

AUCHINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD,
EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2003, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Peter Ward Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during initial groundworks associated with the residential development of land at the south end of Auchinleck Close, Driffield, East Yorkshire (NGR TA00505597 centred). The archaeological work was made a condition of full planning permission, granted by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 30th March 1998 (application M.1579(T) - condition 15).

As part of a wider programme of archaeological investigations, a geophysical survey of the development site was carried out in February 2003, followed by some trial trenching in May and June 2003. However, in order to kick-start the development process, some limited groundworks were undertaken immediately after the geophysical survey and prior to the trial trenching. These groundworks were monitored in late February and March 2003, to ensure that any archaeological deposits that might be disturbed were afforded an appropriate level of record.

The results of the two phases of watching brief revealed little of real archaeological interest, primarily due to the limited nature of the groundworks. Test Pit 1A, excavated in the approximate centre of a square enclosure recorded by geophysical survey in the west end of the site, revealed a possible pit or ditch (006); this was aligned NNW/SSE and was 0.5m deep and c.1.5m wide but was only visible in the west end of the pit and no dating material was recovered. The excavation of Test Pit 1B showed that there was a combined 0.6m depth of topsoil (001) and loam subsoil (002) over the natural clay (003) in the west end of the site, while in Test Pit 3 at the east end of the site a 0.15m depth of topsoil (001) lay directly on the natural chalk gravel (004); this implies that the eastern part of the site might have been previously stripped.

A curving depression greater than 0.19m deep and possibly of natural origin, as well as a possible small U-shaped ditch (008), 0.41m wide and c.0.18m deep, were seen cut into the natural chalk gravel (004) in the foundations for a pair of semi-detached houses excavated in the north-west corner of the site. Elsewhere in this area, a combined 0.57m depth of topsoil and plough soil (001/002) overlay the natural chalk gravel (004). No features of archaeological interest were noted in the c.11m by 6m area stripped for a new access road.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2003, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Peter Ward Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during initial groundworks associated with the residential development of land at the south end of Auchinleck Close, Driffield, East Yorkshire (NGR TA00505597 centred).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was made a condition of full planning permission, granted by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 30th March 1998 (application M.1579(T) - condition 15). This condition required a phased programme of archaeological investigation, comprising a geophysical survey and trial trenching, followed by further archaeological work as necessary to record any identified remains that might be affected by the proposed development.
- 1.3 A geophysical survey of the development site was duly carried out in February 2003, and this identified some areas of archaeological potential, especially in the west end of the site (GeoQuest Associates 2003) (see below). It was acknowledged that a programme of archaeological trial trenching would then be required to fully assess the implications of the development proposals, and this was carried out in May and June 2003 by Archaeological Services WYAS; the results of this work have been reported elsewhere (Signorelli & Wheelhouse 2003).
- 1.4 However, in order to kick-start the development process, some limited groundworks were required to be undertaken immediately after the geophysical survey and prior to the archaeological trial trenching. These groundworks were limited in nature, and involved the excavation of several test pits, the removal of an existing spoil heap, the construction of a short length (c.11m) of new access road, and the digging of the foundations for one house plot. A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was therefore held in late February and March 2003 during these works, to ensure that any archaeological deposits that might be disturbed were afforded an appropriate level of preservation by record. The results from the archaeological recording were also used, in part, to inform the methodology for the subsequent trial trenching (Dennison 2003).
- 1.5 A methods statement for the archaeological observation, investigation and recording was produced by EDAS in advance of the project (see Appendix 2). The contents of this methods statement were discussed and agreed with the Humber Archaeology Partnership.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The development site lies on the south side of the A614 road, just to the west of Driffield in East Yorkshire (NGR TA00955595 centred) (see figure 1). Auchinleck Close runs south from the main road, through an existing housing estate. The area of the proposed new development lies on the south side of the existing estate.
- 2.2 The majority of the proposed development site is overgrown rough pasture, although there is a small play area towards the north-west corner containing areas of tarmac on which swings etc were formerly positioned. There are also some areas of dumping, mostly along the north central part of the site. The site has unrestricted public access, and is a popular dog-walking area.
- 2.3 The solid geology of the proposed development 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). The site lies at c.22m AOD.

