



WALLERTHWAITE FARM

MARKINGTON

NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

REPORT
DECEMBER 2005

EXCAVATION AND EVALUATION SECTION



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
WALLERTHWAITE FARM MARKINGTON
NORTH YORKSHIRE

SITE CODE: MWF 05
NGR: SE 2900 6500

REPORT
December 2005



FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS LTD

Unit A3 Parkside Centre
Terry Avenue
York YO23 1JP

TELEPHONE (01904) 652000
FACSIMILE (01904) 656222
E-MAIL arch18@york.ac.uk

CLIENT

Mr William Wilberforce
Wallerthwaite Farm
Markington
Harrogate
HG3 3NL

PROJECT TEAM

Lisa Smith BA

REPORT PREPARED BY

Lisa Smith BA

REPORT REVIEWED BY

Cecily Spall BSc MA

.....

REPORT AUTHORISED BY

Justin Garner-Lahire BA

.....

LIST OF CONTENTS

	Contents	Page
	Summary	ii
	Acknowledgements	ii
1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	LOCATION AND LAND USE	1
1.2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
1.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
2.0	FIELDWORK PROCEDURE	3
3.0	FIELDWORK RESULTS	3
3.1	INTERVENTION 1	3
3.2	INTERVENTION 2	3
4.0	DISCUSSION	5
5.0	ARCHIVE	5

References

Figures

1	Location of area of investigation (Scale 1:25 000)	1
2	Location of watching brief (Scale 1: 2000)	4

Plates

1	Topsoil removal along access road	3
2	Possible subsoil in Intervention 2	4

Tables

1	Summary of contexts	5
---	---------------------	---

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists on behalf of Mr William Wilberforce at Wallerthwaite Farm, Markington, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 2900 6500). The area of investigation was located adjacent to the deserted medieval village of Wallerthwaite (SAM 29535). Fieldwork was undertaken during the 31st May and the 1st June 2005.

Fieldwork involved the monitoring of topsoil removal for a new road access and the excavation of a trench to house a septic tank. Modern topsoil, overburden and possible subsoil were identified; no archaeological remains were encountered, although the sequence encountered was predominantly modern and may mask archaeological remains.

Acknowledgements

FAS would like to thank Mr William Wilberforce and family for their assistance and hospitality during the fieldwork.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document reports on the results of a watching brief undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) on behalf of Mr William Wilberforce. The work involved the removal of topsoil during the construction of an access track and trench to house a septic tank. This work was carried out in the vicinity of Wallerthwaite Farm, Markington, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 2900 6500). The watching brief took place between the 31st May and the 1st June 2005.

The archaeological watching brief had been requested by the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section as an archaeological planning condition (Application No: 6.52.161.FUL).

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The site was located to the northwest of Wallerthwaite deserted medieval village, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 29535)(Figure 1). The area of investigation was situated in an area of pasture to the west of two modern barns and the main buildings of Wallerthwaite Farm. This field was enclosed to the north by a local road running west from the A61 towards Markington high street and to the west by trees and hedgerow. To the south, a farm track and wire fence separated the proposed site from the remains of Wallerthwaite medieval village situated in an adjacent field.

