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Land Behind 44 Scarborough Road
 Rillington
 North Yorkshire
 SE 8558 7447

Archaeological Evaluation

Authorised by *KCM*

Date:..... *2/5/2006*

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MAP 03-03-06

**Land Behind 44 Scarborough Road,
Rillington,
North Yorkshire
SE 8558 7447**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Non-technical Summary

Four evaluation trenches were excavated in March 2006 at the land behind 44 Scarborough Road, Rillington, North Yorkshire, in order to evaluate the archaeological potential of a proposed development site

All four trenches showed evidence of scattered archaeological activity, in the form of small pits/postholes and linear features, the density being heaviest in Trench 2, at the south-west of the site. The associated dating evidence suggested that the activity dated to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods, with the likelihood that the remaining undated features relate to later prehistoric/Romano-British remains previously recorded in the vicinity

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Evaluation that was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at land behind 44 Scarborough Road, Rillington, North Yorkshire (Figs. 1 & 2. SE 8558 7447) during the week commencing March 20th 2006.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out on behalf of, and funded by, Mr M. Bean, in advance of an outline planning application for residential development at the site (Ref. 05/00577/MOUT) The Heritage Section of North Yorkshire County Council advised Ryedale District Council that a scheme of archaeological

- evaluation by geophysical survey and/or trial trenching should be undertaken in advance of the planning application in order to enable an assessment to be made of the likely impact of the development proposals upon the archaeological resource.
- 1.3 The Evaluation was designed to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The information provided from the Evaluation should enable an assessment of the impact of the development on archaeological deposits at the site, so that a reasonable and informed planning decision can be made in terms of identifying options for minimising, avoiding damage to, and/or recording any archaeological remains. 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 in accordance with the Policy C13 of the Ryedale Local District Plan.
- 1.4 Geophysical Survey was not possible due to the ground conditions. Accordingly, the evaluation took the form of trial trenching. Four areas, covering a total area of approximately 100 square metres, were examined at locations agreed by the Archaeology Section of the Heritage Unit, NYCC (Fig, 2). This represented approximately 4% of the total area (c. 0.26 ha).
- 1.5 The MAP site code for the project was 03-03-06.
- 1.6 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 (Figs. 1 & 2)**
- 2.1 The site is situated towards the eastern fringe of the village of Rillington, on the southern side of the A64 Malton to Scarborough Road. It comprises the present dwelling known as 44 Scarborough Road, and the area to the south and

south-east, presently used as gardens, and the outbuildings and associated yard surfaces of an agricultural vehicle workshop. The parish church of St. Andrew lies on the west bank of Rillington Beck, some 350m to the south-west of the proposed development area.

- 2.2 Comprising an area of 0.26 hectares, the south-western part of the site exists as a garden consisting of lawns and flower beds (currently partly occupied by a skate-boarding ramp), with the premises and asphalted and stoned yard surfaces of the tractor workshops to the east. The proposed development area forms a relatively level expanse with an elevation of between 33m and 34m AOD.

3. Geology and Soils

- 3.1 The geology at the site is recorded as glaciofluvial drift (Mackney *et al* 1984), with overlying deep well-drained sandy and coarse loamy soils of the Newport 1 Association (*ibid.*).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The light, sandy soils at the foot of the Wolds on the southern edge of the Vale of Pickering were ideal for cultivation, and accordingly the location acted as a focus for prehistoric settlement. These light sandy soils are ideal for the formation of cropmarks, many of which have been plotted by the former RCHM(E) (Stoertz 1997). In addition, an extensive geophysical survey of the southern edge of the Vale by the Landscape Research Centre has added a great amount of detail to the present understanding of the pattern of settlement, agriculture and burial practices from Neolithic to post-medieval times. Perhaps the most obvious and extensive features in this zone relate to a later prehistoric and Roman 'ladder settlement' that extends along the northern edge of the Wolds, whose alignment is roughly followed by the present day A64.