3 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Information from the Humber Sites and Monuments Record (HSMR) notes that the proposed development site lies within an area of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and occupation. Extensive evidence for this activity was uncovered during the 1950s, when RAF married quarters were constructed adjacent to the current site.
- 3.2 More specifically, excavations in 1952 immediately to the north-west of the development site (at TA00725600) uncovered a burial in a shallow grave and a number of ditches containing Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (Philips 1959). During the Romano-British period, the focus of occupation appears to have shifted to the south, where other finds were made. The HSMR therefore concluded that any development in this area might encounter further below-ground deposits and features relating to the occupation of the site in the prehistoric and Romano-British periods.
- 3.3 The geophysical survey undertaken just before the programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording also provided further information on the archaeological potential of the development site (GeoQuest Associates 2003). A square enclosure, formed by presumed soil-filled ditches and measuring c.55m square, was identified in the western end of the site (f4, f5 and f6 on figure 2), together with a number of outlying features, possibly representing further ditches (f3 and f7 on figure 2). These anomalies all suggest part of a relict field system, possibly associated with a ditched trackway which runs along the north side of the enclosure.
- 3.4 A number of other geophysical anomalies were noted in the centre and east parts of the development site. Some of these are likely to represent modern land drains and ploughed out ridge and furrow (medieval or early post-medieval cultivation patterns) (e.g. f2, f8 and f9 on figure 2), although other features (e.g. f10 and f11) may be of archaeological origin. It should also be noted that geophysical readings over some parts of the site were obscured by spoil tips, modern debris, and brick or ferrous surface scatters.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording followed the EDAS methods statement (see Appendix 2), and more general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999). The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the geotechnical and other groundworks, to recover information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed.
- 4.2 The watching brief was undertaken in two phases. The first phase involved the monitoring of excavations for eight test pits which were dug to determine the nature of the underlying water table and provide data on water percolation. These pits were dug and monitored on 12th February 2003; they each measured c.2.0m long by 0.7m wide, and were excavated to a maximum depth of 2.7m below existing ground level by a JCB excavator. The nature of the clay subsoil in Pit 1A proved to be unsatisfactory for drainage testing, and so it was infilled immediately and replaced by Pit 1B. Pit 4A, dug to a depth of only 0.4m, also proved unsuitable

due to a ceramic drain running down the centre of the pit, and so this was filled in and replaced by Pit 4B. A further test pit, Pit 7, had been dug prior to the archaeological watching brief.

- 4.3 The second phase of work involved the archaeological monitoring of the removal of a large spoil heap, the cutting of foundations for a pair of semi-detached houses, and the stripping of an area of ground measuring c.11 m by 6m for an access road. This monitoring took place on an intermittent basis between 26th February and 4th March 2003.
- 4.4 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 nine archaeological contexts were recorded; these are all described in the following text as three digit numbers (e.g. 005) (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 plan, and more detailed drawings were made of each area/feature as necessary. A photographic record was also maintained using 35mm colour prints.
- 4.5 The archive arising from this project, comprising written and photographic elements, will be combined with the archives produced by the other phases of archaeological fieldwork on the site, for subsequent deposition with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (site code ACD 03). No artefacts were retained from the watching brief.

5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF (see figure 3)

Phase 1: Test Pits

- 5.1 As noted in Chapter 4 above, a total of six test pits were originally excavated but two (Pits 1A and 4A) proved to be unsuitable and so were replaced by Pits 1B and 4B. The pits each measured c.2.0m long by 0.7m wide, and were excavated to a maximum depth of 2.7m below existing ground level. The pits were distributed across the full extent of the site, from Pit 1B in the west to Pit 3 in the east.
- 5.2 It was noted that there was considerable variation in the nature of the natural subsoil, a key feature which will be relevant to any further work in detecting and recording archaeological deposits across the development site. In Pit 1B, a very firm grey-brown clean natural clay (003) lay at a depth of 0.6m below ground level, beneath a 0.3m depth of friable dark brown loam topsoil (001) and a further 0.3m depth of brown gravelly clayey loam subsoil (002). The clean clay (003) extended down to a depth of at least 2.10m. In Pit 3, no clay was visible, the yellow-white natural chalk gravel with flints (004) lying immediately beneath only 0.15m of clean dark topsoil (001) and extending down to a depth at least 1.6m below existing ground level. Other pits showed alternating layers of natural yellow-white chalk gravel (004) and clay or chalk gravel with deep pockets of clay (003).
- 5.3 Both Pits 3 and 6, in which the natural undisturbed chalk gravel (004) lay very close to the surface, were positioned towards the central east end of the site. In Pit 3, the junction between the dark brown loam topsoil (001) and the natural chalk gravel (004) was markedly clean with no evidence of the lighter brown subsoil/plough soil (002). It possible that at some time in the 20th century, this part

of the development site has been stripped down to the natural gravel (004) and the shallow, loamy, relatively gravel-free topsoil (001) is a recent accumulation.

- 5.4 A wide shallow pit or possible ditch (006), aligned NNW/SSE, and 0.5m deep and c.1.5m wide, was visible in both sides of the west end of Pit 1A (see figure 4). This appeared to be cut from the top of the plough soil and the fill (007) was consistent and similar to the subsoil/plough soil (002), with no evidence of silting. The pit lay within the area of the enclosure revealed by the earlier geophysical survey, but it did not appear to cut any features revealed by the survey. No artefacts were apparent and the feature may represent a former hedgeline or field boundary.
- 5.5 Pit 4B, towards the north-east corner of the site, showed some possible disturbance over the whole length, but no cut lines were visible. Fragments of 20th century glass and some brick were visible to a depth of c.0.9m below ground level, and the disturbance was presumed to be a modern rubbish pit (005). Fragments of animal bone (cow or horse), of unspecified date, were also observed on the ground surface in a disturbed area c.20m to the west of Pit 2, possibly resulting from the digging of an earlier test pit.

