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**BANK END FARMHOUSE, NORWOOD,**

**APPLICATION NO.                    6.107.43.H.FUL**  
**CLIENT:                                SPINKSBURN LTD**  
**PROJECT TYPE:                        WATCHING BRIEF**

**NGR: 421145 454251**

**NORWOOD**

**HARROGATE**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE**



**April to December**

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### INTRODUCTION

The proposed archaeological investigation has been drawn up in advance of the commencement of ground disturbance associated with the demolition and redevelopment of Bank End Farmhouse.

The nature of the proposed ground disturbance relates to site clearance/preparation, the excavation of strip foundation trench /associated service trenches and any general landscaping of the immediate area.

The site lies on the line of a sinuous earthwork known as Bank Slack.

### LOCATION AND STATUS

Bank End Farmhouse is situated within the rural civil parish of Norwood, within the Harrogate District of North Yorkshire (See Appendix B). The site straddles the line of Bank Slack - a sinuous earthwork. This earthwork has for much of its length been Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, SMNY 133, however, the curtilage of the former farmstead has not been subject to legislation.

### PLANNING HISTORY

An application for Planning Permission for the replacement of Bank End Farm and the construction of a detached garage and installation of package treatment plant was submitted to Harrogate Borough Council in July 2008 and was subsequently granted on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The consent made provision for the following condition (5)

*"No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority"*

### OWNERSHIP

Bank End Farm and the attached ground are owned by Ms.S J.Dawson / Spinksburn Ltd (The Client).

### SITE DESCRIPTION

A rapid site inspection and photographic record was made prior to the compilation of this brief (See Appendices F & G). During which the following was noted:-

The northern range of buildings, formerly agricultural, had been converted into dwellings with associated lawn and gravel drive areas.

The southern range of buildings, including Bank End Farmhouse, were derelict pending imminent demolition. These buildings were fronted, to the south, by a hardcore access drive and butted to the east by overgrown gardens. Within the gardens, three circular depressions were noted, measuring from 6 metres in diameter down to 3 metres. Each had shallow rounded V shaped profiles, measuring up to 1 metre in depth. The sides and base of these features were heavily obscured by vegetation but appeared to be stone free. It would seem likely that these features are 19<sup>th</sup> century / modern. Their function has not been established.

A rapid observation made of the external fabric of the farmhouse indicated that the majority of the building dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Elements of its eastern extent may date back to the late 17<sup>th</sup> / early 18<sup>th</sup> century. There is a possibility that the footprint of the existing farmhouse occupies the site of a post medieval building.

## HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### Bank End Farm

#### Map Regression Studies

The property is first depicted, but not named, on the 1853 OS 6" to the mile map. The configuration of the development includes:-

a small east north east aligned building within the southern extent of the cartilage. The planform of this building is rectangular with a projecting extension to the north. The building is situated in the south eastern corner of an enclosed yard with adjoining orchard/garden to the immediate east.

a large north north west aligned building situated a short distance to the north from the above. The planform is largely rectangular with a displaced, northern extension. The building is situated within the north western corner of an enclosed yard.

By 1893, on the OS 25" to the mile map, the buildings have been named as Banktop House. The layout and size of the buildings are unchanged from 1853, however there is a change of land use from garden to orchard and garden in the parcel of land to the immediate east of the most southerly building.

By 1910, on then OS 6" to the mile map, the complex is largely as depicted in 1893 with the exception that the previously mentioned garden/orchard is now depicted as an open yard with annotations indicating land use.

In summary, it would appear that the layout and buildings at Bank End Farm have been in the present configuration since the Early to Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The holding has been developed within a yard like curtilage, including a northern and southern range of buildings with adjoining garden / orchard.

#### Bank Slack (See Appendices C & D)

This sinuous earthwork, schedule ancient monument no. 133 has been noted on Historic Environment Record, NYCC Parish File as a possible Iron Age feature, but could be Medieval connected with John of Gaunt's Castle. The observations conclude that the remains are probably those of an ancient British camp. The feature keeps to dry ground and runs along the hillside from the upper part of Haverah Park to Warstall Crags. Along its sinuous course there are numerous gaps, including a section truncated to accommodate Bank End Farm. The monument varies from a gentle slope to a well defined bank and ditch. Below 200m there are several areas from which the turf has been removed. Trees and shrubs grow on the monument and stone walls have been intermittently built across and along it.

