

# Wessex Archaeology

## Brimham Hall, Hartwith, Harrogate North Yorkshire

NYCC HER	
SNY	10994
ENY	2907
CNY	
Parish	6066
Rec'd	

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of the Results



Ref: 59469.01  
May 2006

**Brimham Hall, Hartwith, Harrogate, North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

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Report reference: 59469.01

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# Brimham Hall, Hartwith, Harrogate, North Yorkshire

## Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to carry out recording and post-excavation analysis on an archaeological evaluation by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Brimham Hall Farm, Hartwith, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire (NGR 422150 462950).

The site is believed to be that of a medieval grange, one of the 25 granges that formed part of the extensive Fountains Abbey estate. The aims of the project were to confirm that this was the site of a grange, and to understand its development over the last 500 years.

Previous excavations on this site were undertaken by Colin Platt and D. Wild in the 1960s. A small number of evaluation trenches in the vicinity of the farm revealed the presence of well-constructed stone walls; the archive for this fieldwork was subsequently lost, and the current project aimed to revisit the trenches and expand them.

Nine trenches were opened, in the immediate vicinity of the modern farm buildings of Brimham Hall Farm. Two were positioned over the location of Platt's 1960s investigations and two were subsequently opened adjacent to these to determine the extent of the buildings revealed. Two trenches were subsequently opened over other possible structures where walls had been exposed by cattle trampling, and three more to investigate geophysical anomalies.

The excavation revealed structural elements that relate to a large building of relatively high status, with a complex sequence of construction, building expansion and abandonment and destruction. The earliest *in situ* building evidence could be dated to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, but it was clear that parts of this building had reused earlier structures on the site. Thus while no direct evidence for 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century occupation of the site could be identified, which might be in keeping with a grange construction date, indirect evidence may indicate the presence of a grange building in the vicinity. This includes the reuse of tiles, and the presence of elaborate stonework incorporated into the field walls and outhouses of Brimham Hall Farm. Several of the stones bear Latin inscriptions and are very similar to the ecclesiastical masonry from the late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> century tower of Fountains Abbey, erected by Abbot Marmaduke Huby.

The building exposed in the excavations may in fact be a manor, not a grange. It was subject to at least one phase of rebuilding and expansion in the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century, associated with the general building expansion initiated by Abbot Huby. After this time it appears to have been abandoned and destroyed. The present farmhouse dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century although some of its foundations and its cellar are built directly upon the earlier building, and it contains reused dressed stone from the earlier high status

building. The robbing of stone has to some extent hindered understanding of the exact nature of the earlier building, but architectural details such as string lines and a garderobe turret indicate that it was an impressive building of at least two storeys.

Other trenches opened up in the vicinity of the building revealed structures that are probably mainly of 18<sup>th</sup> century date, and which relate to the development of Brimham Hall Farm. These include possible farm steadings, outhouses, stone droveways and field walls, and all of these features were constructed with reused dressed stone.

## Acknowledgements

The evaluation and post-excavation was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd. Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Melinda Smith (Production Manager), Emily Woodburn (Assistant Producer), and Kate Edwards (Researcher) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Chris and Barbara Bradley, the tenant farmers, who provided valuable assistance during the running of the project.

Wessex is also grateful to a number of medieval specialists who provided useful comments and information during the project, in particular Mark Newman (Chief Archaeologist, Fountains Abbey), Jonathan Foyle (Architectural Historian, York) and Deborah Klemperer (pottery and finds specialist). Surveying was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham, and geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater and his team from GSB Prospection (Bradford). Important information concerning the historical development of the landscape was provided by Stewart Ainsworth (Landscape Historian, English Heritage), which was much appreciated.

Excavation was undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (of Wessex Archaeology), Kerry Ely, Raksha Dave, Brigid Gallagher, Ian Powlesland and Matt Williams, helped by a number of local archaeologists (Pam White, Sanne Roberts and Brian Milner) and volunteers (Kevin Cale and Amy Stanley) and metal detectorist (Elizabeth Andrews).

On site recording and co-ordination was undertaken by Catriona Gibson, assisted by Naomi Hall, who was also in charge of the finds processing. The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology including management (Lorraine Mepham), finds (Lorraine Mepham), animal bone (Stephanie Knight), coins (Nick Cooke) report (Catriona Gibson) and illustrations (Mark Roughley).

# **Brimham Hall, Hartwith, Harrogate**

## **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

### **1 BACKGROUND**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Brimham Hall, Harrogate, North Yorkshire (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 This report provides an assessment of the results of the survey and excavation carried out by Time Team, together with recommendations for further analysis.