Phase 2: Spoil Heap, House Foundation and Access Road

- 5.6 A large spoil heap, consisting mainly of modern rubbish, topsoil, heavy rubble and tarmac, was removed from the northern boundary of the site using a four and a half ton 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. The lower layers of rubble and tarmac had been deposited in shallow scoops, but no archaeological deposits were observed during this operation.
- 5.7 An area measuring c.11.5m square was then stripped for the excavation of a house platform on the west side of the entrance to the site. The remaining topsoil (001) and a c.0.29m depth of subsoil/plough soil (002) was removed to a level of 18.39m AOD at the north end of the platform and 18.26m AOD at the south end. Although much dumping of rubbish had obviously taken place, over a number of years, it was possible to detect the upper level of the original plough soil, at a depth of c.0.13m beneath the existing land surface in the north section of the house foundation. No archaeological features were apparent in the subsoil (002) of the stripped area, prior to the cutting of the foundations.
- 5.8 The natural yellow-white chalk gravel (004) had an undulating surface and lay at a depth of c.0.7m below the existing ground surface. A curving depression, greater than 0.19m deep in the natural chalk gravel, was visible in both sections of the western side of the house footings, but it was not apparent in any other trenches and so was assumed to be a tree throw. The cut for a possible small U-shaped ditch (008), aligned ENE/WSW and measuring 0.41m wide and less than 0.18m deep, was recorded in the centre of the west side of the same west foundation trench, but it did not appear in any other trenches. The fill (009) was indistinguishable from the surrounding subsoil/plough soil (002) and the feature may simply have been caused by ploughing; in the south-east part of the site, plough lines on the same orientation were recorded by the geophysical survey. No human remains or artefacts were observed during the monitoring of the house foundations.
- 5.9 The turf and topsoil (001), c.0.13m deep, was stripped from a short length of access road to reveal a 0.10m layer of tarmac; a total area measuring 6.0m east-west by 11.0m north-south was stripped. The removal of the tarmac revealed a layer of modern chalk rubble hardcore (18.41m AOD) which was to remain in

position. Along the western edge of this area, a further topsoil strip of an area 0.45m wide by c.11.0m long was removed to a depth of 0.5m from the existing ground surface to reveal only the subsoil/plough soil (002). No features or artefacts of archaeological interest were exposed by these excavations.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The results of the two phases of watching brief revealed little of real archaeological interest, due to the scale of the groundworks. One test pit (Pit 1A), excavated in the approximate centre of a square enclosure recorded by geophysical survey in the west end of the site, revealed a possible pit or ditch (006); this was aligned NNW/SSE and was 0.5m deep and c.1.5m wide, but was only visible in the west end of the pit and no dating material was recovered. The excavation of Pit 1B showed that there was a combined 0.6m depth of topsoil (001) and loam subsoil (002) over the natural clay (003) in the west end of the site, while in Pit 3 at the east end of the site the 0.15m depth of topsoil (001) lay directly on the natural chalk gravel (004); this implies that the eastern part of the site might have been previously stripped.
- 6.2 A curving depression greater than 0.19m deep and possibly of natural origin, as well as a possible small U-shaped ditch (008), 0.41m wide and c.0.18m deep, were seen cut into the natural chalk gravel (004) in the foundations for a pair of semi-detached houses excavated in the north-west corner of the site. Elsewhere in this area, a combined 0.57m depth of topsoil and plough soil (001/002) overlay the natural chalk gravel (004). No features of archaeological interest were noted in the c.11m by 6m area stripped for a new access road.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GeoQuest Associates 2003 "Geophysical Survey of Land to the South of Auchinleck Close, Driffield, East Riding of Yorkshire"

