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THE OLD HALL, CARLETON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OSA REPORT No: OSA01EV03

NGR SD 9725 4991

March 2001



OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY

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PARISH: Carleton
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The excavations were carried out by Ant Brown, Neil Dransfield, Chris Fenton-Thomas and Lorna Paterson (Peach) with help from Alex Thomas, Tim Robinson and David Rawson. The finds were analysed by Chris Cumberpatch (pottery), Alan Vince (glass, shot, CBM, coinage) and Jackie Hall (worked stone).

1.0 Summary

An archaeological evaluation took place at the Old Hall, Carleton, near Skipton, North Yorkshire. The work was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs G. Dean ahead of the proposed renovation and development of existing structures and their conversion into four residential properties. The two buildings lie in a neglected state and are currently used for agricultural purposes, although it is clear from their fabric and architectural features that they originally formed part of an extensive late medieval hall range. The evaluation consisted of nine trenches targeted at locations where the development proposals are likely to encounter and damage archaeological deposits. The work aimed to assess the nature and extent of any buried archaeological features and deposits present. Fieldwork commenced upon Monday 12th February and was completed on Wednesday 21st February 2001.

The excavations revealed that in some trenches there exists a significant depth of recent material deposited over the last 100-150 years. This accords well with the recent agricultural use of the buildings and the surrounding land. In other cases earlier features and deposits were encountered which relate to the late medieval, post-medieval and early modern occupation of the site. Of particular interest are the remains of the wall of the eastern gable of the 1584 Ferrand wing as well as possible floor deposits from this same building in trenches. The external chimneystack of the south range of the hall was revealed in trench 6, and trench 9 produced fragmentary evidence for internal structural features within this same building. In these cases it may be necessary to modify development proposals in order to avoid unnecessary damage to these deposits. The ubiquitous presence of residual medieval pottery across the site suggests that occupation extended back beyond the 15th century, although no undisturbed features or deposits from this period were found.

