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**Land to the Rear of the Fleece Inn
Westgate
Rillington
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching
SE 8530 7425**

Authorised by

Date:.....

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August 2008

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Non Technical Summary

The Archaeological Evaluation of the Fleece Inn was by Trial Trenching in the Paddock to the Rear of the Fleece Inn, Westgate, Rillington, North Yorkshire, in advance of a proposed development of two 3-bedroomed semi-detached dwellings and one 4-bedroom detached dwelling.

The archaeological work comprised the excavation of three Evaluation Trenches in accordance with a Written Scheme of Works provided by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd and approved by the Heritage and Environment Section at North Yorkshire County Council.

The Trenches were excavated in order to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits in the proposed development area.

The earliest archaeological evidence encountered during the Trial Trenching consisted of a medieval ditches and furrows. Three Residual sherds of Roman Pottery were found in Medieval and Modern deposits. A Modern Sheep burial and a Modern Concrete road were also uncovered.

1. Introduction

1.1 Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. in a Paddock to the Rear of the Fleece Inn, on Westgate in Rillington, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1). The Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching, was commissioned by Edward Cross, on behalf of Mr. D Roe. Work commenced on the 30th June 2008, with backfilling completed on the 8th July 2008. The work was undertaken in advance of a

Proposed New Development, which comprises two 3-bedroom semi-detached dwellings and a 4-bedroomed detached house (Planning Application Ref.: 08/00177/FUL).

- 1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching was MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd., and agreed by the Heritage and Environment Section, North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 6).
- 1.3 All work was funded by ~~the~~ Mr. D Roe.
- 1.4 The project was assigned the MAP site code 04-06-08.
- 1.5 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 Proposed Development Site is situated in the Garden, Paddock and Outbuildings to the rear of the Fleece Inn, on Westgate (A64), in Rillington, North Yorkshire. Rillington is located on the A64 Malton to York Road, c. 7.5km east of Malton.
- 2.2 The Fleece Inn is located on the south-east side of Westgate and is located to the south-west of a Nursing Home at No. 5 Westgate to the north of Rillington Primary School. The Proposed Development Site is the paddock and outbuildings (Pls. 1 and 2) to the rear of the car park and beer garden for the Fleece Inn. The Proposed Development Area is. c. 0.3 hectares. The site stands of a height of between 32m AOD and 33m AOD.
- 2.3 The geology at the site is recorded as glaciofluvial drift, with overlying deep well-drained sandy and coarse loamy soils of the Newport 1 Association (Mackney et al. 1983).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 Rillington is a village in the Vale of Pickering, in the District of Ryedale in the County of North Yorkshire, which was formerly in the Buckrose Wapentake of the East Riding of Yorkshire.
- 3.2 The southern edge of the Vale of Pickering formed a focus for prehistoric settlement. The light sandy soils are ideal for the formation of cropmarks, and these have recently been plotted by the former Royal Commission for Historic Monuments England (Stoertz 1997). The later prehistoric and Roman settlement pattern revealed consisted of a 'ladder settlement,' extending along the northern edge of the Wolds on a parallel alignment to the present day A64, on the 30m contour.
- 3.3 On the eastern edge of the village, in East Field, to the south of the A64, there are a spectacular series of Aerial Photographic cropmarks. These are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Monument No. 1117) and include a cemetery of round and square-ditched barrows, multi-ditched boundaries, and settlement-related features, with a date range of the Neolithic through to the Late Iron Age.
- 3.4 In 1980 the construction of housing situated on the east side of Rillington. prompted a rescue excavation, which recorded late Iron Age ditches, pits and postholes (Turnbull 1983). Burials were encountered during the erection of the housing estate and were shown to be Anglian in date by the associated bronze cruciform brooches.
- 3.5 Rillington is mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 with three separate holdings; *Gilli* held 2 carucates with land for one plough, worth 10s; the Count of Mortain held 2 carucates and 2 bovates (waste at the time of the survey); and the King held 2 carucates.