#### **1.2 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.2.1 The Site is in the parish of Hartwith-cum-Winsley, five miles north-west of Harrogate, North Yorkshire. The areas of investigation are adjacent to the Brimham Hall Farm, currently a dairy farm, which lies at the bottom of a small valley, on the western bank of Lurk Beck, a tributary of the river Nith. The farm is situated just off Brimham Rocks road, at an elevation of approximately 180m OD at NGR 422150 462950.
- 1.2.2 The soils consist of seasonally waterlogged fine loamy silts classified as being of Dunkeswick (711p) Association, overlying more clayey soils (SSEW). The underlying geology is Millstone Grit with sandstone overlying shell beds and shale (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 92 N.E (New Series Sheet 61) 1889).

#### **1.3 Historical Background**

- 1.3.1 Brimham Hall has been documented as being the site of one of the Monastic Granges belonging to Fountains Abbey (Walbran *et al.* 1863). Fountains Abbey lies only six miles to the north-west.
- 1.3.2 Fountains Abbey was the second of the Yorkshire houses to be founded. It had rather humble beginnings but grew to become the largest and richest of all the Northern abbeys. It was established by Archbishop Thurstan as an austere Cistercian community of monks, and the first timber buildings were constructed in 1134. When the abbey was dissolved it was the richest Cistercian abbey in Britain.
- 1.3.3 The first lands at Brimham came to Fountains as a gift from Roger de Mowbray in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century AD (Wardrop 1987). Shortly after this gift, it is documented that a grange was built in the lands at Brimham.



- 1.3.4 The grange was a favoured retreat of the abbots of Fountains who enjoyed hunting there in the later Middle Ages (Michelmores 1974), and documentary evidence states that a stone chapel was also built on Brimham grange in the late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> century, by Abbot Marmaduke Huby of Fountains. Stones from the chapel, which bear Huby's initials, are scattered in the fields of the former grange site. Chapels were not normally built for the lay-brothers or keepers, and the fact that these were constructed at Bewerley and Brimham suggests that they were visited regularly by the monastic community.
- 1.3.5 There are few surviving remains of granges in Britain. Earthworks, such as those at Fountains' granges at Morker and Sutton, offer some idea of their layout and size. Ninevah Farm now occupies the site of Fountains' former grange of Morker, which stood to the south of the abbey precinct. Morker was one of the first of Fountains' estates to be formed and one of the first to be created into a grange. It functioned as a home farm, directly serving the community until the Dissolution.
- 1.3.6 Documentary evidence suggests that Brimham Hall has been used almost continuously as a dairy farm for the last thousand years.

#### **1.4 Previous archaeological investigations**

- 1.4.1 Previous excavations on this site were undertaken by Colin Platt and D. Wild in 1964 and 1965, for the Leeds University Archaeology Society. These took the form of small evaluation trenches which uncovered several foundation walls, as well as part of a late medieval tiled floor immediately to the south of the modern garden wall. Unfortunately, little in the way of archive relating to this excavation could be found, and the site was not published. However, some black and white photographs were held by Chris Bradley (the current tenant farmer) and they show that several trenches were opened, and most revealed walls. One trench which could be easily located from the photographs revealed an encaustic tiled floor in association with well-constructed sandstone walls.
- 1.4.2 Other trenches opened in and around the farm complex are not as readily identifiable. One photograph shows a view of two trenches with a long, stone wall seen running through both trenches. The wall is probably the one recorded as being "over 25m long" in the National Monuments Record (NMR) at Swindon. The wall is of uncertain date and is of dry stone construction with a rubble core. There is no sign of any floor surfaces in association with this feature.
- 1.4.3 The only finds detailed from the excavation are "much glazed floor-tile and 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery" (NMR Number SE 26 SW2).

## 2 METHODS

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled by Videotext Communications (Videotext Communications 2005), providing full details of the circumstances and methods of the project, as summarised here.

### 2.2 Aims and objectives

2.2.1 This project offered the opportunity to investigate the monastic grange at Brimham Hall Farm within its archaeological, historical, and geographical context. The aim was to evaluate what existed on the site before the grange and what it developed into after the Dissolution. Very few granges have been excavated, and this project sought to understand the layout and landscape around the grange complex, and to ascertain the extent of preservation and form of any buildings on the site, by re-evaluating and expanding upon the excavations undertaken by Colin Platt in the 1960s.

2.2.2 A series of key questions was posed:

- Do any of the present standing buildings and dry-stone walls contain elements of the monastic period grange?
- What is the architectural development of the farm?
- What were the walls and floors exposed by Platt in the 1960s?
- What other buildings may survive in the complex?
- What signs of industry are there in the Farm complex?
- How have the boundaries changed at Brimham Hall Farm?

### 2.3 Fieldwork methods

#### *Geophysical survey*

2.3.1 A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken by GSB Propection Ltd, comprising magnetic, resistance and ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys. The aims of the survey were to target possible wall lines that may relate to the foundations of the monastic grange and associated structures, and identify the nature and extent of archaeological remains that may be present.

