, ran along the south-east and north-west sides to a manhole located in the southern corner. A slight disturbance visible in the south-

west facing section of the stripped area was thought to be associated with the service pipe.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Despite the area in question having some potential, the watching brief during the erection of the four new dwellings produced nothing of archaeological interest, and no archaeological deposits or artefacts of note were uncovered. All of the four individual development plots showed some degree of disturbance from modern services while Plot 1 contained the remains of an electricity sub-station. One steep-sided flat-bottomed feature was noted in Plot 3, which could have been a post hole, although no dating evidence was recovered and it could easily have been a modern feature.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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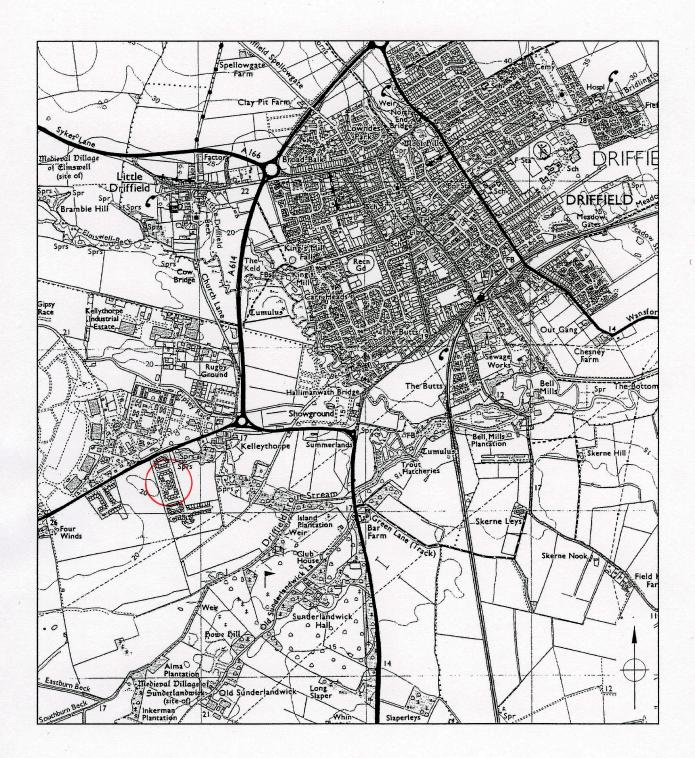
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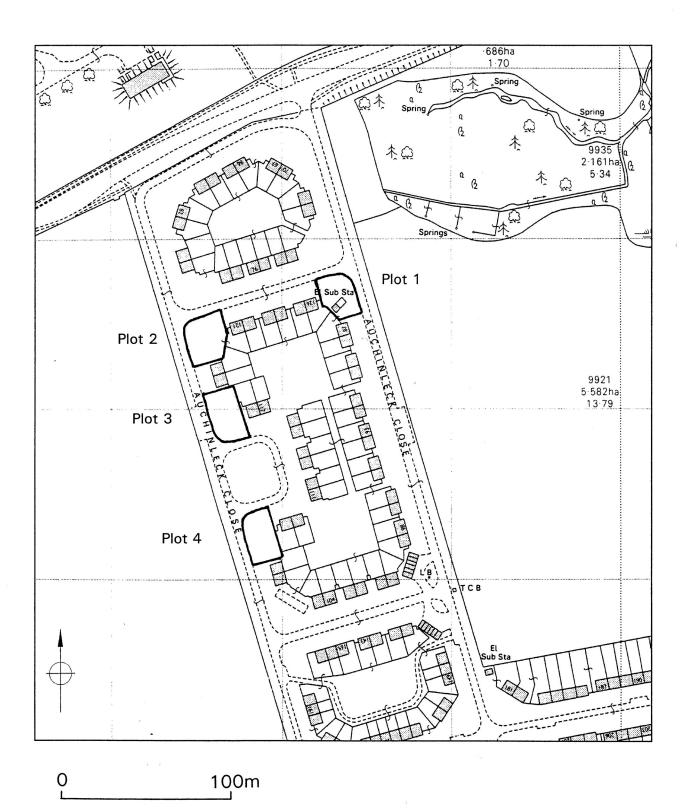
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief at Auchinleck Close was commissioned and funded by the developers, Blacklow Services Ltd, and EDAS would like to thank them, and their representative Mr Simon Cutting, 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.



