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NEW LANE, SHERIFF HUTTON.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.
OSA REPORT No: OSA05WB26.

DECEMBER 2005.



OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA05WB26

SITE NAME: New Lane, Sheriff Hutton

COUNTY: North Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 6520 6640

PLANNING APPLICATION No: 05/00145/OUT

ON BEHALF OF: Simmons House Builders
East Lilling Grange Farm
Lilling
York
YO60 6RW

TEXT: Liz Humble

FIELDWORK: Liz Humble

TIMING: Fieldwork
17th-21st November 2005
Post excavation & report preparation
December 2005

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Table of Contents.

1.0 Abstract.....	3
2.0 Site Location and Land Use.....	5
3.0 Archaeological Background.	6
4.0 Methodology.....	6
5.0 Results.	7
6.0 Discussion and Conclusion.....	7
7.0 Bibliography.	7
8.0 Appendix 1 – Table of contexts.....	7
9.0 Appendix 2 ~ The Plates.....	8

List of Figures.

Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 6520 6640).	4
Figure 2. Trench location plan. (Not to Scale).....	5

List of Plates.

Plate 1. Pre-existing concrete foundations. (Scale of 1m).	8
Plate 2. General shot of foundation trenches.	8
Plate 3. Typical section of foundation trench. (Scale of 1m).	9
Plate 4. General working shot.	9

1.0 Abstract.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by On-Site Archaeology at a site adjacent to the vicarage, New Lane, Sheriff Hutton on behalf of Simmons House Builders from the 17th to the 21st of November 2005. The work was undertaken in order to fulfil the archaeological condition attached to planning application 05/001454/OUT to erect a detached dwelling and garage.

The first day of archaeological works on November 17th comprised observation of the stripping of the plot of land 12.50m x 9.0m to a depth of 0.40-0.45m beneath the current ground surface. This was followed by the excavation of a foundation trench for the dwelling with attached garage. The trench had maximum dimensions of 12.40m x 0.70m x 0.90m deep.

As the site was stripped of topsoil and the trench excavated, close archaeological supervision was maintained in order to identify the presence or absence of any surviving archaeological deposits. However, no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were revealed during the works.



Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 6520 6640).

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2.0 Site Location and Land Use.

The site lies on land adjacent to the vicarage, New Lane, Sheriff Hutton (NGR SE 6520 6640). The site is bounded by New Lane to the west, with residential houses and garages to the north, east and south. Before the commencement of the building work, this was an empty plot of land covered in grass.



Figure 2. Trench location plan. (Not to Scale).

3.0 Archaeological Background.

The site lies within the historic core of the medieval village of Sheriff Hutton. The east, and earliest part of the linear village (including the church), was probably planned by the de Bulmer family in the 12th century. It is likely to have coincided with the planning of the nearby deserted village of East Lilling (Swan *et al.* 1990).

The site is located near to Sheriff Hutton castle, a scheduled ancient monument. John, 3rd Lord Neville (d.1388) obtained a licence to crenellate Sheriff Hutton in 1382 (CPR 1381-1385, 108). His son Ralph, 4th Lord Neville probably completed the castle (Taylor 2000, 48). Ralph enjoyed a successful military career and became one of the most powerful men in Northern England. In 1397, he became Earl of Westmorland and two years later Ralph's support for Henry of Lancaster was rewarded by his promotion to Marshall of England and granting of the Honour of Richmond (Taylor 2000, 48). All that currently survives of the once opulent and substantial Sheriff Hutton Castle are fragments of the gatehouse, the four corner towers of the inner court, and part of the south range.

Castle building had a significant impact on the village plan of Sheriff Hutton. The imposition of the courtyard castle led to re-planning, and some of the crofts were destroyed, with others truncated and realigned (Dennison 1998, 18).

4.0 Methodology.

The excavation methodology involved the removal of 0.40-0.45m of topsoil and backfill overlying the natural with a 450mm ditching bucket. Following this the external foundations, 0.70m wide, were excavated to a depth of 0.90m by a JCB with a 600mm ditching bucket and the internal foundations were excavated to a width of 0.5m using an 450mm toothed bucket on a mini-digger.

As the trenches were excavated, close archaeological supervision was maintained in order to identify the presence or absence of any surviving archaeological deposits. A written and photographic record was maintained.

5.0 Results.

The earliest deposit encountered was the natural, geological boulder clay (1000), the surface of which was found at a minimum depth of 0.55m below the existing ground surface. The natural was a compact, light orange brown slightly sandy clay with approximately 5% pebbles and cobbles.

Cut into the natural was the construction cut of an earlier foundation trench [1002]. This vertical sided cut with a flat base (0.80m wide x 0.40-0.45m deep) had been filled by a hard concrete with frequent pebble inclusions (1001). A mixed layer (1003) consisting of a loose mid brown slightly sandy silt with patches of clay natural overlay this and was up to 0.47m thick. This was sealed by a 0.08-0.25m thick soft loose dark brownish grey silty topsoil (1004).

6.0 Discussion and Conclusion.

The watching brief has revealed the presence on the site of a modern intrusion, namely, the previous foundation trench for the footings of a dwelling that was not built. This was cut into the clay natural and was then sealed by a layer of a mixed backfill 0.20-0.40m deep and a 0.10-0.25m thick layer of grass-covered topsoil.

There was no evidence for any archaeological artefacts, deposits or features within the excavated area.

7.0 Bibliography.

Calendar of the Patent Rolls, Preserved in the Public Record Office: Richard II 1381-1385. (1971) Nendeln: Kraus Reprint.

Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (1998) 'Archaeological and architectural survey of Sheriff Hutton Castle: North Yorkshire', consulted at Field Archaeology Specialists, The King's Manor, York. Unpublished.

Swan, V, Mackay, D A and Jones, B E A (1990) 'East Lilling, North Yorkshire: the deserted medieval village reconsidered', Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, 62, 91-109.

Taylor, C (2000) 'Medieval ornamental landscapes', Landscapes, 1, 38-55.

8.0 Appendix 1 – Table of contexts.

Context	Description	Extent	Max. depth
1000	A compact, light orange brown slightly sandy clay with 5% cobbles (natural)	Trench	Unknown
1001	Concrete fill of [1002]	Trench	0.45m
1002	A vertical sided, flat based construction cut	Trench	0.45m
1003	A loose mixed mid brown slightly sandy silt with patches of clay	Trench	0.47m
1004	Soft, loose dark brownish grey silt (topsoil)	Trench	0.25m

9.0 Appendix 2 ~ The Plates.



Plate 1. Pre-existing concrete foundations. (Scale of 1m).



Plate 2. General shot of foundation trenches.



Plate 3. Typical section of foundation trench. (Scale of 1m).



Plate 4. General working shot.