- 3.6 The place-name Rillington, has the derivation of *Redlinton*, *Redlintone* and *Renlinton* in the Domesday Book, and means 'Redel's farmstead' (Smith 1937).
- 3.7 The medieval settlement at Rillington formed along Sledgate, on either side of Rillington Beck, with the main York to Scarborough Road crossing through the village. Two Open Fields (West Field to the west and southwest, and East Field to the east and southeast of the village) lay at either side of the beck. It was only in relatively recent times that the village spread along the Malton to Scarborough turnpike (now the A64). In Bulmers Directory of 1892, the proprietor of Fleece Inn is mentioned as "Plewes George, vict. and farmer, Fleece Inn" (www.genuki.org.uk).
- 3.8 A number of Archaeological Watching Briefs have taken place at Rillington. The construction of Messrs. A & D Sturdy's new office, nothing was found (D. Sturdy pers. comm.; Landscape Research Centre, Yedingham). Another negative Watching Brief took place during the construction of a new classroom at Rillington Primary School (MAP 2001a).
- 3.9 An undated hearth was revealed during the excavation of a fishpond at land to the rear of 1-9 Sledgate (MAP 2001b). Rather more productive was the recording carried out during the construction of an extension to the Ellis Patents Factory, situated to the east of High Street (MAP 1994), when a group of five pits was revealed, with associated late Iron Age Calcite Gritted was pottery sherds.
- 3.10 T.C.M. Brewster recorded Iron Age, Roman and medieval coarseware sherds during the construction of a new canteen for the former village school near the junction of High Street and Malton Road (ERART archive).
- 3.11 In November 2004 MAP excavated four evaluation trenches to the rear of 30-32 Scarborough Road, Rillington and found plough furrows, small pits/postholes, and a single flexed burial of a juvenile. MAP undertook two evaluations in 2006. Three trenches were excavated behind 34-38

Scarborough Road, Rillington in March 2006; and found small pits or postholes and a gully, dating to the Romano-British and Medieval periods. Four evaluation trenches were excavated in March 2006 at the land behind 44 Scarborough Road, Rillington, North Yorkshire and found scattered archaeological activity, in the form of small pits/postholes and linear features that dated to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods.

3.12 In May 2008, a geophysical (magnetometer) survey was undertaken *by the* Landscape Research Centre and no archaeological anomalies were detected (Fig. 8).

4. Aims and Objectives

4.1 Any ground-works in the area of the proposed development have the potential to damage or destroy *in-situ* archaeological deposits and features.

4.2 The aim of the Archaeological Trial Trenching was to determine the nature, extent, degree, date, preservation and significance of any archaeological deposits, finds or features present within the area of the Proposed New ~~Monastery~~ ^{development?} and associated construction works. The specific objectives of the Trial Trenching were:

- 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. Trial trenches of sufficient size and depth to provide this information will be excavated, and archaeological deposits will be explicitly related to depths below existing surface and actual heights in relation to Ordnance Datum.
- To enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeology and an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated.

5. Methodology

5.1 Three Evaluation trenches were excavated covering a total of 60m², as stipulated in the issued Written Scheme of Works, with the location agreed by the Heritage and Environment Section at North Yorkshire County Council (Fig.

2: Appendix 8). Excavation took place between the 30th June 2008 and the 7th July 2008. The trenches were backfilled on the 8th July 2008.

- **Evaluation Trench 1** measured 10m by 2m (10m²), aligned north-south and was located in the Paddock south of the Fleece Inn car park;
- **Evaluation Trench 2** measured 10m by 2m (20m²), aligned east-west and joined the east side of Trench 1, and was located in the Paddock south of the Fleece Inn car park;
- **Evaluation Trench 3** measured 10m by 2m (20m²), aligned north-south and was located in the Paddock south of the Fleece Inn car park, to the east of Trenches 1 and 2.

5.2 A mini-digger was used to remove the turf and overburden in all trenches; under close archaeological supervision. All trenches were backfilled by machine.