#### *Evaluation trenches*

2.3.2 Nine evaluation trenches of varying size were opened of varying size (**Figure 1**). Five of these were opened by machine (Trenches 1, 2, 6, 7 & 9), and the other four were opened by hand. Three of the trenches (Trenches 3, 5 & 8) had been targeted over geophysical anomalies, two (Trenches 1 & 2) were targeted on Platt's earlier excavations, two were opened to expose more of the building identified in Trench 1 (Trenches 7 & 9) and the remaining two were placed over topographic features. All machine work was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological deposits.

- 2.3.3 All trenches were then cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits were excavated. The deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets, and drawn at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. A photographic record was kept of the investigations and of individual features. The trenches were located using a GPS survey system, and the principal contexts were related to Ordnance Survey datum.

#### *Fieldwalking*

- 2.3.4 In conjunction with the archaeological evaluation, fieldwalking was carried out in the fields to the south and west of Brimham Hall Farm, co-ordinated by Jonathan Foyle. The aim of the exercise was to look for elements of dressed stone that may relate to earlier buildings that had subsequently become incorporated into later field walls.
- 2.3.5 A unique site code (BRI 05) was agreed prior to the fieldwork. The work was carried out between 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2005, following which all trenches were reinstated using the excavated spoil. All artefacts were transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Salisbury where they were processed and assessed.

### **3 RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2005) and results of the artefact analyses are retained in the archive. Trench summaries are presented in **Appendix 1**, and the results of the geophysical survey are summarised here.

#### **3.2 Geophysical Survey**

- 3.2.1 Ground conditions were moderate to good for data collection; however, an electrical sub-station influenced the gradiometer data. The power cable from the electrical sub-station in Area 1 also ran through Areas 2 and 3. In Area 2 the ground was dry and hard in places making resistance data collection difficult. The southern half of Area 5 was deeply rutted and the ground dry.
- 3.2.2 A total of *c.* 9000m<sup>2</sup> were subject to geophysical survey (magnetic, resistance and GPR), and in all areas, at least two types of survey were used in an attempt to locate building foundations in greater detail. Generally the resistance data were good, allowing identification and interpretation of suspected archaeological features (**Figure 1**, Areas 1, 2 and 5). Where there is a strong electromagnetic contrast, the GPR signal can be inter-reflected or reverberated, producing a delay in the reflection of the signal. As a result, it is often not possible to detect the base of features; only the tops of buried features/deposits are detected with certainty.
- 3.2.3 The resistance survey recorded several anomalies of archaeological interest in areas adjacent to the farm buildings, suggesting substantial wall foundations with clearly defined edges. Excavation over these anomalies

confirmed the presence of a substantial building in this area. Both the GPR and the gradiometer surveys were less successful. The GPR data was able to define the limits of the building remains, but was unable to provide more detail of the layout due to the heterogenous nature of the backfill. The gradiometer survey was affected in this area by the presence of the sub-station

- 3.2.4 Magnetic and resistance surveys were carried out in fields containing earthworks near the farm (e.g. Area 5), which are probably indicative of fish-ponds. A further zone c. 120m to the south of Area 2 was also surveyed and produced some anomalies that potentially represent a rectangular stone building. The responses are bisected by a dry stone wall that contained ecclesiastical stonework and carved architectural fragments. It is possible that this is the location of the grange chapel, but excavation was not carried out over these anomalies to confirm or refute this suggestion.
- 3.2.5 The resistance survey was successful in highlighting the location of walls and foundations of an impressive structure in the garden of the present farm building. Some of the high resistance targets were revealed through subsequent excavation as substantial *in situ* stone wall foundations.

### 3.3 Evaluation Trenches

#### *Trench 1 (Figure 2)*

- 3.3.1 Trench 1 was opened up over one of the areas where Colin Platt originally excavated, adjacent to the garden of the present farm house. A small trench c. 4m by 4m was initially opened by hand, after a large quantity of dressed stone, including some ecclesiastical stonework was recorded and removed from the ground surface (see **Appendix 2**). This trench was subsequently extended by machine several times as walls were revealed, finally producing a rather unusually shaped trench (c. 10m by 9.35m). The cut (102) for Platt's excavation was revealed after topsoil removal. His trench was 1.20m deep and it had been backfilled with large quantities of fragmentary sandstone rubble, and fragments of roof and floor tiles (104 and 116 in the southern part of the trench). When the trench was extended beyond Platt's area of investigation, it was possible to identify a sequence of layers that sealed the stone walls he had revealed.
- 3.3.2 The latest deposit was a general demolition debris (103) that sealed a thin burnt destruction layer (105: maximum depth 0.15m). Beneath this, a thick layer of mortar and tiles mixed with charcoal and burnt stone (106) represents a general destruction and levelling event. A possible thin mortar floor (107) lay immediately below this, containing floorboard impressions. Although it did not continue through the entire trench, and did not abut any walls, its lack of structural association may be a result of later disturbance. A fragment of window glass was retrieved from this deposit. A thin burnt lens underlay this floor (108), which contained fragments of lead waste, and this sealed a tile floor (109) that had been bedded in a matrix of sandy silt (110). Beneath the tiled floor was a general heterogenous dump deposit (111) which corresponds to a general levelling horizon. Three sherds of post-medieval pottery and one sherd of medieval green-glazed whiteware came from this

