

161 Bawtry Road

Doncaster

South Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 161 Bawtry Road, Doncaster, in advance of residential development. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed during the observed groundworks.

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Fig. 1. Site location

Fig. 2. Site location showing foundation trenches

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS was commissioned by Wright Investments to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a plot of land at 161 Bawtry Road, Bessacarr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire. The watching brief was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential redevelopment of the site. The site is centred on NGR SE 614 008, and is bound to the southwest by Bawtry Road, and to the northwest by Church Lane. Housing currently lies to the northeast and southeast (Figs 1 and 2).
- 1.2 At the time of investigation, the early twentieth-century house which previously occupied the site had been demolished; consequently much of the site had a ground cover of demolition rubble. Some areas of the garden, tarmac drive and pathways remained intact, as did two former garages to the east. The underlying solid geology has been mapped as Bunter Sandstone (Geological Survey of England and Wales 1969). The soils are unmapped (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in two periods. Firstly on 23rd and 24th May 2005, and subsequently on 14th, 15th, and 18th July 2005.

2. Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The known archaeology in the vicinity of 161 Bawtry Road consists mainly of Roman pottery kilns. A desk-based assessment undertaken by ARCUS was completed in April 2005, and the results of an SMR search included the location of five such kilns *c.*300m to the south of the site, and an unspecified number of kilns in Cantley to the north. Romano-British pottery has also been recovered from two sites in the area. The present day Bawtry Road is believed to mirror the alignment of a Roman road which would have led into the centre of Roman Doncaster (May 2005).
- 2.2 In the medieval period, the land occupied by the proposed development site was owned by Kirkstall Abbey, and Bessacarr Grange was built just over 1km to the east of 161 Bawtry Road in order to manage the estate. The area is later marked on OS maps as part of a field until development for housing in the early 20th century (May 2005).

3. Method

- 3.1 A Brief for Archaeological Monitoring (Watching Brief) was produced by Roy Sykes of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service for Wright Investments, and its requirements were followed during this archaeological investigation.
- 3.2 The foundation trenches were excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. The resulting trench bases and sections were inspected for archaeological remains.
- 3.3 The site archive contains all the information gathered during the watching brief and is indexed in Appendix I.

4. Results

- 4.1 The foundation trenching covered an area approximately 47m by 21.5m. The depths of each footing varied between 0.8m and 1.6m below the modern surface and were 0.75m to 1.5m in width.

- 4.2 No topsoil was observed in the area of the foundation trenches due to the clearance of the site following demolition of the early 20th-century house. In the trench sections mid grey-brown sandy subsoil was noted to a maximum depth of 0.63m. This overlaid natural deposits of orange-brown sand and gravel. The presence of 20th-century ceramic and glass was noted among the remaining demolition rubble, but none was retained. Otherwise, no archaeological features or deposits were observed.

5. *Discussions and Conclusions*

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief at 161 Bawtry Road, Bessacarr, Doncaster in advance of residential development revealed only 20th-century debris, with no archaeological features or deposits.

Bibliography

- British Geological Survey, 1969, Doncaster. England and Wales Sheet 88. Solid Edition 1:50,000 Series
- May, R. 2005, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land at 161 Bawtry Road, Bessacarr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire. ARCUS unpublished report 904.1
- Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983, Soils of Northern England (Sheet 1) Scale 1:250,000

Acknowledgements

Project management

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Report

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Appendix I
Inventory of primary archive

File no.	Description	Quantity
1	Watching Brief Monitoring Form	4
1	Annotated plan of groundworks	1