

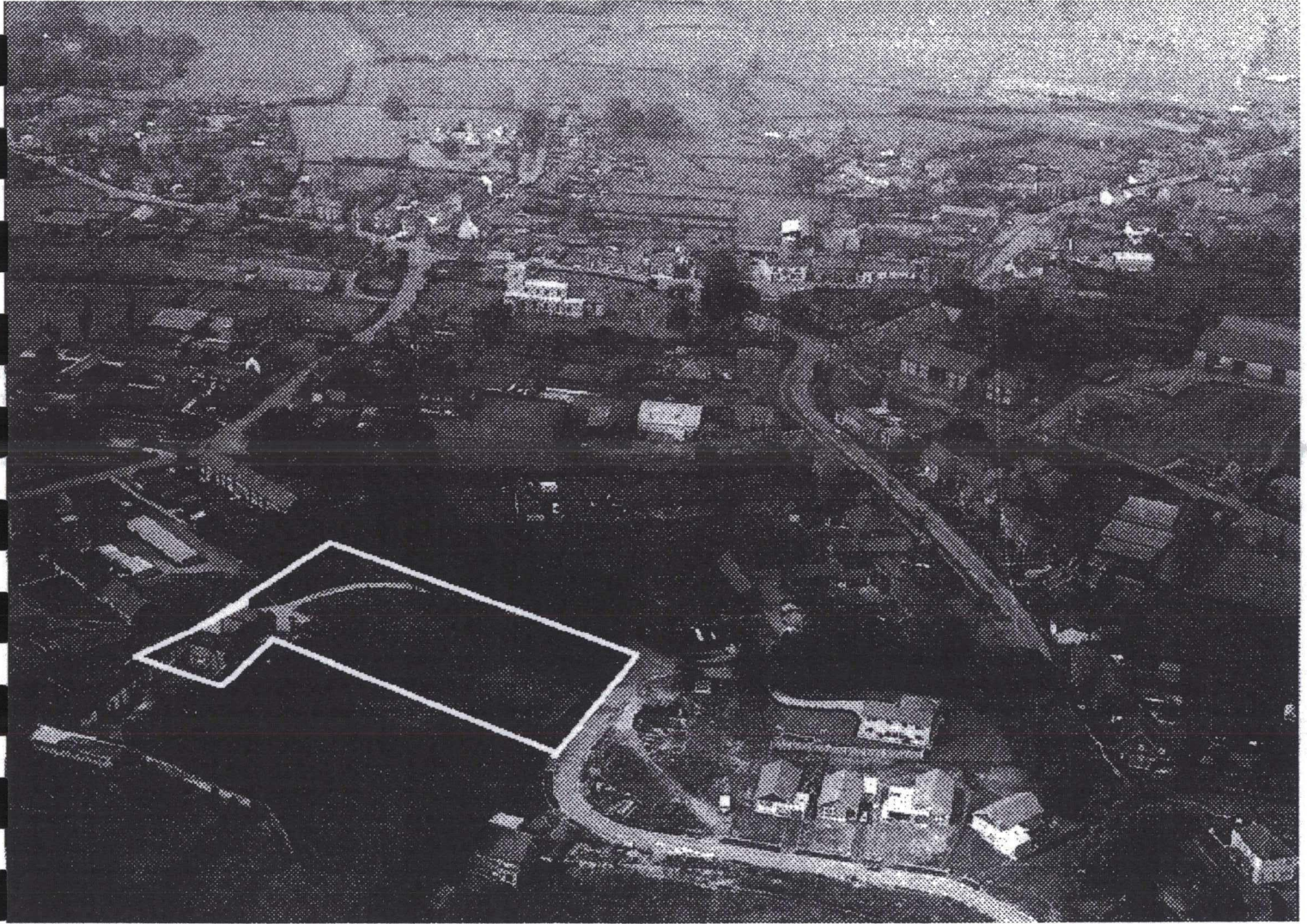
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**Riccall Hall
Riccall
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

February 1997
MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd



Frontispiece - Aerial view of Riccall Hall and environs.

**Riccall Hall
Riccall
North Yorkshire
Archaeological Evaluation**

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Riccall Hall
Riccall
North Yorkshire
Archaeological Evaluation

1 Introduction

During October 1996 a sample excavation was carried out in the grounds of Riccall Hall, to determine the presence and nature of archaeological deposits which may be affected by the proposed building work. The primary aim was to determine and locate any earlier activity on the site, chiefly the earliest Hall documented in 1538 -9. The Hall and land had been offered for sale with the intention of constructing six dwellings. This programme of works would involve the demolition of the existing Hall to be replaced by a new dwelling, and the construction of five new properties with detached garages.

The present Hall, a mixture of builds from the 18th and 19th centuries with 20th century additions, stands just to the south of Back Lane, Riccall amid landscaped gardens extending to 0.45 ha (SE 6205 3865 Fig 1). The gardens are a mixture of flower beds, trees and lawned areas.

The site stands on soils of the Everingham series on an Aeolian sand geology (Mackney et al 1983).

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2 Previous Archaeological Work

Aerial Reconnaissance

Aerial photography provides valuable information on archaeological features which have been destroyed above ground by ploughing. A consideration of the available evidence for the parish of Riccall (Fig 2) suggests that activity to the east of the village is characterised by a series of linear and rectilinear cropmarks suggestive of field systems. Recent work by MAP to the south-west of the village shows a complex of various size rectilinear enclosures of unknown date.

Spot Finds

Archaeological finds from the parish are limited to a small collection of Roman pottery of 2nd-3rd century date associated with the ploughed up remains of a wall and door pivot (no Ordnance Survey location datum). To the south-west of the church fragments of a cross of 12th century date were found in 1906 (Fig 2.1). A stone lined well was also found within the churchyard (Fig 2.2). On land to the east of the river human remains have been disturbed by ploughing since the late 19th century (Bulmer 1892, 699 Fig 2.3).

