

P1012
Archib 13/15

NYE 813 Geo
843 TT
1243 DBA

1012
Rec'd 8/1/3 (with
plan apps)

NYS 7638

Gatherley Road
Brompton-on-Swale
North Yorkshire
Phase II

NZ 2290 0050
Planning Application
Archaeological Assessment

NYCC HER	
SNY	7638
ENY	813/843/1243
CNY	2723/2724
Parish	1012
Rec'd	08/01/2003

cf 1/12/328/FULL NYC 2723
+
1/12/328A/OUT NYC 2724

RICHMONDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT UNIT
Rec'd 06 DEC 2002

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd
October 2002

**Gatherley Road
Brompton-on-Swale
North Yorkshire
Phase II
NZ 2290 0050**

Planning Application

Archaeological Assessment

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**Gatherley Road
Brompton-on-Swale
North Yorkshire
Phase II
NZ 2290 0050**

Planning Application

Archaeological Assessment

Non Technical Summary

This report has been undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Persimmon Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd to evaluate the nature of deposits, which may be affected by the development of land adjacent to the current Persimmon development at Augustus Gardens, Gatherley Road, Brompton-on-Swale

The potential for the preservation of archaeological, palaeo-environmental and geoarchaeological remains is considered below as set out by the Secretary of States criteria for the Scheduling of Sites in Annex 4 of Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment. An indication of importance is also given. The categories used are explained in Appendix 1.

The site stands to the north of Catterick where previous archaeological excavation has confirmed the presence of the Roman Fort of Cataractonium and civilian settlement as well as Prehistoric and Anglian occupation.

Medieval activity appeared unlikely due to the site's location away from the nearest settlement at Brompton-on-Swale. The Post-medieval landscape is preserved in the series of extant hedgerows and surrounding farm buildings.

A 40% sample detailed gradiometer survey identified anomalies caused by ridge and furrow ploughing and more recent agricultural activity. A number of features of possible archaeological nature were noted. The quiet nature of the survey results dictated that the 40% sample was sufficient and representative of the character of archaeological deposits/features on the site.

The Trial Trenching illustrated the absence of archaeological activity other than plough furrows and land drains and that the proposed development site has not been the focus for activity other than that of an agricultural nature for a considerable period of time

The very small lithic assemblage recovered from Trenches 3 and 7 is not at all unexpected considering the known Prehistoric activity to the east of the site

Given the quiet nature of the archaeology suggested by the Geophysical Survey, the absence of archaeological features, other than the land drains and plough furrows and the poor artefact assemblage recovered during the Trial Trenching the requirement for any further archaeological work on the proposed Gatherley Road Phase II development site seems inappropriate

**Gatherley Road
Brompton-on-Swale
North Yorkshire
Phase II
NZ 2290 0050**

Planning Application

Archaeological Assessment

1 Introduction

- 1 1 This report has been undertaken, by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on behalf of Persimmon Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd, to evaluate the nature of deposits which may be effected by the development of land adjacent to the current Persimmon development at Augustus Gardens, Gatherley Road, Brompton-on-Swale (NZ 2290 0050 Figs 1 & 2) The report contains the results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey and Trial Trenching
- 1 2 The area of the proposed residential development consists of approximately 17 hectares situated to the north-east of the village of Brompton-on-Swale
- 1 3 The proposed residential development area is currently a series of agricultural fields under pasture delineated by mature hedgerows and trees The southern boundary to the site is a stretch of disused railway line (the former Richmond Branch) Hedgerows form the north and western boundaries and an arbitrary boundary is to the east (Fig 2)
- 1 4 The northern half of the site stands on soils of the Brickfield 2 Association (713f) slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy soils over drift deposits from Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shale (SSEW 1983) Whereas the southern half is on soils of the Wick 1 Soil Association, deep well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils over glaciofluvial or river terrace drift (Fig 3) The present site levels are a minimum of 66.38m AOD in the south rising to 71.39m AOD in the north There is a marked slope from east to west in the northern area of the site in Area D (minimum 67.44m - 75m AOD) In Area E the land gradually slopes west to east down to the beck

- 1 5 For ease of description the site has been divided into five areas (Areas A to E Fig 4 Pls 1-4 & 9-10) The archaeological assessment also covers Phase 2b which although not part of this application is included in Area C Figures 1-11 show a straight diagonal line to the eastern boundary of Area E which is not identical to the local plan allocation, this has been employed for ease of survey
- 1 6 All maps within this report have been produced from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright License No AL 50453A
- 1 7 This report has been funded by Persimmon Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd

Desk-Based Assessment

2 Aims and Purpose of the Desk-Based Assessment

- 2 1 The site is situated on agricultural land Sites of historical and archaeological significance occur to the south at Catierick and are known to extend to Brompton-on-Swale The adopted Richmondshire local plan Archaeological Policy 40 has been used in conjunction with the advice issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment, contained in Planning Policy Guideline 16 (PPG 16) 'Archaeology and Planning', require that an evaluation and appropriate mitigation strategy will normally be required before an application is taken to Planning Committee
- 2 2 By assessing the known historical and archaeological records for the site and its immediate vicinity it is possible to produce a document that assesses the likelihood for any further archaeological evaluation and mitigation strategy

3 Methodology

- 3 1 The aims of the Assessment were to be achieved by firstly the evaluation of historical information derived from cartographic and pictorial documents, trade directories, registers and the RCHM surveys and books Secondly by

consideration of previous Archaeological Excavations, Evaluations and Watching Briefs Both primary and secondary sources were consulted

4 **Historical Background**

4 1 The proposed development area lies within the parish of Brompton-on-Swale but away from the centre of the village This separation means that historical sources are few whereas the archaeological record does provide considerable information on the site's environs

4 2 Brompton-on-Swale is mentioned in Domesday where it is recorded under the name of 'Brunton', 'tun' meaning farm or village in Old English and 'brun' after the plant known as broom (Cameron 1961)

4 3 In 1086 Brunton belonged to Count Alan of Brittany, son in law of King William I and head of the Bretons in England It consisted of 10 carucates of land and possessed a mill

Ten carucates taxable, ten ploughs possible Thorr had one manor there Now Erisant has two ploughs and fourteen villagers and two small holders with five ploughs, one mill which is worth 4 shillings and 4 pence and meadow of eight acres The whole one league long and one league wide Value before 1066 was forty shillings and now thirty-two shillings

4 4 The earliest cartographic evidence for the site and its environs is recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1857 (Fig 5) There is neither Tithe nor Enclosure Award for Brompton-on-Swale All consulted estate maps, which covered the vicinity of the site provided no information on land divisions nor landscape features (NYRO)

4 5 In the mid-Nineteenth century (First Edition Ordnance Survey Map – 1857 Fig 5) the land block proposed for development consisted of nine separate fields, all delimited by hedgerows A hedgerow thus forming two individual areas bisects Area C in the north The boundary is also seen to continue to the south into Area A where it forms an unusual triangular enclosure There is also a thin strip of land immediately to the east of the eastern boundary of Area A (now part of Area D) Area E is a rectangular plot of land divided into three

units, two approximately of the same size and shape with a thin strip to the north (Fig 5)

- 4 6 Areas A and B are bordered to the south by the York, Newcastle and Berwick Railway Richmond Branch. This railway was opened in 1846 and its effect on the landscape is clearly apparent. The track cuts cleanly through a number of preexisting land divisions as illustrated in Areas A and B.
- 4 7 The 1928 and 1956 Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 6 & 7) illustrate the static nature of the land divisions in Areas A-D. The only changes between 1857 and 1930 are the change of land use in Area E to 'Nurseries' and the dividing of the land block into four. Land in the extreme north of Area C has also been given over to a Nursery. There is also the reduction in the length of the strip of land to the east of Area A. This field now terminates in a pond, and a small building is depicted in the south. Both of these features appear to belong to the recently constructed Deepdale, a single storey building built to the north of the railway line and to the south-west of Rosy Hill. Part of the proposed development site as well as land to the north of the proposed development area is shown as nurseries. A huge area of land to the south-east has been given over to an airfield (Halfpenny 1982).
- 4 8 Scorton airfield situated to the west of the village after which it was named opened in 1939 and was brought in to full use during the Battle of Britain. During 1941 the airfield was enlarged to full station status. Scorton remained a satellite airfield until the end of the European War after this it was closed to flying. Thereafter the site was given back to agriculture and later quarried as illustrated by the later Ordnance survey map extracts (Figs 8 & 9).
- 4 9 By 1975 the land boundaries around Deepdale have markedly changed (Fig 8). There are no longer any structures to the west of Deepdale and the northern boundary of this land block has been moved approximately 20m to the north. The railway line is now shown as dismantled. This particular stretch of track went out of use in the late 1960's. In the north the hedgerow which bisected Area C has been removed. Area E is a single unit.

