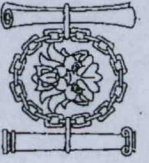


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YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

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SITE ADDRESS	Scaife House, Market Place, Easingwold		PES	RES	CX
CLIENT NAME	I. H. Johnston				
YAT PROJECT #	5163	YAT REPORT #		2008/69	ACK
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	YORYM: 2008.951	GRID REFERENCE	NGR SE 5284 6982		
PLANNING REFERENCE #	07/03652/LBC / 07/03651/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a		
ARCHIVE LOCATION	YAT				
DATE OF VISIT	20.06.08 - 16.07.08				

Introduction

Between 20.06.08 and 16.07.08 YAT carried out a watching brief to observe ground works to the rear of Scaife House, a Grade II listed building at, Market Place, Easingwold, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 5284 6982).

The watching brief was required as a condition of consent granted for the construction of a single storey extension to the existing house and construction of a detached domestic garage, under the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (application numbers 07/03652/LBC and 07/03651/FUL).

Three stages of the ground works were observed and recorded. The first stage was the digging of foundation trenches, for a new extension to the rear of Scaife House. This part of the ground works had already been carried out at the time of the first visit. However, the deposits which were still visible in section were recorded in representative 1m sections of the foundation trench along the length of the new build. The second stage was the reduction of the garden to the west and south-west of Scaife House in preparation for the laying of a paved yard/patio area. The third stage was the floor level reduction within a small 19th century outbuilding to the south-west of the house and the removal of a cobble floor and the reduction of the ground level within the two main rooms for the installation of underground heating.

A mechanical digger was used to reduce the ground to the rear of the buildings. All ground reduction within the outbuilding was carried out by hand. A brief catalogue of the finds recovered during the ground works is included in Appendices 1 and 2 of this report.

Recorded Sections

Section 1 (Plate 1)

The earliest stratigraphic deposit in Section 1 was a 0.45m thick layer of compact dark brown sandy silt. Overlaying this there was a deposit, approximately 0.1m thick, of soft, loose gravel and grey silt. Both of the deposits observed in section 1 were typical of modern garden soils.

Section 2

The earliest stratigraphic deposit was a compact layer, 0.4m thick, of mid-dark grey sandy silt, mottled with patches of orange brown sandy silt. The layer stratigraphically above was approximately 0.3m thick, and comprised a mid-orange brown sandy silt with occasional mottled patches of mid-grey sandy silt and occasional ceramic building material (CBM) fragments. This was overlain by a 0.2m thick layer of friable dark grey sandy silt.

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Section 3 (Plate 2)

In Section 3, the earliest stratigraphic layer was 0.3m in thickness and was a mid-dark grey sandy silt, mottled with patches of orange brown sandy silt. Overlaying this was a layer, 0.14m thick, of CBM and mortar fragments. Stratigraphically above this rubble layer there was a brick wall, measuring 0.2m in thickness, which was later found to be part of Structure 1001 (see below).

Section 4

The earliest stratigraphic deposit in observed in section 4 was a layer of mid-dark grey sandy silt, mottled with patches of orange-brown, sandy silt, 0.45m thick. This material was overlain by a layer, 0.3m thick, of CBM and mortar fragments containing a single large oval cobble measuring 170mm x 120mm.

Section 5

In section five the earliest stratigraphic deposit observed comprised a layer 0.32m thick, of mid-dark grey sandy silt, mottled with patches of orange-brown sandy silt. Overlaying this there was a layer of cobbles approximately 0.19m thick. The cobbles appeared to have been laid to form a yard or path surface. The surface was overlain by a 0.10m thick deposit of sand, which formed the bedding for a 0.07m thick layer of concrete paving.

Alterations to the outbuilding

To the south of the Scaife house stands a small stable or shed outbuilding, measuring approximately 6 x 4m, which abutts the north wall of the adjacent property (Figure 2). Immediately to the west of this outbuilding the foundations of another structure (Structure 1001) were uncovered during the ground works (Figure 2 and Plate 2). The foundation was three brick courses deep (also observed in Section 3) and measured approximately 3.9m x 5m. Of note was a single particularly large brick, with chamfered edges recovered from within 1001, which was more than 425mm long (see Appendix 1 below). Bricks of similar length were also visible in the standing walls of the old out-building (Plate 3).

Preparation for the formation of new floors and under-floor heating systems required the removal of the old cobble and brick floors within the outbuilding.