Previous Excavations

The site known as Riccall Landing (Fig 2.4) is situated to the east of Counting House Hill (SE 608 373). Work in the late 1950's located 34 adult and 5 juvenile inhumations (Wenham 1959, 301). All were buried west-east but with no associated grave goods. During the mid 1980s work on the construction of a flood bank by British Coal at Riccall located further graves (Finney, pers. comm). Due to the lack of associated finds it has been postulated that this small cemetery equates to the Battle of Stamford Bridge (September 25th 1066). Equation of archaeological material with literary evidence is extremely problematic, therefore dating of this cemetery is currently unknown.

3 Historical Background

The modern spelling of Riccall evolves through Richeale, Richehal(e), Rikehal, Rikinhal, Rykhale, Rical, Rickale to Riccall, how it is spelt today. The first element may equate to a personal name (Rica) or to stream/ditch. The parish of Riccall and the adjacent parishes of Skipwith and Escrick are characterised by numerous meandering drainage ditches.

In 1066 Earl Tostig and Harold Hardrada landed in the vicinity of Riccall (see above) and marched on to the Battle of Fulford.

Prior to the Domesday survey it is recorded that there were two carucates for the geld and two ploughs and that Archbishop Eldred held this for one manor. In 1086 Archbishop Thomas and the canons of St Peter had on the Domesne two ploughs and twenty villeins and another four ploughs. The whole manor was one league in length and one in breadth. In the reign of Edward it was worth 100 shillings but at the time of the survey it was only worth 30.

Documentary sources indicate that three important houses of some antiquity were to be found in Riccall. Two have strong ecclesiastical links, one a prebendal manor house which was first documented in 1295, was conveyed to the Wormley family, via Richard Wormley in 1651. In 1869 the house was enlarged to serve as the vicarage. Elements of the 15th century manor house are still apparent in a 3 storied brick tower block with a garderobe and stair turrets visible to the west of the house.

The Bishop of Durham's manor house was at Wheel Hall 'the house by the river deep', which is mentioned from the 14th century, and documents exist cataloguing repairs to the house in the 16th century. The Hall was replaced in the 18th century by the present brick farmhouse, although traces of the moat which once surrounded the earlier buildings are still visible today.

The earliest surviving documentary reference for Beckwith or Riccall Hall is in 1538-39 and is recorded as belonging to the Beckwith family. Documents record that it was conveyed to Edward Wormley in 1654 and then became the principal seat of the Wormley family, who were also associated with the prebendal manor house in Riccall in this period. This suggests that the Wormleys were an important family having links to two of the three manors in Riccall. This is confirmed by the parish records which show that Edward was buried in the chancel of the church and was recorded in the register as Edward - armiger - of knightly status. Although there is very little documentary evidence

for the location of the family residence, the importance of the Wormley family dictates that a house in keeping with their social standing must have existed prior to the 18th century house

Edward Wormley had a Hall constructed in Riccall in the mid 18th century. A painting of the Hall dated to 1777 (currently in Wakefield Museum Pl 1) has the title 'Beckwith Hall' with the lower caption of 'A view of Mr Wormley's House at Riccall taken 1777'. It is interesting that the name Beckwith Hall should be retained, even though the Hall/site of the Hall had been in the possession of the Wormley family for over 100 years. This suggests that within this 'new' house built by Edward Wormley there may have been elements of the old Hall still existing.

The painting shows a house which is typical of its period, mirroring classical style book architecture, and similar to other prestigious houses built in the surrounding countryside at this time, such as Skipwith Hall. At Skipwith an earlier 16th century staircase was built into the 18th century house.

A comparison of the painting with a photograph taken in the late 19th century (Pl 2) suggests that the main portion of the 18th century house was retained, but a wing was added to the southern gable end, and that the northern portion of the Hall remodeled. The single storey building shown in the painting was extended to three storeys with bay windows. This phase of works may be attributed to the mid 19th century building (c 1858) when the Hall and its lands passed to Lord Wenlock who made additions and improved the Hall.

The implications are that although the Hall is documented as being rebuilt (in the mid 18th century) and having additions and renovations (in the mid 19th century) essentially the Hall remained in the same location.

It is rare for maps of 16th century date to survive, the earliest cartographic evidence for a Hall on the Back Lane site is Warburton's map of 1720 (Fig 3) which shows a stylised Hall near to the church with no other associated buildings apparent. This may confirm the presence of a prestigious house prior to the building programme of Edward Wormley c 1770. The First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1860 shows the Hall's position and the additions made by Lord Wenlock of the bay on the east facade and additional wings to the north and south. The County Series map of 1908 illustrates the addition of a link to the servants quarters to the south-west of the Hall (Fig 4).

In the 1950's the Hall and the surrounding land was sold to L Winder, who in 1952 demolished the Hall. The servants quarters were retained and converted into the present day Riccall Hall. This may well have been the last leveling episode, prior to the existing garden soil being brought in.

4 Archaeological Investigations

Introduction

A total of 9 trenches were excavated. Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 were located within house plots, Trenches 5 and 9 were located on the alignment of the new access road and Trenches 7 and 8 were located in the north-eastern corner of the site, to assess the very marked change in level at which

natural occurred. This factor had been first noted during the observation of the engineering testholes.

Topographic Summary

The present topography of the site is such that the ground rises gently from the north to the higher ground of the lawned areas. This rise is very gradual and is broken by the plantings of firs and cedars. A series of flower and shrub beds are also located on the slope around the edges of the lawned area. Fir and yew trees form a line around the edge of the higher ground, delineating it both to the north, west and south of the site and creating the effect of a boundary around a platform. The lower ground to the north, east and west is planted with trees and takes on a much less managed appearance.

Back Lane, which forms the northern boundary of the site is approximately 0.26m below the ground level within the gardens of the Hall.