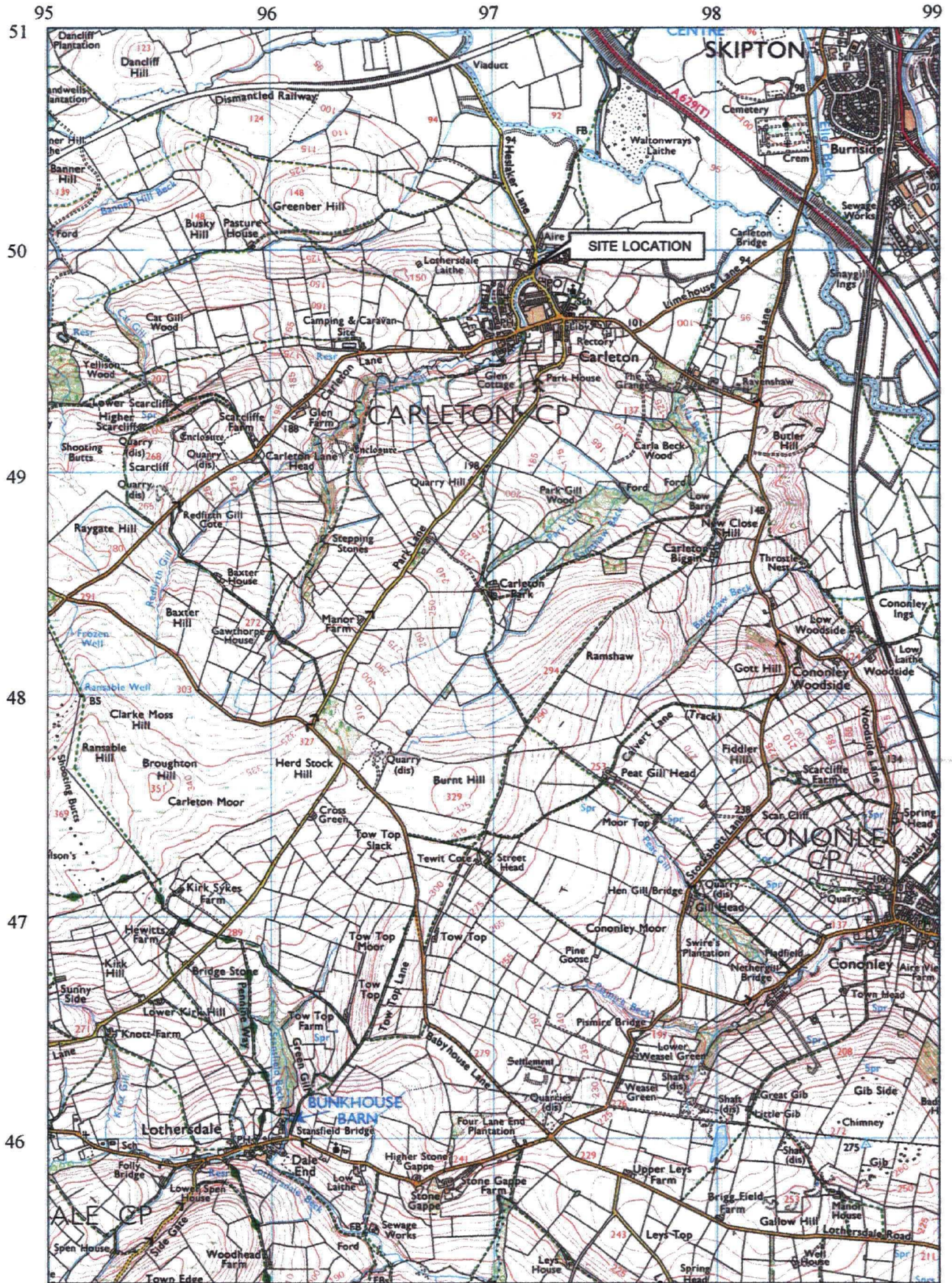


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SD 9725 4991)

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2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use

The site is located on the west side of the northern approach road into the village of Carleton at N.G.R. SD9725 4991. The village lies on the southwestern edge of the floodplain of the River Aire about 1.5 km from the town of Skipton (Figure 1).

The buildings of interest are English Heritage Listed Grade II, and are both approximately aligned on a north-south axis (Figure 2). A third building once stood between them but was demolished in the earlier part of the 20th century. A small stream runs parallel to the axis of the buildings to the east and a road, Becksides, lies in between the stream and the buildings. The ground rises steadily to the west of here and falls to the east before reaching the stream.

The two main buildings stand within a complex of smaller outhouses and sheds. They have all been used for agricultural purposes in recent years but at present are simply used for storage, as the farm has ceased production. The land to the west of the two main buildings is grassed over and used as a chicken run but occasionally also as sheep pasture (Plates 2-4).

The drift geology of this area is made up predominantly of boulder clay with some alluvial deposits to the north of the village. The site lies at the northeastern end of an outcrop of Pendle gritstone, which overlies sandstone and limestone that outcrop to the north, west and south (*British Geological Survey (1975) Sheet 68, Clitheroe*)

