

NYCC HER	
SNY	12162
ENY	4309
CNY	6979
Parish	3025
Rec'd	08/2008

SUMMARY REPORT

Site Address: Cawton Hall, Cawton, North Yorkshire YO62 4LW

Planning Application Number: 07/00636/FUL

Date of Intervention: 29th July 2008

CS Archaeology Report: No. 26

Location: The site consists of redundant pasture land (Plate 1) south of the village of Cawton immediately west of the garden boundary wall of Cawton Hall, NGR SE 64076 76687.

Purpose of the Recording Brief: to record any archaeology revealed during site reduction in order to facilitate the construction of a concrete raft foundation for the construction of a stable block for the client Ms K Pearce.

Description of the Intervention: Before work had started, examination of the adjacent L shaped revetting wall confirmed that the site represented the inside of an earlier building. This building featured two doorways (Figure 1: Plates 2 & 3) and a window (Plate 4) evident in the extant boundary wall, which was up to 2.2m high. The window size and layout was consistent with an agricultural building, possibly stable/cow house. A rapid examination of the 1st edition OS map of 1856 confirms that the site is depicted as an extant rectangular building aligned roughly north-south. This building formed part of a range of buildings which appear to have been associated with Manor Farm. By 1892 (2nd Ed 6" OS map) the former enclosure to the south of Manor Farm had been developed by the construction of Cawton Hall with its landscaped garden bounded to the east, south and west by a ha-ha. It was probably at this point that the site's former building went into disuse and partial demolition. The Hall's gardens were levelled and the former stables/cow house was utilised as a revetting wall in line with the substantial ha-ha revetting wall (E), just visible in Plate 2 (left of picture).

Site works for the new stable entailed a site reduction of up to 0.5m below the pre-existing ground surface. The removed material was essentially modern in character containing plastics and decayed wood with limestone and concrete from the base of a pre-existing earlier temporary structure (not recorded).

Once the loose overburden had been removed, the walls of the former building (11 x 5m) were recorded. These revealed two rooms: the smaller room (2 x 4m) to the south and a larger room (7.4m x 4m) to the north. The larger room was bisected by an alignment of two stone water/feed troughs (Plates 5-7). These troughs appear to represent an original feature and extended into the east wall. This arrangement probably enabled water to be introduced into the stables/cow house from the outside. The eastern trough was internally divided and probably served as feed trough.

An Archaeological Recording Brief

To the north of the troughs the site was taken down a further 0.2m, because the levelled surface was too loose, consisting of organic debris, for the foundation. During this excavation a number of cobbles were removed, and evidenced the buildings original floor. The remaining floors of the stables/cow house were not disturbed and lie in situ beneath a compacted historic levelling deposit. The central section of the building was levelled to raise the floor level and included the filling in of the troughs. The raised floor was associated with lime bounded brickwork on top of the troughs (Plate 7). This levelled deposit (Plate 8) was sufficiently firm to provide a good base for the concrete foundation therefore its excavation was not required allowing potential archaeology to remain undisturbed.

However sections of the former stables/cow house remain in situ. The north and east wall survives partially extant in its original form although the northern end of the east wall has been rebuilt with concrete foundation. No evidence was found, specifically joist holes to suggest that the building had a first floor.

The site reduction has impacted upon upon the cobbled floor in the northern room. The remaining floors remain in situ and unaffected and may provide evidence for the original internal arrangements of this historic building.

***Recommendation:* no further action associated with the present application**



Plate 1: view of the site before removal of overburden, looking north



Plate 2: view of the southern end of the former stables/cowhouse with a blocked doorway above the left end of the ranging pole, looking east

