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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

MOORLANDS FARM

KILLINGHALL

HARROGATE

NORTH YORKSHIRE

SE 2770 5740

COUNTY / PARISH NO. 6093

FOR

RUGBY

HARROGATE UNION FOOTBALL CLUB LTD

DECEMBER 2000

Planning application 6.93.426 ful

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INTRODUCTION

In November 2000 J.Goodwin, Cater Jonas instructed Kevin John Cale, Archaeological Consultant to prepare an archaeological assessment on Moorlands Farm, Killinghall.

The report will be submitted to Harrogate Borough Council's Planning Department to accompany an application being submitted by Harrogate Union Football Club Ltd. concerning the proposed relocation of Harrogate Rugby Club from Claro Road, Harrogate to Moorlands Farm, Killinghall.

The contents of this report draw on both desktop studies and a rapid field inspection.

SUMMARY

It has been confirmed that approximately 80% of the proposed site (excluding the optional land to the north east) is devoid of surface archaeology. These fields, namely OS No's 6737, 7553, 0049, 8637 have, in recent years, been heavily improved, resulting in the removal of a number of boundaries, ploughing, reseeding and land drainage works. The surviving boundaries consist of mature hedgelines on slight boundary banks, many with adjacent ditches. Map regression studies have confirmed that these fields had arrived at their present configuration by the mid 19th century. However, records would indicate that the area proposed for enclosure in 1785 with differing field boundaries. Prior to this date, it would appear that the area was not cultivated or managed as field units but formed part of the "waste" of the Forest/Honour of Knaresborough.

The remaining 20% consists of two fields, namely OS No's 6425 and 4840. The former contains the residual remains of ridge and furrow cultivation. However, map regression has confirmed that this field followed a similar development to that detailed above. As such, it is likely that the ridge and furrow is a product of the 19th century.

Field No. 4840 contains a complex of archaeological earthworks. These are dominated by at least three distinct areas of ridge and furrow, dissected / contained by headland banks and a drainage channels. The field also contains the ruins of small, stone built agricultural building. Inspection of the extant fabric confirmed that the lime based mortar included fragments of pan tile, indicating a post 17th century date of construction. Situated to the immediate south east of the building a stone lined well was identified, the structure was partially concealed and water filled. The field is contained by banked hedgelines with adjacent ditches and intermittent mature oak trees. Map regression would indicate that the formation of this field pre dates 1785. It would appear that the field, was originally subdivided into smaller units and was formed as an illegal "encroachment" into the Forest / Honour of Knaresborough. The field is situated on the south eastern edge of an area of ancient enclosure that may well date back to the medieval period. The building is first depicted in 1851; however, this does not preclude the existence of a previous building on or near the site. It was often the case that such encroachments supported accommodation. The presence of a stone lined well appears to be superfluous to agricultural requirements and may support the existence of a former site of occupation.

In view of the above, I confirm that the complex of earthworks identified in Field No. 4840, situated within the western extent of the study area, are not of national or regional importance. Their presence should not prevent the realisation of the proposals. However, the archaeology is of local interest and as such I would recommend that if at all possible the proposals take into account the presence of the archaeology to avoid / lessen any direct impact on same.

OWNERSHIP

The study area is under the ownership of Ian Nelson Esq, Moorlands Farm, Killinghall, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The study area is situated within the Civil Parish of Killinghall, a rural parish within the Harrogate District of North Yorkshire.

Moorlands Farm is located in the central area of the parish at National Grid Reference SE 2790 5715 within an isolated position, some 200 metres to the north north east of the A59 crossroads with B6161.

The farm occupies an elevated east facing aspect, at 110 metres AOD. Situated on the mid to upper slope with clear open views High and Low Harrogate to the east.

The farmstead is situated on the west side of the B6161. The study area comprises, six fields, namely; OS Field No's. 4840, 6425, 6737, 8637, 7553 and 0049. With a combined area of approximately 14.189 hectares. The fields are currently managed as pasture.

The site is accessed off the B6161 Killinghall to Pool road.

A public footpath traverses the western extent of the study area. Running between Saltergate Hill and Lund Lane.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A consultation of those, relevant, maps held by The Local Reference Library, Harrogate, North Yorkshire County Council Records Office and The Public Records Office, Kew was made. From which the following map regression study has been compiled.