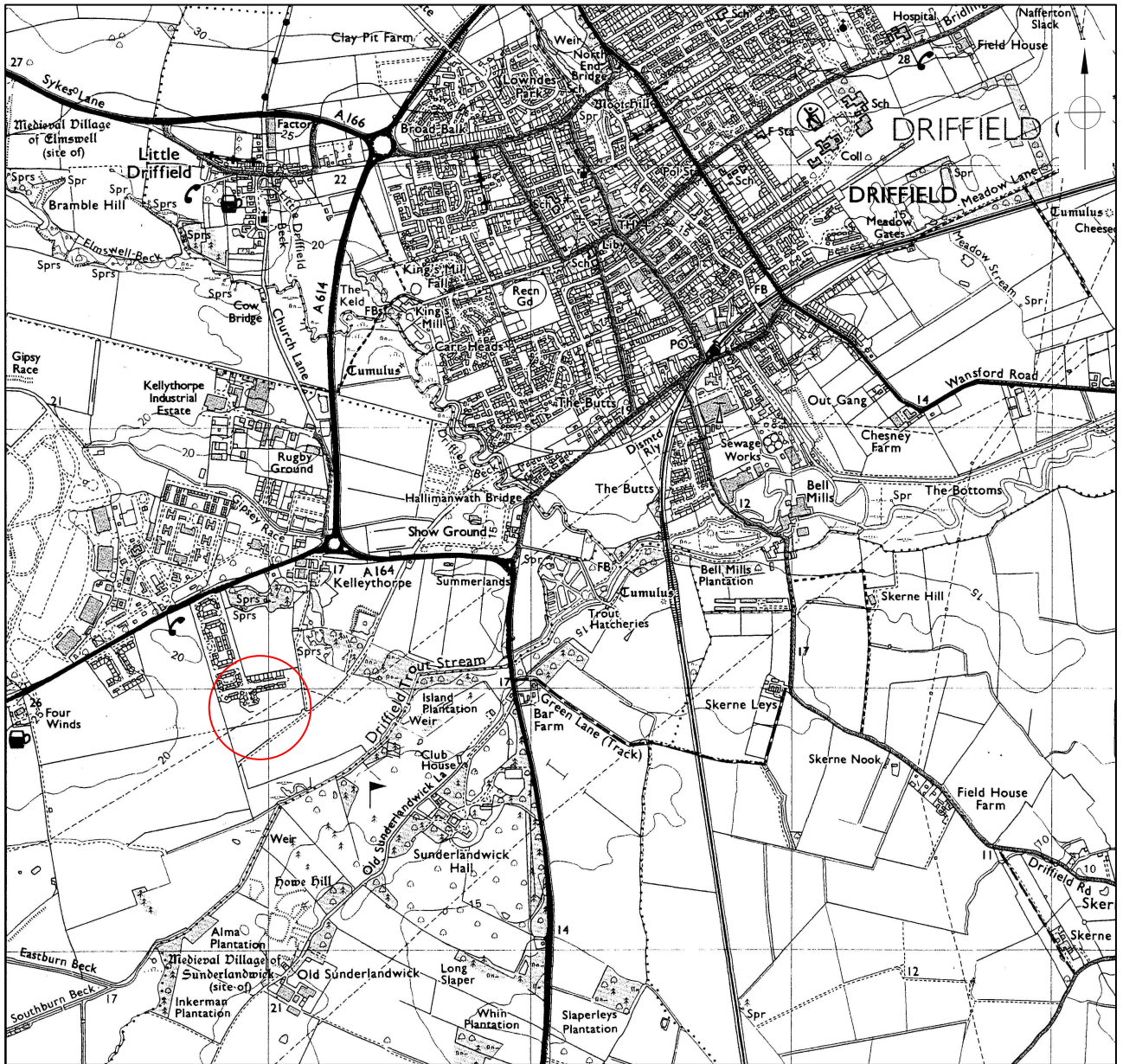
IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (and subsequent revisions)

Philips, J T 1959 "An Iron Age Site at Driffield, East Riding, Yorks". *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* vol 157, 183-191

Signorelli, L & Wheelhouse, P 2003 *Auchinleck Close, Driffield, East Riding of Yorkshire: Archaeological Trial Trenching* (unpublished ASWYAS report 1147)

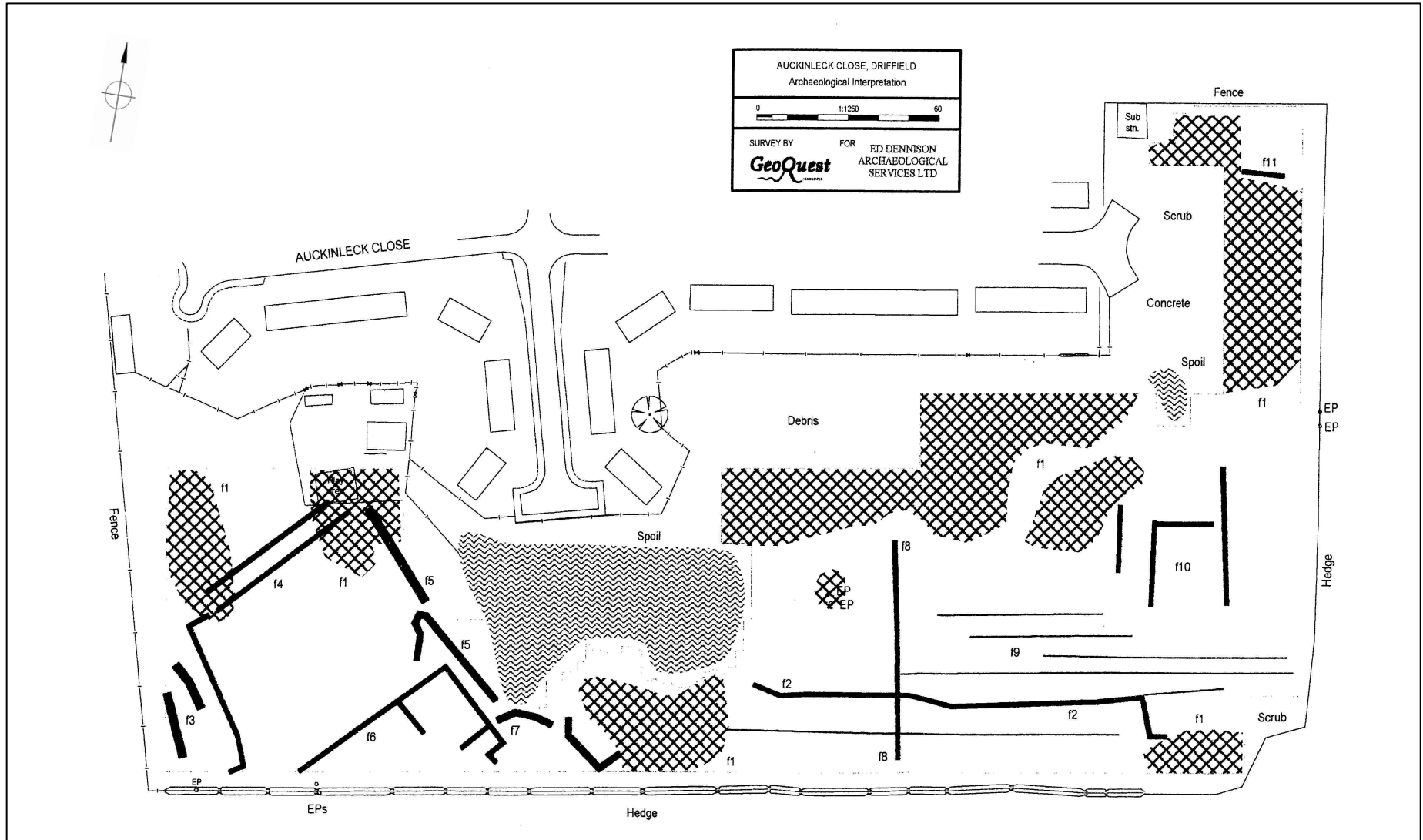
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief at Auchinleck Close was commissioned by the developer, Peter Ward Homes Ltd, through their land manager, Paul Hopkin. EDAS would like to thank them, as well as the site contractors, for their co-operation in carrying out the archaeological recording.
- 8.2 The on-site recording was undertaken by Kate Dennett on behalf of EDAS. The final report and site archive was produced by Ed Dennison of EDAS, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.