horizon. It appears to represent the raising of the floor level, implying that it is related to the reuse of the building and a later phase of it. The medieval sherd was small and may be residual, and the presence of three larger post-medieval sherds implies a post-medieval date for this phase of building remodelling.

- 3.3.3 A number of walls defining a building were revealed once the rubble layers had been removed. These walls also indicate a sequence of reuse and rebuilding, and represent at least two building phases. Although only parts of the building were exposed, two rooms within the building were identified.
- 3.3.4 The earliest phase of the building is represented by east-west walls 114 and 129, and north-south walls 112 and 128. Walls 112 and 114 were identified as contemporary because they were bonded in and joined together (**Plate 5**). The wall construction for this early phase appears to have comprised solid millstone grit dressed blocks of stone, with no internal rubble core. Each course of stone was *c.* 0.35-0.4m deep and was bonded with lime mortar. The best-preserved walls were 112 and 114, which still stood to a depth of 1.65m (five courses). A projecting footing was identified in the lowest course of wall 114. At the level of the foundations, two possible features were cut into the soil beneath – 117 and 118. However, on excavation both turned out to be natural hollows.
- 3.3.5 These four walls appear to define two separate spaces within the building (**Figure 9**). The main room (Space 132) was represented by north-south wall 112 and east-west wall 114. The original surface associated with this space was represented by the tile floor 109.
- 3.3.6 Walls 114, 128 and 129 define a smaller space (Space 131), that seemed to form some kind of outhouse attached to the western wall of the building. This space was paved with tiles (123 – see **Plate 1**). These tiles were presumably the same ones uncovered by Platt, and they had been partly disturbed. The tiles themselves did not match in design or size, and it is clear that they had been reused from an earlier floor. The floor abutted wall 128.
- 3.3.7 A later phase of rebuilding is indicated by east-west wall 115 and north-south walls 113 and 130 (the latter has been largely removed by disturbance). These later walls overlay the earlier walls and used them as foundations, but there is a slight change in wall alignment between the two phases, and the wall construction of the later phase is different to that of the earlier phase. The later phase walls are not solid sandstone but rather comprise dressed millstone grit facing with a rubble core.
- 3.3.8 The lowest levels excavated outside Spaces 131 and 132 are represented by deposits 119 and 125. Both these layers contained large quantities of finds, including roof tiles, decorated floor tile fragments including tile wasters, and lead fragments, including a window came from layer 125. A large sherd of post-medieval pottery was retrieved from layer 119, and these two layers represent the demolition of this building probably in the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Interpretation

- 3.3.9 The structure that had been identified by Platt in his 1960s excavations was rediscovered, and the excavations were extended to expose more of this building. It appears that this was a large building dating predominantly to the late 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century on the basis of the architectural details including tiles (Jonathan Foyle pers. comm.). This implies that it was a later rebuild (probably during Huby's time), perhaps of an existing grange site. The building was certainly rather grand and was associated with remnants of ecclesiastical stonework which were scattered about on the ground surface above the trench (see **Appendix 2**). Some of this masonry would be in keeping with a fairly high status type of building of grange type. Further understanding of the building uncovered in Trench 1 was aided by the excavation of Trench 9 which uncovered more walls relating to the same building. From west to east three separate rooms of this building were partially revealed (**Figure 9**). The small space (Space 131) with the tiled floor was probably originally a garderobe turret, tacked on to the corner of the building.
- 3.3.10 Space 131 had been truncated to quite a considerable extent by the cutting of a modern 11kv electricity cable. Although the full extent of the space was not revealed in the trench it was probably a room 3.6m in length (width not known). The tiles covering the floor are reused since the patterns do not match, and they relate to the later phase of building associated with wall 113 rather than wall 128. The chronology for these tiles would be consistent with a late 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century date for the rebuilding phase.
- 3.3.11 The stone footings at the base of wall 128 are of an architectural tradition consistent with a late 14<sup>th</sup> century date (Jonathan Foyle pers. comm; **Plates 2 & 3**). These form elements of the main room excavated (Space 132) which is probably the chamber block, implying it may originally date to this period (**Figures 2 & 9**). Although only part of this room was exposed, it is clear that it was rebuilt, and on the basis of the tile dating evidence in Space 131, this was also likely to have been during the late 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century. Walls 113 and 115 and the levelling horizons and raising of the floor levels are related to this later phase. The possible chamber block was 8.5m long and at least 6m wide. Another space was identified in Trench 9 and may represent the hall (**Figure 9**). Although extrapolated, it would appear to be part of the same phase of wall construction as wall 115, with wall 903 aligned at right angles to this wall. This implies that the hall marks a later extension to the building. After the building was abandoned it is clear that it was robbed fairly heavily. Evidence of deliberate destruction is also indicated by demolition layers and *in situ* burning horizons, and probably marks the end of the building's life.