Late 17th Century

The earliest cartographic source of the area reputedly dates to the late 17th Century. The map was commissioned by King Charles II (1660-1685) to map the network of existing and proposed thoroughfares within the Forest of Knaresborough at a scale of 2 miles to the inch. The map is schematic and its exact date of this map has not been established.

The map therefore has its limitations in map regression studies.

The study area is depicted within an area of open Forest Waste, that is contained to the south by the Skipton / Knaresborough road, to the east by the Killinghall / Pool road, to the north by the Killinghall / Hampsthwaite road and to the west by a thoroughfare connecting the Skipton road with Hampsthwaite Hollins.

The area contained by these thoroughfares is largely devoid of detail with the exception of a large trapezoid shaped enclosure, situated within the north west corner. It would appear that the eastern boundary of this ancient enclosure might well respect the western boundary of the study area.

Mid 18th Century

In 1767, W.Chippendale was commissioned to sketch "The Boundary of the Forest of Knaresborough, showing the open or unenclosed part there of, also the Villages, Townships and Hamlets within the said boundary". The scale of the map is not specified. Once again, this source is schematic.

The map therefore has its limitations in map regression studies.

The greater majority of the study area is depicted within an area of open Forest Waste, that is dissected by the Skipton / Knaresborough road and a thoroughfare connecting the Skipton road with a bridge over the River Wharfe at Castley.

The ancient enclosure depicted on the previous map source is detailed. It would appear that the western most field within the study area, OS Field No.4840 corresponds with encroachment that extends to the south east of the larger enclosure. The encroachment is annotated, but unfortunately, due to the poor quality of the map copy it was not possible to relate these details to the attached schedule.

Late 18th Century

The Enclosure Award for the Forest of Knaresborough was surveyed in 1785. The map and the attached schedule is the first detailed source to be consulted. The survey depicts the enclosure of what had been formerly Forest Waste as proposed by Commissioners and forwarded for Parliamentary approval.

The study area has been divided into four fields, namely;

The smallest of which, lot 776 corresponds with the eastern extent of the above encroachment (OS Field No.4840). The schedule notes that this encroachment was owned by Walter Hardisty and consisted of 2 acres.

To the north west of same lot 775 occupies the remainder of OS Field No.4840. The schedule notes that this already existing encroachment was owned by James Swale and consisted of 2 acres 2 roods and 2 perches. A dashed line, interpreted as a footpath is shown running within and parallel to the north western boundary of this field. The field appears to have been also accessed from the east off the Otley to Ripon Turnpike Road.

To the north east, lot 778, corresponds with OS Field No's 6737, 7553, 8637 and 0049. This proposed large, L shaped field was identified as allotment and was owned by Thomas and Richard Wilson. The area of the allotment was calculated as 16 acres, 2 roods and 12 perches.

To the south of same lot 777 extends to the Skipton / Knaresborough road and includes OS Field No's 6737 and 6425. This proposed large, pentagonal shaped, allotment was owned by Thomas and Richard Wilson. The area of the allotment was calculated as 38 acres 3 roods and 12 perches. Access into the field is depicted as a track off the Otley to Ripon Turnpike Road. This thoroughfare runs within and adjacent to the north eastern boundary of the field.

Mid 19th Century

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map was drawn at a scale of 6" to the mile and dates to 1853.

The study area consists of ten fields. The configuration of fields suggests that the large units proposed as part of the Enclosure Award have been subdivided.

Of the two former encroachments that correspond with OS Field No.4840 the larger western holding (775) remains unchanged. A footpath runs through the north western extent of the field between Saltergate Hill and Lund Lane. The boundaries of this L shaped field support occasional mature trees.

The smaller of the two former encroachments (776) has been divided into two equally sized fields. The partition boundary is aligned north west. Within the north eastern field a building with a small rectangular planform is situated within the northern corner. The building has a principal north eastern alignment and appears to straddle the boundary with holding 775. The north western and south eastern boundaries of these two small fields support a string of mature trees.

A large irregular pentagonal shaped field is situated within the north western extent of the study area. This area was formerly the western half of the late 18th century allotment (778). The planform and area of this field equates with the present, OS Field No.7553. A string of mature trees runs along the western boundary of the field.

Within the north eastern corner of the study area, a rectangular shaped field forms the north east quadrant of the former allotment (778). The planform and area of this field equate with the present OS Field No.0049.

To the immediate south of same and within the south eastern quadrant of the former allotment (778) an L shaped field has been formed with a principal west north west alignment. Today OS Field No.8637 has largely transplanted this field. A track is depicted running adjacent to the northern boundary of the field, affording access into this field and OS Field No. 7553 off the Otley to Killinghall road.

