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MAP Archaeological Practice

41 Main Street
Irton
North Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

16/02523/FL

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Irton
North Yorkshire

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Non-technical Summary

MAP Archaeological Practice carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief in April 2019 on land to the rear of 41 Main Street, Irton, North Yorkshire in advance of the erection of three detached dwellings. The Watching Brief was carried out in order to discharge condition 5 attached to the planning permission 16/02523/FL.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the Watching Brief.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report describes the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief which was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice in February 2017 prior to the erection of three detached dwellings to the rear of 41 Main Street, Irton, North Yorkshire (TA 01050 84110 Fig. 1 & 2).

1.2 Planning permission was granted for application 16/02523/FL subject to an archaeological condition to secure a programme of archaeological work, which stated that:

A) No demolition/development shall commence until a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
- 2. The programme for post investigation assessment*

3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation
5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation
6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.

B) No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason: This condition is imposed in accordance with Section 12 of the NPPF (paragraph 141) as the site is of archaeological significance as highlighted by the County Archaeologist.

The programme of archaeological work took the form of an Archaeological Watching Brief.

- 1.3 The work was funded by Mr Martin Shepherdson.
- 1.4 The Ordnance Survey maps within this report are reproduced under licence from the Ordnance Survey, licence no. AL 50453A, with permission from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, (c) Crown Copyright.

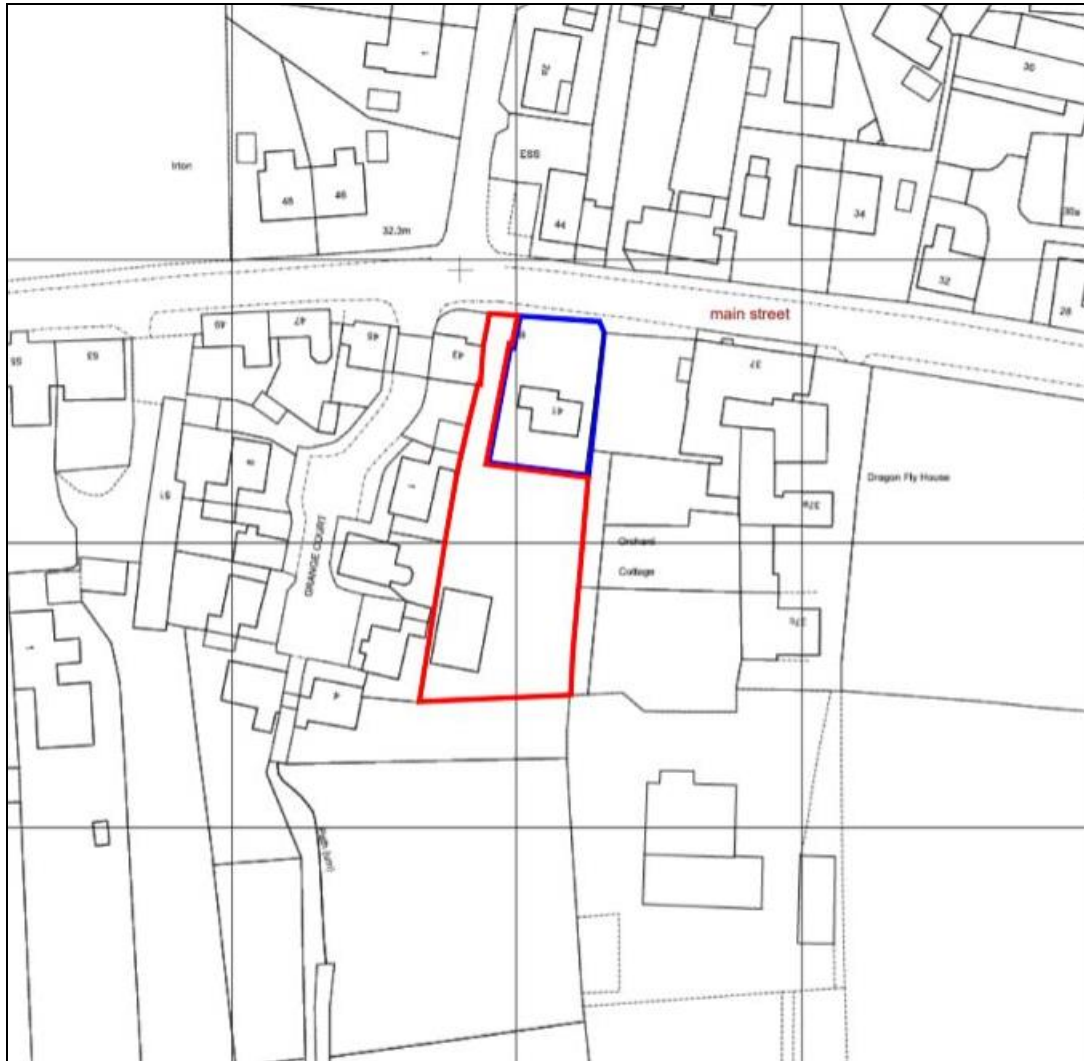


Fig 1. Site Location.

2. Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The site is situated to the south of 41 Main Street, Irton, North Yorkshire. The area was previously occupied by a garden area, hardstanding and a large storage shed (plates 1-3).
- 2.2 The site lies at a height of approximately 32m AOD.
- 2.3 The site lies on deposits of the Upper Calcareous Grit Formation which is found below sands and gravels (BGS 2017).