The removal of deposits beneath the cobble floor revealed two brick-built structures, both of which appeared to be on a different alignment to the present building. One of these appeared to be a brick path or floor surface measuring 2.1m x 0.5m (Plate 6). The feature was found to be stratigraphically earlier than the outbuilding. The foundation of the outbuilding had been placed over the brick surface. However, what function it had remains unknown.

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At the western edge of the main room of the out-building there was a small, brick-lined, rectangular pit, approximately 0.3m x 0.3m (Structure 1003, Plate 7). Structure 1003 was stratigraphically earlier than the foundation of the outbuilding. It is probable that both structures were remnants of earlier out-buildings in the yard of Scaife House, and that they were contemporary with the main building, dating, as the CBM indicates, from between the 16th and the 18th century.

Three features, which are thought to relate to the construction of the outbuilding were also revealed by the process of reducing the ground within the out-building. The foundation of the out-building consisted of a single course of edge-set bricks (Plate 5). In addition, two post-holes were found and investigated. Both measured approximately 0.22m in diameter and 0.3m in depth and had a slightly irregular 'U'-shaped profile. They were in alignment with the south wall of the out-building, the centre of each post hole was 0.2m from the south wall, and 0.8m from the east and west walls of the room. Although possibly coincidental, the position of the two post-holes suggests that they were related either to a building that once stood along the same alignment as the north wall of the adjacent property to the south of Scaife House, or that they were related to construction. It is likely that they were created for the erection of scaffolding during the construction either of the out-building or the north wall of the adjacent property.

The latest feature found beneath the cobble floor in the main room of the out-building was a small, square brick-built structure which was butted up against the wall of the building indicating that it post-dates the out-building. (Plate 8). Inside it there was a quantity of burnt charcoal and the bricks appeared to have been burnt. It is likely that this was either a fire place or a small furnace.

Parts of brick structures were also uncovered in the east room of the out-building (Plate 9). It is possible that these were parts of the foundation of the outbuilding, however it was not possible, from what little remained to ascertain their true purpose.

All finds recovered from the removal of the deposits underneath the floors in the out-building were given the number 1004 (see finds report Appendix 2, below). The pottery and ceramic Building material (Appendix 1) from these structures and from the deposits overlaying them dated to the 13th, 14th, 18th and 19th centuries.