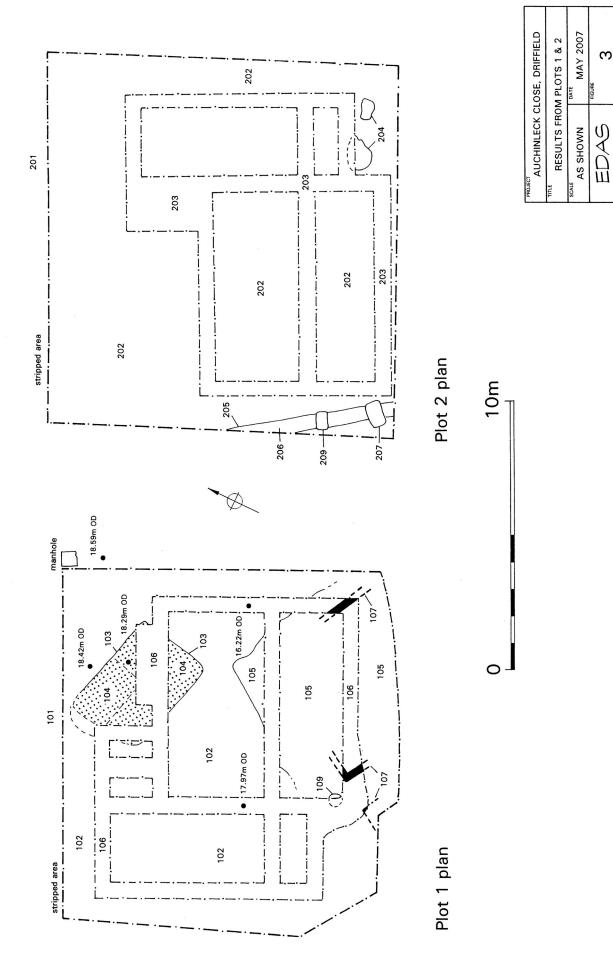
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AUCHINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD		
EDAS	figure 1	



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AUCHINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD		
EDAS	FIGURE 2	



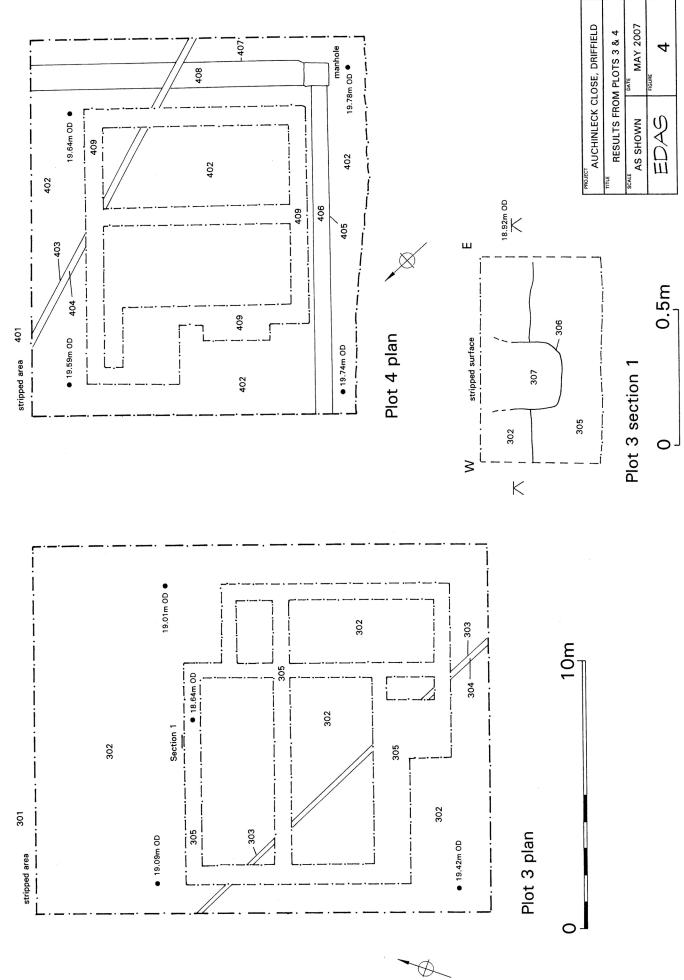




Plate 1: Plot 1, rectangular feature (103) in north corner of plot, looking E.



Plate 2: Plot 2, foundations under excavation, looking NNE.



Plate 3: Plot 3, foundations under excavation, looking N.



Plate 4: Plot 4, service trench (403) running through stripped area, looking S.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Plot 1

- 101 Turf and firm brown loam topsoil <0.05m thick.
- 102 Firm grey/brown silty loam with chalk gravel subsoil <0.31m thick.
- 103 Cut for rectangular depression c.3.9m long by 3.0m wide and 0.12m deep.
- 104 Fill of 103 compacted orange/brown silty loam with chalk gravel.
- 105 Loose dirty orange/brown loam with modern debris, <0.12m thick.
- 106 Firm cream chalk gravel with some flint natural.
- 107 Section of modern brick wall forming truncated foundations up to 8 courses.
- 108 Concrete foundation for brick wall 107, 0.12m thick.
- 109 Modern electricity junction box / cable connector .

