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Castle Dykes House  
 Castlegate  
 Malton  
 North Yorkshire  
 SE 7899 7155

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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**Archaeological Evaluation**

***Non Technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Evaluation was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Castle Dykes House, Castlegate, Malton, North Yorkshire during 14-17 April 2008. The evaluation was carried out in advance of the proposed creation of a car parking and turning area, and involved the excavation of a single trial trench.*

*Natural deposits were encountered 0.75m from the present ground surface at the north of the trench, sloping downwards to 1.30m at the south. A north-south linear feature was recorded, along with a small pit or posthole; both were of 12/14<sup>th</sup> century date. The cut features were overlain by a deep homogenous layer, up to 1.00m in depth, which also contained medieval pottery, along with a 17<sup>th</sup> century sherd.*

*A moderate assemblage of medieval was recovered, plus quantities of animal bone.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Evaluation that was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at Castle Dykes House, Castlegate, Malton, during the 14-17 April 2008.
- 1.2 The Evaluation was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs J Aldridge, the owners of Castle Dykes House. The Senior Archaeologist, Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council had advised Ryedale District Council that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in response to plans for the formation of vehicular access with parking/ turning area to include formation of opening in boundary wall, installation of electrically operated oak sliding door and

erection of retaining wall (07/01094/FUL). The proposals were granted Delegated Conditional Approval subject to satisfactory Archaeology (sic) Condition on 11 March 2008.

1.3 The Evaluation was designed to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The information provided from the Evaluation will allow an assessment to be made of the impact of the development upon the archaeological deposits at the site, to assist in 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 is in accordance Policy C 13 (Archaeology) within the Ryedale District Local Plan .

1.4 The MAP site code for the project was 01-04-08.

1.5 All work was funded by Mr and Mrs J Aldridge.

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. Site Description (centred at NGR SE 7899 7155)**

2.1 The extent of the application area is indicated on a site location plan supplied by design4architecture (Mr Tony Harrison) at 1:100 scale. The proposed development forms a triangular area with a maximum extent of 19m x 11m.

2.2 The area of the trial trench lies on rough ground, in the walled garden to the west of Castle Dykes House, which is on the northern side of Castlegate. This location is c. 2m higher than the lawned garden to the east, and c. 2.80m higher than the level of the pavement lying beyond the stone retaining wall to the south.

- 2.3 The present ground level of the evaluated area lies at 23.20m AOD.

### **3. Geology and Soils**

- 3.1 The site lies at the junction of two soil types, with the Elmton 2 Association to the north (calcareous fine loamy soils over Jurassic limestone) and Fladbury 3 Association to the south (clayey fine silty over river alluvium) (Mackney et al., 1984).

### **4. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 4.1 Remains of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date are known to survive in the environs of the site.
- 4.2 The Roman fort at Orchard Field lies c. 100m to the north-east, with a civilian settlement extending to the south. Excavations took place within the Roman fort between 1927 and 1930 (Corder 1930), and at the civilian settlement between 1949 and 1952 (Mitchelson 1964) and 1968-70 (Wenham and Heywood 1997). In addition in 1997 MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd identified a large ditch of potentially Roman military origin c. 40m north-east of the site during the Time Team visit to Malton (MAP 1996).
- 4.3 The site almost certainly lies within the area of the medieval settlement at Malton, although apparently outside the area enclosed by the town wall. The Borough of New Malton was founded in the third quarter of the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Beresford 1967). Malton Castle was built to control the crossing over the River Derwent and is believed to have been constructed in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century (Robinson, 1079, 13). At any rate, it was granted by Henry I to Eustace fitz John in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, and went through several phases of occupation, destruction and re-building until it was finally demolished in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century (Robinson 1978, no. 174). References to the destruction of Malton during a siege of the castle by Stephen's supporters in 1138 indicate

that an extra-mural settlement serving the castle had been established in the Castlegate area by that time (ibid.).

4.4 The wall that forms the northern boundary to the site is scheduled as the southern boundary of the ancient monument of Malton castle and Jacobean Lodge (NMR No. SE 77 SE 46). The wall is believed to represent part of the castle wall itself (MAP 1993) as well as forming the boundary to the landscaped grounds of the Eures' Jacobean mansion. A shallow buttress on the wall was identified as being consistent with an Angevin date (i.e. early 12<sup>th</sup> century) by Berwic Morley as part of Time Team's visitation to Malton. However, with so little being known about the physical form and remains of Malton Castle, it would be sensible to exercise some caution about the date of the wall, which needs further research.

4.5 After the foundation of the Derwent Navigation in 1702 Castlegate developed into an industrial quarter with the establishment of breweries and mills that utilised the river for transport (and, in the case of King's Mill, as a source of power). Castle Dykes House belongs to this period of growth in Malton, being described as of probable early 18<sup>th</sup> century origin, with early 19<sup>th</sup> century additions ([www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk) IoE number 389393).

4.6 At the time of Capt. Copperthwaite's Survey of Malton (1843) the site was in the occupation of Richard Hurtley, who had a house and garden there (Harris 1981, no. 273).

## 5. Objectives

5.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation work within the proposed development area were:

1. to determine by means of trial trenching, the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the development proposals. The Trial Trench was to be of sufficient size and depth to provide

this information, with the archaeological deposits explicitly related to depths below existing surface and actual heights in relation to Ordnance Datum.

2. to prepare a report summarising the results of the work and assessing the archaeological implications of proposed development,
3. to prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum.