- 4.2 Immediately to the west of Rillington, traces of this pattern of settlement are represented by the cropmarks of a double-ditched trackway or boundary that run immediately north of, and parallel to, the A64, to disappear under the village's western fringe.
- 4.3 However, the most spectacular cropmarks in the vicinity of the proposed development area lie c. 200m to the east, and consist of round and square-ditched barrows, multi-ditched boundaries, and settlement-related features, ranging in date from the Neolithic through to the Late Iron Age (Fig. 3). This complex is scheduled as a nationally important ancient monument (NY 1117).
- 4.4 The cropmarks of further ditches and barrows were located c. 120m south-west of the proposed development area (Fig. 3); these have since been covered by the housing estate centred on Long Meadows, which was constructed in 1980. A rescue excavation in advance of the development of the properties immediately south of the gardens of 44 Scarborough Road recorded late Iron Age ditches, pits and postholes (Turnbull 1983). Burials were encountered at a number of locations during earlier development work. An example at 23 Pine Tree Avenue (found May 1975), situated within 50m of the south-eastern part of the proposed development, was associated with a pair of bronze cruciform brooches showing it to be Anglian in date.
- 4.5 The recent evaluation of the land behind 30-32, and 34-38 Scarborough Road (c. 90m west of the proposed area) located small pits/postholes and gullies ranging from Roman to medieval in date (MAP 2004 and 2006). A single flexed inhumation burial at the extreme south of the gardens of 32 Scarborough Road was of probable Late Iron Age date (MAP 2004). Probable medieval plough-furrows were identified in the south-west of the site.
- 4.6 The Anglo-Saxon origins of Rillington village are shown 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

piough, 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.

- 4.7 The place-name Rillington, variously spelt as *Redlinton*, *Redlinton* and *Renlinton* in the Domesday survey, means 'Redel's farmstead' (Smith 1937). Rillington was one of a chain of pre-conquest settlements that stretched along the foot of the Wolds from Malton eastwards towards the coast, 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 Heselton, 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. In addition, this location exploited springs that issued from the Wold-foot and fed north-flowing streams to provide a ready water supply.
- 4.8 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 Mahon to Scarborough turnpike road (now the A64). The properties adjacent to, and within the proposed development site, were constructed in the 20th century within the former East Field.
- 4.9 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).

4.10. 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 340m 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. Another Recording Brief carried out at Ellis Patents during 2005 recorded undated gullies, pits and postholes (MAP 2005).

4.11 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).

5. Objectives

5.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish by trial trenching:

- (a) The nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the development proposals.
- (b) To prepare a report summarising the results of the work and assessing the archaeological implications of the proposed development.
- (c) To prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum.

5.2 Three particular topics were to be addressed:

- (a) The presence of any pre-medieval land-use at the site, whether Prehistoric or Romano-British.
- (b) The presence of any human burials.
- (c) The character of any medieval activity.

6. Methodology

6.1 Evaluation

6.1.1 Four areas were excavated for the evaluation (Trenches 1 to 4). Three of the trenches (Trenches 1, 3 and 4) were a nominal 2m x 10m in size, the other

trench (Trench 2) measured 9m x 4.5m. The trenches were intended to evaluate as broad a geographical distribution of the site as was possible, given the constraints of buildings, areas of hard-standing and shrubs/trees. Additionally, Trench 2 was intended to examine a larger area, at a location where more concentrated archaeological activity was anticipated, bearing in mind the results of the evaluation at 30-32 Scarborough Road. The trenches were positioned in consultation with the Archaeology Section of NYCC (Fig. 2) and excavated in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 6).

6.1.2 The evaluation areas were stripped of topsoil by a rear-acting excavator using a toothless blade under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the surface of the natural gravel, into which the archaeological features cut.

6.1.3 Postholes and pits were half-sectioned to determine function and record their form. Segments were excavated at suitable points within linear features.

6.1.4 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).

6.1.5 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis (Appendix 2)

6.1.6 Six samples were taken from the features for general biological analysis (Appendix 5).

6.2 *On-site Recording*

6.2.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system

6.3 *Plans and Sections*

6.3.1 The full extent of archaeological deposits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at

1:10, with some longer sections at 1:20, also on drawing film, and included an OD height.