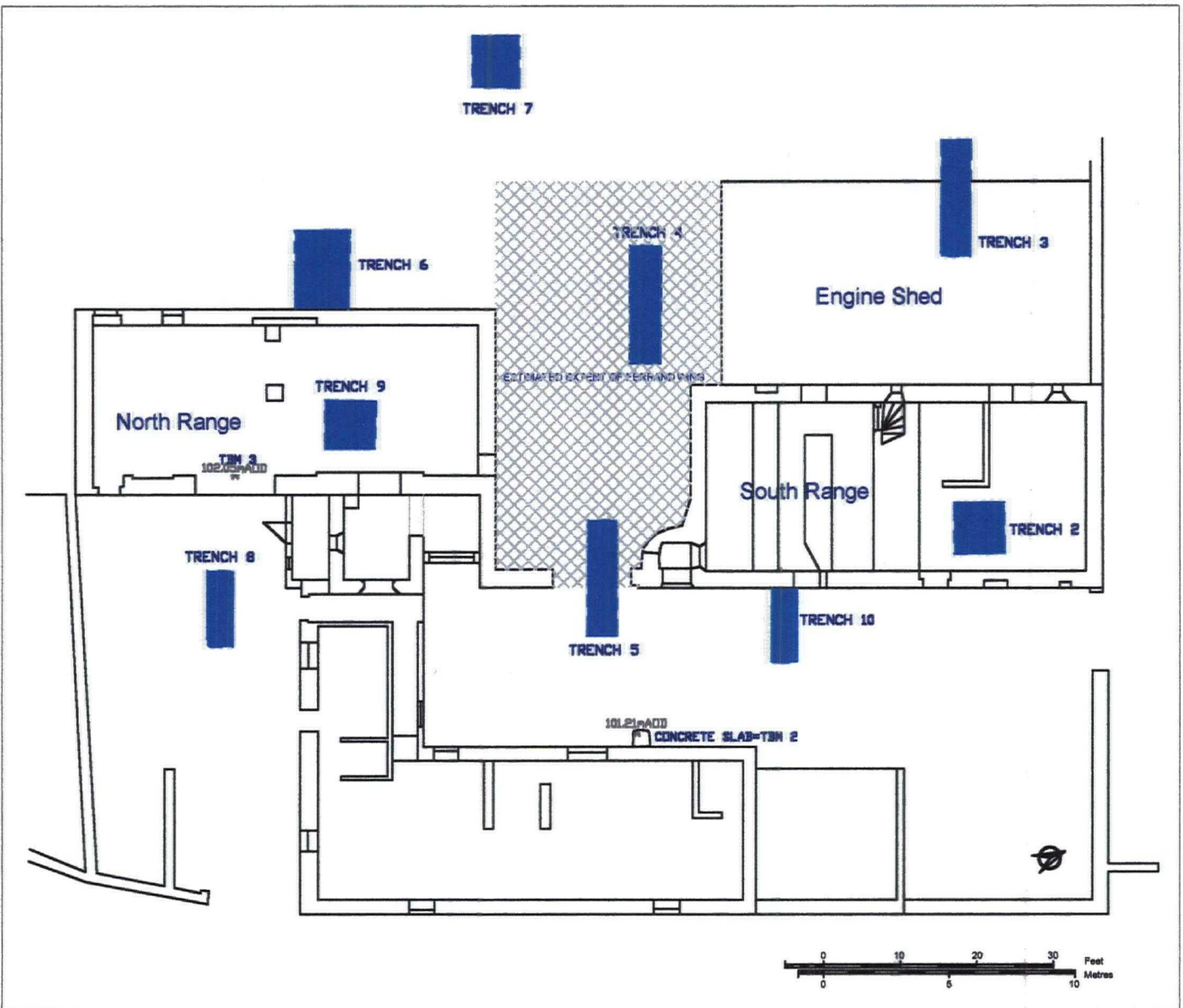


Figure 2: Plan of the site showing standing buildings & trench locations. Temporary Bench Marks used during excavation are also shown.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Hall at Carleton seems to have been built at the end of the 15th century although there are historical records of an earlier manor here. By the early 17th century the original single range had developed into an extensive residence with two ranges and a central cross wing. It is the north and south ranges of this complex that are still standing, albeit following several centuries of modification and changes in usage. Several prominent architectural features including fireplaces, windows and a doorway arch have survived in the fabric of both buildings. The central cross wing was demolished at the beginning of the 20th century but its eastern gable end is recorded in a photograph taken in 1901 (Plate 1).

There have been many changes in the use of the building over the last five centuries. It acted as a high status residence for nearly 300 years until the late 18th century when it seems to have been used as a cotton factory. From the early 19th century the buildings were adapted further for agricultural purposes. The historical evidence recording its development has been studied thoroughly by Susan Wrathmell who has also tied in this sequence to the surviving fabric of the standing buildings. Much of the discussion below is based on her unpublished reports (Wrathmell 2000a; 2000b; 2000c).

Since the early 13th century the Dawtry family had held the manor at Carleton and several of the 14th century charters that were signed there still survive. It is probable that the medieval manor house of the Dawtry family stood on the site of Carleton Old Hall.

The family remained as owners until the 15th century when the marriage of Elizabeth Dawtry transferred the descent of ownership. Subsequent owners include Richard Duke of Gloucester who later became Richard III and from here it passed to King Henry VII after Richard's death. The period of crown ownership ends when Sir Henry Clifford of Skipton Castle bought the property in 1502. Clifford's building work at Skipton Castle between 1487-1506 is stylistically identical to the porch door of the south range at Carleton Old Hall. This helps to date the earliest phase of the existing building of the south range to around 1500. Wrathmell suggests that the south building was a fully floored house with second storey external chimneystacks on the west and south walls and a large open fire in the main hall. There was possibly an external kitchen range to the west of the building but no visible remains survive. The now weathered porch arch and one open roof truss both survive from this period.

