

**Stuart House
Hospital Fields Road
Fulford Road
York
SE 6090 5050**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Non Technical Summary

A Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd in September – October 2002 on the site of Stuart House, Hospital Fields Road, Fulford York (SE 6090 5050). Observation of the excavation of 50% of the pile caps and excavations for a lift shaft produced no evidence for any activity earlier than that associated with the 19th century hospital which had occupied the site prior to redevelopment.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The site is situated on Hospital Fields Road, York in the parish of Fulford, North Yorkshire, to the south of the centre of York and west of Fulford Road (SE 6090 5050 : Fig. 1). Situated to the rear of Fulford Moor House, west of the Imphal barracks, the site is bounded by the Hospital Fields Road to the south, Fulford Road to the east, with the River Ouse 400m west of the site.
- 1.2 An Archaeological Watching Brief condition was placed on the proposed development by the City of York Council.
- 1.3 This report has been commissioned and funded by Shepherd Construction Ltd.
- 1.4 The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd from the 26th September to 25th October, 2002.
- 1.5 All maps within this report have been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL50453.

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The parish of Fulford is comprised of the villages of Gate Fulford (Gate Fulford was also known as Over Fulford before 1972 and the two villages have also been known as Fulford Ambos) and Water Fulford. Fulford was formerly in the Ouse and Derwent Wapentake in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

- 2.2 The site is located in an area where there has been little archaeological work undertaken. However, three sites situated in the general area of the site are listed on the YAT Gazetteer.
- 2.3 Site 272 (site code 1993.1022) Imphal Barracks where a Watching brief was undertaken revealing an earlier barracks buildings and a parade ground.
- 2.4 Site 273 (site code 1995.624) 248 Fulford Road, modern building deposits were located during a Watching Brief.
- 2.5 Site 274 (site code 1998.35) Old St Oswald's Church. Rectified photography and a small excavation found the lid of a Roman coffin. Philip Rahtz and Lorna Watts also undertook an excavation of this site. The results of this work are currently unknown.
- 2.6 Therefore the reason that the Hospital Fields site was covered by a Watching Brief condition centers on the possibility of further Roman activity being present on the site.
- 2.7 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (Fig. 2) shows the site as 'nursery land'. This land use continues until the construction of a hospital in the early 1860's.
- 2.8 In 1862 a 120-bed hospital was built on the site. During the Second World War this building was requisitioned as a military hospital, but was subsequently made available for public use. The opening of the New District Hospital in 1976 caused the closure and demolition of the buildings during the late 1970s.

3. Work Programme

- 3.1 The aim of the brief was to enable the recording and recovery of archaeological remains, and to establish the date and character of any archaeological deposits which might be affected by the proposed development. The excavation of groundworks was carried out by a JCB excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 Following the specification a 50% sample of the excavations for the pile-caps was watched, along with the deep excavations associated with the lift-pit area (Fig. 3). Typically the width of the excavations around the piles was 0.8m, not exceeding 1.2m in depth, with the exception of those lying to the west of the site, which were each stepped 0.3m, culminating in a depth of 1.8m around the final pile. The area around

the piles within the lift-pit was excavated to a depth of 2.3m, and the deep excavations (up to 3.7m) involved in the removal of the old petrol interceptor tank (along with the insertion of a replacement) were also observed.

5. Results

- 5.1 The excavation of the foundations located no archaeological features, deposits or any artefacts, due to the brick rubble and made ground remaining from the demolition of the hospital. The concrete encased cellars (located at 2.5m) proved to be a hindrance during Continuous Flight Auger piling. During the excavations for the lift-pit more made ground (including brick rubble) was seen up to a depth of 2m, the remaining 0.3m being natural orangey-brown clay, which was not observed elsewhere, as even the deep excavation for the petrol interceptor was through ground previously disturbed by services and a manhole.
- 5.2 The Pell Frischmann Ground Investigation Report, April 2002 noted “a firm grey black sandy silt” with a “slight organic odour” at a depth of 1.6-1.8m, however no deposits of this or a similar nature were present during the Watching Brief.

6. Bibliography

VCH (1976) The Victoria History of the County of York, East Riding. Volume III.
Oxford.

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