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Ellis Patents
Rillington
North Yorkshire
SE 8560 7418

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Authorised by K.C Hunter

Date: 2nd October 08

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Contents	Page
Figure List	2
Plates List	2
Non-Technical Summary	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Site Location and Description	4
3. Historical and Archaeological Background	4
4. Aims and Objectives	6
5. Methodology	6
6. Results	7
7. Conclusions	7
8. Bibliography	8
 Appendices	
1. Context Listing	13
2. Photographic Listing	13
3 Project Team Details	13
4. Written Scheme of Investigation	14

Figure List`

Page

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|
| 1. | Site Location. Scale 1:25000 | 9 |
| 2. | Site Location. Scale 1:1000 | 10 |

Plate List

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Pre-excavation view of site. Facing North | 11 |
| 2. | Stanchion Pit 3. Facing South | 11 |
| 3. | North-facing Section. Facing South | 12 |
| 4. | View of Stripped Area. Facing North-west | 12 |

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Non-Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Ellis Patents, Rillington, North Yorkshire during August and September 2008. The work involved monitoring groundworks associated with the erection of an extension to an existing industrial unit (Planning Ref No. 07/01132 FUL)

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Ellis Patents, Rillington, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1) on the 18th and 19th August and the 8th and 9th September 2008. The work was undertaken in order to fulfil a condition attached to a Planning Application consent (Planning Ref No. 07/01132 FUL) and involved monitoring groundworks associated with the erection of an extension to an existing industrial unit.
- 1.2 All work was funded by Ellis Patents Ltd.
- 1.3 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. License No. AL 50453A.
- 1.4 The project was assigned the MAP site code MAP 09.08.08.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site is situated at the southern end of the village of Rillington and forms part of the Ellis Patents Ltd. works at SE 8560 7418 (Fig. 1). It is bounded by agricultural land to the south and east, by residential properties to the north and by a cemetery to the west. The site lies on level ground, and the area of development consisted of a grassed area that was situated immediately to the east of the existing industrial building (Pl.1).
- 2.2 The site stands on soils of the Newport 1 Association, which are defined as deep, well-drained sandy and coarse loamy soils over a geology of glaciofluvial drift (Mackney, 1984, 194).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The southern edge of the Vale of Pickering formed a focus for prehistoric settlement, probably due to the easily cultivated light sandy soils that lie along the northern fringe of the chalk Wolds. The light sandy soils are also ideal for the formation of cropmarks, and these have recently been plotted by the former RCHM(E) (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 road.
- 3.2 Immediately to the west of Rillington the cropmark of a double-ditched trackway or boundary runs immediately north of, and parallel to, the A64, disappearing under the village's western fringe.
- 3.3 The most spectacular cropmarks in the vicinity of the proposed development area lie c. 300m to the east of the site, and consist 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. This complex is scheduled as a nationally important ancient monument (NY 1117).
- 3.4 The cropmarks of further ditches and barrows are located closer to the proposed development area. During 1980 the construction of housing situated 200m to the east

of the current site 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 to the south and east, one of which, situated 200m to the east of the proposed development, was shown to be Anglian in date by the associated bronze cruciform brooches.

- 3.5 The Anglo-Saxon origins of the present village are indicated by the fact that the settlement was mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086). Three separate holdings were recorded at Rillington; *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, variously spelt as *Redlinton*, *Redlintone* and *Renlinton* in the Domesday survey, means 'Redel's farmstead' (Smith 1937). Rillington was one of a chain of pre-conquest settlements that stretched in an easterly direction along the foot of the Wolds from Malton to the sea, echoing the location of the prehistoric and Roman settlements. From west to east these settlements include Scagglethorpe, Scampston, West and East Knapton, West and East Heslerton, and Sherburn. The villages were located at the junction of two geomorphological zones, on sandy soils between the chalk wolds to the south, and marshland (or carrs) to the north, enabling the exploitation of different environments.
- 3.7 From analysis of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed between 1849 and 1853) it seems that the medieval settlement at Rillington formed two rows along Sledgate, on either side of Rillington Beck. The church lay at the southern end of the western row. 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). The properties adjacent to, and within the proposed development site, were constructed in the 20th century within the former East Field.
- 3.8 A number of Archaeological Watching Briefs have taken place at Rillington. The closest of these to the present site was carried out during the construction of Messrs. A & D Sturdy's new office, which actually abuts the site boundary 15m to the north-

west of Trench 3; 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 and approximately 300m south of the proposed development area (MAP 1994). A group of five pits was revealed, associated calcite-gritted pottery sherds suggesting a late Iron Age date.
- 3.10 In addition TCM Brewster recorded calcite-gritted, Roman and medieval coarseware sherds during the construction of a new canteen for the village school near the junction of High Street and Malton Road (ERART archive).

4 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims and objectives of the Watching Brief were to identify and preserve by record any archaeological remains that were threatened by the proposed development.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks undertaken during the Watching Brief included topsoil and subsoil stripping within the footprint of the new building and the excavation of 13 stanchion pits.
- 5.2 A drawn, written and photographic record was made of all groundworks. All drawings were located in relation to existing buildings and roads.
- 5.3 All work was undertaken to the standard laid out in a *Standard Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Limited Archaeological Recording ('Watching Brief')* that was prepared by the Senior Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 4).

6. Results

- 6.1 The groundworks associated with the new industrial unit involved the excavation of seven 2m x 2m and six 1m x 1m rectangular stanchion pits, and the topsoil and subsoil strip within the footprint of the new building.
- 6.2 The stanchion pits were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m (Pl. 2) and revealed natural sandstone and chalk (context 1002) that was sealed by a 0.3m deep deposit of subsoil (context 1001). Deposit 1001 was sealed by a 0.2m deep deposit of topsoil (context 1000).
- 6.3 The stripping within the footprint of the building involved excavation to a maximum depth of 0.5m (Pl. 3). The resulting stripped surface consisted of the stone natural with a patchy covering of subsoil. (Pl. 4). No archaeological features or deposits were evident.
- 6.4 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Despite the proximity of the site to an area of known archaeological importance, no archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified. This fact reflects the limited nature and extent of the monitored groundworks.

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