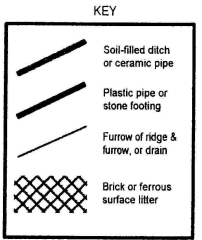


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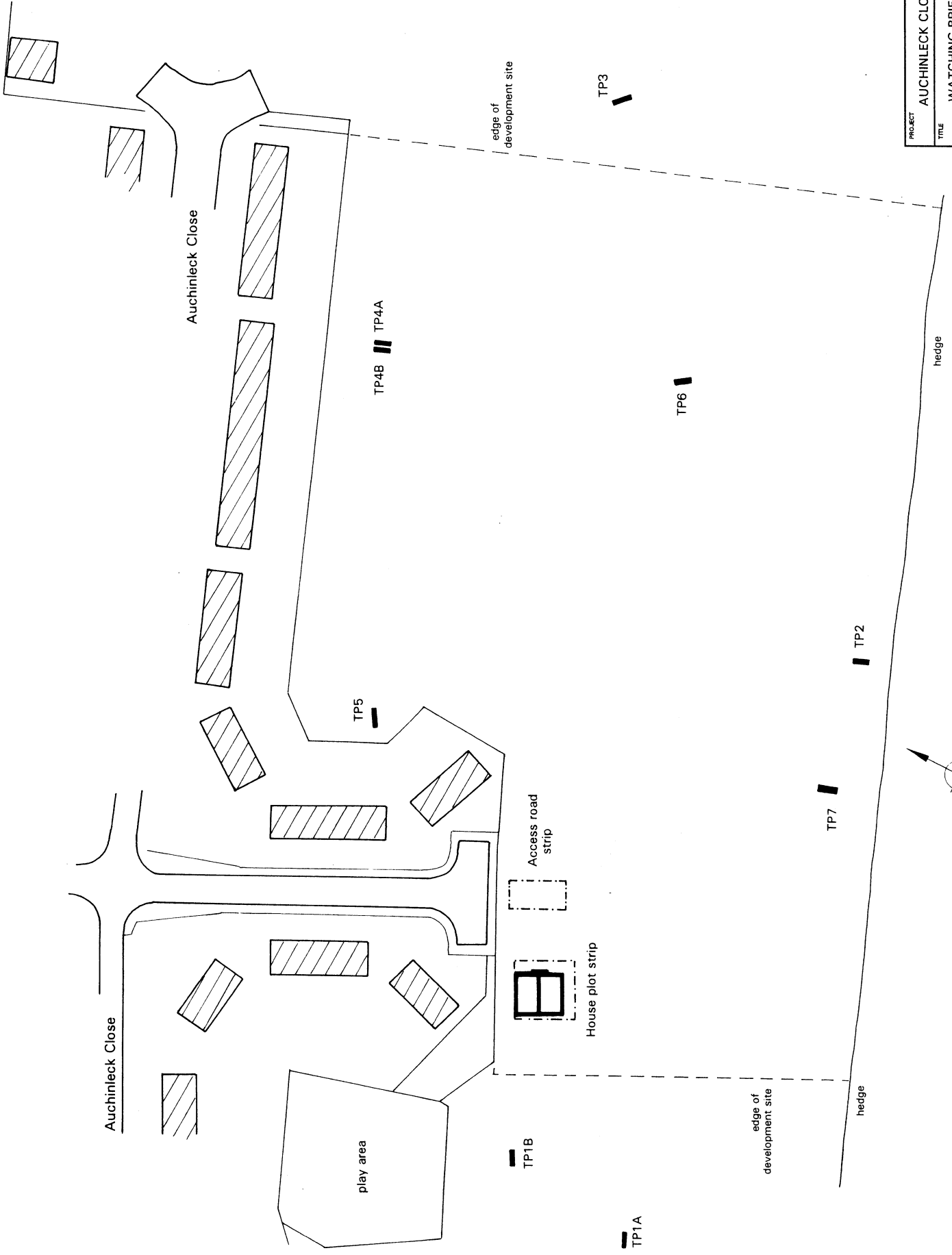
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TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	DATE	NTS	FEB 2009
EDAS	FIGURE		1