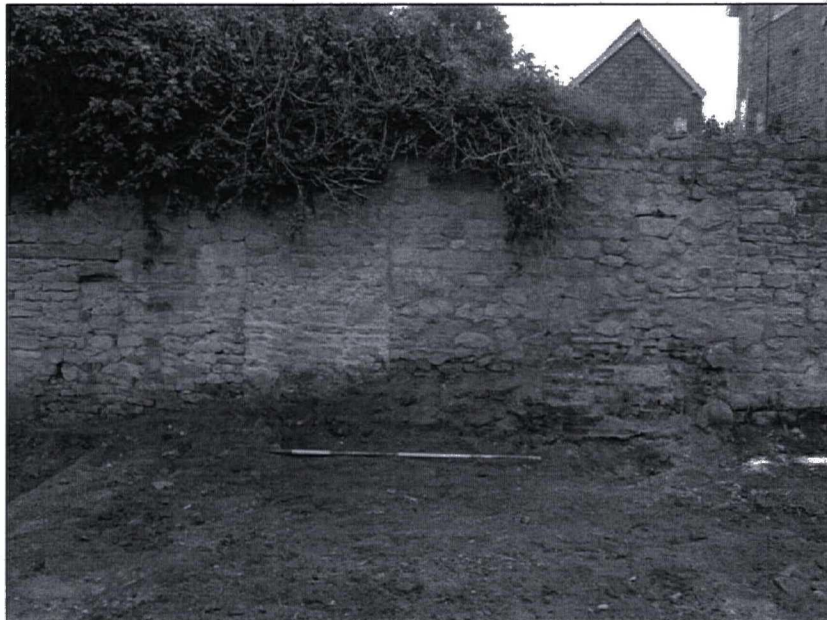


Plate 3: view of the central section of the east wall of the former stables/cowhouse with a second blocked doorway below the ivy, looking east

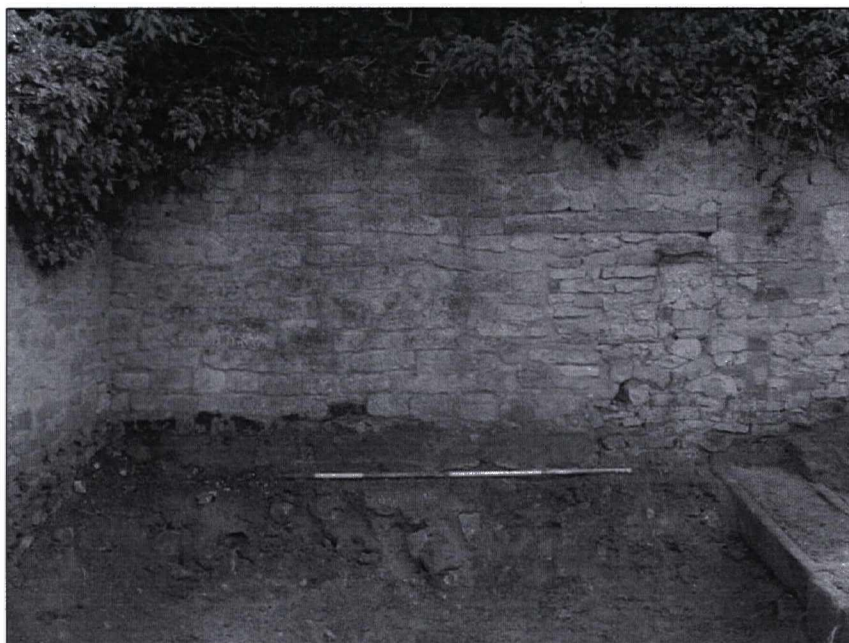


Plate 4: view of the northern end of the east wall of the former stables/cowhouse with an in situ lintel above a blocked window, looking east

