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Osgodby Lane  
Osgodby  
Cayton  
North Yorkshire

Earthwork Survey

MAP 01-11-00  
December 2000

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Cayton  
North Yorkshire**

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Figure List	2
Plate List	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Site Description	3
3. Geology	4
4. Archaeological and Historical Background	4
5. Aims and Objectives	5
6. Methodology	5
6.1 Survey	5
6.2 Report	5
7. Results	5
7.1 Feature 1	5
7.2 Feature 2	6
7.3 Feature 3	6
7.4 Feature 4	7
7.5 Feature 5	7
7.6 Feature 6	7
7.7 House Platform - Features 7-9	8
8. Discussion	9
9. Bibliography	10

## Figure List

	<b>Page</b>
1. Site Location.	11
2. On-Site Archaeology - Earthwork Survey.	12
3. Earthwork Survey Results.	13
4. First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1854 - 1:10560).	14
5. 1950 Ordnance Survey Map (1:10560).	15
6. 1968 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500).	16

## Plate List

1. View of Rigg and Furrow. Features 4 and 5. Facing North-east.	17
2. View of Rigg and Furrow. Features 1 and 3. Facing South-east.	17
3. View of Ploughed Out Rigg and Furrow. Feature 3. Facing South-east.	18
4. Feature 1. Facing East.	18
5. Feature 4. Facing North-west.	19
6. House Platform and Feature 7. Facing East.	19

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**Earthwork Survey**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Earthwork Survey carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on land lying south of Osgodby Lane, Osgodby, Cayton parish, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1 : TA 0575 8450), in December 2000.
- 1.2 The Earthwork Survey was carried out on behalf of, and funded by, Persimmon Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd to record features of potential interest in advance of the development of the site for housing.
- 1.3 A previous Earthwork Survey (Fig. 2 : On-Site Archaeology 1998a) had recorded a number of features, including Ridge and Furrow, a Hollow-way and a House Platform. Subsequent to On-Site's survey the area for development was expanded eastwards. Accordingly, additional earthwork features were recorded which lay outside the original survey area, and at the same time the opportunity was taken to re-survey and clarify the form of a number of the originally surveyed features.
- 1.4 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**

- 2.1 The site comprises an area of c. 8 hectares, given over to permanent pasture, and bounded by hedges and fencing; further hedges divide the land block internally (Pls. 1-3).

2.2 The topography consists of a relatively gentle slope, with the land dropping away to the south-east. The highest land, at the north-west, lies at c. 80m AOD, and this falls to c. 66m AOD at the south-east.

2.3 The site lies immediately south of housing fronting on to Osgodby Lane; with the exception of the Eighteenth century Osgodby House, these houses are post-war in date. More recent housing developments form the western flank of the site. Arable fields lie to the south and east.

### **3. Geology**

3.1 The geology at the site consists of boulder clay with covering soils of the Burlingham 2 Association (Mackney *et al.* 1983).

### **4. Archaeological and Historical Background**

4.1 The history of the medieval village of Osgodby has been extensively researched previously (Rimington 1961), so it is not proposed to go into any great detail in this report. Osgodby has been long recognised as a Shrunken Medieval Village whose houses flanked both sides of what is now Osgodby Lane.

4.2 The crofts and tofts (house-plots) of the former village have been mostly built over, a series of rescue excavations were carried out in advance of this destruction (Farmer 1965 & 1968). The house platform at the extreme north-west corner of the site is the only survivor of these formerly extensive settlement remains. The striking earthworks of the village's Rigg and Furrow field system remain over much of the site's north-western area.

4.3 The previous Earthwork Survey was part of a programme of research which also included two evaluation trenches through the upstanding Rigg and Furrow (On-Site Archaeology 1998b). The sections of the Rigg and Furrow were recorded, but no other archaeological features or finds were present in the excavated areas.

## **5. Aims and Objectives**

- 5.1 To record additional earthwork features within the development area.
- 5.2 To clarify the form and extent of the House Platform and Hollow-way in the originally-surveyed area.
- 5.3 To prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

## **6. Methodology**

### *6.1 Survey*

- 6.1.1 The survey area was examined for features of potential interest and importance; low sunlight aided greatly in the recognition of features.
- 6.1.2 The identified features were surveyed using a Leica TC600 Total Station.
- 6.1.3 The survey was keyed in to existing permanent boundaries.
- 6.1.4 Surveyed heights were related to the Ordnance Survey bench mark at the Poachers Pocket public house, formerly Hall Farm.

### *6.2 Report*

- 6.2.1 The surveyed data was converted into graphic form using Map Maker and Autocad LT software.

## **7. Results**

### *7.1 Feature 1*

- 7.1.1 Feature 1 formed the site's southern boundary, and was a slightly sinuous west-east aligned bank surmounted by a hawthorn hedge (Fig. 3 : Pl. 4). The bank had a maximum height of 1.30m and was over 1.50m in width. (It was not possible to survey the bank's southern side as this lay outside the development area, but the total width would be in excess of 3m).

7.1.2 The sinuous form of this bank is strongly suggestive of Rigg and Furrow, although its steep-sided profile illustrates that an additional process was involved in its formation. As it was present on the 1854 First Edition Ordnance Survey map as a field boundary (Fig. 4), it is likely that Feature 1 represents an enclosure-era hedge that was established on top of either an existing Rigg, or perhaps a pre-existing boundary bank, fossilising the outline of the earlier feature.

## 7.2 *Feature 2*

7.2.1 Feature 2 was a low, broad linear feature running immediately north of Feature 1, and following that feature's alignment (Fig. 3). This low 'bank' was mainly present in O.S. Parcel 7748, but also extended for a short distance eastwards into O.S. Parcel 8748 (Fig. 6). The length was around 110m, the width 10m, and the height 0.80m.

