

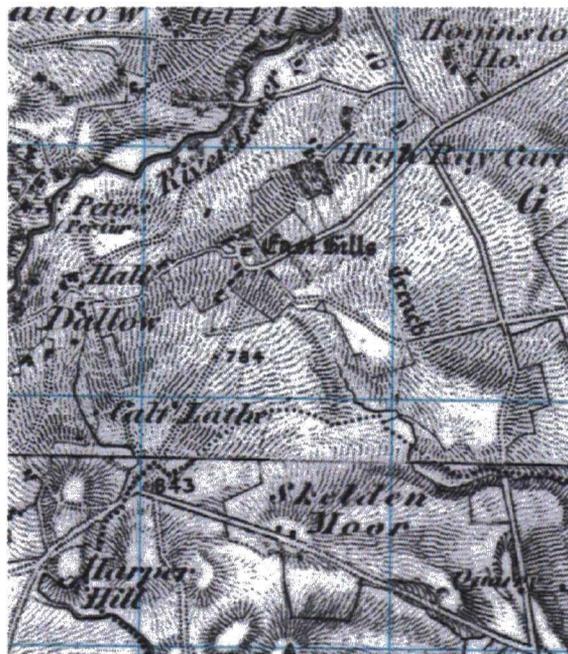
CASTILES FARM, LAVERTON

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Planning Reference 6/29/15/D/FULL

NYCC HER	
SNY	11745
ENY	3915
CNY	6958
Parish	6029
Rec'd	03/12/07

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



JB Archaeological Services

On behalf of

Mr C Nicholson

N. Y. C. C.	
BES	
03 DEC 2007	
Pass to	MS
Asht	
Arnd	

November 2007

Contents

Summary

1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Background	2
	Location	
	Geology and Soils	
	Topography and Land Use	
	Historical Background	
3.0	Aims and Objectives	2
4.0	Methodology	3
5.0	Results	3
6.0	Discussion and Conclusion	3

Illustrations

Front Cover. Cast Hills, site of Castiles Farm on Ordnance Survey 1858.

Plates

- Plate 1 General view of site of barn looking north-east during ground reduction.
- Plate 2 General view of site of slurry store looking south-west during ground reduction.

CASTILES FARM, LAVERTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Summary

As the construction of a new barn and slurry store at Castiles Farm (SE 2038 7160) lay within an area of later prehistoric activity, which includes a possible stone circle, a condition on the planning application (6/29/15/D/FULL) for an Archaeological Watching Brief was placed on the ground disturbance works.

The ground work for the barn and slurry store consisted of an overall ground reduction along with the digging of footings for the various walls and standings. The ground works were undertaken on the 24th August and 30th November 2007.

The results of the watching brief were generally negative as it appears that the ground had been ploughed in the past and also that the area of the new build appears to be outside the main focus of activity associated with the earlier monuments. The only artifactual material noted was the occasional fragments of late 19th to early 20th century pottery which appear to be as a result of manuring to improve the field.

No other archaeological finds or features were recorded during the ground works.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on the ground works for a new barn and slurry to at Castiles Farm, nr Laverton, North Yorkshire (SE 2038 7160). The watching brief was a condition on the planning application (6/29/15/D/FULL) as the site lay within an area of known prehistoric activity.
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted by JB Archaeological Services (JBAS) for Mr C Nicholson, and was carried out on 24th August and 30th November 2007.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Historic Background

- 2.1 Castiles Farm lies in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the later Neolithic through to the medieval period. The activity is represented by a range of features which includes elements of a possible stone circle (North Yorkshire HER reference number NYM 22864, NYM 22865, NYM 22866 and NYM 22867), a defended settlement (NYM 13434), an orthostat wall (NYM 22864 and NYM 22867) which appears to have been modified during the medieval period.
- 2.2 The place name for the farm appears to derive from Cast Hills as shown on the early Ordnance Survey mapping which probably refers to the remains of the early defended settlement surrounded by the stone circle.

Geology and Soils

- 2.3 The underlying solid geology of the site is of Carboniferous millstone grit (British Geological Survey, 2001) which is overlain by a quaternary geology of glacial till (British Geological Survey 1977). The soils that have weathered from this are the Dunkeswick association which are slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged fine loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

Topography and Land-use

- 2.4 Castiles Farm is situated on the northern side of the minor road running between Laverton and Pateley Bridge Back (SE 2038 7160). The farm stands on an area of largely levelled ground at a height of c.220mOD overlooking the valley containing the River Laver. The surrounding area is used for agriculture.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify and record any features of archaeological interest revealed or damaged during the ground works for the construction of the new barn and slurry store. The specific aims were to:

- archaeologically record (graphically and photographically) any archaeological features revealed by the ground works
- recover any archaeological artefacts and environmental material exposed by the ground works

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The topsoil was stripped using a tracked mechanical digger with a toothless bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Once the topsoil and the top of the subsoil had been removed and the area inspected for archaeological features the subsoil was excavated to the required depths across the site (Plates 1 & 2).
- 4.2 During all of the ground works the exposed ground surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and the resulting topsoil stockpiles were monitored for archaeological artefacts.
- 4.3 Drawings were produced of the archaeological features encountered, and these were also recorded photographically, on 35mm colour slide and black and white print film and digitally at 5m pixel resolution. 0.5m, 1m and 2m bi-coloured poles were used as scales and a north pointer for orientation. For the detailed photography a 0.4m bi-coloured scale was used.

5.0 RESULTS

- 5.1 The watching brief was generally negative due to a combination of possible earlier ploughing (medieval and 19th century) and the fact that the site appears to lie outside the main focus of archaeological activity which lies to the west of the new build (Plates 1 & 2).
- 5.2 A small number of fragments of late 19th/early 20th century pottery were noted in the topsoil which appear to be the result of manuring and therefore possibly some contemporary ploughing.
- 5.3 No archaeological features were observed during the topsoil stripping and subsequent excavation of the footings.

6.0 DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 As can be seen from above, the results of the watching brief were negative due to possible ploughing and location away from areas of earlier activity. No direct evidence for any archaeological features were recorded.

References

- Mills AD (1998) *Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. Oxford.
- 1977 Geological Survey Ten Mile Map South Sheet Quaternary. British Geological Survey
- 1983 Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1 Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales. Lawes Agricultural Trust, Harpenden
- 2001 Geological Survey 1:625,000 Map South Sheet Solid Geology. British Geological Survey

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mr C Nicholson for inviting me to undertake the project and Ms P Pemberton of the Nidderdale AONB.

CASTILES FARM, LAVERTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ILLUSTRATIONS



Plate 1 General view of site of barn looking north-east during ground reduction.



Plate 2 General view of slurry store, looking south-west during ground reduction.