#### *Trench 2 (Figure 3)*

- 3.3.12 Trench 2 was targeted over a wall exposed by Platt in the 1960s. This rectangular trench (7.2m x 2.1m) was opened by machine to reveal a two-course wall of millstone grit (204) aligned roughly north-south across the trench. Since only 2m of this wall was revealed, it was difficult to determine its function and extent, but it was slightly curving. It was a drystone wall only two courses deep, with a maximum height of 0.5m and maximum width of 0.9m. The wall was faced with dressed millstone grit, with a rubble core.

- 3.3.13 Wall 204 was placed in construction cut 203. However, this cut was much wider and deeper than wall 204, and may represent the foundation for an earlier wall that had been robbed out. Wall 204 reused an existing wall foundation trench after it had partially silted up. Cut 203 was 1.3m wide and 0.9m deep and was sealed by topsoil. It was steep and straight-sided on its south-western side and stepped on its north-eastern side (**Figure 3 section**), implying it had been modified on the north-east side by robbing. Large quantities of fragmented millstone grit rubble were retrieved from a deposit (202) roughly contemporary with the robber cut and may represent debris from the demolition and robbing of this earlier wall.
- 3.3.14 Cut 203 truncated a series of thick silty sand deposits. Deposit 205/221 was a clean, sterile deposit with few inclusions, and was very similar to 222 below which was subtly lighter in colour. Deposit 205 and 219/222 both probably formed as water-borne alluvial deposits, associated with some hillwash. These deposits sealed a series of relatively shallow concave depressions (207, 209, 211, 213, 215 & 218: Group 223). All of these cuts (see **Figure 3 & Plate 6**) must have been created roughly contemporaneously since, with one exception, they all silted up at the same time with the same sandy material. These were probably created as small natural channels associated with a former course of the Lurk Beck stream.

#### Interpretation

- 3.3.15 Wall 204 appears to relate to a late phase of activity. It is not very substantial and is more likely to form part of a field wall rather than a building. Initially, because of its slight curve, it was thought to have formed the stone edging for a late fishpond, given its proximity to the stream. However, fishponds rarely have stone edgings and the depression of the hollow of which it may form the edge is less than a metre in depth; too shallow for a fishpond. Furthermore, there was no evidence for a lining and the sandy nature of the natural geology into which the feature is cut would not have retained water.
- 3.3.16 Although fishponds are indicated on the map in this area, they are more likely to have been further upstream where the channel is flatter and more liable to flood into the pond.
- 3.3.17 It is possible that this wall forms part of the terracing of the landscape in the 18<sup>th</sup> century associated with the main phase of building of the present farm house. It may have existed to delimit a sharp break of slope immediately to the west and therefore to close off a boggy area for the purposes of animal management.

#### *Trench 3 (Figure 4)*

- 3.3.18 Trench 3 was opened by hand in the field to the east of the current farm building (see **Figure 1**). Initially opened as a rectangular trench, it was subsequently expanded into an L-shaped trench, with a maximum length of 8.75m and a maximum width of 4.9m. A series of millstone grit walls were revealed immediately under the current turf and topsoil. A small sherd of abraded medieval pottery was retrieved from the topsoil. The structural elements were identified as north-south aligned wall 302 with two east-west

returns – 317 to the north and 308 to the south. The three walls formed Structure 318.

