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Pearsons Yard, Low Farm
 East Street
 Swinton
 North Yorkshire

SE 76025 73235
 Archaeological Watching Brief

Authorised by *KCLW*

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January 2007

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Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Pearsons Yard, Low Farm, Swinton, North Yorkshire (SE 76025 73235) from January 2006 through to October 2006. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the erection of fourteen residential properties at the site and the associated drainage and access road.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was conducted between January through to October 2006 by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. Pearsons Yard, Low Farm, Swinton, North Yorkshire (SE 76025 73235, Figs. 1 & 2). The work was undertaken to fulfil Condition 16 of Planning Permission (Applicant No; 03/00624/OUT) and in line with the Written Scheme of Works (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to provide an appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, following 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 Policy C13 of the Ryedale District Local Plan.
- 1.3 All work was funded by Fulford Builders Limited.

- 1.4 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. Site Description

- 2.1 The site lies in the village of Swinton, on the eastern side of the former medieval settlement. The site is bounded to the north by Low Farm, East Street to the west, a drive to south and agricultural fields to the east. The site formerly consisted of a farmyard and associated farm buildings.

- 2.2 The site stands on soils of the Badsey 2 Association. These are characterised by "well drained calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone gravel" with solid geology of River Terrace and lacustrine gravel (Mackney et al 1984).

3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief were to record and recover archaeological remains, which could be affected by proposed development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 The monitored groundworks were undertaken in three phases:-

Phase 1: The Construction of the road;

Phase 2: Excavation of house foundations;

Phase 3: The insertion of drainage and sewers.

- 4.2 All excavations were undertaken by a JCB or 360° mini mechanical excavator, operating under close archaeological supervision.

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

4.4 All 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.

4.5 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a digital camera.

5. Results (Pls. 1, 2, 3 & 4)

5.1 The groundworks monitored in Phases 1 and 2 covered a maximum area of 28m x 20m. Initial work consisted of the partial removal of an existing slope at the rear of the development plot, followed by the excavation of a series of strip foundation trenches. The foundation trenches were excavated to a mean depth of 1m. Excavations revealed a naturally-formed subsoil deposit (context 1002) that was sealed by a silty clay subsoil (context 1001). Deposit 1001 was sealed by modern topsoil (context 1000).

5.2 The excavations in Phase 3 consisted of the partial removal of an existing slope at the rear and the south of the development plot, followed by the excavation of a series of strip foundation trench for a retaining wall. The foundation trenches were excavated to a mean depth of 0.40m. Excavations revealed a natural subsoil (context 1000).

5.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief.

6. Conclusions

6.1. Natural deposits were reached in all of the foundation trenches, and *in situ* subsoil deposits were also observed. No archaeological features or deposits were observed, which reflects the previous agricultural nature of the site.



Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Location of Watching Brief Area.



Plate 1. Service Trench. Facing East.



Plate 2. Foundation Trench. Facing East.



Plate 3. Manhole. Facing West.



Plate 4. Stripping of Road. Facing North.