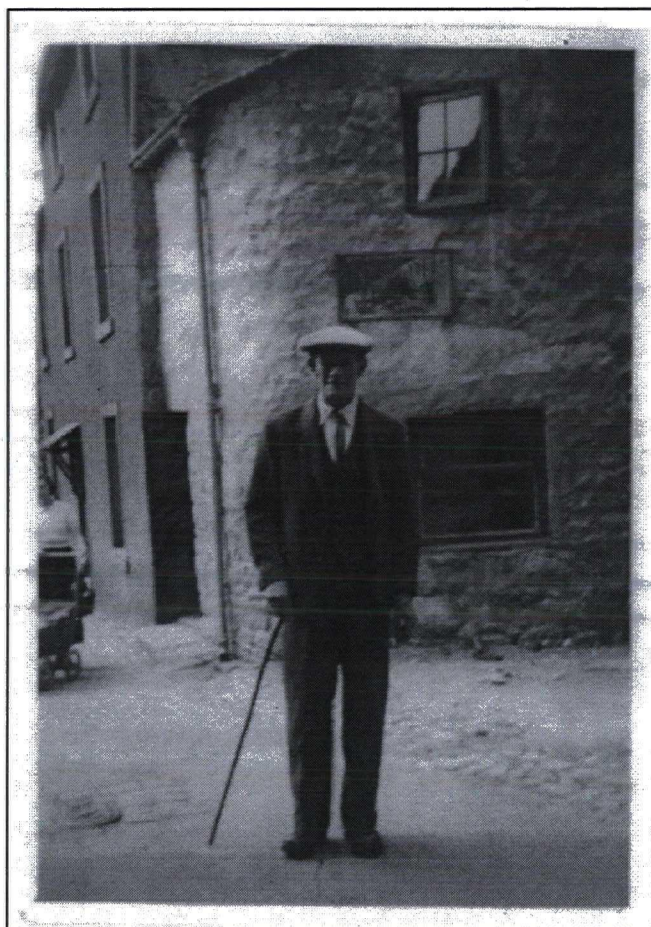


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Parish	5062
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LAND ADJACENT TO PROCTOR HOUSE, SETTLE
NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



JB Archaeological Services

On behalf of

Craven District Council

February 2009

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**LAND ADJACENT TO PROCTOR HOUSE, SETTLE
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the excavation a new service trench across a short section of land adjacent to Proctor House, Kirkgate, Settle (NGR SD 8189 6366). The reason for the watching brief was the known presence of an earlier building on the eastern side of Proctor House.

The service trench was excavated by a combination of tracked mechanical excavator and hand digging, all under direct archaeological supervision and the work was undertaken on the 5th February 2009.

The results of the watching brief were that a short section of the very base of the eastern wall of the former building was encountered. The remainder of the trench had been previously disturbed on a number of occasions by other service trenches and there was no evidence for any other archaeological features.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a service trench to the east of Proctor House, Settle, North Yorkshire (SD 8189 6366). The watching brief was carried out as part of the street works in this part of the town.
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted by JB Archaeological Services (JBAS) for Craven District Council, and was carried out on 5th February 2009.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Historic Background

- 2.1 The place name for the settlement of Settle is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Setel*. The name derives from an Old English *setl* meaning 'the house or dwelling' (Mills, 1998, 306).

Geology and Soils

- 2.2 The underlying solid geology of the site is of Carboniferous limestone (British Geological Survey, 2001) which is overlain by a quaternary geology of weathered limestone (British Geological Survey 1977). The soils that have weathered from this are the Wick 1 association which are well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

Topography and Land-use

- 2.3 The site lay to the east of Proctor House within a built up part of the town and was a small, open area of tarmac between buildings used for car parking. The surrounding area is a mixture of residential and small business premises. The site was at a height of c. 155mOD.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify and record any features of archaeological interest revealed or damaged during the excavation of the service trench. The specific aims were to:
 - archaeologically record (graphically and photographically) any archaeological features revealed by the excavation
 - recover any archaeological artefacts and environmental material exposed by the excavation

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The service trench ran diagonally across the open area from Kirkgate to the north-east to where the cobbles for Bishopdale Court start. The excavation of the trench was undertaken using a combination of tracked mini digger with a

toothless bucket and hand digging, both under direct archaeological supervision.

- 4.2 During all of the ground works the exposed ground surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and the resulting topsoil stockpiles were monitored for archaeological artefacts.
- 4.3 Drawings were produced of the trench and it was also recorded digitally at 5m pixel resolution. 1m and 2m bi-coloured poles were used as scales and a north pointer for orientation.

5.0 RESULTS

- 5.1 The watching brief recorded a small section of the remains of the eastern wall of the former building which stood on the east side of Proctor House (Cover Image and Plate 1). These remains were in the form of a single layer of roughly dressed stone blocks which formed the base of the curved wall visible behind the standing figure in the picture. To the rear (west) of the blocks a single large stone slab covered with lime mortar was noted which appears to have possibly been part of the floor of the building, though not enough of the feature was exposed to be certain.
- 5.2 Overlying the remains of the wall was a single, large rectangular stone block which appears to have been dumped back on top of the demolished building (Plate 2). The remainder of the trench had been heavily disturbed previously by the insertion of several other services at different times and no other archaeological features were encountered.
- 5.3 A small amount of highly fragmented late 19th/early 20th century clay pipe stems and domestic pottery along with occasional fragments of edible cockle and mussel shell were noted in the back fill. None of the material was retained.

