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**Land South of Cottage Farm
Main Street
Foxholes
North Yorkshire
TA 0135 7279**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Authorised by

Date:.....

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Main Street,
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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd during January and February, 2007 on land to the south of Cottage Farm and north of Field House, Main Street, Foxholes, North Yorkshire (Figs. 1 & 2 : TA 0135 7279). The work consisted of monitoring the topsoil and subsoil stripping of the development area and the observation of the excavation of the garage plot and house footings.

A single east west aligned linear feature was located within the footprint of the house. No finds were recovered from the feature, however it is likely that it represents an old land boundary, perhaps associated with activity recorded in 2003 at the development site opposite, which was dated by associated pottery to the 12th-14th centuries AD.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on land to the south of Cottage Farm and north of Field House, Main Street, Foxholes, North Yorkshire (TA 0135 7279, Figs. 1 & 2). The Watching Brief took place on the 3rd and 5th of January and the 12th to 14th of February 2007.

- 1.2 All work was undertaken in accordance with a Standard Watching Brief Scheme of Investigation prepared by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd and agreed by the Archaeological Section of North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 5).
- 1.3 The Watching Brief was carried out on behalf of, and was funded by, Mr Donkin. It was undertaken to satisfy a condition attached to planning by Ryedale District Council (ref. 03/01232/OUT) for the erection of a residential dwelling to the south of Cottage Farm, Foxholes (Fig. 3).
- 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.
- 1.5 The MAP site code for the project was 04.01.07.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site is situated at the southern end of the village of Foxholes, to the north of Field House and to the south of Cottage Farm: the site was originally part of the gardens to the farm.
- 2.2 The site rises from c. 65m AOD on street frontage to c. 69m AOD along the western boundary (Pls. 1 & 2).

3. Geology and Soils

- 3.1 The site stands on soils of the Andover 1 Association, shallow well-drained calcareous silty soils (on slopes and crests), with deep calcareous and non calcareous fine silty soils (in valley bottoms), both overlying a solid geology of chalk (Mackney 1983).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The Great Wold Valley, through which the Gypsey Race flows, forms an extensive landscape of Prehistoric features, known largely from cropmarks on aerial photographs, but also represented by earthworks (Stoertz 1997). A complex of rectangular enclosures of prehistoric or Romano-British date runs along the valley floor immediately south of the village.
- 4.2 A polished greenstone axe was found during the 1990s at Eastfield, c. 100m east of the development site.
- 4.3 The Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian periods are poorly represented at Foxholes, the village is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086) suggesting that there was a pre-Conquest settlement.. This settlement was recorded variously as *Foxele*, *Foxohole*, *Foxhola* and *Foxholo* meaning 'Fox-earths' (Smith 1937, 115).
- 4.4 The Domesday Survey recorded two manors at Foxholes with 2 carucates of land being held as soke by the manor of Bridlington, and 8 carucates in the fief of Robert de Bruis, directly from the King. The larger of these manors descended in the de Bruis, Twing and Lumley families.
- 4.5 It is likely that the medieval settlement was located around the pond that formerly existed on the west side of Main Street, to the north-west of the site. The church is located on higher ground, in the north-western part of the village, off the Ganton road, and was first mentioned c. 1100-05 when it was given by Geoffrey Bainhard to St. Mary's Abbey, York. The church was completely rebuilt in 1866, but formerly had a simple plan with a Norman arch that separated the nave from the chancel.
- 8.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief carried out on land opposite Cottage Farm, Main Street in 2003 during the excavation of foundation trenches located a number of ditches, pits and chalk-built walls dating to the 12th-14th centuries.

This clearly showed that medieval settlement at Foxholes extended along Main Street for a considerable distance (MAP 2003).

- 4.7 The 1670 Hearth Tax saw 21 households at Foxholes, although some of these were exempted due to poverty. Herring's visit to the village in 1763 recorded 13 families.
- 4.8 Early enclosure took place at Foxholes by 1376 at least, when John Middleton had inclosed enough land to provide pasture for 6 horse, 12 cows, 12 pigs and 200 sheep. The bulk of the parish was enclosed in 1840 (VCH 1976).
- 4.9 The present settlement at Foxholes consists of predominantly brick-built houses and cottages of the 18th-20th centuries, the most notable of which is Foxholes Manor, the former rectory.
- 4.10 The site lies at the southern end of the village in an area that only saw development in relatively recent times. The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1854 records the site as part of a field (Fig. 4).

5. Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aim of the Archaeological Watching Brief was to record and recover archaeological remains which could be affected by the proposed building works, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 All of the groundworks were monitored.
- 6.2 All excavations were undertaken by a back-acting mechanical excavator, operating under close archaeological supervision.

- 6.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Watching Brief on a digital camera (Appendix 2).

7. Results

- 7.1 The stripping of the topsoil and subsoil showed that previous disturbance on the site had resulted in a re-deposition of material along the northern boundary of the plot which extended for 6.4m to the south. This material consisted of re-deposited topsoil (0.10m in depth – context 1000) and re-deposited subsoil (0.15m in depth – context 1001). The result of this action was to artificially raise the levels on the site (Pl. 1). It is likely that the material had been deposited during a period of landscaping in the farm garden to the north.
- 7.2 Below the re-deposited material was the a further 0.13m of topsoil (a 10YR 3/2 clayey loam – context 1003) and a 0.80m of 10YR 4/3 heavily rooted clay subsoil (context 1004) which rested directly on frost fractured chalk (Pl. 3). Excavation for the western boundary of the house plot was cut in to the natural slope to a depth of c. 1.20m.
- 7.3 Excavations for the garage plot revealed 0.30m of topsoil (the stratigraphy in this area of the site had not been subjected to previous landscaping) and c. 0.50m of subsoil over frost-fractured chalk. Excavations into the slope were 1.70m in depth (Pl. 4).
- 7.4 After the initial topsoil and subsoil strip (Pl. 3) a thin layer of subsoil was still in situ over the area of the house plot.

- 7.5 The foundation trenches were excavated to an average depth of 1.20m and 0.70m in width. These excavations exposed a 0.90m deep deposit of natural loose chalk and gravel overlying natural chalk bedrock, which was visible in the base of the foundation trenches.
- 7.6 The archaeological feature observed was an east-west linear ditch (Fig. 5, Pl. 5), measuring 1.40m in width and 0.64m in depth, with a single fill of dark brown silty clay (contexts 1006 & 1008). The ditch had a U-shaped profile (contexts 1005, 1007: Fig. 5).
- 7.7 No finds were recovered during the topsoil and subsoil strip nor the excavation of the foundation trenches.

8. Discussion

- 8.1 The Archaeological Watching Brief located a single east-west aligned linear ditch. The lack of finds from the excavations make dating of this feature problematic.
- 8.2 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the site as agricultural land in the mid 19th century, suggesting that the feature may well be of an earlier date.
- 8.3 A Watching Brief to the east of the site in 2003 (MAP 2003) located a number of linear features of 12th - 14th century date. It is therefore possible that the linear found in 2007 is part of the ditch system identified and recorded in 2003.

9. Bibliography

- Mackney, D. 1983 Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1: Northern England. Soil
et al. Survey of England and Wales.
- MAP 2003 Land opposite Cottage Farm, Foxholes, An Archaeological
Watching Brief.
- Smith, A.H. 1937 The Place-Names of the East Riding of Yorkshire and York.
- Stoertz, C. 1997 Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds. RCHME.
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Martin G H

APPENDIX 1

Land south of Cottage Farm, Foxholes 04.01.07

Context Listing

Context	Type	Description
1001	Deposit	10 YR 3/2 clayey loam
1002	Deposit	10 YR 4/3 clay
1003	Deposit	10 YR 3/2 clayey loam
1004	Deposit	10 YR 4/3 clay
1005	Cut	Linear
1006	Deposit	10 YR 3/4 clayey silt, fill of cut 1005
1007	Cut	Linear
1008	Deposit	10 YR 3/4 clayey silt, fill of cut 1007

APPENDIX 2

Drawing Archive Listing

Drawing	Scale	Type	Description
1	1:10	Section	Linear 1005
2	1:10	Section	Linear 1007

APPENDIX 3

Photographic Listing

Digital Camera

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
1	View of site		East
2	View of site		West
3	View of site		South-west
4	View of house plot section	2 x 1m	West
5	View of house plot section	2 x 1m	West
6	View of stripped area	2 x 1m	East
7	View of stripped area	2 x 1m	East
8	View of garage plot section	2 x 1m	West
9	View of garage plot section	2 x 1m	West
10	Pre-excavation of house footings		East
11	Linear 1005. East facing section	1 x 1m	West
12	Linear 1005. East facing section	1 x 1m	West
13	Linear 1007. East facing section	1 x 1m	West
14	Linear 1007. East facing section	1 x 1m	West

APPENDIX 4

Project Team Details

Fieldwork

Anne Finney
Kelly Hunter
Geoff Wilson

Report

Anne Finney *Report Text*
Dave Knight *CAD and Illustration*