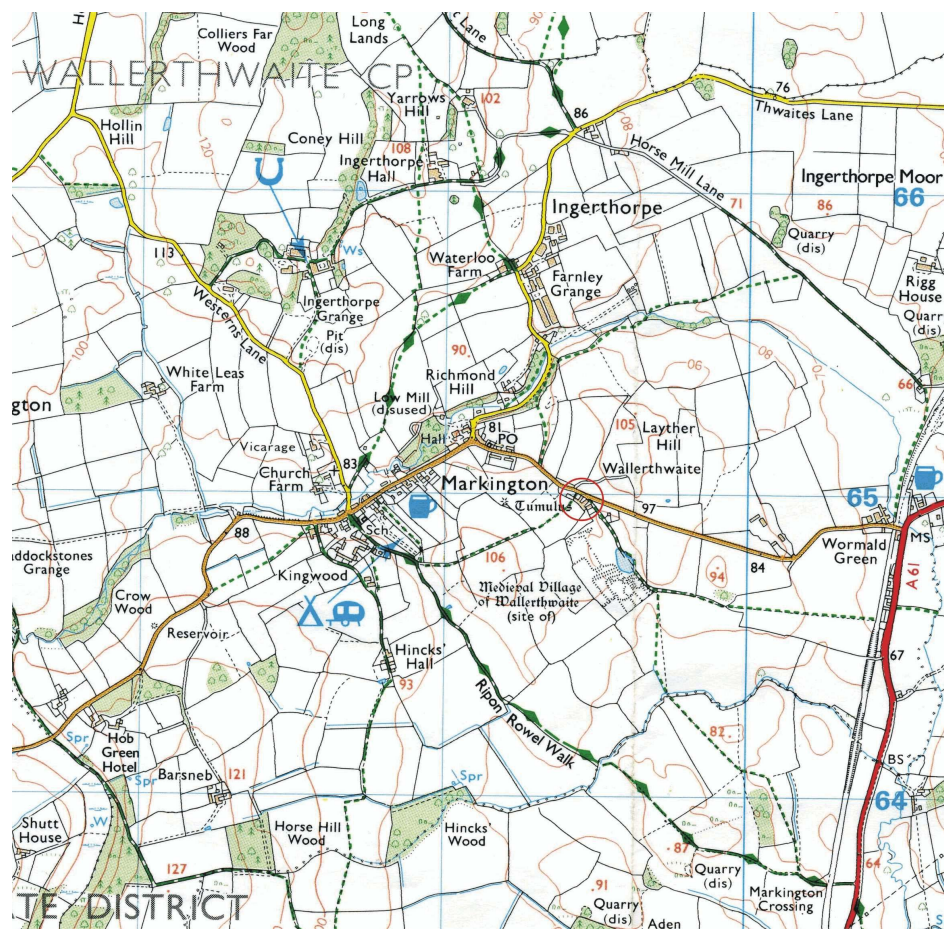


Figure 1 Location of area of investigation (Scale 1:25 000)

The septic tank trench was positioned to the south of the main farmhouse in the southeastern corner of a piece of pasture bounded to the south and the east by a modern wooden fence. The access track, measuring *c.*150m was located on a north-south alignment joining a local road to the north with a farm track to the south. The track divided in two to provide access to an adjacent barn to the east.

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the watching brief was to identify, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered during groundworks, which would be destroyed or disturbed by the development. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the North Yorkshire County Council Standard Written Scheme of Investigation for Limited Archaeological Recording.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The main archaeological feature in the immediate vicinity of the site is that of Wallerthwaite deserted medieval village, which lies in the field to the southeast of the area of investigation. The surrounding landscape, however, is likely to have been occupied since prehistory; a tumulus situated in the field to the northwest of the area of investigation suggests the potential for burial and associated activities of prehistoric, possibly Bronze Age, date (SAM 29536).

Such evidence is, however, limited, and the landscape surrounding the site of Wallerthwaite shows many more signs of medieval activity; characterised by surviving villages (such as Markington), deserted medieval villages, including Wallerthwaite or nearby Cayton, monastic granges and manor houses.

The medieval village of Wallerthwaite lies immediately to the southeast of the area of investigation (SAM 29535). The village is not well-documented, although the Old Norse elements of the place-name (*vollr* and *thveit*) suggest a potentially early origin for the settlement. The site is known to have existed during the medieval period, and documents of early 14th century date record various grants and feoffments within the village, include the grant of one toft and one croft in 1314 (MS Dep 1980/1 Handlist). The settlement is, however, thought to have been deserted by the end of the 14th century, a decline which has been attributed to the Black Death, or to raids by the Scots (Scheduling Document). Following its abandonment, the township was joined with that of the surviving village of Markington, to become Markington-with-Wallerthwaite.

The village itself was situated in a wide hollow to the southeast of Markington, with a green occupying the base of the hollow. Houses were constructed on terraces surrounding the green, accompanied by a range of enclosures, which now survive as low banks. Only in the area immediately to the northeast of the village can the vestiges of field systems be observed, in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks, with associated balks and headlands (Scheduling Document). Unusually, although these earthworks occur on modern Ordnance Survey editions, the location and detail of the village was not recorded on the first edition of 1854.

The medieval routeway through the village ran along the northeastern edge of the settlement, and survived as Wallerthwaite Lane, which until at least the mid-19th century provided the main road from Markington to the southeast (Ordnance Survey 1854). Today, however, this road survives only as a grassy track, having been

replaced by a more substantial thoroughfare to the north. Wallerthwaite Farm would therefore originally have straddled the road, but now lies to the southwest of the road.

The surrounding area is known to have been enclosed during the 18th century, at which time many of the earlier, medieval field systems would have been subsumed (1792 Enclosure map, listed by Kain *et al* 2004). Between 1854 and the modern day, however, little change seems to have occurred within the immediate area, other than the movement of the road, and the loss of a number of smaller field boundaries.

2.0 FIELDWORK PROCEDURE

The removal of topsoil along the length of the new access road (Intervention 1) was undertaken using a tracked back-acting mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Topsoil and overburden was removed under strict archaeological supervision in spits to the first archaeological horizon. Excavation of the septic tank trench (Intervention 2) was undertaken using the same methods.

3.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

3.1 INTERVENTION 1

A fairly uniform layer of topsoil allocated C1000 was removed over the entire length of the forked access road (Figure 2, Plate 1, Table 1). It consisted of a friable dark greyish-brown sandy clay with occasional mixed pebbles, rare fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) and charcoal flecks. The layer was heavily disturbed by root action, but was consistent to a depth varying between 0.2m and 0.5m. C1000 overlay an overburden (C1001) of reddish-brown sandy clay with inclusions of large rounded cobbles, frequent angular stones and rare flecks of charcoal and limestone. Towards the northern end of Intervention 1, the topsoil layer had been heavily disturbed and contained large reinforced concrete lumps, CBM and modern metal debris. No archaeological remains were evident within this area, and natural subsoil was not encountered.