6.0 DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 As can be seen from results above the watching brief recorded a small section of the remains of an earlier building on the site as shown in the old photograph. The possible presence of part of the floor suggests that there may be more of the building surviving adjacent to Proctor House.

References

- Mills AD (1998) *Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. Oxford.
- 1977 Geological Survey Ten Mile Map South Sheet Quaternary. British Geological Survey
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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Ms J Armstrong of Craven District Council for inviting me to undertake the project and Mr M Garner of Jacobs for site liaison and by no means least Mr Phil Hudson of Proctor House for the information and picture of the former building on the site.

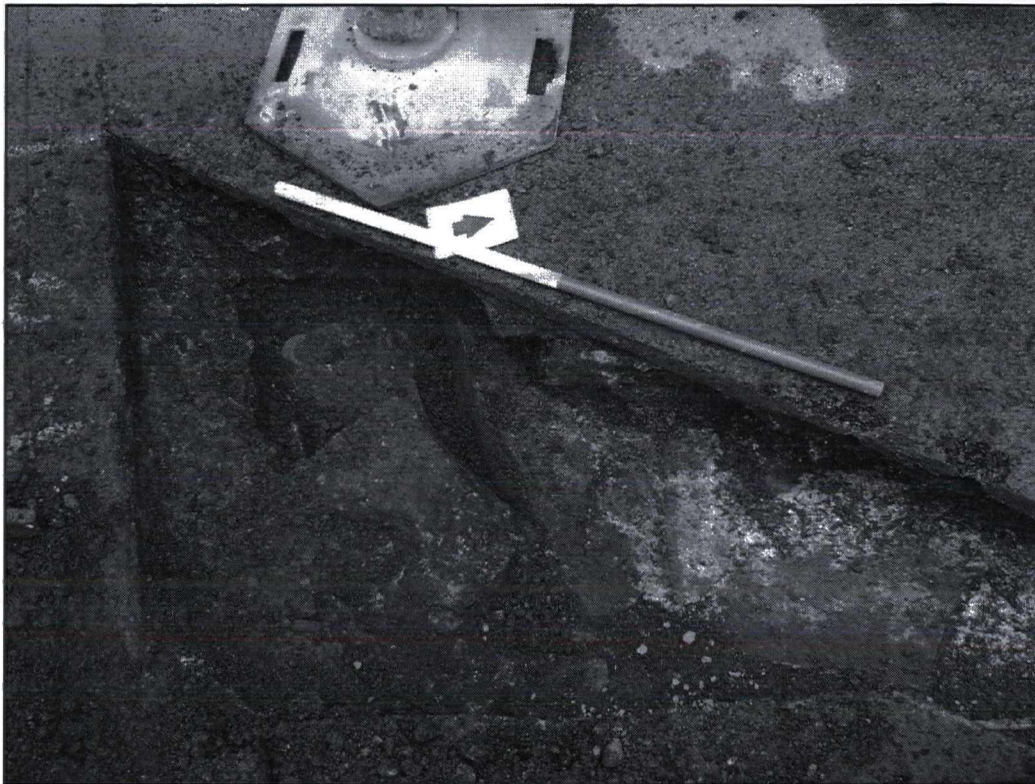


Plate 1. Remains of wall (to left) and possible floor slab. Scale 1m.

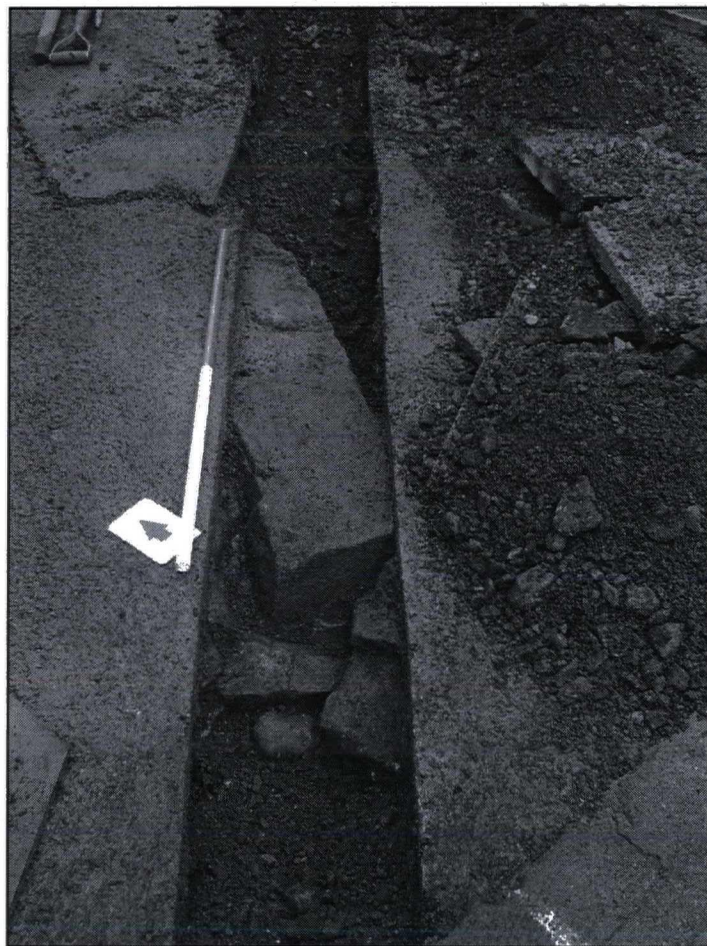


Plate 2. Dumped stone block over remains of wall. Scale 1m.