To the west of same, straddling the common boundary between the two allotments (777, 778), two narrow, rectangular shaped fields are contained within the present boundary of OS Field No.6737.

Within the southern extent of the study area a narrow strip field extends west north west from a small paddock/yard area to the rear of an un-named dwelling on the Otley to Killinghall road. The field was formerly situated within the northern extent of an allotment (777). The planform and area of this field equate with the present OS Field No.6425.

Late 20th Century

The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map dates to 1971. The configuration of fields is largely depicted as that presently surviving today.

During the intervening century, the encroachments within the western extent of the study area have been amalgamated into a single field, OS Field No.4840; two mature trees are depicted within the central area of the field together with a small rectangular building. The size, planform and location of this building correspond with the building depicted on the 1851 map. An open drain is depicted as running along the north west and north east boundary of the field.

Moorland Farm is depicted and named. The surrounding yard /paddock areas have been developed with a complex of small and large agricultural buildings.

The Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Map of 1997 records the study area as present. The footpath re-appears within the north western extent of OS Field No.4840. Running between Saltergate Hill and Lund Lane.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No previously recorded archaeological investigation has been made of the study area.

A recent archaeological desk top study by Northern Archaeological Associates (1996) on behalf of Yorkshire Pipeline Services identified a cropmark approximately 1km to the west of the study area. A rectilinear enclosure was identified on aerial photographic sources at NGR SE 265 573. The cropmark has been attributed to modern agricultural processes. The same programme of research identified the township boundary dividing Killinghall and Hampsthwaite between Burley Bank Farm and Dike Bottom Farm at NGR SE 266 567. Subsequent archaeological observations (NAA, 1997) during the excavation works along this pipe corridor failed to identify the township boundary.

The settlement pattern with the township of Killinghall has been recently the subject of a programme of historical research. Dr.Richard Muir (pers.com) has established that the earliest settlement within the area appears to have been a string of farmsteads, overlooking the flood plain of the River Nidd, to the west of the existing settlement, within the vicinity of Crag Hill, NGR SE 277 591.

The place name evidence derived from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map would suggest the presence of a Warren, a short distance to the east of the study area at NGR SE 281 574. There is every likelihood that the rabbit warren is medieval in origin.

SITE INSPECTION

During November 2000, Mr.K.J.Cale made a rapid site inspection of the study area. During which each of the six fields were accessed and details concerning the land use, boundaries and the nature and form of any archaeological remains were noted. These details were placed on standardised recording sheets. See Appendix A.

The site inspection was made during the late autumn / winter when ground conditions were most conducive for identifying archaeology. The prevailing light conditions were, however, only moderate.

It was confirmed that approximately 80% of the study area is devoid of surface archaeology. The majority of the fields, namely OS No's 6737, 7553, 0049, and 8637 have, in recent years, been heavily improved, resulting in the removal of a number of boundaries, ploughing, reseeding and land drainage works. The surviving boundaries consist of mature hedgelines on slight boundary banks, many with adjacent ditches. The north west boundary of the study area is of some archaeological interest. The line of which is defined by a bank and adjacent ditch, sections of the ditch are culverted and there are intermittent sections of stone revetment along the bank. The bank supports occasional mature oak and ash trees, a number of which have been coppiced.

The remaining 20% consists of two fields, namely OS No's 6425 and 4840. The former contains the residual remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, the date of which has been attributed to the 19th century.

Field 4840 contains a complex of archaeological earthworks, associated with the former agricultural management within the field. These remains include three distinct areas of ridge and furrow, dissected / contained by headland banks and drainage channels. The field also contains the ruins of small, stone built agricultural building. Inspection of the extant fabric confirmed that the lime based mortar included fragments of pan tile. Situated to the immediate south east of the building a stone lined well was identified, the structure was partially concealed and water filled. The field is contained by banked hedgelines with adjacent ditches and intermittent mature oak trees.

The earthwork evidence is consistent with medieval or post medieval cultivation; its presence within this field is consistent with the formation of this field as an encroachment into the Forest Waste. It is evident that the holding had been formed by the mid 18th century, although an earlier date cannot be ruled. The small building within the central area of the field is in itself of little significance; its fabric supports the cartographic evidence for a 19th century date of construction.

FIGURE 1

SITE PLAN

