

Chapter 05: Archaeology

Archaeology

Introduction

Archaeological remains are highly fragile and extremely vulnerable to damage. Once an archaeological site is destroyed an irreplaceable part of our national heritage is lost. In order that such damage is avoided it is important that those involved in planning new developments are as fully aware as possible about the nature of the archaeological resource at an early stage. The



Human remains at
Norton Anglo-Saxon cemetery

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) is still the major piece of legislation concerned with the protection of archaeological sites/ancient monuments in England.

Local Planning authorities are guided by the advice given by the Government in a document titled 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning'. This document, commonly called PPG 16, was only issued in 1990. Before this there was no set procedure for protecting archaeological sites in the face of development.

At the local level, the Local Plan sets the framework for development proposals and contains the following policy:

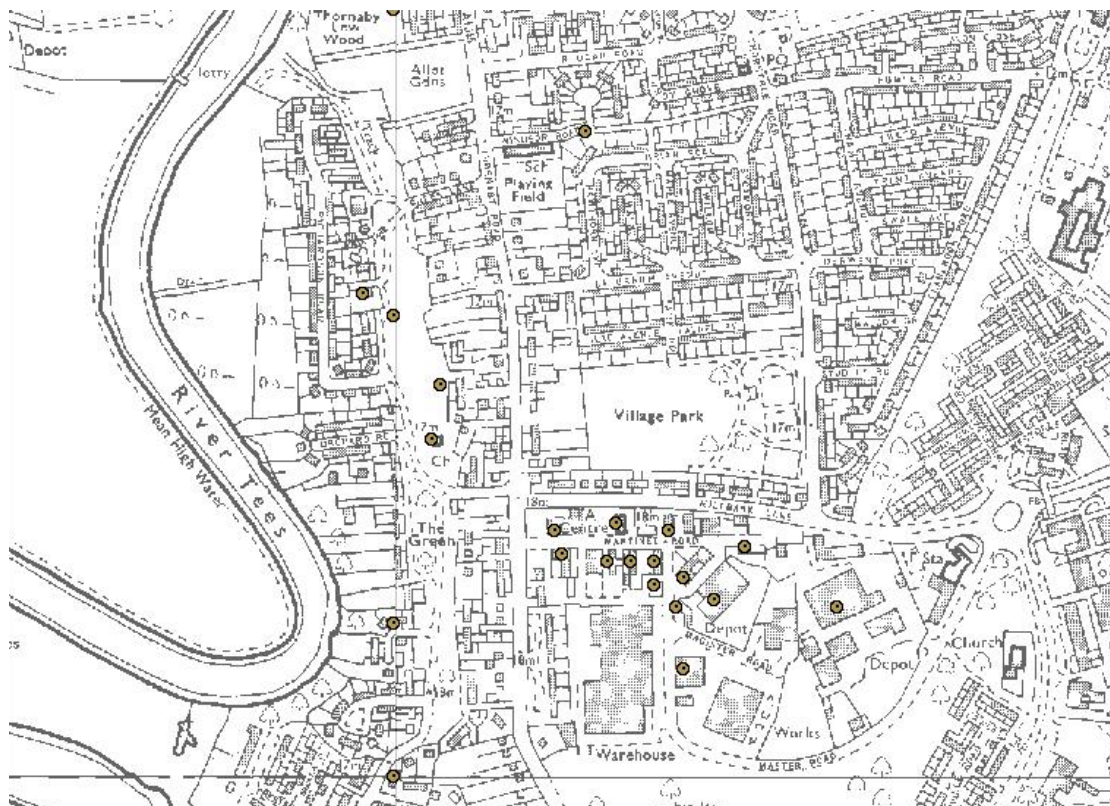
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DEVELOPMENT WHICH AFFECTS SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST WILL NOT BE PERMITTED UNLESS:

- (I.) AN INVESTIGATION OF THE SITE HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN;
AND***
- (II.) AN ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN MADE OF THE IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT UPON THE REMAINS; AND WHERE APPROPRIATE;***
- (III.) PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR PRESERVATION 'IN SITU'.***

WHERE PRESERVATION IS NOT APPROPRIATE, THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY WILL REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO MAKE PROPER PROVISION FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING OF THE SITE BEFORE AND DURING DEVELOPMENT

PPG 16 sets out the premise that all archaeological sites are vulnerable to development and are a material consideration when planning any scheme. It stresses that nationally important remains must be physically preserved.



Extract from the Heritage Environment Record showing medieval remains at Thornaby Green and military buildings at Thornaby Aerodrome.

The document also sets out procedures for evaluating archaeological sites to assess the impact of the development upon them prior to any planning decision being made. It encourages developers to consult archaeologists at an early stage to solve any potential conflicts of interest as soon as possible.

Most importantly PPG 16 establishes a 'polluter pays' principal if archaeological works are required. This means that it is the developer's responsibility to organise and resource any archaeological work required because of their development.

Each known archaeological site in the area is listed on a computerised database known as the Heritage Environment Record



An archaeological contractor excavates a trial trench within the medieval town of Yarm.

(formerly known as the Sites and Monuments Record). The database includes many forms of archaeological site from stray finds such as Roman coins to standing structures such as medieval castles and churches. The Heritage Environment Record for Stockton-on-Tees is held and maintained by Tees Archaeology, a joint service of the four former Cleveland County authorities. Developers should consult this Record at an early stage when drawing together proposals.

