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**The Village Hall  
Sherburn  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

SE 959 771

**MAP 05-04-01  
July 2001**

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**1. Introduction**

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on April 17th, 2001 during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the Village Hall, Sherburn (Fig. 1).

Sherburn is situated in Ryedale, ten miles east of Malton, and lies within the Vale of Pickering. The building is owned by the Village Council.

All work has been carried out by M & N Construction and the project funded by the Lottery Fund.

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**2. Geology**

The underlying geology on the site is deep well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils of the Newport 1 soil Association over Glaciofluvial drift.

**3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

Sherburn lies within the parish of it's same name. The sandy soils associated with the glaciofluvial sands on which the site is situated, attracted settlement in the prehistoric period, shown by an almost continuous 'ribbon' of trackways and enclosures following the 30m contour. This 'ladder settlement' stretches from Sherburn, westwards to Heselton and beyond (Powlesland, 1987). Excavation took place in 1985-6 on an area of this prehistoric settlement c.1km west of Sherburn under the auspices of the Heselton Parish Project.

The continuing importance of the area in the Roman period is illustrated by chance finds (and latterly metal-detecting). In addition, the A64 reputedly follows the line of a Roman Road, and another Roman route crosses Sherburn village on a south-west to north-east alignment.

In the medieval period, the ancient core of Sherburn village would appear to be around the parish church, which is situated c.650m north of the A64/Roman road. It is believed that Sherburn developed southwards to the A64, presumably reflecting the economic pull of the main road.

Brewster excavated a major series of medieval stone buildings and yards to the west of the Village Hall c.40m of the present site (Fig. 2). Although the buildings were of Thirteenth-Fourteenth century date, Bronze age, Iron age, Romano-British and Anglian material were also present.

The First edition Ordnance Survey map (1850) shows no buildings present where the current Village Hall stands. However, by 1912 the building appears on the Second edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3).

#### **4. Methods**

The trench was hand excavated. The length of the trench was excavated to 1.8m, the width did not exceed 0.5m and at a depth of 0.8m archaeology was encountered.

#### **5. Results (Fig. 4 & Pl. 1)**

Excavation of the trench located a wall foundation (1002) at a depth of 0.8m below ground level. This wall foundation was laying in a mixed deposit of charcoal and soil (1003) which has been interpreted as floor material. The wall looked to be running east to west, however, due to the small size of the trench this interpretation maybe incorrect.

No finds were located within the fill nor from the excavation trench. However, from past work in Sherburn this feature would fit well into the medieval period.

The extension of the trench stopped due to the encounter of archaeological deposits. At this point the archaeology was fully recorded and it was agreed by both the archaeologist present and builders to use a raft instead of intrusive foundation trenches.

## **6. Conclusions**

This small wall foundation fits well into the overall picture of medieval Sherburn. Although there is no direct evidence it is probable that this wall foundation is linked with the 13th-14th century building complex which TCM Brewster excavated between 1957/8 and 1968/9 as this site lies only 40m to the west.

## 7. Bibliography

- C. Hayfield    Sherburn Medieval Manor Site, Excavations by TCM Brewster, 1986
- A. Collier     Sherburn; A 20th Century History
- T. Bulmer     History, Topography and Directory of East Yorkshire, 1892