E S Wood's Transcription notes "*The Archaeology of Nidderdale*" – note the following "...in Haverah Park (also in the Parish of Fewston ) there is a bank and ditch running east / west, following the contours of the angle made by a spur on the Oak Beck - Spinksburn watershed. At one point it mounts a slope diagonally (west of Bank Top Farm) to cross the highest point of the area. Here the inner slope of the bank and ditch is 12m from bottom to top the bank being 1.2m above ground level. The ditch is cut into the loose rocky soil, with banks of the same material. The earthwork feature is mostly a ditch between two banks, the outer bank being lower than the inner, an entrance maybe represented by the gap W of the diagonal section. Further east the rock is quarried to make the ditch and the northern bank is revetted. There is a low wall of stone (Clay Pit Lane section); on the south bank. East of this section the banks are roughly equal - 14m apart and 2.5m high".

E T Cowling "*Rombolds Moor*" suggests that the earthwork is part of the Brigantian second line of defence, after the southern line at Aberford fell to the Romans.

The site has been inspected between 1928-1993. In 1971 an NYCC report, on a proposed car park and picnic area, recommended that there should be no levelling or bull-dozing on the site.

## THE AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

Prior to the commencement of works it was anticipated that there was a **moderate** probability that archaeology survived in situ within the proposed development area. Should the archaeology survive in situ, it was felt that this would be sealed by overburden associated with formation of the gardens and surfaces around the dwelling. There was a possibility that any surviving archaeology would be associated with the post medieval development of the site as a farmstead. In turn these deposits may overlie stratigraphy associated with the sinuous earthwork or alternatively sub soil.

It is therefore recommended that an archaeologist is appointed to maintain a Watching Brief on the machine / hand excavations – not demolition or site clearance.

The aims of this archaeological investigation are as follows:

- a. to record any finds, features or structures of archaeological interest and obtain information on the presence, extent, character, date and depth of these remains;
- b. The archaeology will be recorded using professionally approved techniques, standard forms and conventions. All excavation trenches and archaeological features will be recorded by plans, photographs, and sections where possible.
- c. to liaise with the Client, Historic Environment Record - NYCC and the Contractor regarding recommendations to the proposed development to ensure the minimum damage to any significant archaeological remains which have been identified at or above the maximum depth of excavation; and
- d. to assess the importance of any remains found and interpret them in terms of their historical context.

### THE WATCHING BRIEF

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during :-

- a. The machine and hand excavation of the proposed strip foundation trench's.
- b. The excavation of overburden within the area of the proposed extension for any over site concrete and sub base.
- c. Excavations of service trenches, drains / soakaways and the installation of a water treatment plant.
- d. Excavations associated with general landscaping in the development area.

In order to satisfy the archaeological condition placed on these excavations, it would be necessary for the archaeologist: -

to be present, on site, during these excavations down to the required depth or to the surface of any archaeology that maybe encountered.

### RESULTS

No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the recent watching brief. In the main the ground disturbance exposed a simple stratigraphy of modern/late 19<sup>th</sup> century topsoils overlying sub soil and more predominantly solid geology.

#### House Strip Foundations (See Appendices C & E)

##### **House Foundation 1. (Trench A)**

Top soil 17cm d. The topsoil (context 100) a sandy loam was dark brown (Munsell chart colour 10YR 4/3) in colour and very fine, loose, with a low quantity of inclusions.

##### **House Foundation 1. (Trench B)**

Top soil 17cm d. The topsoil (context 100) a sandy loam was dark brown (Munsell chart colour 10YR 4/3) in colour and very fine, loose, with a low quantity of inclusions.

The topsoil sealed a fine grained slate based sandstone(context 101) that was orange in colour (Munsell Chart 10YR 3/1) with some surrounding clay, of a similar colour. The excavation continued down to 0.50m. Bed rock was encountered towards the base of excavation.

##### **House Foundation 1. (Trench C)**

The topsoil (context 100) a sandy loam was dark brown (Munsell chart colour 10YR 4/3) in colour and very fine, loose with a low quantity of inclusions.

This soil contained various sections of terracotta waste pipes, several whole and half red bricks and a lead water pipe all in west end of trench. Plant pot fragments littered the top soil in this area. At east end of trench some tree roots were exposed and removed.

