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**Plot 1
Church View
Brompton Village
Northallerton
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Excavation
(Interim Report)**

**November 2000
MAP 04-02-00**

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1. Introduction

This report has been prepared by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of Persimmon Homes (Yorkshire) Limited to fulfill a condition attached to a planning consent (Application No. 2/98/020/0327) by Hambleton District Council for the erection of houses and associated parking.

The work has been totally funded by Persimmon Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd.

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2. Geology

The site stands on soils of the Flint Association, which comprises of a fine loam over clay overlying a solid geology of reddish till (Mackney et al., 1983).

3. Site Description

The development site comprises of the former premises of Pattison's Linen Mill (Pl. 1), and is situated within the village of Brompton, which lies 2.5 km to the north of Northallerton, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1 : SE 3738 9640). The site covers an area of approximately 1.2 ha. and is located directly north of the Church of St. Thomas. The site was cleared, with the exception of Number 28 Church View situated in the southern boundary of the site and east of Plot 1. The site access runs over the site of No. 29 Church View (Fig. 2). The excavation area (Plot 1) is located immediately to the west of Number 28 Church View and east of the access road to the main site (Figs. 2 & 3a).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest archaeological evidence from the immediate vicinity of the site dates from the Roman period, and takes the form of a road running approximately north to south at a distance of 1km to the east of the village. Further evidence of activity from this period within the village itself is restricted to a chance find of a mosaic during the 1930's, the exact location of which is open to question.

The Pre-conquest period is represented by the discovery of sculptured 'hogback' grave-stones (dating to the Tenth century) within the foundations of St. Thomas' Church during the 1867 restoration work. This indicates that the area upon which the church now stands has retained a religious function from at least the Tenth Century (Turner 1976).

Aerial photographs of the village show areas of ridge and furrow to the north, east and west of the site, and appear to correspond to the location of the medieval 'open field' system of agriculture.

The earliest written source for the village of Brompton dates to the later Saxon period, and is subsequently recorded as Bruntun or Bruntone in Domesday (Smith 1937). The present Church of St. Thomas dates from the Twelfth century, and the village has a plan that is of a settlement with more than one nucleus. The first of these is centered around High Green (in the area of the Church of St. Thomas), and the other around the green flanking the beck some 500 metres to the north-east at Water End. This probably represents the remodelling of Brompton caused by the event known as 'the harrying of the north', given further plausibility by the fact that the village was listed as 'waste' in 1086 (Smith 1937).

The Yorkshire and Cleveland Railway came to Brompton in 1852, and acted as a catalyst for the move away from the 'cottage' system of production to that of an industrial scale. Linen manufacture at Brompton became concentrated in the hands of two local families, namely the Pattison's and the Wilford's (Pevsner & Neave 1972). On the Tithe Award of 1841, John and William Pattison are known to have owned two plots of land between the Church of St. Thomas and the beck to the north. Their mill was subsequently founded on this land during the late 1850's. At around the same time, a second linen mill was constructed by John Wilford

and Sons immediately to the north-east. Both mills were in the North Yorkshire Moors / Cleveland zone of linen production and were therefore somewhat isolated from the major linen production zone centred around Nidderdale (Giles & Goodall 1992). Both mills had ceased production by the late 1950's, with the buildings on the Pattison site being subsequently used for light industry and storage.

5. Aims, Objectives and Methodology

The aim of the excavation was to determine the nature and extent of any surviving archaeological deposits under Plot 1. This area of the site was believed to have been located close to the medieval street frontage and was situated 25 metres to the south of the church.

All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (IFA, 1998).

Mechanical excavation was undertaken using a rear-acting excavator with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological features were cleaned and recorded on pro forma context sheets (Appendix 1); and all recovered artefacts were cleaned, labeled and catalogued (Appendix 2). Appropriate plans and sections were drawn to a relevant scale (Appendix 3), and a photographic record was maintained throughout the duration of the excavation using 35mm colour and monochrome print film and colour slide (Appendix 4).

6. Results

Machine excavation of the modern tarmac (001) and make-up (002) layers, revealed a layer of general demolition material (003) mainly comprising of mid-Nineteenth century brick and tile from the demolished mill building. The removal of these layers represented a total depth of 0.55m across the entire excavation area (Fig. 4b).

Underlying the demolition material at the northern end of the trench were the remnants of the linen mills' drainage system (019), comprising four pipes entering the area from the north and one from the east, all converging on a central manhole before draining south towards Church View (Fig. 3b).

Between these later drain trenches, a heavily truncated earlier east-west aligned feature was observed (Fig. 3c), the drains were removed by machine in order to investigate this linear (Pl. 2). This feature was subsequently exposed in both sections (Pis. 3-6), with a portion of a ditch being observed to have survived within 2m of the eastern edge of excavation (Fig. 4a - 013) and also within 0.5m of the western edge of excavation (Fig. 4b - 005). At this point the base of the feature was also seen running east to west across the bottom of the trench.