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Figures

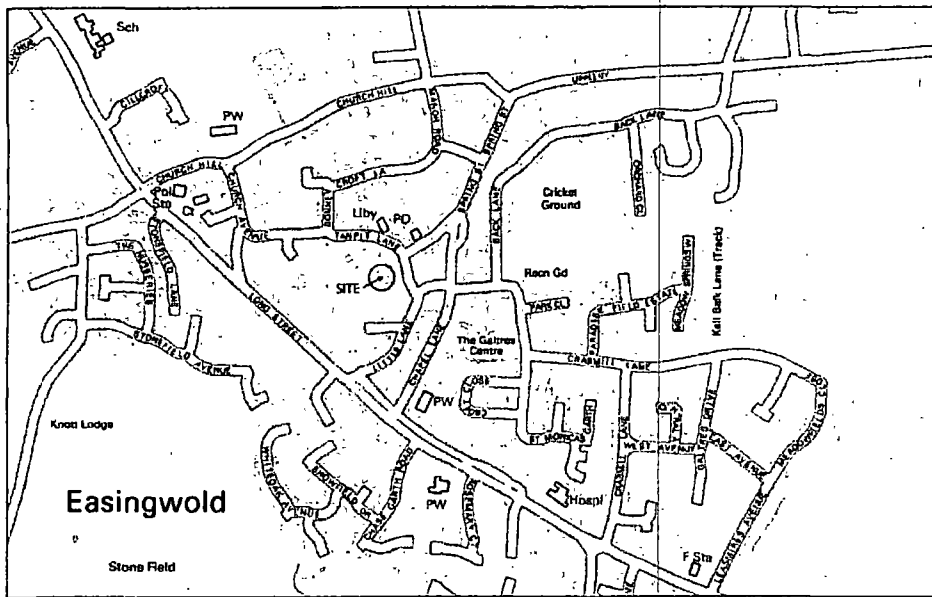


Figure 1 Location plan

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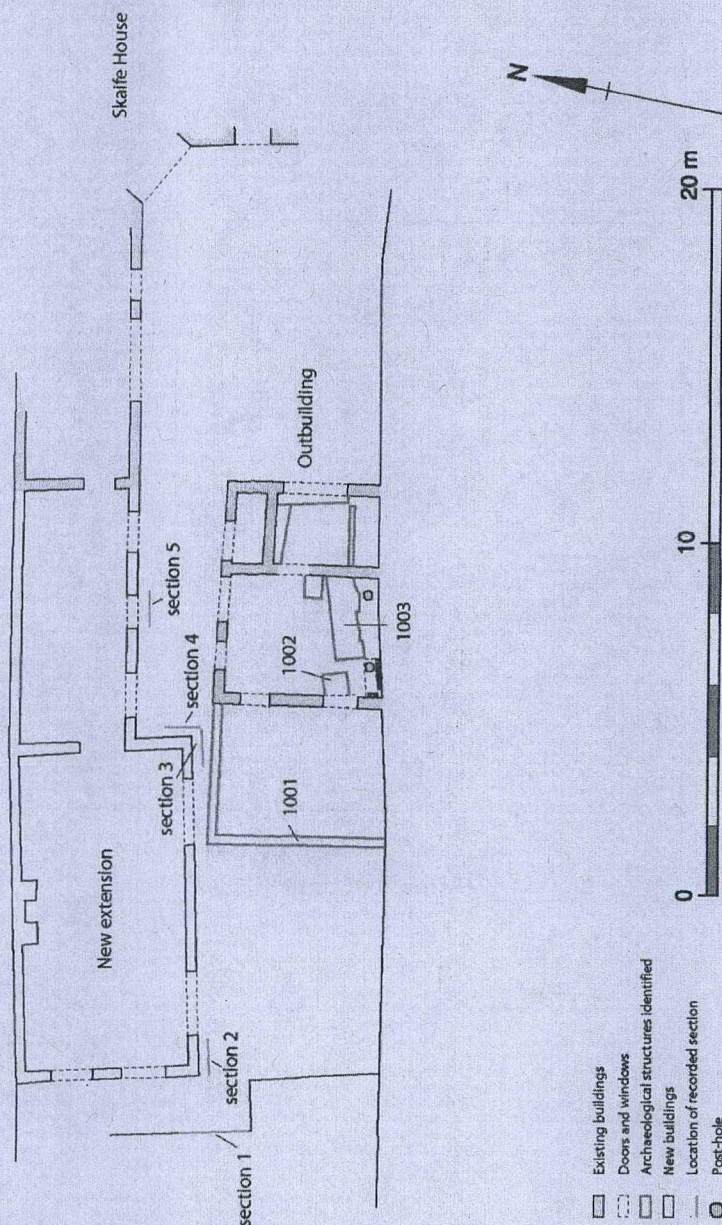


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- Existing buildings
- Doors and windows
- Archaeological structures identified
- New buildings
- Location of recorded section
- Post-hole

Figure 2 Plan showing location of recorded sections and archaeological features

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Plates

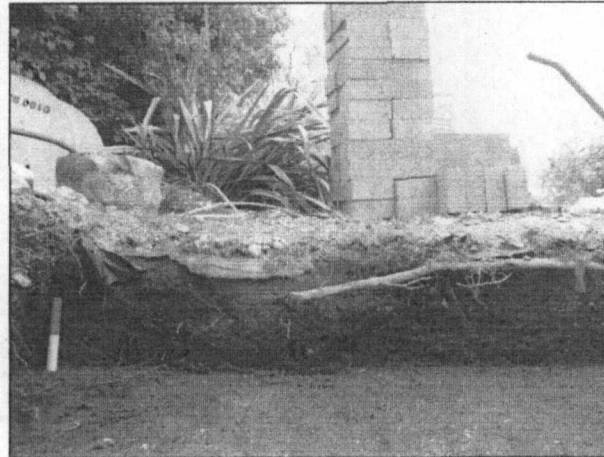


Plate 1 Section 1, looking west

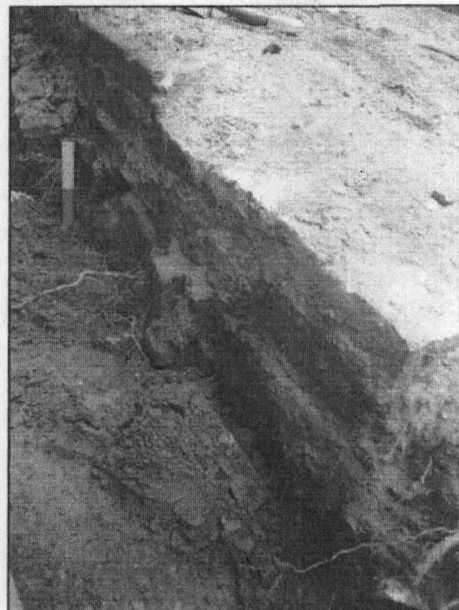


Plate 2 Brickwork exposed in Section 3

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Plate 3 Large brick within wall of outbuilding