6.4 *Photographic Record*

6.4.1 The photographic record comprised monochrome and polychrome print, and colour transparencies, in 35mm format, recording all archaeological features encountered.

6.5 *Finds*

6.5.1 Finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (where possible), marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines.

7. **Results**

7.1 *Trench 1 (Pl 1, Figs. 4 and 8)*

7.1.1 Trench 1 measured 10m x 2m in size and was situated in the north-western part of the site. Natural deposits of sandy gravel were encountered at the base of the trench at heights that varied between 32.60m and 32.70m AOD.

7.1.2 Two postholes were situated along the western baulk in the central part of the trench (Pl. 2). The northernmost posthole (1004) partly underlay the baulk, and measured 0.30m x 0.40m, with a depth of 0.22m. Posthole 1006 was 0.28m in diameter and 0.12m deep. The fills of both features (1003 and 1005 respectively) were brownish silty sands. There were no finds.

7.1.3 The natural surface was covered by a 0.30m deep subsoil layer of brown silty, loamy sand (1002). The subsoil was in turn overlain by a layer of modern topsoil, 0.30m in depth (1001).

7.2 Trench 2 (Pl 3, Figs. 5 and 8)

- 7.2.1 Trench 2 was 4.5m x 9m in size and was situated in the south-western part of the site. Nine features were identified, cutting into the somewhat uneven surface of the sandy gravel natural, which lay at elevations of between 32.90m and 33.00m AOD.
- 7.2.2 Only two features (2014 and 2018) were of any *provable* antiquity. Cut 2014 was a shallow, possibly truncated pit, c 0.50m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. The brown silty sand fill (2013) contained a post-medieval Ryedale Ware sherd. Situated to the west, 2018 was more substantial, being at least 0.90m wide, 1.10m long and 0.17m deep (Pl. 5). The fill consisted of brown silty sand (2017) and contained a sherd of Staxton Ware.
- 7.2.3 Two features (a gully with two postholes in the base, and a possible pit) were undated due to the lack of associated finds. Gully 2012 ran across the western part of the trench on a northerly alignment before terminating 3m from the southern baulk (Pl. 4). The dark reddish brown silty sand fill (2011) contained no finds. The gully had a U-shaped profile with a width of 0.75m and a depth of 0.16m. The base of the gully contained two postholes (2008 and 2010), which were up to 0.25m in diameter and 0.20m deep. The posthole fills (2007 and 2009 respectively) also yielded no finds. Situated at the northern baulk of the trench, Cut 2020 was an amorphous oval feature, 2m long and 0.16m deep. The dark brown sandy silt and complex profile make it likely that the origin of 2020 lay in animal burrowing.
- 7.2.4 The remaining three features formed a rough line across the central part of the trench; from west to east these were 2016, 2004 and 2006. Due to the very dark greyish brown fills (2015, 2003 and 2005 respectively) and modern finds within them, these features were patently of recent date, and hence will not be described any further in this report.
- 7.2.5 Natural deposits were masked by a 0.28m deep subsoil layer, which itself was covered by modern topsoil to a depth of c.0.44m.

7.3 *Trench 3 (Pl 6, Figs 6 and 8)*

- 7.3.1 Trench 3 was excavated in the south-eastern part of the site and measured 10m x 2m. The natural sandy gravel lay at elevations of between 33.00m and 33.20m AOD, rising slightly to the south. A single posthole cut through the subsoil.
- 7.3.2 The subsoil (3003) consisted of a 0.40m deep layer of brown silty sand. Posthole 3005 cut through the subsoil, forming a sub-circular feature 0.21m in diameter. The very dark greyish brown sandy silt fill (3004) contained a fragment of pan-tile, confirming the pesthole's relatively recent origin.
- 7.3.3 The subsoil was overlain by a 0.20m deep layer of modern topsoil (3002), and this was overlain in the central part of the trench by a layer of packed limestone hardcore (3001).