Excavation Methods

The trenches were excavated by machine to the top of archaeology or natural whichever ever was encountered first. Sections were recorded at 1:10 and plans were recorded at 1:20. A photographic record was maintained throughout the excavation with colour print and slide archive.

The results of the trench excavations are discussed in specific groups as determined by their location within the site. Trenches 1, 4 and 6 are discussed together as they lie on the top of the platform and therefore on the highest part of the site. Trenches 8 and 2 form a group as they lie on the area of the site where the ground falls away to the north. Trenches 3 and 7 are situated on the lower portion of the site and Trenches 5 and 9 were excavated to assess the alignment of the new access road.

Excavation Results

Trenches 1, 4 and 6

Trench 1

This trench was located on the higher lawned area of the site (Fig. 5). It was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.62m (9.12m A.O.D.) although natural was located at 0.50m (9.24m A.O.D.) towards the western end of the trench (Fig. 6).

Set into natural were the remnants of a wall surviving to one course of hand made brick (context 1003) aligned north - east / south - west. The construction was only a single brick in width. The dating of the bricks suggest that this wall is of 17th century date and therefore may be associated with one of the earlier phases of the Hall. However, the fact that the wall construction was insubstantial, suggests that this is not associated with the main dwelling but a subsidiary structure such as an outer wall. The 1777 painting (Pl. 1) shows a wall in the foreground and it is possible that context 1003 is the remnants of this feature.

Towards the eastern end of the trench there was a gradual depression in the natural which was filled by a deposit of silt/sand with inclusions of brick and mortar (context 1008). This may represent an

earlier ground level, as cutting through this, and continuing under the northern section was a circular shaped feature (context 1007 Fig 7 Pl 3) Feature 1007 was rather shallow with a primary fill of very thin interleaving deposits of silty sand (context 1006) This may represent natural silting of the feature with the tertiary fill (context 1005) containing more building material and backfill, indicating the end of use of the feature

Pottery suggests a period of use in the 16th - 17th centuries, as a red bodied coarseware sherd was recovered from context 1006 and two purple - glazed ware body sherds were recovered from context 1005 A brick fragment recovered from context 1005 was dated to the 14th - 17th centuries and therefore confirms the early dating of this feature

The function of this feature is hard to determine The silting suggests that the feature was open for a period of time before being backfilled, indicating that it may have been a pit The building material within it may be related to the leveling or demolition on the site which probably occurred in the mid 18th century to facilitate building and landscaping works at the Hall

The relationship of this feature and the wall towards the west cannot be determined, although a conjectural relationship may be inferred by their stratigraphical relationship as both are sealed by 1002 (a subsoil) and therefore may be contemporary

Trench 4

This trench was situated close to the existing Hall (Fig 5) and it is from this trench that the highest quantity of building materials were retrieved

The trench was machine excavated down to a depth of c 1.15m (c 9m A O D Fig 8) The earliest deposits encountered were natural sands at 1.14m (8.99m A O D) Directly above natural were a series of shallow occupation layers of clay with charcoal and mortar inclusions (contexts 4057 and 4058) Sealing these was a further occupation layer (context 4056) which was associated with two large micaceous limestone slabs (context 4055 Fig 9 Pl 4) which were being used to seal a well which appeared to have been cut at this level

The well, circular in plan, measured 1m in diameter and 3.8m in depth to the base of the silts and was constructed from handmade brick which dated to the 17th - 18th centuries Deposit 4056 located around the well was very mixed and consisted of sands with patches of mortar and house brick fragments This mix of deposits may indicate that there had been a lot of activity, such as trampling in the vicinity as the well

A rectangular feature (context 4054) which also appeared to have been cut at the same level was located to the south of the trench running under the section It was characterised by a substantial amount of charcoal and rubble fill This once again appeared to have been backfilled with demolition debris and was probably contemporary with the end of life and the capping of the well

A step in machining levels at the northern end of the trench was due to the presence of a brick wall (context 4060). The overlay plan (Fig 25) suggests that although this wall was not attached to the 1908 Hall, it does share the same alignment as the central portion of the Hall which dates back to the 18th century and could well be contemporary with this. Alongside the wall and truncated by it was a sandy deposit (context 4061 Fig 8) which may be a leveling layer. A series of alternating leveling / dump deposits some of which may have been old ground surfaces, were characterised by their mortar and charcoal inclusion (context 4042, 4041, 4040 and 4039). This may be evidence for the use of a courtyard.

At this level a cut (context 4038) was apparent which was then backfilled with three different deposits (contexts 4032, 4035 and 4033). This was then sealed by a deposit (context 4034) in to which another cut (context 4032), filled by contexts 4031 and 4030, was excavated. This in turn was sealed by a loose gravel layer (context 4028), a possible ground surface before another cut (context 4044) was apparent. The nature of this cut is of interest in itself as it can be seen to be associated with the well. The well, therefore, is clearly from an earlier period and had been sealed up at a lower level (mid 18th century) after which a whole series of leveling and infilling took place. The exact nature and purpose of this activity can only be suggested. It may be possible that there was a super-structure associated with the well that may have been removed in this period, possibly during the 19th century renovations. Another possibility is that the well may have been within a cellar and that the disturbance is contemporary with the demolition of the cellar walls. However the overlay plan (Fig 25) suggests that this was not the case as the well appears to be in a courtyard to the west of the 18th century Hall. The nature of the backfill (context 4043) which was a homogenous sandy clay suggests that the activity was carried out quickly and purposefully. Dating of brick from this context confirmed that this demolition material was of an 18th-19th century.

The subsequent and latest phases consist of leveling and road makeup with a series of ground surfaces dated to the 20th century demolition of the Hall (1952) up to the present day gravel drive.