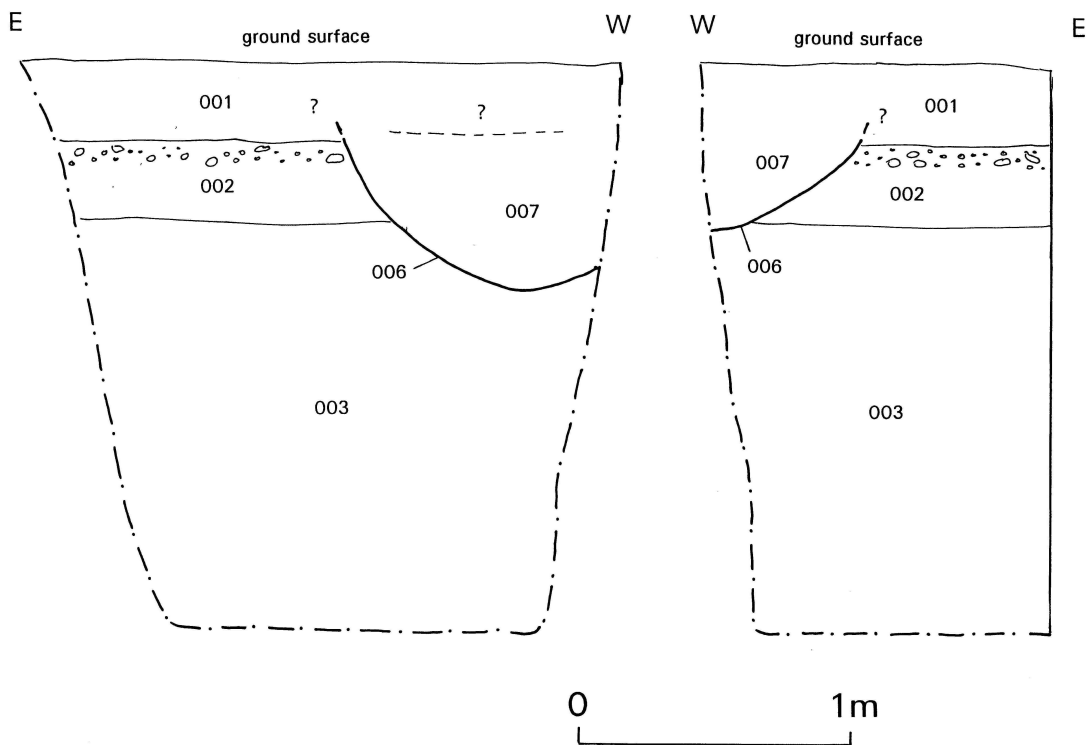
Source: GeoQuest Associates 2003, figure 5.



PROJECT		AUCHINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD	
TITLE		GEOPHYSICAL INTERPRETATION	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	FEB 2009
EDAS		FIGURE	2



PROJECT	AUCHINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD		
TITLE	WATCHING BRIEF LOCATIONS		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	FEB 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	3



Ditch 006 in west end of Test Pit 1A

PROJECT AUCHINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD	
TITLE DITCH 006 SECTION	
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE FEB 2009
EDAS	FIGURE 4

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF RECORDED CONTEXTS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location</i>
001	Dark brown friable loam topsoil, with a small amount of chalk gravel and flint. Less than maximum thickness of 0.3m.	Test pits and house plot.
002	Brown friable clayey loam with moderate amount of chalk gravel and flint. Up to maximum thickness 0.41m. Subsoil/plough soil.	Test pits and house plot.
003	Clean grey/brown clay natural with few inclusions. Sometimes beneath and interlayered with 004. Maximum depth unknown, visible in bottom of deepest pit (Trench 6) which was cut to a depth of 2.7m.	Test pits and house plot.
004	Sticky yellowish chalk gravel with moderate to large amounts of flint. Included areas of clean rounded free-flowing chalk gravel, particularly in pit 2. Maximum depth unknown, visible in deepest pit (Trench 6) down to c.2.6m from surface. Natural deposit.	Test pits and house plot.
005	Brown friable loam similar to 002 with moderate amount of chalk gravel and flint, some C20 glass and brick fragments. Thickness 0.9m. Fill of modern pit in Trench 4B. Modern dump.	Test pit 4B.
006	Cut for possible ditch or pit visible in both north and south sections of Trench 1A. 0.5m deep and c.1.5m wide.	Test pit 1A.
007	Fill of 006, similar to 002.	Test pit 1A.
008	Cut for possible ditch in west side of west house foundation trench? More likely to be ploughing line. 0.41m wide and less than 0.18m thick.	House plot.
009	Possible fill of 008, but very similar or same as 002.	House plot.

