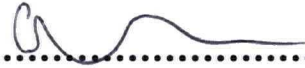


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CNY	5478
Parish	3106
Rec'd	10/7/06

Westgate Farm
Rillington
North Yorkshire
SE 8517 7414

Archaeological Evaluation

Authorised by NA 

Date: 6/7/06

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June 2006

**Westgate Farm, Westgate,
Rillington,
North Yorkshire
SE 8517 7414**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Non-technical Summary

Four evaluation trenches were excavated in June 2006 at the former farmyard of Westgate Farm, Rillington, North Yorkshire, in order to evaluate the archaeological potential of a proposed development site.

Excavation of the northernmost trench (Trench 1) revealed a medieval boundary ditch, along with an undated pit and posthole; other undated features were recorded in Trench 2. Trenches 3 and 4 contained no archaeological activity, but showed evidence of modern disturbance.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Evaluation that was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at the former foldyard of Westgate Farm, Westgate, Rillington, North Yorkshire (Figs. 1 & 2: SE 8517 7414) during the week of 19th June 2006.

- 1.2 The Evaluation was carried out on behalf of, and was funded by, Mr M. Maud, in advance of an outline planning application for residential development at the site (Ref. 06/00350/OUT). The Heritage Section of North Yorkshire County Council advised Ryedale District Council that a scheme of archaeological evaluation by geophysical survey and/or trial trenching should be undertaken in advance of the planning

application in order to enable an assessment to be made of the likely impact of the development proposals upon the archaeological resource.

- 1.3 The Evaluation was designed to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The information provided from the Evaluation should enable an assessment of the impact of the development on archaeological deposits at the site, so that a reasonable and informed planning decision can be made in terms of identifying options for minimising, avoiding damage to, and/or recording any archaeological remains. This strategy follows the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG 16), and in accordance with the Policy C13 of the Ryedale Local District Plan.
- 1.4 Geophysical Survey was carried out by GSB Prospection Ltd on the 18th May 2006 (GSB 2006). Anomalies isolated by the survey influenced the location of the ensuing evaluation trenches. Four areas, covering a total area of approximately 80m² were examined at locations agreed by the Senior Archaeologist of the Heritage Unit, NYCC (Fig. 2). This represented approximately 2.5% of the total area of c. 0.4ha.
- 1.5 The MAP site code for the project was 02-05-06.
- 1.6 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Location and Description

- 2.1 The extent of the application area is indicated on a site location plan prepared from information supplied by M Punchard (Fig. 2). The total area of the proposed development is approximately 0.4 ha.
- 2.2 The village of Rillington lies at the southern edge of the Vale of Pickering, fringing the Yorkshire Wolds to the south, c. 5km east of Malton. This is an area of Ryedale where

the pattern of medieval nucleated settlements, both villages and hamlets, still dominates the archaeological landscape as either deserted or shrunken settlements, or sites still occupied by rural communities.2.3 The application site lies in the south-western area of the village, 250m south-west of the parish church of St. Andrew, south of the A64 York to Scarborough road and north-east of Collinsons Lane. The application site consists of the former farmyard of Westgate Farm. At the time of the Evaluation, the site formed a level area at an elevation of between 34 and 35m AOD. Most of the area was covered by short grass, with the exception of a standing barn towards the centre of the site and a partially-demolished brick structure to the south. The western and eastern limits of the site were fringed by a number of trees and shrubs.

3. Geology and Soils

- 3.1 The geology at the site is recorded as glaciofluvial drift (Mackney *et al.* 1984), with overlying deep well-drained sandy and coarse loamy soils of the Newport 1 Association (*ibid.*).

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The proposed development site lies within an area of archaeological significance connected with the medieval village of Rillington. Additionally, at the eastern edge of the village, an area of spectacular multi-period cropmarks, relating to prehistoric and Roman burial, settlement and land division, has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument of national archaeological importance. The earliest evidence for settlement in the village is provided by the late Iron Age gullies and postholes excavated in 1980 (Turnbull 1983).
- 4.2 The cropmarks recorded to the west, south-west and east of the proposed development are believed to relate to Iron Age / Romano-British settlement, agriculture and land division.