- 3.3.19 Wall 308 had been 'keyed' into wall 302 at its eastern end, demonstrating the method of construction employed, and indicating that all of the walls relate to the same phase. Only one construction cut (305) for the building could be identified, and this was on the western side of wall 302. It was only possible to identify it because it abuts a cream lime plaster layer (311) probably representing traces of the original floor within this building. Only a small extent of this floor was revealed in the excavation area.
- 3.3.20 All three walls were constructed from dressed millstone grit sandstone coursing on the outer edges with a rubble and mortar core (307). All of the walls were 1.1m wide, with the rubble core forming *c.* 0.5m of this width. Wall 302 was 6m long and the three walls defined a relatively small rectangular or square structure whose internal space was 3.7m. However, the full extent of the structure was not exposed and it is clear that the western part of wall 308 had been completely ploughed away.
- 3.3.21 Both the internal and external spaces of this building were investigated through two small (1m x 1m) sondages. The internal space was filled with a silty rubble layer, 301 and 306 (**Figure 4: Section 1**) that was probably derived from collapse. Finds included an iron nail and fragments of a possible iron hinge and a small lead ventilator grille. Beneath 301, 306 was a dump deposit that was a heterogenous mix of burnt material, including some lumps of charcoal and burnt millstone grit.
- 3.3.22 The sondage excavated externally to the structure exposed the footings for the building (315 – **Plate 9**). This comprised one course of dressed millstone grit that projected from the wall by 0.15m. To the south, part of rubble layer 303 was removed to reveal a series of flat angular dressed stones that formed a possible cobbled surface (**Plate 8**). The full extent of this cobbling was not revealed but it likely relates to an external paved yard area. Deposit 303 also contained a number of ceramic and sandstone roof tiles, one with a nail hole.

#### Interpretation

- 3.3.23 Although the full extent of this structure was not revealed, it was not large. The geophysical survey implied that it did not extend much further to the west, although part of at least one stone wall had been ploughed out. Trench 5, located only 2.2m to the west of Trench 3 did reveal part of a stone wall, although it is on a slightly different alignment to Structure 318 and was of a quite different construction (see **Figure 9**). Thus the structure may have had a maximum width of *c.* 5.5m. Few datable finds were retrieved; these included a highly abraded medieval sherd from the topsoil, which is probably residual. This small structure is likely to be fairly late in date and this suggestion is supported by the fact that the plaster floor only lay 0.4m under the present topsoil. Although some of the stone was well-dressed, it would appear that this masonry had been reused from earlier medieval buildings. Only four courses of stone survived to a maximum depth of a metre and, with a wall thickness of only *c.* 1m, it was probably only single-storey. It was interpreted in the field as a possible dovecote (Mark Newman pers. comm.),



since it was of the right dimensions and lacked a doorway. However, since the whole structure was not exposed, the door may have been on the western side. Furthermore, dovecotes tend to be rather tall tower-like structures, and would probably have required thicker stone wall foundations. It is more likely to be a small steading or outhouse associated with the 18<sup>th</sup> century rebuilding of Brimham Farm.

#### *Trench 4 (Figure 5)*

3.3.24 This was a hand-excavated trench (measuring 4.7m by 2m), and was opened over a geophysical anomaly that suggested the presence of a building adjacent to the path that leads to the present farmhouse. The archaeology within this trench had been disturbed to some extent by a modern electricity cable running along its western side. Within the backfill of this cable trench (402) a large number of broken decorated tiles were retrieved, presumably relating to disturbance of a floor of an earlier structure (**Plate 11**). All these redeposited tiles are of the same design as those from the tiled floor in Trench 1, and are of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century date (see **Section 4.3** below). Immediately below the topsoil, a stone rubble layer was encountered (404), which contained large rectangular blocks of millstone grit masonry. This horizon included frequent flecks of lime mortar, and it probably relates to the collapse of an earlier wall (**Plate 10**).

3.3.25 Beneath this collapse layer a toppled wall was revealed situated within a soil and mortar matrix (405). It appeared that a large number of stones (406) had just collapsed 'en masse' to the east. The existing foundations for this wall (407) suggested that the stone had been reused from earlier structures on this site. Deposit 405 associated with this wall contained fragments of post-medieval pottery and window glass. Wall 407 was at least two courses thick with limestone mortar used as a bonding agent. The wall was aligned roughly north-south, although it was slightly curved, and thus is unlikely to relate to a building. This was faced on its western side and appears to be a free standing wall that was at over 2.8m long and at least 0.4m wide. The foundation cut (409) was not substantial and only a thin levelling deposit (410) had been laid below the stone wall.

#### Interpretation

3.3.26 It is possible that this wall relates to a late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century element of a model farm. A fair quantity of post-medieval pottery was associated with the wall collapse and would support this late date. From its meandering and tapering nature, it was suggested that it may have formed one edge of a stone droveway that would have funnelled the cattle from the fields towards the direction of the farmhouse (Mark Newman pers. comm.).

#### *Trench 5 (Figure 5)*

3.3.27 Trench 5 was a small rectangular trench (4m x 1.9m) that was opened 2.2m to the west of Trench 3. Its purpose was to determine the extent and character of the structure identified in Trench 3. A stone wall (502) was revealed underneath the topsoil, aligned north-south (**Figure 5**). This wall was of a different construction to that in Trench 3. It was made with large rectangular millstone grit blocks, and lacked a rubble core, but rather the stones had been bonded with clay (505). The stones were roughly hewn and not dressed

(unlike those in Trench 3) and wall 502 does not quite line up with east-west wall 308. This implies that this wall relates to another structure, perhaps with a different function or chronology or both. No construction cut for the wall was identified. Rubble deposits lay to the west of the wall (503) and the wall appeared to have been set into a brownish grey silty layer (506). A small number of finds were retrieved from the deposit above the stone wall, including iron nails and fragments of roof and floor tiles.