Plate 4 Brick floor, east room of outbuilding

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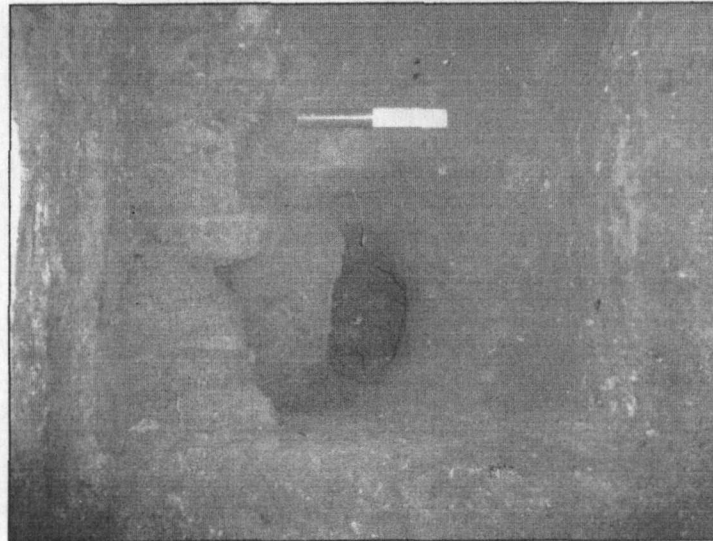


Plate 5 Foundation (left) with post-hole related to construction of the outbuilding (centre)

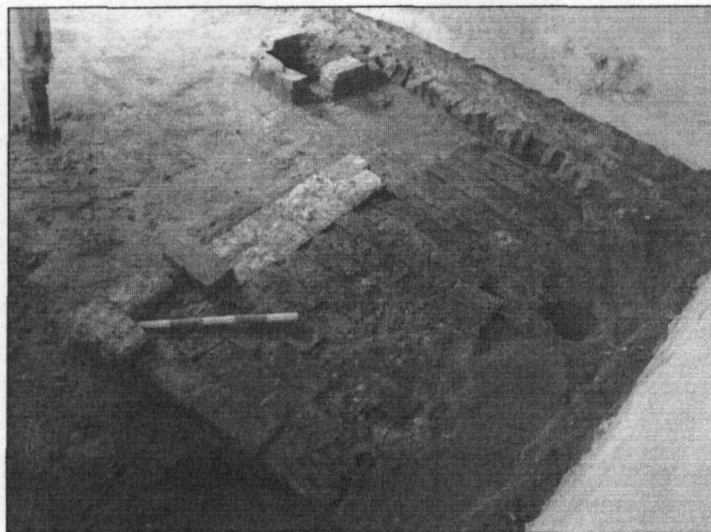


Plate 6 Path or floor surface pre-dating outbuilding

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Plate 7 Sunken brick feature

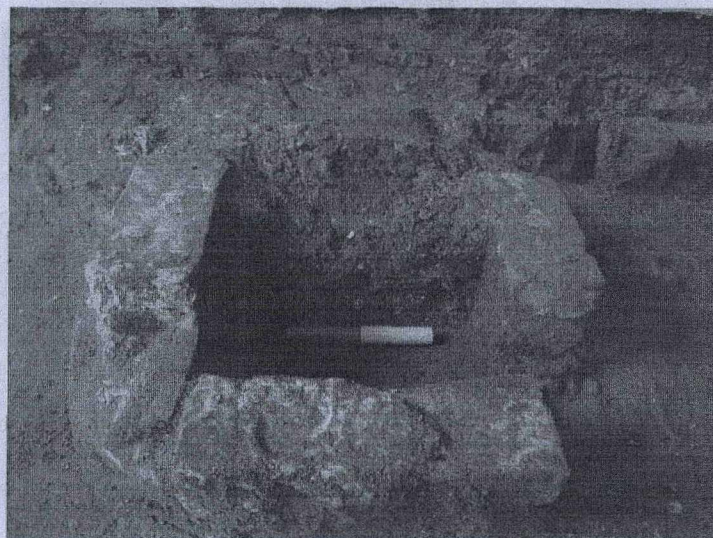


Plate 8 Possible hearth

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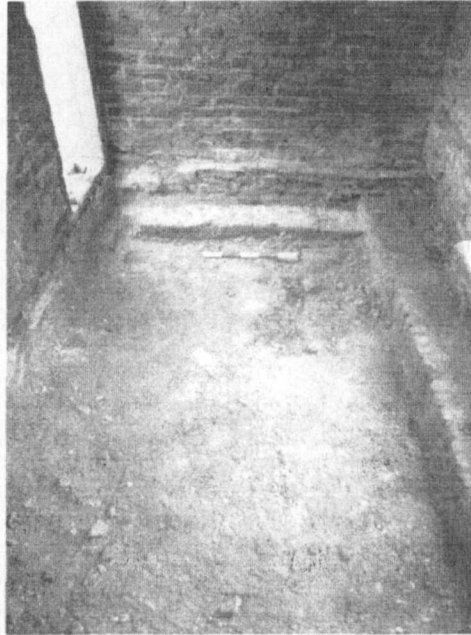