In 1584 the house was extended by the addition of a gabled cross wing adjoining the south range on its northern side. A date stone, which was set in the eastern gable above a mullion window reads,

"THIS MADE WILL/ YAM FARRAND AND ELIZABETH HIS WIFE/ IIII APRIL 1584".

This date plaque was recorded in the late 19th century in this location (Figure 3) but was later removed. It is now found set into a wall at St.Ives near Bingley. At the time of construction in 1584 the Ferrands were tenants of the property and didn't actually own it until 1602.

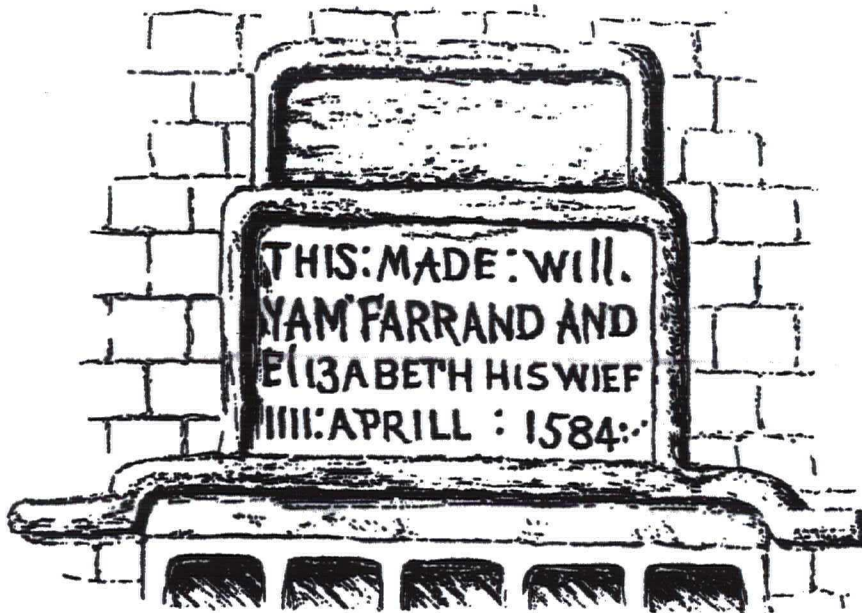


Figure 3: The date stone from the gable of the Ferrand wing as depicted in the late 19th century

The Civil War sees the ownership change to Tomas Parkinson in 1651 and it is between that time and his death in 1671 that the north range probably dates. The early photographs of the eastern gable of the Ferrand wing identify quoins in its northeastern corner, which suggests that the north range did not exist when the wing was originally built in 1584. The hearth tax return of 1672 records the presence of 11 hearths at Carleton Old Hall.

Captain Martin Lister grandson of Tom Parkinson then sold the building to Lord Bingley in 1721 at which time the house ceased to be used as a family home.

The building was altered in the late 18th century and used as a spinning shop. Flag stone floors were installed to support machines and the walls whitewashed to reduce the risk of fire. This represents the earliest stage of factory employment at the beginning of the industrial revolution and precedes the purpose built factories that characterise this area during the 19th century.

The hall then reverted to agricultural use in the 19th century with the Ferrand wing standing until the beginning of the 20th. It appears in a photograph taken at the turn of the century (Plate 1) but by 1909 the O.S. map shows its demolition and considerable extension in out buildings. Wrathmell suggests that a wide range of modifications were made to the buildings of the north and south ranges around 1800. These included the removal of internal floors and walls, substantial alterations to the roof and the blocking of fireplaces, windows and doorways.

The 20th century sees Carleton Hall Farm transfer possession to Harold Dean, father of the present owner, who altered buildings in accordance with modern farming practices. He is remembered to have removed some of the mullions from the upper windows of the east wall of the north range. He also probably took responsibility for inserting an upper window in the west wall of the south range and for raising the level of the ground below to make it easier to