Plot 2

- 201 Turf and loose grey/brown fine loam with chalk gravel topsoil <0.09m thick.
- Loose grey/brown silty loam with chalk gravel subsoil <0.48m thick.
- 203 Firm cream chalk gravel with some flint natural.
- 204 Firm brown clay patches, <0.07m thick.
- 205 Cut for linear service trench, 0.55m wide.
- 206 Fill of 205 firm cream fine gravel.
- 207 Cut for rectangular pit on top of service pipe 205, 0.5m wide and 1.0m long.
- 208 Fill of 207 firm light brown clay with chalk gravel.
- 209 Cut for rectangular pit on top of service pipe 205, 0.39m wide and 0.69m long.
- 210 Fill of 207 firm light brown clay with chalk gravel.

Plot 3

- 301 Turf and brown friable loam topsoil 0.11m thick.
- 302 Firm grey/brown fine loam with chalk gravel subsoil <0.24m thick.
- 303 Cut for linear service pipe trench, 0.2m wide and c.0.35m deep.
- 304 Fill of 303 firm brown loam and fine chalk gavel.
- 305 Firm cream chalk gravel with some flint natural.
- 306 Cut for vertical sided flat bottomed pit or ?post hole, 0.24m wide and 0.21m deep.
- 307 Fill of 306 firm brown loam with chalk gravel.

Plot 4

- 401 Turf and loose grey/brown silty loam topsoil <0.24m thick.
- 402 Firm brown loam with chalk gravel subsoil <0.4m thick.
- 403 Cut for linear service pipe, 0.25m wide and 0.3m deep.
- 404 Fill of 403 firm light brown loam with fine chalk gravel.
- 405 Cut for linear service pipe, 0.62m wide.
- 406 Fill of 405 firm light brown loam with fine chalk gravel.
- 407 Cut for linear service pipe, 0.9m wide.
- 408 Fill of 407 firm light brown loam with fine chalk gravel.
- 409 Firm cream chalk gravel with some flint natural.

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: HUMBER ARCHAEOLOGY PARTNERSHIP SPECIFICATION

SPECIFICATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING BY WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared by the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office, for Blacklow Services Ltd.

Site Name:	Lane east of 126, west of 121, west of 118, west of 113, west of 109 Auchinleck
	Close, Driffield, East Riding of Yorkshire
Development:	Erection of 4 dwellings
NGR:	TA 0085 5618 (centre)
Planning ref.:	DC/03/00176/PLF/BRIDW
SMR case no.:	PA/CONS/9471
Date of issue:	29th April 2003

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 and recording (known as a watching brief) to be carried out during ground-works associated with the erection of 4 new dwellings at lane on the west side of Auchinleck Close, Driffield, 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 on the west side of Auchinleck Close, Kirkburn, Driffield (the former Alamein Barracks site). It is bounded by residential housing to north and south, by the road of Auchinleck Close to the east, and by fields to the west.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

permission 3.1 represents alterations former The current application to а (DC/99/00904/PLF/BRIDW). This application was received by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 13th January 2003 (application no. DC/03/00176/PLF/BRIDW). Full planning permission was subsequently granted, subject to an archaeological condition stating 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 by the Local Planning Authority (cf. PPG 16, para 30)."

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

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. In 1952, excavations uncovered a burial in a shallow grave, and a number of ditches containing Iron Age and Romano-British pottery and occupation debris. A recent geophysical survey of an area just to the south of the current application site has revealed the survival of a complex of rectangular enclosures, which probably belong to a settlement and field system of those periods. It is likely, therefore, that any ground-works in this area would encounter archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric and Romano-British periods.

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 archaeological monitoring of the digging of foundations and service trenches to the proposed dwellings. These works 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 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 programme of works.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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 Sites and Monuments Record.
- 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 artifacts 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. Contractors should make an allowance for a minimum of one box in calculating estimates for the museum's storage grant.
- 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):
 - 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 showing the areas monitored (e.g. house block, garage, service trenches etc) and indicating the position of archaeological features in relation to the foundations etc., with scale
 - Sections and plan drawings (where archaeological deposits are exposed) with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales
 - Photographs (a minimum 35mm format) where significant archaeological deposits or artefacts are encountered; also general photographs to show the prevailing condition of the site at the time of the watching brief
 - 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.

- 5.7 In addition, 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 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 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 watching brief 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)