7.2.2 The fact that Feature 2 ran parallel to the large bank (Feature 1) suggests that it was the remains of a single Rigg from the pre-enclosure field system. Alternatively it could have been a Headland at the field's system southern margin.

## 7.3 *Feature 3*

7.3.1 This earthwork was a low north-facing scarp, topped by a hawthorn hedge, at the northern boundary of O.S. Parcel 8748 (Figs. 3 & 6). It ran on a relatively straight west-east alignment for a distance of c. 115m, coinciding exactly with the boundary of this field. The feature was 4m in width and 0.30m in height.

7.3.2 On-site Archaeology's survey (Fig. 2) recorded a Headland running westward from this boundary, continuing the line of Feature 2's northern edge, and so it is likely that the feature is a relic of that Headland.

7.3.3 Reference to the First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows that the hedgeline on top of Feature 3 continued as the northern boundary of O.S. Parcel 7748 to

the west (Fig. 4), but by 1950 (O.S. 1:10560 map : Fig. 5) this had become broken and disused, only to be reinstated some 10m to the south (i.e. on the southern flank of the Headland) by 1968 (O.S. 1:2500 map : Fig. 6).

#### 7.4 *Feature 4*

7.4.1 Feature 4 was a north-south aligned, steep-sided bank, topped by a hawthorn hedge, forming the western boundary of O.S. Parcel 9161 (Figs. 3 & 6 - Pl. 5). It joined Feature 3 at its southern end, and ended at a gate to the north. This bank was c. 165m long, 4m wide and 0.5m high.

7.4.2 Present on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 4), this bank probably represents, at least in part, an enclosure-era boundary whose slightly sinuous form echoes the Rigg and Furrow over which it was established. Alternatively it could possibly have been a bank forming the eastern limit of the field system to the west; as no Rigg and Furrow could be traced east of Feature 4, the latter interpretation remains a distinct probability.

#### 7.5 *Feature 5*

7.5.1 This feature was formed by a series of five low linear banks running parallel to, and west of, Feature 4, and present in O.S. Parcel 7863 (Fig. 3). Of variable widths (c. 5-10m), and around 0.30m-0.40m in height, these features were approximately 120m in length, ending at the previously mentioned Headland to the south and on a line roughly continuing the projected line of Osgodby Lane to the north.

7.5.2 The parallel, linear form of these features clearly indicated that they represented the ploughed-out remains of Rigg and Furrow.

#### 7.6 *Feature 6*

7.6.1 Feature 6 was a sharply defined north-facing scarp, aligned west-east at the north-east limit of the site (Figs. 2 & 3). It ran for approximately 50m, gradually becoming lower in height from c. 1m in the west to merge with the



general ground level to the east. There was a slight southward change in its alignment roughly half-way along its course.

7.6.2 This feature was interpreted by Rimington as an eastward continuation of the Hollow-way of Osgodby's village street. However, it is likely that the eastern part of this feature, from the point where it kinks slightly to the south, represents a modern field access. In support of this interpretation, this part of Feature 6's course is parallel to the modern fence and hedge forming No. 53 Osgodby Lane's southern boundary.

#### 7.7 *House Platform - Features 7, 8 and 9*

7.7.1 The area at the extreme north-west corner of the site had been identified as the most archaeologically important area, representing the earthwork remains of an abandoned House Platform (Figs. 2 & 3 : Pl. 6). Excavations immediately to the east of this location, in Stubb's Field, uncovered walls, surfaces, paths and other features dating from the mid-Thirteenth to the Sixteenth centuries (Farmer 1965 & 1968).

7.7.2 At present, the area of the House Platform forms a small paddock, bisected by an east-west wire fence. The western half of this area will be affected by a cycle path and associated hedge-planting.

7.7.3 The northern edge of the House Platform was formed by a north-facing scarp, *Feature 7*, aligned west-east, roughly parallel with Osgodby Lane (Figs. 2 & 3 : Pl. 6). This scarp crossed the whole of the area available for survey, being slightly more marked at its western end, where it was 1m high, as opposed to 0.70m in the east.

7.7.4 *Feature 8* formed the southern edge of the House Platform forming a gradual south-facing scarp, running roughly parallel to, and c. 28m south of, *Feature 7* (Figs. 2 & 3). The fall of this scarp was approximately 0.50m at the west to 0.20m in the east.

- 7.7.5 *Feature 9* formed an amorphous depression, roughly 6m x 5m in size and 0.50m deep, on the eastern side of the House Platform (Figs. 2 & 3). Clearly representing some form of disturbance, it is possible that this feature was the remains of a previous excavation trench.
- 7.7.6 A large heap of modern building rubble obscured the central part of the House Platform (Fig. 3). The platform formerly continued both eastwards and westwards out of the surveyed area, but these locations have been severely damaged, by a modern house to the east, and a farm access and recent bungalow to the west.

## **8. Discussion**

- 8.1 The present Earthwork Survey successfully recorded a number of features (Features 1-5) not specifically covered by the previous survey. These features were either the mutilated remains of the former Rigg and Furrow field system (Features 1-3 and 5), or were post-enclosure features (Feature 4) that preserved the form of the earlier system. As such they form a useful supplement to the earlier survey, particularly as they are liable to be damaged by the development.
- 8.2 In addition, the Hollow-way (Feature 6) and House Platform (Features 7-9) on the site's northern fringes were resurveyed to provide a hachured plan of these important aspects of the site. The reconsideration of these features was considered important because the Hollow-way will be largely destroyed by the proposed access into the site, and the House Platform will also be affected by the development by the creation of a pedestrian access and cycle path over it.
- 8.3 Given the obvious significance of the House Platform, a separate scheme of archaeological works will be formulated to mitigate the impact of the development for this part of the site.

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