## **6. Methodology**

### **6.1 Evaluation**

- 6.1.1 A single trench was excavated centrally to the proposed development. (Fig. 00; Pl. 1). The total area evaluated was approximately 25m<sup>2</sup>. Because of the strong possibility that area of the trench was occupied by in excess of 2.5m of relatively recent dumping and overburden a 5m square trench was proposed, into which a 2m central square would be dug to achieve the required depth. In the event, the archaeological horizon was much closer to the present surface than anticipated and so the entire area of the trench was evaluated.
- 6.1.2 The topsoil and overburden was removed by a Kubota 1 ton mini-digger fitted with a toothless bucket under close archaeological supervision. concrete surfacing covering the evaluation areas was broken and removed by a 360° mechanical excavator. Subsequent excavation was by hand.
- 6.1.3 A segment was excavated into the linear feature, and the other cut feature was initially half-sectioned before being completely excavated.
- 6.1.4 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 2001).
- 6.1.5 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis.
- 6.1.6 Samples were taken from sealed deposits for environmental analysis.

## **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, also on drawing film, and included an OD height.

## **6.4 Photographic Record**

- 6.4.1 The photographic record comprised monochrome prints in 35mm format, recording all archaeological features encountered. A number of digital images were also taken.

## **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 (Figs. 1-5; Pls. 2, 3 and 4)**

- 7.1 The natural deposits of yellowish slightly silty coarse sand were encountered at 0.70m from the present ground surface at 22.50m AOD, dipping down to the south, to lay at around 21.30m. Two features cut into the surface of the natural: a posthole or small pit (1003) and a linear cut (1008).
- 7.2 Cut 1003 lay in the central part of the trench and was oval plan with a length of 1.00m and a breadth of 0.80m. It was 0.40m deep with a U-shaped profile (Pl. 2). The dark greyish brown clay silt fill (1002) contained sherds of Beverley type-1, Staxton and York Glazed wares, suggesting a 12/13<sup>th</sup> century date.

- 7.3 Linear cut 1008 was aligned north to south and ran along the entire length of the trench, although judging by the way that the edges in-turned at its northern end, it is likely that it terminated just beyond the trench's northern baulk. Cut 1008 was 2.60m wide and 0.60m deep, with a broad-V profile that flared at the top (Pl. 3). The primary fill (1007) consisted of light yellowish brown sandy silt and contained a relatively large amount of sherds of Staxton and Splashed wares and animal bone fragments. The finds indicate a 12/13<sup>th</sup> century date. The upper part of the feature was filled by dark greyish brown sandy clay silt (1004), with animal bone fragments and sherds of Splashed, Beverley type-1, York Glazed and Staxton wares (Pl. 4), which again indicate a 12/13<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 7.4 Cuts 1003 and 1008 were overlain by an extensive layer of dark greyish brown sandy silt (1001) which increased in depth from 0.30m at the north of the trench to 1.00m at the south end. It contained large numbers of pottery sherds (the latest of which was a single of Ryedale ware of 17<sup>th</sup> century date) and animal bone. The relatively large number of finds suggest that Deposit 1001 was a dumping layer.
- 7.5 Modern activity was represented by two features: 1005, a concrete setting for a post; and 1006, a pit that acted as the seating for a large cast iron vessel. A 0.30m thick layer of topsoil (1000) completed the sequence.

## **8. Discussion**

- 8.1 The Evaluation established the horizon at which both natural deposits and archaeological activity occurred. This horizon was much higher than anticipated based on local hearsay that the material behind the retaining wall forming the southern boundary of the site was recent infill. This shows the value of undertaking trial trenching so that firm evidence can be gathered.

- 8.2 The surface of the natural deposits dips down from north to south, but even so the level of the natural in the southern part of the trench remains c. 2.20m higher than the level of the pavement on Castlegate, which is a mere 3m to the south. The suggestion is then of a natural platform adjoining the putative castle wall to the north.
- 8.3 The features dug into this natural platform were reliably dated by extensive pottery groups to the 12/13<sup>th</sup> century, and consisted of a probable ditch and a posthole or small pit. Subsequently, an extensive dump of soil and debris was deposited and had the affect of levelling up the natural slope in the ground level. The dump contained large amounts of medieval pottery, but a single 17<sup>th</sup> century sherd (if not intrusive) dated it to the post-medieval period.
- 8.4 In conclusion, securely dated medieval features were identified, the associated pottery suggesting activity contemporary with the early life of the adjacent castle. Subsequent activity was limited to the deposition of an extensive dump, which landscaped the natural slope into a level area.

## **9. Implications of the Proposed Development**

- 9.1 The archaeological horizon identified in the Trial Trench lay at between 22.50m at the north and 21.30m AOD at the south of the trench. As the *finished* level of the turning and parking area is quoted at between 20.08m and 20.30m AOD it is clear that the archaeological horizon will be destroyed affected by the proposed development
- 9.2 To mitigate the severe affects of the development it is clear that there should be a further stage of archaeological work at the site so that the archaeological deposits can be recorded by, ideally, a 'strip and record' area excavation in advance of the development, or if that is not deemed appropriate, a controlled recording brief.

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**11. List of Project Contributors**

**Excavation Team:** Mark Stephens, Ian Walker.

**Report Text:** Mark Stephens.

**Appendices:** Mark Stephens

**Illustrations:** Kelly Hunter

**Editor:** Nigel Cavanagh.

**Finds Processing:** Ian Walker.