5.3 After removal of overburden, the excavation areas were hand-cleaned. Each archaeological feature or deposit was recorded on *pro-forma* Context Record Sheets (Appendix 1), according to guidelines laid down in the MAP Excavation Manual. All work was undertaken in accordance with the IFA Code of Conduct (IFA 2006, Principles 1-5) and IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 2001, 1-9). Twenty-nine context records were archived (Appendix 1).

5.4 The finds assemblage consisted of 112 finds; animal bone (57 fragments), ceramic building material (1 pantile fragment), clay tobacco pipe (1 stem fragment), glass (1 fragment), metal objects (3 modern objects), 2 natural flints and pottery (47 sherds: Appendix 2).

5.5 Turf and topsoil were removed as part of the overburden, and were recorded in section and by record only. All other archaeological deposits and features were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 on permatrace drafting film. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and included

an Ordnance Survey Datum height (Appendix 3). In total thirteen drawings were archived.

- 5.6 A full photographic record comprising digital, monochrome print and colour transparencies was made. Forty-four digital shots, two colour slide films (27 exposures) and one monochrome print film (26 exposures) were taken. The Photographic Record of features and general trench shots included a film register noting film number, shot number, location of shot, direction of the shot, and a brief description of the subject (Appendix 4).
- 5.7 Six samples were taken (Appendix 5). These environmental samples were sent to WYAS for sieving and processing and a report produced by Diane Aldritt (Appendix 6).

6. Results

6.1 Evaluation Trench 1 (Figs. 3 & 4 and Pls. 3 & 4)

6.1.1 Archaeological features in Evaluation Trench 1 comprised three linear features, interpreted as medieval furrows beneath topsoil and subsoil (Contexts 1001 and 1002). Existing ground level lay between 33.80m and 33.70m AOD. The excavated level in the trench was at between 33.00m AOD and 32.75m AOD.

6.1.2 Phase 1: Undated (Medieval) Features

In Trench 1 there were east-west aligned linear features, filled by Deposits 1005 (cut 1008), 1006 (cut 1009) and 1007 (cut 1010). Deposit 1006 continues into Trench 2 as Deposit 2005. A one metre wide segment was excavated through these three deposits against the western segment.

Deposit 1005, the fill of Cut 1008, was a sandy silt with occasional chalk gravel inclusions. Cut 1008 was a linear feature, aligned east-west and was 0.5m wide and 0.20m deep (base at 32.61m AOD), with a U-shaped profile. There were no finds from this excavated segment. This linear feature was cut into natural sand (context 1011).

The fill of Cut 1009 was Deposit 1006, a sandy silt with very occasional chalk gravel inclusions. This feature continued into Trench 2 as Deposit 2005 and Cut 2013. Cut 1009 was probably a boundary ditch, aligned east-west, with a wide U-shaped profile with a rounded base, and measured 2.15m and was 0.50m deep (base at 32.34m AOD). The cut was steepest on its southern side. This segment was cut through natural sand (context 1011). In Trench 2, Cut 2013 cuts through Deposit 1007. There were no finds recovered from Deposit 1006.

Cut 1011 proved on excavation to be a series of three plough furrows cut into natural sand and gravel (deposit 1011). Deposit 1007 was a sandy silt with occasional chalk gravel inclusions with occasional chalk gravel inclusions. Cut 1007 was 2.10m wide and 0.20m deep, with three furrows 0.70m wide (base at 32.74m AOD), 0.60m wide (base at 32.76m AOD) and 0.40m wide (base at 32.76m AOD). Two natural flints were found in Deposit 1007.

6.1.3 Phase 2: Post-medieval and Modern Features and Deposits

Overlying the Phase 1 Deposits is a deposit of subsoil (Deposit 1004). Deposit 1004 is 0.46m deep. The length of Trench 1 had a mid twentieth century concrete road (Structure 1002 with hardcore/rubble base 1003), access to the farm to the south of the Fleece Inn, now the site of Rillington County Primary School. Structure 1002 was overlain by topsoil (Deposit 1001).