Where archaeological remains are known to exist and are of national importance then their physical preservation will be required. In some instances sites will have statutory protection as Scheduled Monuments. Any works which will have an impact on a Scheduled Monument or its setting will require Scheduled Monument Consent from the Secretary of State.

Not every site, which is of national importance, is a Scheduled Monument. PPG 16 states that

‘The desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining applications whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled’.

Stockton Borough Council will always work on the basis that any nationally important archaeological remains should be physically preserved.

Archaeological sites may be preserved by sympathetic design, either in the layout of the development, or by reducing ground disturbance through use of less destructive building techniques. Where such flexibility is unavailable it may be necessary to refuse planning consent.

In many cases the importance of archaeological remains may not be known. Where further information is required it will be necessary for the developer to arrange an archaeological evaluation prior to any decision being taken on the planning application.

Archaeological evaluation is designed to be rapid and inexpensive. Techniques used will vary between individual sites. However most will require trial trenching in order to assess the exact nature, level of survival and importance of archaeological deposits. Archaeological evaluation may also take the form



Buildings such as this Victorian Primitive Methodist Chapel required a full historic survey prior to demolition.

of building recording in order that an assessment can be made of a development on a standing structure.



A mechanical excavator is observed as a foundation is dug for an art sculpture

If nationally important remains are found it will be necessary for their physical preservation to be demonstrated.

Where archaeological remains do not require physical preservation it may be acceptable for developers to arrange for the remains to be fully recorded prior to development taking place. Such a record might involve the excavation of a site prior to building works, archaeological monitoring during development or

recording of a standing building prior to its demolition.

Where such works are necessary the Local Authority will impose a suitably worded planning condition to ensure that they take place to an appropriate standard.

Where developments are small in scale, such as extensions to domestic properties, and the archaeological remains are of local importance then Tees Archaeology may conduct a watching brief as part of its services to householders. A planning condition is again used to inform the developer of their responsibility to give notice of works to Tees Archaeology and to afford access at all reasonable times.

Archaeology in Stockton

Prehistory (8,000 BC – 43 AD)
There are many interesting prehistoric finds from Stockton. Amongst the earliest of these is a rare Bronze Age cemetery dating to around 2000BC. This was found by house builders at Ingleby Barwick in 1997.

Many prehistoric sites are documented on the Council's Heritage Environment Record maintained by Tees Archaeology. There are a growing number of Iron Age



This adult male from the Bronze Age cemetery at Ingleby Barwick was lain in an oval grave with a polished stone mace-head at his feet.

settlements that are often identified as darker lines in ripening crops. Such an enclosure was excavated at Thorpe Thewles in 1981 allowing us to reconstruct this small farming settlement.



A reconstruction of the Iron Age enclosure at Thorpe Thewles.

The Roman Period (43 AD – 400 AD)

In the Roman period life carried on much as it had in the Iron Age

for the majority of the population. They may have traded with the Romans and eventually some families became Romanised. At Ingleby Barwick is a well preserved Roman Villa, the most northerly surviving villa in the Empire. This was partly excavated in advance of development in 2003. The remainder lies beneath a village green, designed to preserve the best parts of the site.



A Roman under floor heating system excavated at Ingleby Barwick

The Anglo-Saxon and Viking Periods (400 AD – 1066 AD)

In the early 1980s schoolchildren discovered an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Norton which, when excavated, produced some of the finest metalwork of the period ever found in the region. A second later cemetery was found at nearby at King Edwin's School in 1994. This was partly



A pair of gilded Anglo-Saxon Brooches found at Maltby.

excavated in 2003 prior to the school building an extension and dated to the later Saxon period. Further cemeteries have been noted at Maltby and Low Lane, Ingleby Barwick.

The Medieval Period (1066 AD – 1600 AD)

Stockton has a mixture of urban and rural settlements many of which were first established in the medieval period. There are excellent examples of surviving medieval settlement in villages such as Cowpen Bewley and Elton.



The medieval layout of Cowpen Bewley is amongst the best preserved example in the north-east.



The Medieval church at Yarm.

There are also buried medieval remains beneath the High Street of Stockton town centre which once housed a medieval castle, chapel and commercial quarter. Other town centres still retain much of their early character. At Yarm the streets and narrow wynds were lain out in the medieval period. Yarm also boasts a medieval church, bridge, some surviving houses and the buried remains of a medieval friary.

The Post Medieval Period (1600 AD – 1945 AD)

There were many major developments in this period. The region became extremely wealthy and the 18th century merchant's houses and warehouses add value to the environment of towns such as Yarm.

Much of this wealth was fired by industry and Stockton is world famous as the birthplace of the modern passenger railway system. Relics of this former aspect of our industrial past survive in the form of the original 1825 trackbed of the railway at Preston Park and the Booking office near Victoria Bridge, Stockton.



Archaeologist excavate the remains of the Stockton and Darlington Railway at Preston Park.



The Former Drill Hall at Thornaby Aerodrome.

More modern reminders of our past survive in the form of military defences such as WWII pillboxes and the remains of other military buildings at Thornaby Aerodrome.