- 4.3 At least one Anglian burial, which had an accompanying a pair of bronze cruciform brooches, is known from the eastern part of Rillington.
- 4.4 Recent archaeological interventions in Rillington, on the southern side of Scarborough Road, have recorded pits, postholes and linear features of Iron Age / Romano-British and medieval date, along with a single inhumation burial that is, pending an AMS date, not securely dated (MAP 2004, 2005a and 2005b).
- 4.5 The Guildhouse Consultancy carried out a geophysical survey on the plot of land immediately east of the site, identifying a number of anomalies.
- 4.6 A number of Archaeological Watching Briefs have taken place at Rillington. A Watching Brief was carried out during the construction of Messrs. A & D Sturdy's new office at 28 Scarborough Road; nothing of archaeological interest was revealed (D. Sturdy pers. comm.; Landscape Research Centre, Yedingham). Another negative Watching Brief took place during the construction of a new classroom at Rillington Primary School (MAP 2001a).
- 4.7 An undated hearth was revealed during the excavation of a fishpond at land to the rear of 1-9 Sledgate (MAP 2001b). Rather more productive was the recording carried out during the construction of an extension to the Ellis Patents Factory, situated to the east of High Street and approximately 450m east of the proposed development site (MAP 1994). A group of five pits was revealed, associated calcite-gritted pottery sherds suggesting a late Iron Age date. Another Recording Brief carried out at Ellis Patents during 2005 recorded undated gullies, pits and postholes (MAP 2005).
- 4.8 In addition, TCM Brewster recorded calcite-gritted, Roman and medieval coarseware sherds during the construction of a new canteen for the village school near the junction of High Street and Malton Road (ERART archive).
- 4.9 The Domesday Book of 1086 recorded three separate holdings at Rillington: Gilli held 2 carucates with land for one plough, worth 10s; the Count of Mortain held 2 carucates

and 2 bovates (waste at the time of the survey); and the King held 2 carucates. The place-name *Rillington* means 'Redel's farmstead' (Smith 1937).

- 4.10 An examination of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed between 1849 and 1853) suggests that the medieval settlement at Rillington formed two rows along Sledgate, on either side of Rillington Beck. The church lay at the southern end of the western row. Two Open Fields (West Field to the west and southwest, and East Field to the east and southeast of the village) lay at either side of the beck. The possibility is that Westgate formed an extension to the village along the road to Malton, but it was only in relatively recent times that the village spread eastwards along the Scarborough turnpike road (the present A64). Westgate Farm lies within the possible westward village extension.

5. Objectives

- 5.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish by trial trenching:
- (a) The nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the development proposals.
 - (b) To prepare a report summarising the results of the work and assessing the archaeological implications of the proposed development.
 - (c) To prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum.
- 5.2 Three particular topics were to be addressed:
- (a) The presence of any pre-medieval land-use at the site, whether Prehistoric or Romano-British, particularly in relation to the neighbouring cropmark sites.
 - (b) The presence / absence of human burials.
 - (c) The character of any medieval activity.

6. Methodology

6.1 Evaluation

- 6.1.1 Four areas were excavated for the Evaluation (Trenches 1 to 4). Two of the trenches (Trenches 1 and 2) were 5m x 3m in size, Trench 3 was 2m x 10m, and Trench 4

measured 3m x 10m. The trenches were intended to evaluate as broad a geographical distribution of the site as was possible, within the constraints of areas of standing buildings, old foundations and shrubs/trees. Additionally, Trench 4 was located in order to examine a substantial area at the location of the possible archaeological anomalies (D) identified by the geophysical survey. The trenches were positioned in consultation with the Senior Archaeologist, Heritage Unit, NYCC (Fig. 2) and excavated in accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 6).

6.1.2 The evaluation areas were stripped of topsoil and overburden by a rear-acting JCB excavator using a toothless blade under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the surface of the natural sandy gravel, into which the archaeological features were cut.

6.1.3 Postholes and pits were half-sectioned to determine function and record their form. Segments were excavated at suitable points within linear features.

6.1.4 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).

6.1.5 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis (Appendix 2).