APPENDIX 2

METHODS STATEMENT FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF), AUCKINLECK CLOSE, DRIFFIELD, EAST YORKSHIRE

Site Location: Land off Auckinleck Close, Driffield, East Riding of Yorkshire.
NGR: TA00505597 centred.
Proposal: Residential development.
Site area: c.2.6 hectares.
Land use: Rough pasture.
Geology: Solid: Lower Cretaceous Chalk. Drift: glacial sand and gravel.
Soils: Typical brown calcareous earth.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Residential development is proposed over an area of c.2.6 hectares of land at the south end of Auckinleck Close, a road which runs south from the A614 just to the west of Driffield in East Yorkshire. There is reason to believe that below-ground archaeological deposits relating to an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement may exist on the site. However, little is known of the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological remains in the proposed development area.
- 1.2 As the archaeological implications of the development proposals cannot be adequately assessed on the basis of the currently available information, a staged scheme of archaeological field evaluation is proposed. This is in accordance with the recommendations of Planning Policy Guidance note 16 "Archaeology and Planning", issued by the Department of the Environment in November 1990.
- 1.3 The Sites and Monuments Record Office of the Humber Archaeology Partnership has advised that the archaeological field evaluation should comprise the following:
 - (a) Geophysical survey to test for the presence of buried archaeological features across the site.
 - (b) Should this survey indicate the presence of likely archaeological features, a scheme of trial trenching should be undertaken to ascertain the nature, date, extent, quality of survival and significance of any remains.
 - (c) The results of these preliminary stages should enable the impact of the proposed development on any archaeological deposits to be assessed. Should the evaluation show that the site contains significant archaeological features, mitigation measures should be explored to achieve physical or *in situ* preservation of the remains. If destruction is unavoidable, attempts should be made to secure preservation "by record", through sympathetic foundation and/or layout design, and/or detailed excavation of selected areas within the development site.
- 1.4 A geophysical survey of the site has already been completed, and this identified some areas of archaeological potential, especially in the south-west corner of the site (GeoQuest Associates 2003) (see below). It is accepted that a programme of archaeological trial trenching will be required to fully assess the implications of the development proposals.
- 1.5 However, in order to kick-start the development process, a small part of the site will be developed in advance of the main contract, and before the archaeological trial trenching. This construction work will be limited to the removal of an existing spoil heap, the construction of a short length (c.10m) of new access road, and the digging of the foundations for one house (probably plots 63 and 64). An archaeological watching brief will be held during these ground works, to ensure that any archaeological deposits that might be disturbed can be afforded an appropriate level of recording. The results of the watching brief can also be used, in part, to inform the methodology for the subsequent trial trenching. This course of action has been discussed and agreed with the Manager of the Humber Archaeology Partnership.

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 (NGR TA00505597 centred). Auckinleck Close runs south from the main road, through an existing housing estate. The area of the proposed new development lies on the south side of the existing estate.
- 2.2 The majority of the proposed development site is overgrown rough pasture, although there is a small play area towards the north-west corner containing areas of tarmacadam on which swings etc were formerly positioned. There are also some areas of dumping within the site, mostly at the end of the existing road.
- 2.3 As noted above, the limited works proposed as the initial part of this development comprise the removal of an existing spoil heap, the construction of a short length of new access road, and the digging of the foundations for one semi-detached house. These works will be confined to the central part of the north side of the site, just beyond the south end of the existing cul-de-sac. The road and house foundations will be dug in the area presently covered by the spoil heap.
- 2.4 The solid geology of the proposed development 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). The site lies at c.22m AOD.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Full planning permission (ref M.1579(T)) for the erection of 64 dwellings and alterations to existing vehicular and pedestrian access was approved by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 30 March 1998. The Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office had recommended that the application should be deferred pending an archaeological evaluation. If this was not possible, they requested that a suitable condition be attached to any planning permission that would ensure that the evaluation took place, and that an appropriate mitigation strategy leading to the preservation of identified deposits be determined, prior to any development on site.
- 3.2 A condition (no 15) was subsequently attached to the full planning permission, as follows: "No development shall take place on 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".
- 3.3 This methods statement for a watching brief has been prepared by Mr E Dennison of Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS), on behalf of Peter Ward Homes Limited, in order to fulfil a part of the archaeological evaluation strategy.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

- 4.1 Information previously supplied by the Humber Sites and Monuments Record notes that the proposed development site lies within an area of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and occupation. Extensive evidence for this activity was uncovered during the 1950s, when a RAF married quarters was constructed adjacent to the current site.
- 4.2 More specifically, excavations in 1952 immediately to the north-west of the development site 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. The Humber SMR therefore concluded that any development in this area may encounter further below-ground deposits and features relating to the occupation of the site in the prehistoric and Romano-British periods.