Trench 6

This trench located in the lawn area close to the existing Hall (Fig 5) was machine excavated to a depth of c 1.10m at the southern end (8.80m A O D). The earliest deposit encountered was natural sands at 1.02m (8.88m A O D Fig 10).

The earliest evidence of activity was a possible ground surface (context 6032) which was truncated by a series of features. The earliest of these was a north - west / south - east linear feature which appeared to be terminating at a butt end to the north - west. Excavation showed this feature to be a pipe trench. Two sub - rectangular features (contexts 6033 and 6035) had fills of a very similar nature, both contained a substantial amount of demolition material with a large amount of charcoal. Although there was no dating evidence from either of these features, both seemed to be characteristic of the deposits thought to have been associated with the demolition and leveling carried out in the mid 18th century. A sub - circular feature (context 6037), although with a demolition rubble backfill was possibly associated with the 19th century demolition exercise.

At the northern end of the trench was a very substantial wall (context 6043 Pl 5), sharing the same alignment as the existing Hall, and probably the remains of foundations for the Hall demolished in 1952. A deposit characteristic of a demolition layer (context 6017 Fig 11) was recorded to the north of the wall.

The southern end of the trench contained a more ephemeral wall (context 6043), although only one brick in width, the same type of bricks and mortar were used as in wall 6043 suggesting that the two walls were contemporary, with the less substantial being an internal wall.

This trench situated close to the existing Hall and being on higher ground, had suffered severely from the installation of land drains, and water/sewage pipes as well as the intrusions of the later Hall.

Summary (Trenches 1, 4 and 6)

All the trenches discussed above were located on top of the natural platform. Archaeological and natural deposits occurred at a relatively high level and were shallow (with the exception of the activity in Trench 4) compared to the trenches discussed below.

Trenches 2, 3, 7, and 8

Trench 2

This trench situated to the south of the present access road (Fig 5) was excavated down to 1.06m (8.12m AOD Fig 12). Natural sands (contexts 2009 and 2010) occurred at 8.26m AOD. A series of features were recorded in the base of the trench (Fig 13), the earliest being a linear feature (context 2011) running north - west / south - east cut into the natural sands. Measuring 0.82m in width it was cut to a depth of 0.23m and filled with a silty fine sand (context 2006). Once again the lack of evidence, both dating and functional, proves a problem and any interpretations made can be purely conjectural. The orientation of the feature suggests that it may be a boundary ditch possibly associated with the 18th century Hall or the earlier Beckwith Hall.

A linear feature running east - west (context 2005) containing silty fine sand (context 0000) appeared to stop at a butt end to the west and cut through context 2006. No finds were retrieved from this feature which turned out to be very shallow (less than 0.04m in depth). Therefore a precise interpretation of the function was not possible. An irregular shaped feature (context 2008) contained demolition type material (tile, brick and mortar) and may again indicate the deliberate infilling of a pit during the leveling of the land surrounding the Hall in the mid 18th century, as seen in Trench 1. This feature also cut through context 2006 and therefore places it in a later activity phase.

Stratigraphically it is possible that contexts 2005 and 2008 are contemporary.

Trench 2 also illustrated the differences in the level at which natural occurs on the site, with 8.2m AOD in Trench 2 as opposed to 9.24m AOD in Trench 1. The substantial thickness (0.95m) of

the deposit (context 2001) which contained fragments indicative of demolition material such as tile and house brick indicated that the leveling process was a major undertaking in this area of the site

Trench 3

This trench was located on the extreme northern edge of the site (Fig 5) and was excavated by machine to a depth of 1.49m (7.33m A O D Fig 14). Natural sands occurred at a depth of 1.28m (7.54m A O D). A substantial deposit of contaminated natural (context 3010) which contained brick fragments suggested a period of leveling in the mid 18th century.

A series of deposits were recorded containing more substantial amounts of demolition type material with alternating layers of mortar and rubble (contexts 3009, 3008, 3007, 3005, and 3004) which stratigraphically may date to the 19th century leveling exercise. A deposit of clay (context 3006) sealed these deposits and may represent an earlier ground level.

Other than the building materials no finds were retrieved from this trench. It is interesting to note that the deposits once again reflect a dramatic change in the level of natural, the depth of natural in this trench being c 1.70m lower than in Trench 1.

Trench 7

This trench in the north-western corner of the site (Fig 5) was excavated by machine down to 1.81m (7.49m A O D Fig 15).

Natural sands occurred at a depth of 1.81m (7.59m A O D). Overlying the natural was a possible occupation deposit of 0.12m in depth and characterised by sandy silt with charcoal flecks (context 7015 Pl 7). Set in to this deposit was a limestone block (Pl 8) with a rounded socket in its upper face, 0.07m in diameter and 0.03m in depth in which a pivot door could have rotated. This may have been associated with a cluster of cobbles just to the north - east. If these are associated then this would make the door frame on an alignment north - west / south - east.

A ceramic candlestick was recovered from context 7014 of a Staffordshire type ware dated to the 17th century. A iron axe head also recovered from context 7010 was also of 17th century date, confirming an early date for activity in this area of the site.

The occupation layer was covered by a deposit of cobbles and tile fragments (context 000 Figs 15 & 16), some of which were peg tiles dated to 18th century. The subsequent deposits were all substantial layers of sandy silts?? with inclusions of fragments of brick and tile ranging in depth from 0.30m (context 7007) to 0.39m (context 7006). These deposits can be attributed to the phase of demolition and leveling in the mid 18th century. Scaling the leveling deposits were a previous topsoil (context 7003) and the existing topsoil (context 7001).