6.2 Evaluation Trench 2 (Figs. 5 & 6 and Pls. 5, 6, 7 & 8)

6.2.1 After topsoil, the edge of the concrete road, hardcore/rubble and subsoil (Contexts 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004) were removed, four archaeological features were found in Trench 2. These were two linear boundary ditches, a furrow and an animal burial. Existing ground level was between 33.85m AOD and 33.73m AOD. The excavated Level of the trench was at 32.99m AOD to 32.93m AOD.

6.2.2 Phase 1: Medieval Features

A 1.60 metre wide segment was excavated in the eastern half of Deposit 2005, which was a continuation of Deposit 1006 in Trench 1. Deposit 2005 was a sandy silt with very occasional chalk gravel inclusions, and filled Cut 2013. Seventeen sherds of medieval pottery and four fragments of animal bone were recovered from Deposit 2005. This feature (Deposit 2005/Cut 2013) turns from an east-west alignment to the north. Cut 2013 was c. 2.20m wide and 0.80m deep (base at 32.37m AOD) with U-shaped profile and flat base. Cut 2013 cut through Trench 1 Deposit 1007.

At the eastern end of Trench 2 was a north-south aligned feature (Deposit 2008/Cut 2009), which continued to the east. A one metre wide segment was excavated through the northern half of this feature, which was filled with Deposit 2008, a sandy silt with very occasional chalk gravel inclusions. Fifteen sherds of medieval pottery, including a Profile of a Staxton-Potter Brompton Ware cooking pot, and seventeen fragments of animal bone were recovered from Deposit 2008. At the edge off the cut, the fill (Deposit 2008) became paler suggesting slumping of natural sand when the feature was first cut. Cut 2009 was a wide, cut with vertical slot in the base with a steep side on the west side and a sloping U-shaped cut to the east. Cut 2009 was 1.8m wide and 1.10m deep (base at 33.22m AOD). This linear ditch was probably cut for a boundary fence.

To the east of Cut 2009 and west of the Phase 2 Animal Burial was a wide linear deposit, aligned north by south (Deposit 2010/Cut 2011). A one metre by one metre segment on the north-eastern side of Deposit 2010. Deposit 2010 was a sandy silt with very occasional chalk gravel inclusions, and filled cut 2011. Cut 2011 was a wide shallow linear feature, probably a furrow, and was 2.80m wide and 0.20m deep (base at 33.07m AOD). No finds were recovered from Deposit 2010.

6.2.3 *Phase 2: Post-Medieval and Modern Features and Deposits*

A modern animal burial was found in the centre of Trench 2. This contained a modern sheep carcass (context 2006) and was not excavated (Fill Deposit 2007). This feature cut through subsoil deposit 2004.

Overlying the Phase 1 Deposits is a deposit of subsoil (Deposit 2004), which was 0.50m deep. At the western end of Trench 2 was the edge of the mid twentieth century concrete road (Structure 2002 with a rubble/hardcore base 2003, seen in Trench 1 Contexts 1002 and 1003). Structure 2002 was overlain by topsoil (Deposit 1001).

6.3 **Evaluation Trench 3 (Figs. 7 & 8 and Pls. 9 & 10)**

6.3.1 Excavation in Evaluation Trench 3 revealed topsoil, subsoil and a clay deposit (Contexts 3001, 3002 and 3003) overlying natural sand and gravel (Context 3006). Two deposits (Contexts 3004 and 3005) were excavated as possible features but proved to be subsoil on excavation. Natural ground sloped down to the north at the northern end of Trench 3 (Natural at 32.83m AOD). The existing ground level was at a height of between 33.84m AOD and 33.77m AOD. The excavated level in Trench 3 was at between 32.98m AOD and 33.09m AOD.

7. **Conclusions**

- 7.1 The results of the Trial Trenching have been successful in achieving the specific objectives as detailed in Section 4, 4.2.
- 7.2 Medieval Features were found in Trenches 1 and 2 and included a large boundary ditch in Trench 2 and two furrows and a smaller ditch. Fragments of Medieval pottery included local wares from the Vale of Pickering (Staxton Potter-Brompton Wares), Beverley and York. Three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from later features. No archaeological features were found in Trench 3.