6.1.6 Twelve samples were taken from the features for general biological analysis (Appendix 5).

6.2 On-site Recording

6.2.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.

6.3 Plans and Sections

6.3.1 The full extent of archaeological deposits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at 1:10, with some longer sections at 1:20, also on drawing film, and included an OD height.

6.4 Photographic Record

6.4.1 The photographic record comprised monochrome and polychrome print, and colour transparencies, in 35mm format, recording all archaeological features encountered.

6.5 Finds

6.5.1 Finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (where possible), marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines.

7. Results

7.1 Trench 1 (Pls. 1 and 2, Figs. 3 and 4)

7.1.1 Trench 1 measured 5m x 3m in size and was situated at the northern end of the site, immediately to the south of the proposed barn conversion. The natural deposits consisted of sandy gravel with bands of silty sand, and lay at an elevation of c. 33.06m AOD. Three features - a ditch (1006), a pit (1003) and a posthole (1008) cut into the natural deposits.

7.1.2 Ditch 1006 ran on a south-west to north-east alignment parallel to, and partly underlying, the north-eastern edge of the excavated area. The ditch was in excess of 0.50m wide and had a similar depth, with a rounded V-shaped profile. The basal fill (1005) consisted of bands of yellowish silty sand that were mixed with darker sandy silt, which resembled the upper fill (1004). Finds were represented by two sherds of Staxton ware and an animal bone fragment from 1004, and a Scarborough ware sherd from 1005 (Appendix 2).

7.1.3 Pit 1003 lay in the eastern part of the excavated area, and was an oval feature 1.14m in length, 0.50m in width and 0.24m in depth. The brown silty sand fill (1002) contained no finds.

7.1.4 Posthole 1008 was recorded in the south-western corner of the excavated area. It was 0.18m in diameter and survived to a depth of 0.10m. The brown sandy silt (1007) contained no finds.

7.1.5 The archaeological features were covered by a homogenous layer of brown sandy silt (1001), that was in turn sealed by yard surfacing consisting of successive bands of limestone hardcore, clinker and crushed brick (1000).

7.2 Trench 2 (Pls. 2 and 3, Figs. 5 and 6)

7.2.1 Situated south of the standing Dutch barn, Trench 2 was 5m x 3m in size. Eight features (five pits: 2010, 2013, 2014 and 2018, and three postholes: 2016, 2019 and 2022) were identified, cutting into the surface of the sandy gravel natural, which lay at an elevation of c. 33.30m AOD.

7.2.2 The pits were all oval or sub-rectangular in plan. Two pits (2010 and 2020) were larger than the others, with lengths of between 1.20m and 1.90m. The remaining pits (2013, 2014 and 2018) were less than a metre in length. The fill deposits of all these features were unremarkable yellowish or greyish sands. The only find was a CBM fragment from 2011, the uppermost fill of 2013.

7.2.3 All of the pits cut into the natural sandy gravel, with the exception of Pit 2014 which was cut from the surface of the subsoil, and was hence relatively recent in date.

7.2.4 The three postholes (2016, 2019 and 2022) were situated in the central part of the trench. Their diameters ranged from 0.25 to 0.55m, and the depths between 0.16m and 0.38m. The fills (2015, 2017 and 2021) were greyish brown sands that yielded no finds.

7.2.5 The features were covered by a 0.40m deep deposit of dark yellowish brown sandy subsoil (2003). The remaining layers consisted of the remnants of a former topsoil (2002) that was overlain by a 0.40m deep covering of limestone hardcore (2001), which itself was masked by turf and topsoil (2000).

7.3 Trench 3 (Pls. 5 and 6, Figs. 7 and 8)

7.3.1 Trench 3 was excavated on the eastern margin of the site and consisted of a linear trench, nominally measuring 10m x 2m in size, that ran parallel to the site boundary. The natural sandy gravel (3011) lay at elevations of between 33.45m and 33.55m AOD, rising slightly to the south. Features in Trench 3 consisted of a post-medieval pit (3017), plus six others of recent date.