This trench highlights the dramatic change in the level of natural across the site. Within a distance of only 14m the change in level goes from 9.24m A O D in Trench 1 to 7.59m A O D in Trench 7 (Figs

23 and 24)

Trench 8

Due to the depth of natural in Trenches 1 and 7, Trench 8 was opened in order to determine more accurately at what depth natural occurred and therefore try and explain the differences in levels

The trench was machined down to 1.39 m (c 8.35m A O D Fig 17)) Natural sands occurred at a depth of 1.03m (8.71m A O D) in the southern end of the trench

Cutting into natural in the south of the trench was a feature (context 8013 Fig 18) which contained rubble (limestone and brick fragments) with occasional fragments of animal bone. As only a small amount of this feature was showing a precise function is unclear, but the nature of the fill suggests it may have been a pit. Overlying the natural were a series of cobbles (context 8014 Pl 6) sealed by a silty deposit (context 8010). The cobbles formed a linear feature running north - east / south - west

Showing through deposit 8010 (which was quite an extensive layer) were more cobbles in a random pattern which may represent a pathway or trackway

Subsequent deposits suggested a leveling phase. A substantial deposit (context 8008) contained demolition type materials sealing context 8015 (Fig 17). Laying directly above these appeared to be a sequence of old garden soils (contexts 8007 and 8006) up to the present day topsoil (context 8001)

Excavation suggested that this trench had seen occupational activity from an early period, after the demolition associated with the mid 18th century, the role of this area of the site changed to that of an open area, probably gardens for the Hall depicted in the 1777 painting

Summary (Trenches 2, 3, 7 and 8)

The evidence from Trenches 2, 3, 7 and 8, clearly showed that a major leveling programme had taken place during the 18th century. Excavation showed that differing levels at which natural occurred and that there was very little activity in Trench 3 except for the substantial leveling deposits. The earliest evidence for activity on the site comes from Trench 7

Trenches 5 and 9

Trench 5

The trench located to the east of the present access road (Fig 5) was machine excavated to the depth of 0.86m (9.16 m A O D Fig 19)

The earliest deposit recorded was a silty sand (context 5029) which may have been an early occupation level. This was truncated by two of which (contexts 5028 and 5026) with similar fills. No dating evidence was found within these features and therefore a conjectural interpretation can be inferred from their stratigraphic relationships as they were both sealed by context 5013. Their fills were perhaps indicative of the demolition or leveling phases and the subsequent deposits up to context 5004 suggested

that they were also part of this phase. The associated building material suggests a 19th century date and therefore may be associated with renovation and alteration of the Hall during the 1850's, however, it may also represent the demolition of the Hall in the 1950's.

To the east of the trench there was a change in the level of excavation again, due to the presence of a wall running north - west / south - east (Fig 19). The dating of this wall is unclear, stratigraphically it is difficult to determine at what level the wall was constructed. The overlay plan (Fig 25) suggests that this may be part of the north-western wall of the 1850 Hall.

No dating material was recovered from this trench with the exception of the 19th century demolition deposit, which contained a fragment of chimney pot.

Trench 9

This trench was located to the north - west of the present access road (Fig 5). It was excavated by machine to a depth of 8.05m A O D (Fig 21). Natural sands were recorded at a depth of c. 8.19m A O D.

Laying directly over this were an alternating series of demolition and leveling layers (contexts 9005 - 9003) with a layer of road makeup (context 9002) directly preceding the present topsoil (context 9001). This may indicate that the location of a previous access road ran on a slightly different alignment to the one which is in use at the time of the excavations. Figure 4 shows that there has been a road or path in this area of the site since c. 1908.

With the exception of the building materials in the rubble deposits, no other finds were recorded.

5 Summary

Excavation indicated that the occupational deposits are mainly concentrated around the higher ground. With the exception of Trench 5 which although not on this higher platform contained evidence of a wall associated with the later Hall.

Figures 22 and 23 the depth of natural falls away to the north and to the west of the site, almost as if the Hall itself was set on a platform rather like one would see in relation to a moated manor site. There is no evidence (documentary or physical) to suggest that this was the case for Beckwith / Riccall Hall. Topographically the present landscape of the Hall is not reminiscent of the medieval landscape. The bank of firs around the edge of the lawns flank the edge of the natural platform on which the Hall stands. Evidence from the excavations suggest that at some point quantities of demolition materials were deliberately dispersed around the site to raise the lower lying land to the north to the same level as that accommodating the main domestic buildings. Evidence suggests that this happened in a series of phases.

The first one can be dated to the rebuilding of the Hall by Edward Womley in the mid 18th century. Deposits from Trenches 4, 7 and 8 all provide stratigraphic and dating evidence that demolition

materials were spread around in this area of the site. A second series of demolition and leveling layers can be seen, particularly in Trenches 4 and 5, dating to the mid 19th century associated with the additions and renovations by Lord Wenlock. As wings were added to the north and south of the Hall, a significant programme of leveling would have been necessary to allow the building work to take place. The structure would not have been able to support itself on such a slope otherwise. There is however, a problem with this theory as there is no source for this demolition material on the site, there is no evidence that a major demolition exercise took place, with the exception of perhaps some minor walls, such as the one in Trench 1. The Hall of 1777 can still be seen in the 19th century photographs as the central portion of the house. The demolition of minor walls could not account for the huge amount of demolition material apparent.

Evidence from excavations also suggested that occupation and activity diminished from the main area of the Hall. Although the location of the trenches did not permit an internal search of the Hall (only Trenches 4-6 inclusive are in close proximity to the Halls), Trench 4 which lay to the west of the Hall produced a relatively high amount of datable evidence and demolition materials covering the 16th to 20th centuries, which confirms the documentary evidence which suggested habitation of the site throughout this period.

Evidence from the north - east of the site suggests activity was also going on in this area from an early date. However this cannot be fully understood due to the restrictive nature of the excavation.

6 Conclusions

Archaeological evidence from the sample excavations at Riccall Hall has illustrated activity on the site, based on the pottery and the building material assemblage, dates range from the 16th - 20th centuries.