- 4.3 The recently completed geophysical survey has provided further information on the archaeological potential of the site (GeoQuest Associates 2003). A square enclosure, formed by soil-filled ditches and measuring c.55m square, was identified in the south-west corner of the site, together with a number of outlying features, possibly further ditches. These all suggest part of a relict field system, possibly associated with a ditched trackway on the west side of the enclosure. A number of other geophysical anomalies were noted in the centre and east parts of the site. Some of these are likely to represent modern land drains and ploughed out ridge and furrow (medieval or early post-medieval cultivation patterns). It should also be noted that geophysical readings over some parts of the site were obscured by spoil tips, modern debris, and brick or ferrous surface scatters.

5 OBJECTIVES OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 5.1 As noted above, activity ranging from the prehistoric to the Romano-British periods may be evident under the site, and ground disturbance may damage and/or destroy any archaeological remains which may be present.
- 5.2 The aim of the watching brief is to observe the initial stages of groundworks, and to record and recover any information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be present within the area of those groundworks.

6 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 All archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the developer's proposed timetable and will not cause undue delay to the development unless otherwise agreed. However, the main contractor should ensure that EDAS have sufficient time and resources to ensure compliance with all elements of this methods statement.
- 6.2 EDAS will be afforded access to the site at all reasonable times to view the groundworks, or other operations resulting in ground disturbance. It is likely that the watching brief will be accomplished through a number of separate site visits. The number and duration of the visits will be determined by the speed of the excavations.
- 6.3 The watching brief will comprise the archaeological monitoring of the removal of the spoil heap, and the excavations for the access road and house foundations; all these works should be undertaken under archaeological supervision, and machinery should use a toothless ditching bucket for excavation wherever possible. This is to allow for the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered.
- 6.4 If archaeological remains or deposits are encountered during the course of the watching brief, EDAS should be given the opportunity to investigate, clean and record them. This may entail a temporary stoppage to development work in this part of the site, whilst these recording works are carried out.
- 6.5 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of archaeological interest identified within these areas, will be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions as judged appropriate by EDAS, using proforma record sheets and standard archaeological recording systems.
- 6.6 With the exception of human remains, and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act and which should be reported to the coroner), all finds are the property of the landowner. It is generally expected that any finds will be deposited with the archive (see below). A finds recovery and conservation strategy will be agreed with the developer in advance of the project, and this will include contingency arrangements for artefacts of special significance. All recording, marking and storage materials will be of archival quality, and recording systems will be compatible with the recipient museum.

7 REPORTING

7.1 In the knowledge that additional trial trenching will take place on the site at a later date, only an interim report on the watching brief will be produced. It is expected that the interim report will contain the following items:

- Summary;
- Site code/project number;
- Planning reference number and SMR casework number;
- Dates for fieldwork/visits;
- Grid reference;
- A copy of the developer's plan showing the areas monitored and indicating the position of archaeological features encountered;
- Appropriate section 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;
- A brief written description and analysis of the methods and results of the watching brief;
- Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary.

7.2 This interim report will be produced within three weeks of the completion of the watching brief, and submitted to the client, the Local Planning Authority and the SMR Office. The results of the watching brief, together with the site archive it produces, will be incorporated into the results of the trial trenching.

7.3 If no further archaeological work is forthcoming on the site, a final watching brief report will be produced within six weeks of the completion of the work; this report will contain fuller information on the results of the work, including site and location plans, and an assessment of any results in the context of the known archaeology of the area. An ordered project archive will also be deposited with a registered museum and a copy of the archive index and the name of the recipient museum will be sent to the Sites and Monuments Record. If applicable, a summary of the results of the watching brief will be prepared for inclusion in a local journal.

8 MONITORING

8.1 The watching brief may be monitored under the auspices of the Sites and Monuments Record Office, who will be consulted before the commencement of site works.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY, STAFFING AND INSURANCE

9.1 Health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters. EDAS and their sub-consultants will comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 while undertaking the project. As the watching brief will be carried out at the same time as the building contractor's work, regard will also be made for any constraints or restrictions imposed by the main contractor.

9.2 EDAS would indemnify the landowners and tenants in respect of their legal liability for physical injury to persons or damage to property arising on site in connection with the survey, to the extent of EDAS's Public Liability Insurance Cover (£5,000,000).

10 REFERENCES

GeoQuest Associates 2003 "Geophysical Survey of Land to the South of Auckinleck Close, Driffield, East Riding of Yorkshire"

Philips, J T 1959 "An Iron Age Site at Driffield, East Riding, Yorks". *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* vol 157, 183-191

E Dennison, EDAS
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