Fig 2. Development Plan.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The site falls within an area of known archaeological interest. The village of Irton is likely to have pre-conquest origins and the name is believed to mean '*Irishmans Farm*'. The linear arrangement of the village is typical for settlements of Norman influence (MNY 15739).

3.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British remains are known to exist in the area. In 2017 MAP carried out an Evaluation by Trial Trenching on land north of

Seamer. The Evaluation recovered evidence of settlement which dated from the Late Iron Age to the 2nd century AD. The settlement was represented by a substantial double ditch trackway aligned north-north-east by south-south-west and considerable evidence of settlement in the form of pits, ditches and gullies (MAP 2017).

4. Methods

- 4.1 Demolition rubble, footings of the demolished building and associated overburden was removed using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a toothed ditching bucket. All topsoil and subsequent deposits were removed with a toothless bucket. Mechanical excavation equipment was used under direct archaeological supervision down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil.

- 4.2 All work was carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (CIFA 2014).

- 4.4 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Watching Brief on digital format camera.

5. Results

- 5.1 The Watching Brief took place over three site visits in April 2019 and is recorded in plates 1-5.
- 5.2 The excavation of the foundations for three detached dwellings were observed during the watching Brief. The foundations of the two northernmost dwellings were excavated to approximately 0.90m and were in an area formally occupied by a garden associated with 41 Main Street. The excavated material consisted of a mid-brown sandy silt topsoil of an average depth of approximately 0.50m which lay above a mid-reddish-brown clayey silt subsoil. Natural clay deposits were identified in the footings.
- 5.3 The excavation of the third set of foundations was carried out towards the southern end of the site, in an area covered in hard standing, previously occupied by a corrugated storage shed. Due to the presence of the hard standing the foundations were excavated to approximately 1.20m (plate ??). here approximately 0.55m of hardstanding was found to overly 0.45m of topsoil and 0.2m of reddish brown clayey subsoil.
- 5.4 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present within the development area.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Although the site is located in the centre of the Medieval village which is believed to have earlier origins, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

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Archaeological Evaluation by Trial trenching. Interim Statement.

8. Project Team Details

Fieldwork: Charlotte Stodart

Report Text: Charlotte Stodart

Figures: Charlotte Stodart

Report Production and Administration: Sophie Coy



Plate 1. Garden Area Prior to Development.



Plate 2. Garden Area Prior to Development.



Plate 3. South Area Prior to Development.



Plate 4. Average Section of Foundations



Plate 5. Foundations of Northern Most Plot.



Plate 6. Natural Deposits.

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ("WATCHING BRIEF")

41 Main Street Irton Scarborough North Yorkshire YO12 4RH
Planning Application 16/02523/FL

This Written Scheme of Investigation is for an Archaeological Watching Brief to be carried out during groundworks associated with the erection of a three detached dwellings at 41 Main Street Irton Scarborough North Yorkshire YO12 4RH. The groundworks will be undertaken under the supervision of an Archaeologist.

The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains, which are:

- a) affected by proposed development only to a limited and clearly defined extent,
- b) not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or of limited importance or potential.

The work should not require any groundworks to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although adequate time should be allowed for any archaeological features to be excavated, sampled and recorded.

1. The WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements needed to comply with an archaeological planning condition or obligation. This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (July 2018). The work on site should commence with the implementation of the agreed WSI and Method Statement and subject to the Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct and standards and guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
2. The Archaeologist should notify by letter or e-mail the Historic Environment Team of the County Council at least 10 working days in advance of the start of work on site.
3. The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) should be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI. The Archaeologist should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal.
4. Removal of overburden by machine should be undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where materials are exceptionally difficult to lift, a toothed bucket may be used temporarily. Subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by back-acting excavator but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist on site, and only with archaeological supervision. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Where reinstatement is required, topsoil should be kept separate from other soil materials.
5. Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (DCMS 2008).

6. Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The sampling of deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence should be a standard consideration, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available if appropriate. The Historic England Science Advisor will be contacted at Tanner Row, York if appropriate.
7. Heavy plant should not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the Archaeologist on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision. Where reinstatement is required, subsoils should be backfilled first and topsoil last.
8. Upon completion of fieldwork, samples should be processed and evaluated, and all finds identified, assessed, spot-dated, properly stored, and subject to investigative conservation as needed. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist should arrange for either the Historic Environment Team of the County Council at the discretion of Scarborough Borough Council or an independent post-excavation specialist to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to an appropriate museum or records office.
9. A summary report will be produced following the Council's guidelines on reporting. The report will contain planning or administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas will be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features will be illustrated with conventionally-scaled plans, sections, and photographs. Where few or no finds are made, it may be acceptable to provide the report in the form of a letter with plans attached.
10. Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), The Historic Environment Team of the County Council (HER), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage. A licence should be granted to the accepting museum and the County Council to use the documentation arising from the work for its statutory functions and to give to third parties as an incidental to those functions.
11. Upon completion of the work, the Archaeologist will make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). Submission of data to OASIS does not discharge the planning requirements for the Archaeologist to notify the Historic Environment Team of the County Council of the details of the work and to provide the Historic Environment Record (HER) with a summary report on the work.
12. Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR) information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'. Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. The Archaeologist should inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property

rights are not affected by the EIR.

13. At the discretion of the Scarborough Borough Council, the Historic Environment Team of the County Council will be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If there is a need to remove human remains, an exhumation license will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice Exhumation License, or a faculty obtained where the remains are buried in land consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England.

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