7.3.2 Pit 3017 was cut into the sandy gravel natural towards the northern end of the trench. The pit was oval in shape, around 1m in length, 0.80m in width and 0.27m in depth. The greyish brown silty sand fill (3016) contained the skeleton of a lamb, plus single sherds of Ryedale ware and Red ware, which suggest a 17th or 18th century date for the pit.

7.3.3 The recent pits (3002, 3006, 3008, 3010, 3013, 3015 and 3018) were all cut through the subsoil, and with the exception of 3015 did not penetrate the natural. All were recorded in section. Pit 3015 was filled with a deposit of concrete and limestone rubble and was therefore probably a soak-away.

7.3.4 The subsoil (3003) formed a 0.45m thick layer of greyish brown sandy silt, and was overlain by a 0.32m thick layer of well-developed modern topsoil (3000).

7.4 Trench 4 (Pls. 7 and 8, Figs. 9 and 10)

7.4.1 Trench 4 was located in the southern part of the site, and measured 3m x 10m in size. It was located to examine pit-like geophysical anomalies (GSB 2006). Natural sandy gravel deposits lay at a height of c. 33.10m AOD at the northern end of the trench rising to c. 33.60m at the southern end. The only man-made features exposed

consisted of two modern pits (4003 and 4011), which clearly cut the 0.60m deep subsoil layer (4001).

- 7.4.2 Two irregular features (4006 and 4008) examined at the northern end of the trench were interpreted as being of natural origin due to their form and the nature of the fills (4005 and 4007 respectively). Both were sealed by a deposit of silty material (4004), a spread of the natural subsoil (4001) that was not removed during the machining of the trench.
- 7.4.3 Pit 4003 was a sub-circular feature with a diameter of c. 1.50m and a depth of around 1m. The fill (4002) consisted of brownish grey silty sand, which contained sherds of Pearl ware, factory-made white earthenware and a pantile fragment.
- 7.4.4 Trench 4 clipped the north-eastern edge of Pit 4011, which consequently showed in section only. This was a large feature with a length of at least 4m and a depth of around 0.75m. The two fills – a dark sandy upper fill (4010) and a paler lower fill (4012) contained no finds.
- 7.4.5 The archaeological sequence in Trench 4 was completed by a 0.28m deep layer of modern topsoil (4000).

8. Discussion

- 8.1 The evaluation identified archaeological activity in the three of the evaluation trenches (1, 2 and 3), the southernmost trench (4) showing only modern activity.
- 8.2 The undated features that were revealed in Trench 2 are comparable with the results of Turnbull's excavations that took place c. 500m east of Westgate Farm, which identified gullies and small pits/postholes relating to later Iron Age or Romano-British settlement. These features are also reminiscent of the results of the Watching Briefs at Ellis Patents, closer at hand on the east side of High Street. The undated pit and posthole recorded in Trench 1 also tie in with the Iron Age / Roman activity. That no comparable features were identified in Trenches 3 and 4 shows that there is an uneven spread of remains of this type at the locality.

8.3 In Trench 1, Ditch 1006 was securely dated to the 12-14th century by the pottery found within it. The ditch aligns with the boundary that demarcates the rear of the plots to the east of the site that front Westgate. It therefore seems likely that Ditch 1006 formed the southern limit of medieval tofts that ran along the southern side of Westgate.

8.4 The remainder of the recorded features were either post-medieval or recent in date. The large pits in Trench 4 contained very few finds to indicate their origin. Bearing in mind that the army requisitioned Westgate Farm in 1939 for the duration of the war, it possible that much of the recent pit-digging was carried out by the military, perhaps for shelters or weapon-pits. More tangible evidence of their occupation is provided by the Nissen hut base still surviving at the entrance to the site, and the .303 cartridge case recovered from the hardcore in Trench 1.

9. Implications of the Proposed Development

9.1 The archaeological remains recorded by the development have the potential to augment the history of the immediate locality, but their limited scope means that they are not of sufficient importance as to prevent the proposed development.

9.2 A Watching Brief is proposed as a sufficient response to mitigate the affects of the development on the archaeological deposits illustrated by the evaluation. The Watching Brief should be upgraded to a Recording Brief in the event that unforeseen, more significant remains such as human burials are disturbed by the proposed development.

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