The feature was 5m wide and 1.2m deep with a single fill consisting of a very dark brown/black silty soil. Upon further investigation, the fill was found to contain a large quantity of artefactual material, mainly in the form of locally produced ceramic types (Twelfth - Fourteenth century, no later Humber Ware was recovered), and also a quantity of animal bone (Appendix 2).

The cut for this feature (Fig. 4a - 015 & Fig. 4b - 007) appeared to take a similar form within both sections, in that the northern and southern slopes were gradual with a much steeper 'V'-shaped cut at the base.

Finally, the natural sub-soil, a light brown silty sand (Fig. 4a - 008 & Fig. 4b - 016), was observed at the base of the trench at a depth of 1.5m.

7. Discussion

On this occasion the medieval street frontage was not observed, however a contemporary ditch located 25m north of the church has significant implications for any future work.

Firstly, the known areas of medieval ridge and furrow observed on the aerial photograph immediately to the north, east and west of the site gave an indication that the contemporary village boundary must have been located somewhere within the site of the former linen mill.

The feature located within the northern portion of the excavation area is very likely to have formed part of this boundary. In addition, it is of interest that the natural ground surface slopes from the beck, in a southerly direction towards the church, which itself has a 1.5m high retaining wall. This suggests that the area may have been subjected to regular flooding,

and a ditch of the dimensions mentioned earlier, with a deeper 'V'- shaped cut at its base, may have also acted as a flood defence.

Finally, if regular flooding had occurred before the retaining wall of the church had been constructed, then a ditch circuit surrounding the church may have been required. Therefore, an alternative interpretation could be that this feature represents a section of moat, although the presence of an ecclesiastical moated site of this date and within this general area would be unusual (Patourel 1973).

The occurrence of worked flint at the site suggests Prehistoric activity, the actual definition of which at the moment remains unclear. Further on site work may provide additional material and associated features

8. Recommendations

Each of the interpretations provided previously seem plausible, but what is certain is that any opportunity to study this feature subsequently at other locations would be of great interest. If this feature continues on the same alignment to the east and west then it would lie within the rear plots of the present houses on Church View, before turning south to form an almost continuous circuit around the church.

It is therefore strongly recommended that any future groundwork within a 50m radius of the church be monitored by an archaeologist to establish the true extent of this linear, and indeed any further contemporary features.

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APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

| Context | Description | |
|---------|--|--------------------|
| 001 | Modern tarmac layer | - western section |
| 002 | Make-up layer for 001 (dolomite) | - western section |
| 003 | Demolition material (brick/tile) | - western section |
| 004 | Truncation, 19th C drain trench (southern end) | - western section |
| 005 | Linear fill (medieval ditch) dark brown/black silt | - western section |
| 006 | Cut for 005, grad.sides & v-shaped base | - western section |
| 007 | Cut for 004, vert.sides & u-shaped base (southern end) | - western section |
| 008 | Natural sub-soil, v.light brown / orange sand | - western section |
| 009 | Modern tarmac layer | - eastern section |
| 010 | Make-up layer for 001 (dolomite) | - eastern section |
| 011 | Demolition material (brick / tile) | - eastern section |
| 012 | Truncation, 19th C drain trench (northern end) | - eastern section |
| 013 | Linear fill (medieval ditch) dark brown/black silt | - eastern section |
| 014 | Cut for 012, vert.sides & u-shaped base (northern end) | - eastern section |
| 015 | Cut for 013, grad.sides & v-shaped base | - eastern section |
| 016 | Natural sub-soil, v.light brown / orange sand | - eastern section |
| 017 | Truncation, drain trench-19th C (southern end) | - eastern section |
| 018 | Cut for 017, vert.sides & u-shaped base (southern end) | - eastern section |
| 019 | Entire 19th C drainage system | - northern portion |