Plate 9 Possible out-building foundations uncovered in east room

Appendix 1

Ceramic Building Material by J. M. McComish

A total of 41.435g of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was examined from the Scaife House site. This consisted of bricks of post-medieval and modern date (unstratified bricks were recorded as being in Context 0 on IADB).

Three fragments (one unstratified and two from Context 1001) were highly unusual in that they were exceptionally long bricks with two chamfers running along the arrises of one stretcher (termed Pbrick on IADB). They were all c.140mm wide and c. 57mm thick and the longest fragment was over 425mm long. These bricks were very similar to bricks excavated at the Ambulance Station, York, (YAT project 5073) which were interpreted as possible window mullions probably of 16th century date. The bricks were all in a similar fabric (described as E2 on IADB). This fabric was a dark pink-red colour, moderately compacted with moderate quartz grains up to 0.6mm in size, irregular voids up to 3.3 x 0.6mm in size and occasional dark grains, possibly grog, up to 0.3 x 0.3mm in size. Most of the bricks were slop moulded bricks of 16-18th century date (termed Pbrick on IADB). These

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ranged in size from 225-238mm long, by 110-118mm wide and 48-61mm thick. Two examples had reduced cores and two had turning marks on the base, which are common on post-medieval bricks. The bricks were all in a similar fabric (described as E1 on IADB). This fabric was a dark pink-red colour, compacted but with frequent silty streaks, occasional quartz grains up to 0.6mm in size, very occasional oolites up to 0.3mm in diameter and occasional irregular voids up to 1.25 x 1.45mm in size.

One brick (From Context 1000) was a glazed air-vent of late 19th to early 20th century date. This had brown glazed all over with a massive from 106 x 48 x 48mm in size on back stretcher. The front stretcher was pierced by five vents each in the shape of a lancet style arch 16mm wide and 28mm high and two small 'ball-flowers' were present between each arch. The bed, headers and top have five grooves 3mm wide, 1mm deep and 5mm apart running parallel to the stretchers and vertically on the headers.

One example of the chamfered bricks and the air-vent brick were retained, all the other material was discarded. The material is mainly of use in terms of the dating evidence it can provide, and no further work is recommended.

Context	Date	Forms
0	16-18TH	Pbrick
1000	L19TH-E20TH	Brick
1001	16-18TH	Pbrick
1002	16-18TH	Pbrick
1003	16-18TH	Pbrick

Table 1 Summary of Ceramic Building Material by Context

Appendix 2

The Pottery by Ailsa Mainman

- 13 sherds were recovered from context 1004.
- 3 black glazed wares
- 1 amber glaze earthenware
- 1 cream ware
- 1 white salt-glazed stoneware
- 1 yellow ware
- 4 sherds of medieval jug with rod handle and splashed copper glaze.
- 1 small rod handle from late medieval jug
- 1 large Ryedale-type storage jar

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This is a mixed assemblage which includes medieval pottery typical of the North Yorkshire production sites around Brandsby, and probably of 13th century date. A later small jug might be of 14th century date. The rest of the material is of late 18th and early 19th century date and includes earthenwares and single sherds of cream ware, yellow ware, stoneware all of domestic character.

Other finds by Nicky Rogers and Rachel Cubitt

The following items were all found in context 1004.

Fired clay tobacco pipe fragments. One fragment from the base of an undecorated bowl, including the foot. Its shape suggests it dates to the late 1800s early 1900s. Two stem fragments, one of which includes a stamped foot. A letter 's' is visible but the rest of the stamp has been abraded.

Seven fragments of unpainted window glass. All fragments are approximately 2mm thick. Four fragments are from the edge of a pane and thicken slightly (3mm) towards a rounded edge. The largest fragment measures 165 x 57mm.

A lead alloy weight. Dome shaped with a hole through the centre which suggests it was a hanging weight. It weighs 10oz (286g).

An object which is probably a drawer knob. Presumably fairly modern. A turned circle of wood with a central copper alloy fixing.

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