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Castle Garth  
Finkle Street  
Sheriff Hutton  
North Yorkshire

Archaeological Recording Brief Report

SE 6496 6620

Authorised by NAC .....

Date: 24/07/08 .....

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July 2008

**Castle Garth  
Finkle Street  
Sheriff Hutton  
North Yorkshire  
SE 6496 6620**

**Archaeological Recording Brief  
07/00959/FUL**

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**Archaeological Recording Brief**

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***Non-technical Summary***

*A recording brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd during the construction of a replacement attached garage and porch on the western side of Castle Garth, Finkle Street, Sheriff Hutton. This location is at the north-western corner of Sheriff Hutton Park, and immediately south-west of the grounds of Sheriff Hutton castle.*

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

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report comprises the results of an Archaeological Recording Brief that was carried out during the construction of a replacement attached garage and porch at Castle Garth, Finkle Street, Sheriff Hutton, North Yorkshire (SE 6496 6620, Figs. 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The building works were carried out within an area of archaeological importance, adjacent to the precinct of the castle, and at the north-western corner of the Second Deer Park at Sheriff Hutton, which was licensed in 1334 (Dennison *et al.*, 2005). Given the archaeological potential of the site, the need for a suitable archaeological Scheme of Works (formalised as an Archaeological Watching

Brief) was attached to the planning permission (007/00959/FUL). 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.

- 1.3 The Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in heavy rain.
- 1.4 The project was allocated the Map Site Code 01.07.08.
- 1.5 All works were funded by Mrs Mills.
- 1.6 The Ordnance Survey maps are reproduced under licence from the Ordnance Survey, licence no. AL 50453A, with permission from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, (c) Crown Copyright.

## **2. Topography and Geology**

- 2.1 The site is located immediately south of the bungalow known as Castle Garth, which is situated on the southern side of Finkle Street, in the south-western part of Sheriff Hutton. The area of the Watching Brief was flanked to the north by the existing dwelling, to the east by a fence, and to the south by a brick wall bordering a farm track. This location lies on a gentle south-east facing slope at an elevation of approximately 53m AOD.
- 2.2 The soils are of the Wickham 2 Association, described as fine loamy soils over clayey soils overlying Jurassic and Cretaceous clay and mudstone (Mackney *et al.* 1983).

### **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 3.1 The morphological development of Sheriff Hutton has been suggested by Denison, who identified four phases (Denison, 1998).
- 3.2 The first phase comprised a ring-work at the east end of the village adjacent to the church. A planned village was subsequently laid out to the north and west of the ring-work, possibly in the early-mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. The planned village consisted of two rows of tofts and crofts on both sides of a triangular green, and caused modifications to the ring-work.
- 3.3 In the third phase the village expanded to the west, with a wide central street and parallel back lanes and another triangular green at the east end of the main street. This phase would date to the late 13<sup>th</sup>/early 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.4 The final phase in the village's development saw the construction of the stone castle in the south-west part of the village by John de Nevill in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. At the same time the central village green was extended to form a new market place.
- 3.5 Castle Garth lies at the south-west corner of the precinct of the stone castle, at the western end of the canals associated with 16<sup>th</sup> century developments to the castle gardens (Dennison 1998). Dennison suggested that the raised bank between the two canals formed part of a formal entrance to the castle. The projected line of the southernmost canal runs under Castle Garth bungalow, although whether it extended this far is uncertain.
- 3.6 This location is also at the north-western tip of Sheriff Hutton's second deer park, which was licensed in 1334. The boundaries of medieval deer parks consisted of banks, surmounted by a fence or wall, and with an internal ditch, all of which had to be substantial enough to prevent deer escaping. The assumed boundary of the

deer park at Sheriff Hutton follows the east side of Finkle Street “before rejoining the canals to the south of the castle” (Dennison *et al.*, 2005, 72).

- 3.7 The area was known as *West Launde* in 1598 (Dennison *et al.*, 2005, 4/15) and *Part of Rebus* (field no. 16) on the 1848 tithe map. The *Lawnd* was an extension to the castle grounds accessed by Lady Bridge, which crossed the southern canal.

#### **4. Methods**

- 4.1 A Written Scheme of Works was prepared by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd so that any archaeological deposits affected by the construction of the garage and porch could be recorded at the appropriate level.
- 4.2 The construction of the garage and porch involved the excavation of trenches for conventional strip footings that were 0.70m wide and c. 1.20m deep. The foundation trenches were excavated by a 360° mini-digger under close archaeological supervision. The development area was c. 7m in length with a maximum of width of c. 6.5m.
- 4.3 A basic photographic record was taken using a digital camera set on high resolution with 6 million pixels.

#### **5. Results (Pls. 1 and 2)**

- 5.1 Natural deposits of stony yellow clay were reached at a depth of c. 1.10m from the present ground surface, but this rose to the west where there was a rise in the ground level.
- 5.2 A deposit of dark yellowish brown silty clay, up to 0.80m deep, overlay the natural deposits, and was covered by a 0.30m deep layer of modern topsoil.

- 5.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present over the area covered by the Recording Brief.

## 6. Discussion and Conclusions

- 6.1 Although no archaeological features were identified during the Recording Brief, this location retains great archaeological potential related to both the castle and the second deer park. The negative results of the Recording Brief are probably due to the modest scope of the groundworks, rather than an accurate reflection of that potential.

## 7. Bibliography

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## 8. Project Team Details

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