Plate 1 Topsoil removal along access road

3.2 INTERVENTION 2

Intervention 2 involved the monitoring of a trench measuring 3m x 3m and was excavated to a depth of *c.*2.5m below ground surface. A thin layer of topsoil was encountered and allocated C1002. It consisted of a dark grey sandy clay with frequent large rounded cobbles and measured 0.3m in depth, overlying overburden layer (C1003). C1003 consisted of a light yellowish-brown sandy clay with rare stone inclusions and measured over

0.4m in depth. Following the removal of C1003, a possible natural subsoil (C1004; Plate 2) was encountered made of a dark reddish-brown clay with occasional angular gravel and cobbles and was seen to a depth of 1.7m in section. No archaeological remains were encountered during monitoring.

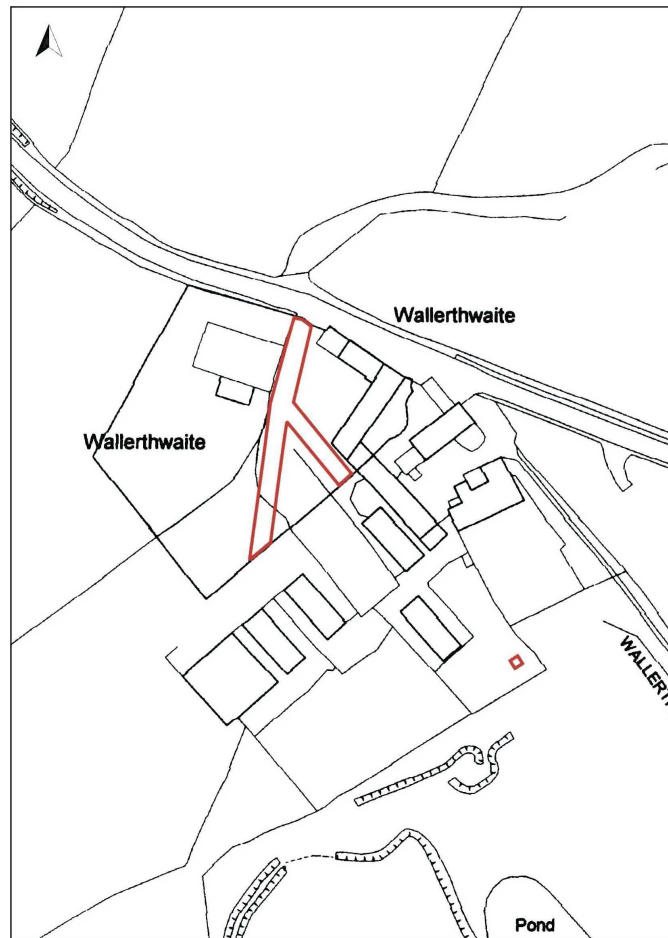


Figure 2 Location of watching brief (Scale 1:2000)



Plate 2 Possible subsoil in Intervention 2

Table 1 Summary of contexts

Context	Int.	Identity	Description
1000	1	topsoil	dark greyish-brown sandy clay, occasional mixed pebbles, rare fragments of cbm and charcoal flecks
1001	1	overburden	reddish-brown sandy clay, large rounded cobbles, frequent angular stones, rare flecks of charcoal and limestone
1002	2	topsoil	dark grey sandy clay, frequent large rounded cobbles
1003	2	overburden	light yellowish-brown sandy clay, rare stone inclusions
1004	2	subsoil	dark reddish-brown clay, occasional angular gravel and cobbles, frequent limestone flecks

4.0 DISCUSSION

No archaeological remains were encountered during groundworks for the new access road and storage tank. It should be noted, however, that the sequence observed was recent and in most instances archaeological remains may have been masked and preserved beneath layers of overburden.

5.0 ARCHIVE

Modern ceramic, CBM and metal debris was noted during the watching brief but not retained. A copy of this report is held by FAS and the North Yorkshire County Sites and Monument Records.

References

Cartographic sources

Ordnance Survey 1854

Secondary sources

Kain, R.J.P, Chapman, J. and Oliver, R.R. 2004. *Enclosure maps of England and Wales 1595-1918* (London)

MS Dep 1980/1: *Archives of the Dean and Chapter of Ripon, Handlist 47*, handlist of documents held in the Brotherton Library, Leeds, online at www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/handlists/047MSDep1980_1.pdf

Scheduling Document, Monument No. 29535: Wallerthwaite Medieval Village



FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS LTD

UNIT A3
PARKSIDE CENTRE
TERRY AVENUE
YORK YO23 1JP

TELEPHONE	(01904) 652000
FACSIMILE	(01904) 656222
E-MAIL	arch18@york.ac.uk