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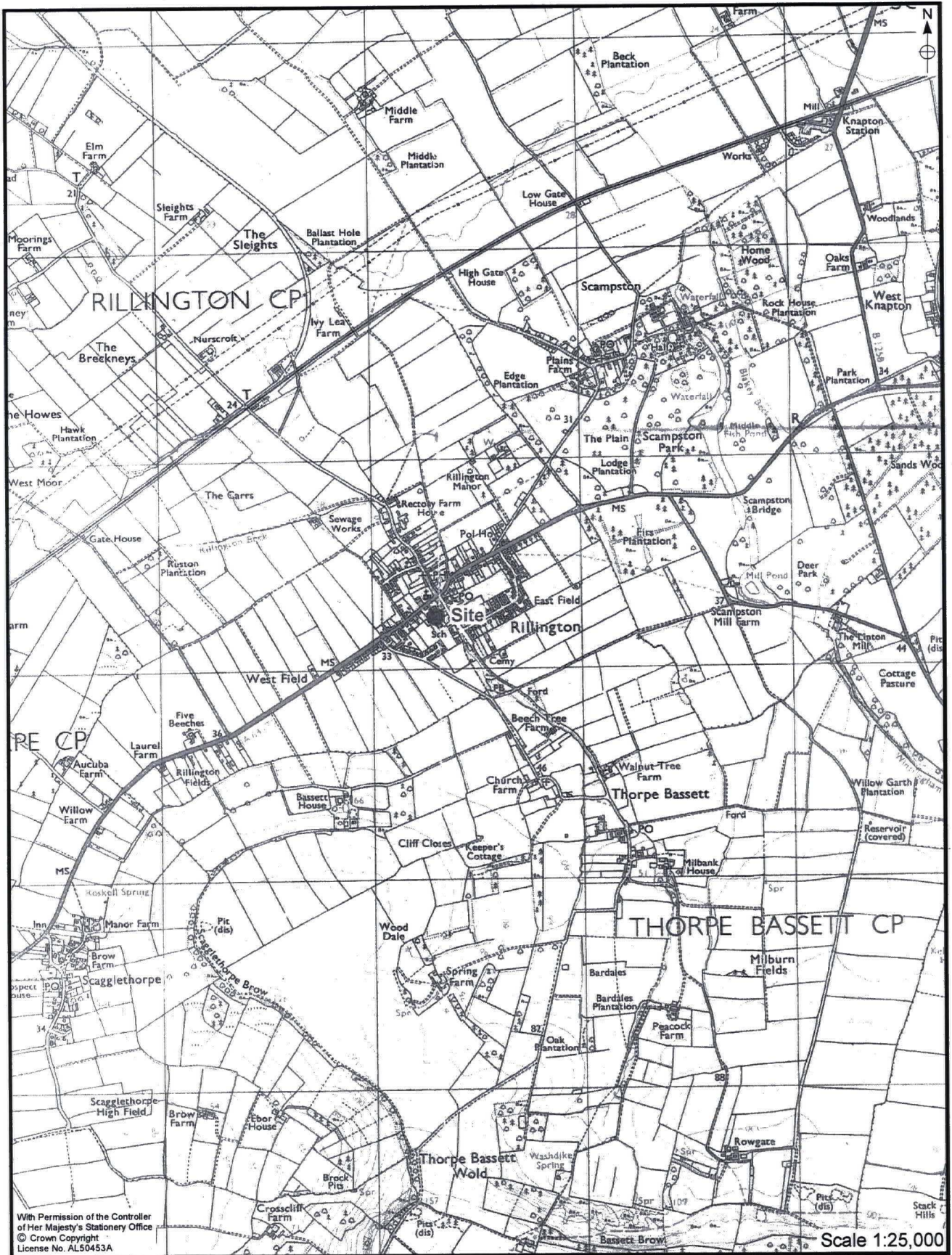


Figure 1. Site Location