Riccall Hall was clearly important. The 1777 painting shows high status architecture similar to other grand houses in the area. When the Hall was passed to Lord Wenlock in 1858 its importance was emphasised as Wenlock owned a substantial amount of land in the Escrick, Skipwith and Wheldrake parishes and further afield. This importance was again confirmed with the programme of renovations carried out in the late 19th century when wings were added. There is no evidence to suggest that the substantial leveling deposits associated with this period at Riccall Hall are from the grounds of the Hall itself, or even from Riccall. It is plausible that due to the large amount of land owned by Lord Wenlock, the material was brought in from elsewhere on his estate. Lord Wenlock embarked on a major programme of building on his estate from the 1850's onwards and he also owned the brickyards at Kelfield and Escrick.

The position of the early Hall (Beekwith Hall - 16th century) could not be established from this excavation. Topographic evidence suggests that it would be logical to build on the top of a natural high spot, which was apparent throughout the periods of occupation. This was then utilised by the Hall of the 18th century and the 19th century. Therefore most of the archaeological evidence from the period of the earlier Halls would have either been destroyed or very badly damaged.

7 Recommendations

Due to the character of the deposits at Riccall Hall it is recommended that a Watching Brief should be carried out on all ground works during the development of the site. This programme would include observation and recording of the removal of the foundations from the demolished Hall, the removal of tree roots, and the excavation of all service trenches, foot prints for the houses and garages and the stripping down to formation levels for access roads.

8 Bibliography

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APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Trench 1

- 1000 - Machine cut trench
- 1001 - topsoil 10 YR 4/3 sandy clay
- 1002 - 10 YR 3/4
- 1003 - remnants of brick wall
- 1004 - cut for wall
- 1005 - upper fill of circular feature 10 YR 4/2 clayey silt
- 1006 - lower fill of circular feature 10 YR 4/3 sandy silt
- 1007 - cut
- 1008 - 7.5 YR 4/2 silty sand
- 1009 - natural
- 1010 - layer of tiles

Trench 2

- 2000 - topsoil 10 YR 3/2 silty sand
- 2001 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand
- 2002 - cut
- 2003 - 10 YR 4/2 silty sandy clay
- 2004 - 10 YR 7/3 fine sand natural
- 2005 - 10 YR 4/2 silty fine sand
- 2006 - 10 YR 3/3 silty fine sand
- 2007 - 10 YR 3/2 silty sand
- 2008 - 10 YR 4/3 silty coarse sand
- 2009 - 10 YR 7/3 fine sand natural
- 2010 - 10 YR 7/3 fine sand natural
- 2011 - cut

Trench 3

- 3000 - machine cut trench
- 3001 - 10 YR 4/2 silty sand
- 3002 - 10 YR 5/4 silty sand
- 3003 - 10 YR 4/6 silty clay
- 3004 - thin mortar layer
- 3005 - rubble deposit
- 3006 - 10 YR 3/4 silty sand
- 3007 - 10 YR 4/6 silty clay
- 3008 - 10 YR 4/2 silt sand
- 3009 - thin seam of mortar
- 3010 - 10 YR 5/3 silt sand
- 3011 - 10 YR 5/4 coarse silty sand natural

Trench 4

- 4000 - modern gravel layer
- 4001 - layer of burnt brick / clinker
- 4002 - 7.5 YR 3/2 silt sand
- 4003 - 10 YR 5/6 coarse sand / gravel
- 4004 - 5 YR 4/6 silt sand
- 4005 - layer of mortar
- 4006 - 10 YR 3/2 silt sand
- 4007 - 10 YR 4/6 sand
- 4008 - layer of mortar
- 4009 - 10 YR 4/6 sand

4010 - 10 YR 5/6 silt sand
4011 - 10 YR 4/6 fine grained sand
4012 - 10 YR 5/6 fine grained sand
4013 - cut
4014 - 10 YR 3/1 silty sandy clay
4015 - 10 YR 3/2 silty sand
4016 - 10 YR 4/2 sandy silt
4017 - 10 YR 3/2 silt sand
4018 - 10 YR 4/6 fine sand
4019 - cut
4020 - 10 YR 3/2 silty clay
4021 - gravel layer assoc with extant driveway
4022 - 10 YR 3/3 sandy silt
4023 - cut
4024 - 10 YR 2/1 clinker
4025 - 10 YR 6/2 chalk and gravel
4026 - 10 YR 6/2 chalk and gravel
4027 - 10 YR 4/2 silt sand
4028 - 10YR 5/1 sand
4029 - 10 YR 3/2 sandy silty clay
4030 - 10 YR 3/2 silty clay
4031 - 10 YR 3/3 sand silt
4032 - cut
4033 - 10 YR 5/6 silty clay
4034 - 10 YR 3/2 silt sand
4035 - 10 YR 3/3 sand
4036 - 10 YR 4/1 silty clay
4037 - 10 YR 3/6 silty sand
4038 - cut
4039 - 10 YR 3/3 silt sand
4040 - 10 YR 2/1 sand
4041 - 10 YR 3/3 sand
4042 - 10 YR 3/1 silty clay
4043 - 10 YR 3/1 silty clay
4044 - cut
4045 - 10 YR 2/1 silty sand
4046 - 10 YR 2/2 silty clay
4047 - cut
4048 - 10 YR 3/2 silty sandy clay
4049 - 10 YR 3/3 silty sand
4050 - 10 YR 4/1 silt clay
4051 - 10 YR 4/1 silt clay
4052 - 10 YR 3/3 silt clay
4053 - 10 YR 2/1 clinker
4054 - 10 YR 3/2 coarse silt sand
4055 - 2 large micaceous limestone slabs
4056 - 10 YR 3/2 very fine silty sand
4057 - 10 YR 2/1 sandy silt
4058 - 10 YR 4/2 sandy silt
4059 - 10 YR 5/6 very fine sand
4060 - in situ brick wall
4061 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand

Trench 5

5000 - machine cut trench
5001 - 10 YR 4/3 sandy clay
5002 - gravel

5003 - 10 YR 4/3 sandy silt
5004 - 10 YR 5/3 sandy silt
5005 - 10 YR 5/4 silt
5006 - 10 YR 3/4 silty sand
5007 - 10 YR 5/6 silty sand
5008 - 10 YR 3/4 sandy clay
5009 - 10 YR 3/3 sandy silt
5010 - 10 YR 3/2 sandy silt
5011 - 10 YR 4/2 sandy silt
5012 - 10 YR 3/2 silty sand
5013 - 10 YR 3/4 sand
5014 - 10 YR 3/2 sandy silt
5015 - 10 YR 4/2 silt
5016 - cut
5017 - cut
5018 - not used
5019 - 10 YR 3/4 sandy clay
5020 - 10 YR 4/2 sandy silt
5021 - 10 YR 3/2 sandy silt
5022 - 10 YR 3/2 sand
5023 - 10 YR 3/3 sand
5024 - 10 YR 5/6 silty sand
5025 - 10 YR 3/3 sand
5026 - 10 YR 3/4 sand
5027 - 10 YR 4/8 silty sand
5028 - 10 YR 3/2 silty sand
5029 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand

Trench 6

6000 - machine cut trench
6001 - 10 YR 3/1 silty sand
6002 - 10 YR 3/4 sandy silt
6003 - 10 YR 3/2 sandy silt
6004 - 10 YR 5/3 loose silty sand
6005 - cut
6006 - 10 YR 3/3 sand
6007 - 10 YR 3/2 sandy silt
6008 - 10 YR 4/2 silty sand
6009 - cut
6010 - 10 YR 3/1 silty sand
6011 - 10 YR 4/2 sandy silt
6012 - 10 YR 4/2 sandy silt
6013 - cut
6014 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand
6015 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand
6016 - 10 YR 3/1 silty sand
6017 - 10 YR 3/3 sand
6018 - 10 YR 3/4 sand
6019 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand
6020 - 10 YR 4/3 clay
6021 - 10 YR 3/3 silty sand
6022 - cut
6023 - 10 YR 4/3 clay
6024 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand
6025 - cut
6026 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand
6027 - cut

6028 - fill of cut 6027 - remnants of a brick wall
6029 - 10 YR 3/3 silty sand
6030 - cut
6031 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand
6032 - 10 YR 3/3 silty clay
6033 - cut
6034 - 10 YR 3/2 clayey sand
6035 - cut
6036 - 10 YR 3/2 silty sand
6037 - cut
6038 - 10 YR 4/2 silty sand
6039 - cut
6040 - 10 YR 3/2 silty sand
6041 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand
6042 - 7 5 YR 4/2 clay
6043 - extant brick wall
6044 - 7 5 YR 4/2 clay
6045 - 10 YR 4/3 silty clay

Trench 7

7000 - 10 YR 4/1 loam
7001 - 10YR 5/4 loam
7002 - 10 YR 4/2 silty sand
7003 - 10 YR 4/2 silty sand
7004 - cut
7005 - 10 YR 4/1 silty sand
7006 - 10 YR 4/2 silty clay
7007 - 10 YR 4/2 silty clay
7008 - 10 YR 3/2 silty sand
7009 - 10 YR 4/2 silty sand
7010 - 10 YR 3/2 sandy silt
7011 - 7 5 YR 5/4 silty sand
7012 - 2 5 Y 4/2 silt sand
7013 - 10 YR 4/2 silt sand
7014 - 2 5 Y 3/2 silt sand
7015 - 2 5 Y 3/2 silty sand

Trench 8

8000 - 10 YR 3/2 silt sand
8001 - 10 YR 4/3 loose silt sand
8002 - 5 YR 8/1 loose sand
8003 - 5 YR 8/1 loose and
8004 - 10 YR 2/2 silt sand
8005 - 5 YR 8/1 loose sand
8006 - 10 YR 3/3 silt sand
8007 - 10 YR 4/3 silt sand
8008 - 10 YR 3/4 silt sand
8004 - 10 YR 2/2 silt sand
8005 - 5 YR 8/1 loose sand
8006 - 10 YR 3/3 silt sand
8007 - 10 YR 4/3 silt sand
8008 - 10 YR 3/4 silt sand
8009 - 10 YR 3/3 sand silt
8010 - 10 YR 4/2 silt sand
8011 - 5 YR 6/3 compact silty clay
8012 - 5 YR 5/6 fine grained sand
8013 - 10 YR 3/4 silt sand

Trench 9

9000 - machine cut trench
9001 - 10 YR 2/2 silty sand
9002 - clinker used as hardcore
9003 - layer of mortar and brick rubble
9004 - 10 YR 4/3 silty sand
9005 - 10 YR 3/5 silty sand
9006 - 10 YR 3/4 silty sand
9007 - 8006 - 10 YR 3/3 silt sand
8007 - 10 YR 4/3 silt sand
8008 - 10 YR 3/4 silt sand
8009 - 10 YR 3/3 sand silt

APPENDIX 2

Finds listing

1004	2 Purple glazed ware body sherd 1 Red bodied coarse ware sherd	16th - 17th century 16th - 17th century
	1 ridge tile 1 brick	14th - 17th century 14th - 17th century
1005	1 sherd pottery 1 Red bodied coarse ware sherd	16th - 17th century
4024	1 peg tile 1 brick	18th century 18th century
4042	1 Red bodied coarse ware	16th 17th century
4043	1 brick	18th century
7000	1 limestone fragment 1 brick	18th century 18th century
7010	1 Fe Axe head	17th century
7012	1 Humbr ware handle 2 Cistercian body fragments	15th - 16th century 16th century
	1 hand crafted horse shoe 1 roof tile	17th century 18th century
7014	1 Staffordshire type yellow candlestick	17th century

