

## BALDERSBY PARK, RAINTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

As a result of a previous survey in to the historic and archaeological potential of the former Deer Park at Bladersby Park (Buglass, 2010) it was suggested by Natural England that a watching brief be maintained on the dismantling of the 18<sup>th</sup> century obelisk at the southern end of the ornamental lake. This was primarily in order to record any additional graffiti that may be located on the more inaccessible areas of the structure and produce a report on any results.

When the phase of work involving the dismantling was undertaken JBAS was invited to attend site to inspect the already dismantled obelisk. The site visit was undertaken over two days in April 2012 and the remains of the obelisk were photographed (see separate file). No additional graffiti to that which was seen during the initial survey was recorded. However, when the stone plinth was removed four large timber beams were revealed which had been used to support the base of the structure (Plate 1). These timbers had been ‘pegged’ into the underlying clay with simple wooden stakes.



Plate 1. Four timber beams used to support plinth, scale 2m, looking north

The timbers were recovered and given a preliminary wash on site in order to be photographed (Plate 3). JBAS intended to recover all the timbers and subject them to a more detailed study including scale drawing and detailed photography. All of the main beams were photographed in the field and left on site, two of the smaller retaining stakes used to secure the beams were recovered, the remainder were left *in situ* for later recovery when it was anticipated that JBAS would be informed and would return to site to collect all the material for further study. Later when attempting to determine when the material could be recovered JBAS was informed that further archaeological work was not necessary.



Plate 2. Pattern of retaining stakes, scale 1m, looking north



Plate 3. One of the recovered timbers, note holes for retaining stakes, scales 1m

Due to the waterlogged nature of the site the preservation of the timber beams was in places good and in the retaining stakes it was excellent. The two recovered stakes could be clearly seen to retain all the details of the tool marks and tool signatures in the form of axe strikes. There was also evidence in one of them (in the form of a pegged hole) for re-use from an earlier structure. From an initial observation of the timber they all appeared to be of oak and as such had a possible potential for dendrochronological dating.

As there was no funding beyond the two day site visit there is only the very brief record of the timbers that was generated on site, it was always anticipated that this would be enhanced with a detailed study off site.

As well as the remains of the various timbers the piles of stone dredged from the ornamental lake were inspected as during the original survey it was noted that there were several dressed architectural fragments within the lake – possibly originating from the earlier, Jacobean, house which was destroyed by fire.

A number of fragments were recovered from the stone piles and were photographed on site, as with the timbers JBAS was informed that further study was not required and the remains were left on site. Below is a selection of the fragments recovered, a full catalogue of images is on the accompanying disc.



Plate 4. Fragment of chimney stake, possibly Jacobean, scale 0.30m



Plate 5. Fragments of decorative courses, scale 0.30m



Plate 6. Fragments of decorative courses, scale 0.30m

*References*

Buglass, J., 2010, Baldersby Park, Rainton, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Survey. Unpublished Contractors report.

Site	Film Number	Film Type	Pixels
Baldersby Park	2	Digital	14m

Frame	Facing	Scale	Description	Who/Date
1	NE	-	General view of area	JB 13/04/12
2	N	-	General view of demolished obelisk	JB 13/04/12
3	E	-	Demolished obelisk	JB 13/04/12
4	-	-	Capstone	JB 13/04/12
5	SW	-	Remains of obelisk base	JB 13/04/12
6	NW	-	Debris pile from dismantling & digging out	JB 13/04/12
7	N	-	Newly dredged lake	JB 13/04/12
8	NW	-	Restored islands	JB 13/04/12
9	NE	-	Restored islands	JB 13/04/12
10	-	30cms	Graffiti	JB 13/04/12
11	-	30cms	Graffiti	JB 13/04/12
12	-	30cms	Graffiti	JB 13/04/12
13	-	30cms	Graffiti	JB 13/04/12
14	-	30cms	Graffiti	JB 13/04/12
15	-	30cms	Graffiti	JB 13/04/12
16	-	30cms	Possible graffiti	JB 13/04/12
17	-	30cms	Possible graffiti	JB 13/04/12
18	-	30cms	Possible masons mark	JB 13/04/12
19	-	30cms	Possible masons mark	JB 13/04/12
20	-	30cms	Possible masons mark	JB 13/04/12
21	-	30cms	Possible masons mark	JB 13/04/12
22	-	30cms	Detail of tooling	JB 13/04/12
23	-	30cms	Possible masons mark	JB 13/04/12
24	-	30cms	Possible masons mark	JB 13/04/12
25	-	30cms	Location of iron cramp	JB 13/04/12
26	E	-	Timber beams under plinth of obelisk	JB 13/04/12
27	-	30cms	Iron cramps form obelisk	JB 13/04/12
28	E	2m	Timber beams under plinth of obelisk	JB 13/04/12
29	N	2m	Timber beams under plinth of obelisk	JB 13/04/12
30	S	1m	Tops of retaining stakes showing	JB 13/04/12
31	N	1m	Tops of retaining stakes showing	JB 13/04/12
32	E	-	Stone pile from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
33	ENE	-	Stone pile from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
34	-	1&0.3m	Timber 1 from obelisk base	JB 13/04/12
35	-	1&0.3m	Timber 1 from obelisk base	JB 13/04/12
36	-	1&0.3m	Timber 2 from obelisk base	JB 13/04/12
37	-	1&0.3m	Timber 2 from obelisk base	JB 13/04/12
38	-	1&0.3m	Timber 3 from obelisk base	JB 13/04/12
39	-	1&0.3m	Timber 3 from obelisk base	JB 13/04/12
40	-	1&0.3m	Timber 4 from obelisk base	JB 13/04/12
41	-	1&0.3m	Timber 4 from obelisk base	JB 13/04/12
42	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
43	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
44	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12

<b>Frame</b>	<b>Facing</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Who/Date</b>
45	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
46	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
47	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
48	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
49	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
50	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
51	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
52	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
53	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
54	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
55	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
56	-	0.3m	Detail of iron cramp from obelisk	JB 13/04/12
57	-	0.3m	Detail of iron cramp from obelisk	JB 13/04/12
58	-	0.3m	Architectural stone from lake dredging	JB 13/04/12
59			Blossom tree	JB 13/04/12