#### Interpretation

- 3.3.28 It is difficult to say any more about this wall since only such a small part of it was exposed, and no dating evidence was retrieved. It may have formed part of a rough field wall or else an ancillary farm building, perhaps 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.

#### *Trench 6 (Figure 7, photo only)*

- 3.3.29 Trench 6 was positioned against the western north-south aligned drystone field wall at Brimham Hall Farm. The aim of this trench was to determine whether elements of earlier walls relating to the grange would be revealed beneath the later wall. It was also thought that a possible mill may have existed in this area, since it was very close to the stream (Mick Aston pers. comm.). This trench was located approximately 6m to the west of Trench 1 on the other side of the gate. The trench was opened by machine, but was not cleaned and spoil was left within the confines of the trench, making recording difficult. Beneath topsoil, three deposits were identified. These were a sandy silt subsoil (602), beneath which was a rubble dump deposit (603). Fragments of roof tile and a sherd of post-medieval pottery were retrieved from this deposit. On the eastern side of the trench a north-south aligned stone wall was identified (604) at least six courses high (1.10m; **Figure 7, Plate 14**). Most of the stones were undressed, although there was some evidence for comb and pecked tooling, but it is likely that these stones were again reused from an earlier structure.

#### Interpretation

- 3.3.30 The wall itself is an earlier fairly crude drystone wall and is not comparable with the well-constructed walls in Trench 1. This trench was useful in helping to determine the western limits of the building revealed in Trench 1 which clearly do not extend beyond the present field wall. The wall identified implies that the present field boundary follows closely an earlier alignment. The sherd of post-medieval pottery may support the suggestion that this wall is relatively late in date, and is unlikely to be earlier than 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Trench 7 (Figure 6)*

- 3.3.31 This machine-cut trench was opened c. 10m to the east of Trench 1 (3.5m long by 1.2m wide, 1.6m deep) to determine whether the same structure identified in Trench 1 continued further east. Beneath the topsoil a rubble levelling horizon (702) was encountered. This was associated with a large robber cut (703) at least 2.5m wide and 1.25m deep, which had disturbed and removed part of a stone structure (705). Only a few stones forming this structure remained, but they included three dressed stones that were still mortared together, a fragment of a window moulding and a string course. Cut 705 also truncated a thick dump deposit (706) which contained fragments of

tile and broken sandstone, relating to an earlier destruction and levelling layer. No datable finds were retrieved from any of the deposits excavated.

#### Interpretation

- 3.3.32 This trench proved that part of a stone structure (of fairly high status owing to the quality of the dressed stone) had once existed in this location. Although the later disturbance and robbing made it was difficult to ascertain whether it was part of same building as that identified in Trench 1, the quality of the remaining stonework is very similar. The string course implies that the structures these stones originally formed part of had a second storey. It is possible that this wall represents the eastern extent of the hall identified in Trench 9 (see below).

#### *Trench 8 (Figure 7, photo only)*

- 3.3.33 A small hand excavated trench (2m by 2m) was opened in the garden of the farm to determine whether elements of the building identified in Trench 1 continued further north. The geophysical survey indicated the presence of possible stone structure in this area that may relate to the northern range of the building.
- 3.3.34 The trench was opened on the lawn, and once the turf had been removed it was clear that some landscaping and levelling had occurred (802), using demolition material from earlier structures (mortar and stone mix). Beneath this levelling, a mortar spread deposit was revealed (803). This comprised a compact yellow demolition layer that contained large quantities of mortar and stone. A similar deposit (or the same mortar spread) had been encountered in Trench 9 to the south (902), and due to its depth in the latter trench, a decision was taken to stop excavation at this level. At least a further metre of soil would have had to be removed in Trench 8 in order to reveal undisturbed structural deposits, and this would have affected reinstatement of the original lawn.

#### *Trench 9 (Figure 8)*

- 3.3.35 This trench was opened by machine, and unfortunately some archaeological deposits were removed by machining, and could only be recorded in section. As in Trench 8, a horizon of demolition debris was encountered under the topsoil (902), which is the same layer as 803. Finds from the topsoil included two sherds of post-medieval pottery, fragments of sheet lead, roof tile and a tiny fragment of window glass. Beneath this, a wall (903) was revealed. This was aligned north-south and comprised dressed millstone grit sandstones with lime mortar bonding (**Figure 8 section**). This wall was exposed for at least four courses, with two foundation courses (912) that projected 0.15m out from the wall. The entire structure had a minimum height of 1.9m, and a width of 1m. Each course was slightly different in height, but varied from 0.3m-0.4m per course. The wall construction was similar to wall 112 in Trench 1, and comprised sandstone blocks without a rubble core. Abutting wall 903 in the northern side of the trench was a possible paved floor (904). Unless it had been robbed out it only extended for one course (max. 0.3m) and may have formed the paved edging to a robbed out tile floor. This floor was at a depth of 1.2m below the present ground surface and footings 912 lay directly beneath it.