7.4 *Trench 4 (Pl 4, Figs 7 and 8)*

- 7.4.1 Trench 4 was located c. 10m east of Trench 3 and was also 10m x 2m in size. Natural sandy gravel deposits lay at a height of c. 33.10m AOD, and were cut by a single linear feature at the northern end of the trench.
- 7.4.2 Linear Feature 4004 had a south-west to north-east alignment, and was 0.75m in width and 0.05m in depth (Pl. 8). The brown silty sand fill (4003) contained no finds. The shallow dished profile suggests that this feature was a remnant plough furrow.
- 7.4.3 Brown sandy silt subsoil (4002) formed a 0.60m deep layer across the trench, and was covered by 0.60m thick deposit of mixed topsoil and recent building/demolition debris (4001).

8. Discussion

- 8.1 The evaluation identified archaeological activity in three of the evaluation trenches (1, 2 and 4) covering the western, south-western and south-eastern parts of the proposed development area.

- 8.2 The undated features in Trenches 1 and 2 should be seen alongside Turnbull's excavations that took place immediately to the south of the site, and which identified gullies and small pits/postholes relating to later Iron Age or Romano-British settlement. Turnbull's Area C, where he identified postholes, pits and a gully was in fact situated a mere 10m south of the southeast corner of the proposed development area. The negative results of MAP Trenches 3 and 4, compared with the undated features located in MAP Trenches 1 and 2 and Turnbull's Area C reflects the way that the archaeological features are clustered rather than forming an even spread throughout the locality.
- 8.3 The only datable features of any antiquity were located in Trench 2 where two pits can be assigned to the medieval and post-medieval periods. During these periods the proposed development area lay within East Field, one of Rillington's Open Fields, and the plough furrow identified in Trench 4 probably reflects associated cultivation. The deep subsoil deposit present over each of the evaluation trenches apparently accumulated during the same process.
- 8.4 The other recorded features were all of recent date, and represented rubbish pits dug that were probably dug to dispose of 'contaminated' waste such as the old paint tins found in 2003.

9. **Implications of the Proposed Development**

- 9.1 Although of significance, and with the potential to shed light on the history of the locale of Rillington, the archaeological remains recorded by the evaluation are not seen as of sufficient importance to preclude the proposed development.
- 9.2 The archaeological features were spread over the entirety of the evaluated area, with an increased density in the southwest of the site, where apparent features relating to later prehistoric/Roman settlement, and medieval activity were identified. The archaeological deposits were cut into the natural gravel,

and covered by deposits of subsoil and topsoil whose combined depths varied from 0.60m in Trench 1 to 1.20m in Trench 4.

- 9.3 Although no human burials were encountered during the evaluation, the proximity of previously recorded inhumations in the immediate vicinity (at 32 Scarborough Road and 23 Pine Tree Avenue) raises the strong possibility that such remains exist within the proposed development area.
- 9.4 It is presumed that the proposed dwellings will be constructed using conventional strip footings. Although at present the coverage above the archaeological remains is 0.60 - 1.20m (0.60m over the bulk of the area), an initial site strip would remove the modern topsoil and part of the subsoil, to a depth of around 0.40m. It follows therefore that the subsequent excavation of the building foundations would penetrate the natural deposits, thereby severely impacting upon the archaeological remains, which are dug into the surface of the natural gravel. The proposed access will also involve an initial site strip, with deep service trenches following the same route, therefore also affecting any archaeological deposits present.
- 9.5 A 'Strip and Record' process, i.e. the controlled and archaeologically supervised stripping of topsoil and subsoil from the areas to be disturbed by the proposed development (dwellings, garages, access/parking, services and drainage), followed by the archaeological excavation of any archaeological features and deposits, would allow the preservation by record of any threatened remains. Allowance should be made for a suitable time-scale to permit proper archaeological recording to take place. All archaeological recording should be followed by post-excavation analysis, report production, an appropriate level of publication, and the preparation of the archive for an appropriate museum.