The topsoil sealed a fine grained slate based sandstone(context 101) that was orange in colour (Munsell Chart 10YR 3/1) with some surrounding clay, of a similar colour. The excavation continued down to 0.50m. Solid sandstone bed rock was encountered towards the base of excavation.

#### **House Foundation 1. (Trench D)**

Top soil 17cm d. The topsoil (context 100) dark brown (Munsell chart colour 10YR 4/3) in colour was very fine, loose, with a low quantity of inclusions.

#### **House Extension & Garage Strip Foundations (See Appendices C, E & H)**

#### **House Foundation 2. Extension (Trench E & G)**

Top soil 17cm d. The topsoil (context 100) dark brown (Munsell chart colour 10YR 4/3) in colour was very fine, loose, with a low quantity of inclusions.

#### **House Foundation 2. Extension (Trench F)**

Top soil 17cm d. The topsoil (context 100) dark brown (Munsell chart colour 10YR 4/3) in colour was very fine, loose, with a low quantity of inclusions. In addition three, grey, sandstone stone flags, rectangular in shape were unearthed with several pipes of different sizes, colours and materials. (Plate 2). The topsoil sealed a fine grained slate based sandstone(context 101) that was orange in colour (Munsell Chart 10YR 3/1) with some surrounding clay, of a similar colour (Bank A) (Plate 3).

#### **House Foundation 3. Garage (Trench G1)**

Garage positioned northeast of House Foundation 1.

NGR: SE 21153 54265.

Elevation: 660m.

North side of garage is built into Bank A. The topsoil (context 100) dark brown (Munsell chart colour 10YR 4/3) in colour was very fine, loose, with a low quantity of inclusions. The topsoil sealed a fine grained slate based sandstone (context 101) that was orange in colour (Munsell Chart 10YR 3/1) with some surrounding clay, of a similar colour.

#### **House Foundation 3. Garage (Trench G2)**

The topsoil (context 100) dark brown (Munsell chart colour 10YR 4/3) in colour was very fine, loose, with a low quantity of inclusions. The topsoil sealed a fine grained slate based sandstone (context 101) that was orange in colour (Munsell Chart 10YR 3/1) with some surrounding clay, of a similar colour.

#### **House Foundation 3. Garage (Trench G3)**

The topsoil (context 100) dark brown (Munsell chart colour 10YR 4/3) in colour was very fine, loose, with a low quantity of inclusions. The topsoil sealed a fine grained slate based sandstone (context 101) that was orange in colour (Munsell Chart 10YR 3/1) with some surrounding clay, of a similar colour.

#### **House Foundation 3. Garage (Trench G4)**

The topsoil (context 100) dark brown (Munsell chart colour 10YR 4/3) in colour was very fine, loose, with a low quantity of inclusions. The topsoil sealed a fine grained slate based sandstone (context 101) that was orange in colour (Munsell Chart 10YR 3/1) with some surrounding clay, of a similar colour.

#### **Foul Water Trench – Septic Tank (See Appendix H)**

#### **Trench 4. Septic Tank (Trench SP1)**

The Septic Tank is positioned to south east of House Foundation 1.

NGR: SE21172 54252.

Elevation: 652m.

Trench cut through topsoil (context 100) and fine grained slate based sandstone (context 101) to a depth of 2m. A greater depth of topsoil was identified within this part of the site, due to former cultivated garden. The rest of the section follows suit with all the previous trenches.

## SUMMARY

Geological evidence, exposed during these excavations would suggest that on this site the Bank Slack embankment (See Appendix E ) is an enhanced natural feature, formed by outcropping sandstone bed rock and not as previously identified a 'double ditch'. There was no evidence within the footprint of the development to indicate the existence or survival of a double ditched feature.

The ditch can, now, be seen on only two sides of the site – south and west – the other two sides either ploughed out or nonexistent.

## APPENDIX A

### SOURCES CONSULTED

#### Archive & Published

Overview of the Prehistory in the Nidderdale AONB – Microsoft Access Database – undertaken by Claro Community Archaeology Group on behalf of Harrogate Borough Council - 1995

#### Maps & Aerial Photos

Google Earth accessed 10/12/2009

Ordnance Survey Map.	1853	6"	First Edition
	1893	25"	Countryside Series
	1910	25"	Countryside Series
	1978	1:25,000	Pathfinder series – Harrogate sheet SE 25/35 -1:25 000.
	2009		Road atlas of Britain. Basinstoke: Automobile Association.