- 3.3.36 The northern section of the trench was undermined to expose two courses of wall 905 that abutted wall 903 and overlay paving 904. This wall directly underlay the modern drystone wall of the garden.
- 3.3.37 A large dump deposit (906) was identified under the floor 904, probably a levelling layer for the floor construction. A fragment of window glass was retrieved from this deposit.
- 3.3.38 Other rubble deposits were noticed in the sections but it was difficult to relate these to structural elements. For instance in the south-eastern corner of the trench, a demolition layer (907) was stratigraphically below 902, and it probably relates to some later destruction event associated with the dismantling of the building. This sealed a burnt lens (908) that was rich in charcoal and may have been associated with the burning event identified in Trench 1 (105). This was associated with a thin lens of burnt pink mortar (909), which may immediately overlies the paved floor 904. The burning horizons appeared to be concentrated in the southern part of this trench and may relate to a discrete burning event. The mortar in other parts of the trench was not heat-affected.

#### Interpretation

- 3.3.39 This small trench was able to add to our understanding of the nature of the structure identified in Trench 1. It is clear that walls 903 and 905 form part of the same building, but relate to a later phase of it. Wall 903 runs roughly at right angles to wall 115 in Trench 1, and parallel to wall 112; together these form the eastern, southern and western sides of the possible chamber block of the building (Space 132). Wall 903 also forms the western side of the probable hall space (Space 915), with wall 905 forming its northern side. **Figure 9** shows a composite plan of these trenches with the projected wall lines. From the architectural detail it is likely that the earliest construction of this building began in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century (as evidenced by the detail of the chamfered plinths associated with the footing of wall 128). Walls 113 and 114 therefore comprise the earliest phase of this building, which may have originally existed as a chamber block room with attached garde robe. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century the chamber space was modified and rebuilt and the building was expanded through the construction of the hall.

### 3.4 Fieldwalking

- 3.4.1 This exercise was most useful in targeting a potential zone where a possible medieval high status ecclesiastical structure may originally have stood. The western wall of the field immediately to the west of Brimham Hall Farm contained a large quantity of architectural stone fragments (see **Appendix 2**). This was focussed in the southern part of this wall and included several door jambs, window spandrels and arches, string courses, dressed stone with fragments of inscriptions and a pediment. All of this stonework would support the idea that a substantial high status building with at least two storeys once stood in the vicinity of this wall, as it is unlikely the large stone fragments would have travelled very far. Some of the stone is ecclesiastical in nature and the pediment is very similar to those on the tower at Fountains Abbey, and would originally have provided a niche for a statue. It is possible

that the building in this part of the site relates to the original grange, although it is also feasible that it forms the remains of a chapel that is also documented on the site. Geophysics had identified elements of a potentially substantial stone structure in the southern boundary of this field, which was postulated as a chapel. In the absence of any evaluation in this area, however, this proposal cannot be verified or refuted.

## **4 FINDS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 Finds were recovered from eight of the nine trial trenches excavated (no finds came from Trench 7). The assemblage relates largely to the construction and use of the medieval and early post-medieval buildings on the site (stone and ceramic building material, including decorated floor tiles; vessel and window glass), with a small amount of later post-medieval material. Of particular interest is a small group of tile wasters, attesting to the manufacture of decorated floor tiles on or close to the site.

4.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate (pottery, ceramic building material). All finds data are currently held on an Access database.

4.1.3 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context, with particular reference to the use of the medieval grange.

### **4.2 Pottery**

4.2.1 Only two sherds were dated as medieval: a coarse gritty ware body sherd (highly abraded) from Trench 3 (stone collapse from wall 302), and a green-glazed whiteware from Trench 1 (dumping/levelling layer 111).

4.2.2 The rest of the assemblage is post-medieval, including coarse redwares (not closely datable), as well as Cistercian wares (late 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century), Staffordshire-type slipwares (17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century) and modern refined wares and stonewares.

### **4.3 Ceramic Building Material**

4.3.1 Two small areas of tiled floor were encountered in Trench 1 (109, 123), both incorporating both plain and line-impressed tiles. The line-impressed tiles are all of the same size (180mm square) and design, and with a clear lead glaze. The plain tiles are slightly smaller (140mm square). Other fragments of line-impressed tiles were recovered, all redeposited, from Trenches 1 (topsoil, Platt's trench 102, rubble deposit 116) 2 (topsoil) and 4 (modern cable trench