

**Thirsk Garage  
6 Ingramgate  
Thirsk  
North Yorkshire**

**SE 43182 82076**

**14/02081/FUL**

**MAP 10.38.2015**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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***Summary***

*An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd at the site of the Former Garage at 6 Ingramgate, Thirsk, North Yorkshire between May and September 2016. The work involved the monitoring of the groundworks associated with Construction of 14 flats, associated landscaping, path and car parking including the creation of a new vehicular access (Planning Consent: 14/02081/FUL).*

*No archaeological deposits, features or structures were observed during the Archaeological Watching Brief.*

**1. Introduction**

1.1 This report sets out the results from an archaeological watching brief undertaken in August 2015, which monitored the groundworks associated with Construction of 14 flats, associated landscaping, path and car parking including the creation of a new vehicular access at Thirsk Garage, 6 Ingramgate, Thirsk, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1: SE 43182 82076; Planning Ref. 14/02081/FUL).

- 1.2 The watching brief was designed to provide the appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, in accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF Chapter 12 - March 2012).
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Palladian York Ltd.
- 1.4 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

## **2. Site Description**

- 2.1 The proposed site is located in Thirsk Town Centre. Thirsk is located 37 kilometres north-west of York (Fig. 1).
- 2.2 The Development Area is located to the on the south side of Ingramgate, on the east side of Cod Beck and south-east of New Bridge (Fig. 2).

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.1 The name Thirsk derives for the Old Swedish *Thraesk*, meaning lake or fen (Ekwall 1974). The town is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Tresche*. There were two manors at the time of Domesday, one held by the king and the other by Hugh FitzBaldrick (Williams & Martin 2003). The twin manors are reflected in the growth of the town, which developed as Old Thirsk, to the east of the River Cod Beck, and New Thirsk, to the west of the river.

3.2 Roger de Mowbray's charter of foundation of the Priory of Newburgh suggests that a borough had been founded at Old Thirsk by 1145 AD (Bulmer 1990). A market was established on St James' Green, but it is thought that the establishment of Thirsk Castle on the opposite side of Cod Beck stimulated the development of New Thirsk, the growing economic importance of which was reflected in change of focus to the present Market Place.

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

4.1 The aim of this archaeological watching brief was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, date, sequence, nature, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable a full record of the archaeology on the site to be made.

#### **5. Methodology**

5.1 The works associated with the erection of a detached residential dwelling and detached garage.

5.2 All work was carried out in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014).

5.3 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the site visits on a high resolution digital camera

#### **6. Results (Figs. 2-3; Pls. 1-2)**

6.1 The strip foundations were 600mm wide and c. 600mm deep. The drainage trench was c. 0.45m wide and 0.5m deep. In both trenches, a deposit topsoil, 0.25m deep, was overlying brown natural clay (Pls. 1-2).

6.4 No archaeological features, structures nor deposits were encountered during the archaeological watching brief.

## **7. Conclusions**

7.1 No archaeologically significant material was revealed from this investigation.



Figure 1. Site Location



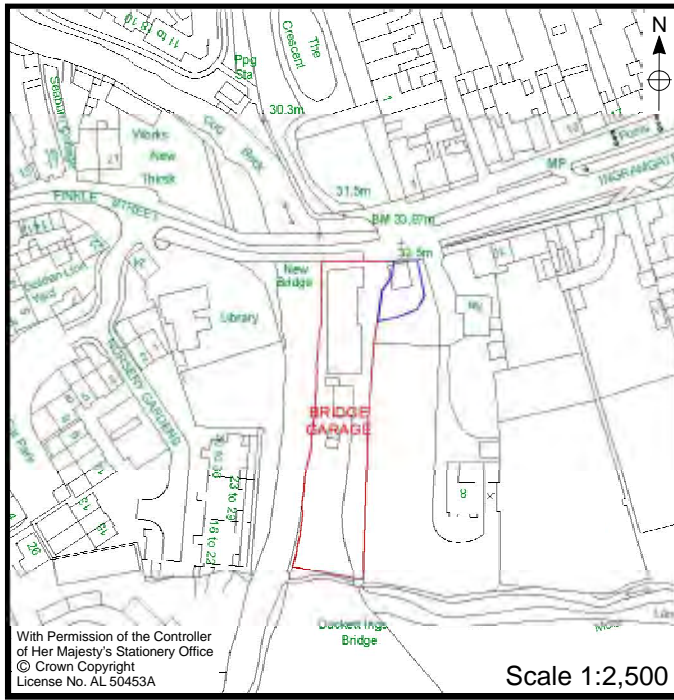


Figure 2. Development Area.



Figure 3. Building Footprint.





Plate 1. Foundation Trench. Facing North-west.





Plate 2. Drainage Trench. Facing North-west.

# MAP

## Archaeological Practice Ltd

### WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING (“WATCHING BRIEF”)

#### Planning Application 14/02081/FUL

#### Thirsk Garage and Engineering Bridge, Garage 6, Ingramgate, Thirsk

This Written Scheme of Investigation is for an Archaeological Watching Brief to be carried out during groundwork's associated with the construction of 14 flats, associated landscaping, drainage/services, path and car parking including the creation of a vehicular access.

#### Site Description and Background

This site lies in an area with the potential for the survival of remains of medieval and post-medieval date, adjacent to the site of the former Salem Chapel and associated burial ground, lying just outside the medieval town defences of Thirsk. Previous archaeological work has revealed evidence for a large bank and ditch constructed in the late 12th/early 13th century AD, and later re-cut in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. These features are interpreted as the boundaries of an enclosed settlement area in the medieval period.

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 groundwork's 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 the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012). 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 English Heritage 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 the District 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), Hambleton District Council, 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 District 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 licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice Exhumation Licence, 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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