APPENDIX 3

Archive listing

- 1 Trench 1 North facing section 1 10
- 2 Trench 1 North facing section 1 10
- 3 Trench 1 Plan 1 20
- 4 Trench 2 West facing section 1 10
- 5 Trench 2 East facing section 1 10
- 6 Trench 2 Plan 1 20
- 7 Trench 3 East facing section 1 10
- 8 Trench 4 East facing section 1 10
- 9 Trench 4 West facing section 1 10
- 10 Trench 4 Plan 1 20
- 11 Trench 5 South facing section 1 10
- 12 Trench 5 Plan 1 20
- 13 Trench 6 East facing section 1 10
- 14 Trench 6 West facing section 1 10
- 15 Trench 6 Plan 1 20
- 16 Trench 7 West facing section 1 10
- 17 Trench 7 Plan 1 20
- 18 Trench 8 West facing section 1 10
- 19 Trench 8 Plan 1 20
- 20 Trench 9 North facing section 1 10

APPENDIX 4

Photographic Archive

Colour Print Film 1

- 1 Trench 4 - west facing section
- 2 Trench 4 - west facing section
- 3 Trench 4 - west facing section
- 4 Trench 5 - north facing section
- 5 Trench 5 - south facing section
- 6 Trench 7 - plan looking south
- 7 Trench 7 - plan looking south
- 8 Trench 7 - plan looking south
- 9 Trench 7 - detail of pivot stone looking south
- 10 Trench 7 - detail of pivot stone looking south
- 12 Trench 7 - detail of pivot stone looking south
- 13 Trench 6 - plan looking south
- 14 Trench 6 - plan looking south
- 15 Trench 6 - plan looking north
- 16 Trench 6 - east facing section
- 17 Trench 8 - plan looking north
- 18 Trench 8 - plan looking north
- 19 Trench 1 - plan looking looking west
- 20 Trench 1 - detail of feature looking west

Colour Print Film 2

- 1 Trench 3 - east facing section
- 2 Trench 4 - plan looking south
- 3 Trench 4 - plan looking south
- 4 Trench 4 - plan looking north
- 5 Trench 4 - plan looking north
- 6 Trench 9 - plan looking north
- 7 Trench 9 - plan looking north
- 8 Trench 5 - plan looking east
- 9 Trench 2 - plan looking north
- 10 Trench 2 - plan looking north
- 11 Trench 9 - east facing section

Colour Slide Film 1

- 1 Trench 4 - west facing section
- 2 Trench 4 - west facing section
- 3 Trench 4 - west facing section
- 4 Trench 5 - north facing section
- 5 Trench 5 - south facing section
- 6 Trench 7 - plan looking south
- 7 Trench 7 - plan looking south

- 8 Trench 7 - plan looking south
- 9 Trench 7 - plan looking south
- 10 Trench 7 - plan looking south
- 11 Trench 7 - plan looking south
- 12 Trench 7 - detail of pivot stone looking south
- 13 Trench 7 - detail of pivot stone looking south
- 14 Trench 7 - detail of pivot stone looking south
- 15 Trench 6 - plan looking south
- 16 Trench 6 - plan looking north

Colour Slide Film 2

- 1 Trench 6 - east facing section
- 2 Trench 8 - plan of cobbles looking north
- 3 Trench 8 - plan of cobbles looking north
- 4 Trench 1 - plan looking west
- 5 Trench 1 - plan looking south
- 6 Trench 1 - circular feature looking north
- 7 Trench 1 - circular feature looking north
- 8 Trench 3 - east facing section
- 9 Trench 4 - plan looking south - west
- 10 Trench 4 - plan looking south - west
- 11 Trench 4 - plan looking north - east
- 12 Trench 4 - plan looking north - east
- 13 Trench 9 - plan looking west
- 14 Trench 9 - plan looking west
- 15 Trench 5 - plan looking east
- 16 Trench 2 - plan looking north
- 17 Trench 2 - plan looking north
- 18 Trench 9 - east facing section
- 19 Trench 9 - east facing section

APPENDIX 5

Riccall Hall - Report on Ceramic Building Materials

Introduction

The site produced a small sample of ceramic building materials comprising brick, tile and stone building material

Roof Tile

There is one example of a ridge tile, several fragments of plain tile, and one fragment of peg tile (which confirms that the plain tile is probably all peg tile) This material is currently difficult to date, but is probably not from the 13th or 14th century, and perhaps dates to somewhere between the 15th and 18th century. As there is no sign of mechanised manufacture, it is unlikely that the material is 19th or 20th century.

Stone Building material

There is one fragment of fine white limestone or chalk. This has traces of mortar on it so may well have been used in walling rather than flooring.

Brick

The bulk of the sample is brick. There are two distinct groups of manufacture. The most common has smooth, possibly wire-cut edges and a refined clay fabric. Added to this the measurements point to a post medieval date. Some of the examples are unevenly fired, so may have been fired in a clamp kiln.

The other group (appearing in 1004, and one fragment in 4024) has sanded edges, and a narrow thickness (42mm or under). This group could be medieval in date. Examples from the City of York with these measurements and sanded edges, nominally date to between the 14th and 15th centuries. This group may also be the 'wall tiles' referred to in documents of the period, and may have been used as brick-infilling in timber-framed buildings. However, the Riccall group lack indented borders which are common to medieval brick, so there is possibility that this group was made at a later date.

Comments

This is a small sample, but it probably indicates several phases of building on the site. It is recommended that the sample is recorded in more detail and pieces selected for retention, so that the fabrics and forms are available for comparison should further work be carried out in the area.

Context	Form	Date
1004	Ridge, plain, brick	14th +
4024	Plain, peg, brick	18th +
4043	Brick	18th+
7000	Limestone, brick	18th+
7012	Paver/plain roof	18th+