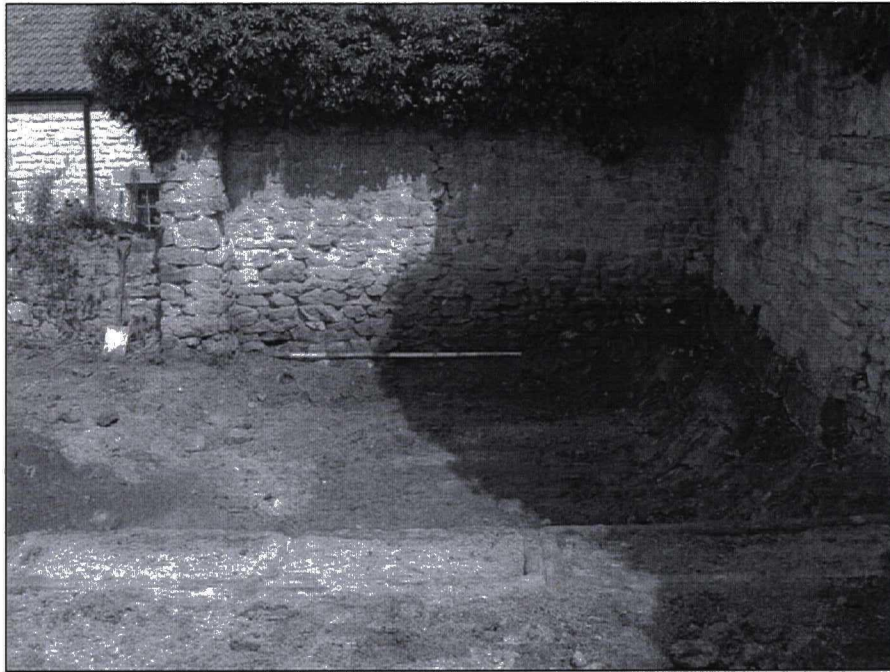


Plate 5: view of the northern gable wall of the former stables/cowhouse with the in situ trough in the foreground, looking north

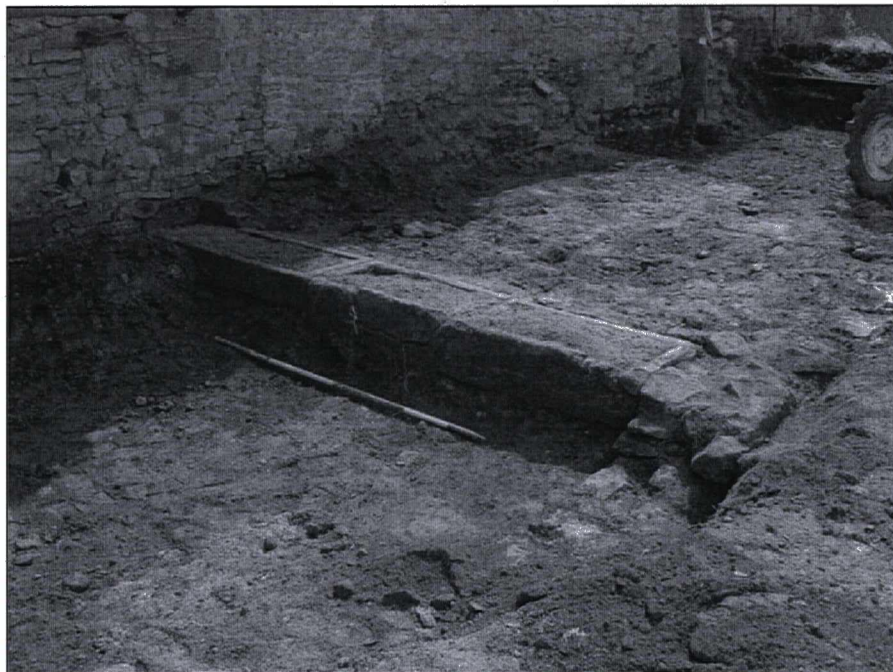


Plate 6: oblique view of the stone troughs which extend through the east wall across the width of the former stables/cowhouse and butt against the west wall, looking south-east

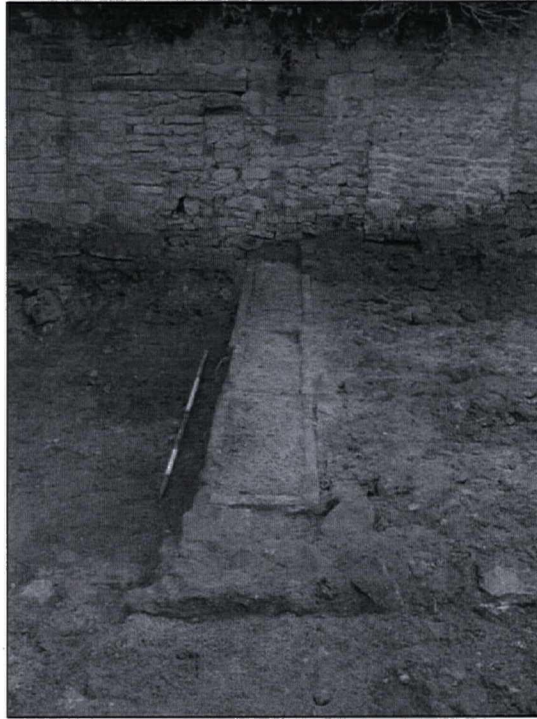


Plate 7: view of the stone troughs, looking east



Plate 8: general view of the site post site reduction prior to covering over with crushed stone and concrete, looking north