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

| Context | Type | Description | Weight (gms) | Spot Date |
|-------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 005 (upper) | Ceramic | 3 rim sherds, 1 glazed | 75g | 13th-14th |
| 005 (upper) | Ceramic | 3 base sherds | 75g | 13th-14th |
| 005 (upper) | Ceramic | 33 body sherds, 2 glazed | 350g | 12th-14th |
| 005 (upper) | Bone | 13 fragments, animal | 50g | |
| 005 (upper) | Clay pipe | 1 fragment | < 25g | 18th |
| 005 (lower) | Ceramic | 11 rim sherds, 2 glazed | 300g | 12th-14th |
| 005 (lower) | Ceramic | 7 base sherds | 175g | 13th-14th |
| 005 (lower) | Ceramic | 46 body sherds, 15 glazed | 350g | 12th-14th |
| 005 (lower) | Bone | 25 fragments, animal | 225g | |
| 005 (lower) | Lithic | 2 pieces | < 25g | LN/EBA |
| 013 (upper) | Ceramic | 7 rim sherds, 2 glazed | 175g | 13th-14th |
| 013 (upper) | Ceramic | 5 base sherds | 75g | 13th-14th |
| 013 (upper) | Ceramic | 1 handle, glazed | 50g | 13th-14th |
| 013 (upper) | Ceramic | 40 body sherds, 5 glazed | 550g | 12th-14th |
| 013 (upper) | Bone | 19 fragments | 400g | |
| 013 (upper) | Shell | 1 piece | < 25g | |
| 013 (lower) | Ceramic | 3 rim sherds | 75g | 13th-14th |
| 013 (lower) | Ceramic | 4 base sherds | 100g | 13th-14th |
| 013 (lower) | Ceramic | 28 body sherds, 6 glazed | 325g | 12th-14th |
| 013 (lower) | Bone | 20 fragments | 150g | |

013 (lower) Lidic 1 piece < 25g Prehistoric

APPENDIX 3

Archive Listing

| No. | Scale | Description |
|-----|-------|---|
| 1. | 1:100 | Trench Plan |
| 2. | 1:100 | Excavation Area Location |
| 3. | 1:100 | Plan of 19th Century Mill Drainage System |
| 4. | 1:100 | Plan of Medieval ditch (probable course of) |
| 5. | 1:50 | Trench Sections |
| 6. | 1:20 | West Facing Section of North End of Trench |
| 7. | 1:20 | East Facing Section of North End of Trench |

APPENDIX 4

Photographic Catalogue

Fihn Number : 109

Fihn Type : Colour Print

| Frame | Context | Scale | Facing | Description |
|-------|-----------|-------|--------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 005 & 007 | 2m | West | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 2 | 005 & 007 | 2m | West | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 3 | - | 2m | West | Entire west section (pre-ex) |
| 4 | - | 2m | West | Entire west section (pre-ex) |
| 5 | 005 & 007 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 6 | 005 & 007 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 7 | 005 & 007 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 8 | 005 & 007 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 9 | - | - | North | Excavation area after machine ex. |
| 10 | - | - | North | Excavation area after machine ex. |
| 11 | - | - | West | Entire west section (pre-ex) |
| 12 | - | - | West | Entire west section (pre-ex) |
| 13 | - | 2m | East | Entire east section (pre-ex) |
| 14 | - | 2m | East | Entire east section (pre-ex) |
| 15 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 16 | 013 | 2m | East | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 17 | - | - | West | Working shot (excav. med. ditch) |
| 18 | - | - | West | Working shot (excav. med. ditch) |
| 19 | - | - | West | Working shot (excav. med. ditch) |
| 20 | - | - | West | Working shot (excav. med. ditch) |
| 21 | 005 | - | - | Working shot (base of med.ditch) |
| 22 | 005 | - | - | Working shot (base of med.ditch) |
| 23 | - | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (during ex) |
| 24 | - | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (during ex) |
| 25 | - | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (during ex) |
| 26 | - | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (during ex) |

| | | | | |
|----|-----|------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 27 | - | - | North-east | Working shot (draw. med. ditch) |
| 26 | - | - | North-east | Working shot (draw. med. ditch) |
| 27 | - | - | North-west | Working shot (draw. med. ditch) |
| 28 | - | - | North-west | Working shot (draw. med. ditch) |
| 29 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 30 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 31 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 32 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 33 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 34 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |

Film Number : 108

Film Type : Colour Slide

| Frame | Context | Scale | Facing | Description |
|-------|---------|-------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | - | - | - | ID shot |
| 2 | - | 2x1m | West | West section (pre-ex) |
| 3 | - | 2x1m | West | West section (pre-ex) |
| 4 | - | 2x1m | East | East section (pre-ex) |
| 5 | - | 2x1m | East | East section (pre-ex) |
| 6 | - | - | North-east | Working shot |
| 7 | - | - | North-east | Working shot |
| 8 | - | - | North-west | Working shot |
| 9 | - | - | North-west | Working shot |
| 10 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 11 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 12 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 13 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 14 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 15 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 16 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 17 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |

Film Number : 110

Film Type : Monochrome

| Frame | Context | Scale | Facing | Description |
|-------|---------|-------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | - | - | - | ID shot |
| 2 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 3 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 4 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 5 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (pre-ex) |
| 6 | - | - | North-east | Working shot |
| 7 | - | - | North-east | Working shot |
| 8 | - | - | North-west | Working shot |
| 9 | - | - | North-west | Working shot |
| 10 | - | - | North | Working shot |
| 11 | - | - | North | Working shot |
| 12 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 13 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 14 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 15 | 013 | 2x1m | East | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 16 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 17 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 18 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |
| 19 | 005 | 2x1m | West | Medieval ditch profile (post-ex) |