- 4 10 The 1987 Ordnance Survey map at 1:2500 scale shows the current land divisions (Fig 9)

5 Archaeological Background

- 5 1 The proposed site stands within a landscape which possesses evidence for utilisation and settlement from the prehistoric period onwards. This information is derived from aerial photographic reconnaissance, spot finds and excavation.

5 2 Aerial Photography

- 5 2 1 Aerial photography for the site and its environs records a number of archaeological features (Fig 10)

- 5 2 2 There are four rectangular features recorded within Area C (Fig 10 1 & 2 Ref ANY 4/6) and similar features to the north (Fig 10 3). They may represent enclosures or equally they could be associated with Nurseries or outlying buildings connected to the airfield to the south.

- 5 2 3 To the east of Areas C and D (Fig 10 4 Ref ANY 4/14) two parallel features, one orientated south-west north-east and the second north-south, may represent lynchets. Further evidence of agricultural practices is seen in the patchwork effect of ridge and furrow to the north, west and south of the site (Fig 10 5).

- 5 2 4 To the east of the site crop marks of a cursus aligned south-east to north-west appear to extend for a distance of 1500m (Fig 10 6 AP4/6). A cursus is an extremely long rectangular earthwork defined by a pair of banks and ditches, the bank lying within the ditch. This type of monument is often associated with either long or round barrows, which were placed at one or both ends of the site. The implication is therefore that the cursus was associated with some ritual in connection with the dead and may in fact mark ceremonial ways along which the dead were carried to their final place of interment (Megaw & Simpson 1979).

5 2 5 To the north-east, south and south-east of this prehistoric landscape are concentrations of crop marks relating to ring ditches (Fig 10 7-10 Ref AP4/5, 4/9, 4/10 & 4/11 respectively) The density of features to the east of the cursus clearly illustrates the complexity and longevity of settlement Features range at least from the Neolithic, into the Roman period and quite possibly later than this

5 3 Archaeological Spot Finds and Excavations

5 3 1 To compliment the aerial photographic record Prehistoric activity is represented by a number of spot finds and recent excavations

5 3 2 Howe Hill (SE 2342 9975 SMR 13508 Fig 11) by place name is indicative of the location for a burial mound, although this has not been confirmed by excavation

5 3 3 A Bronze Age rapier (Group IV) was located at SE 2257 9936 (SMR 13511 00001) during constmction work adjacent to the River Swale, this find probably represents a votive offering (NAA 1993)

5 3 4 Work on land to the south of Grange Farm (NZ 238 009 FAS 1997) and Hollow Banks Quarry, Scorton (Wessex 1998 & NAA 2000) has produced further evidence for the prehistoric period

5 3 5 At Hollow Banks (SE 2290 9960) the earliest activity on this site appears to date from the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic followed by features of late Neolithic/early bronze age and with continuing activity in to the iron Romano-British period The discovery of a ring ditch, a bronze age urned cremation and double pit alignment may be associated with the Scorton Cursus, which is 1 3 kilometres to the north-east

5 3 6 Scorton Cursus (NZ 2405 0040 – SE 2490 0995 SMR 13547 Figs 10 & 11) Measuring 1500m in length on a south-west north-east alignment small scale excavation has recorded two double ditches 32m apart, the ditches were 1m deep and 2m - 3m in width, one of which showed evidence of being recut

(Thubron 1975 & 1976) The monument no longer survives in its entirety, sections have been disturbed during the construction of Scorton airfield and later removed through aggregate extraction

- 5 3 7 FAS (1997) excavated a 9m length of the eastern cursus ditch (NZ 2374 0080) and recorded at least two episodes of recutting. Gravel extraction and reinstatement have removed the central avenue and all of the western flanking ditch. A watching brief on another section of the ditch (NZ 243 002) recorded similar results
- 5 3 8 Excavations at Pallet Hill Quarry (SE 2350 9840) produced evidence for Iron Age settlement including a palisaded enclosure with internal settlement (SMR 13521)
- 5 3 9 Dere Street Roman road is located less than 500m to the west of the site
- 5 3 10 Archaeological work to the south of the application site has predominantly dealt with the excavation of Roman Catterick. However, inadvertently this work has also produced evidence for the pre-Roman and post Roman settlement of the area. The constant demand on aggregate resources and the need for new development around Catterick has led to useful new archaeological evidence in the last ten years. Figure 11 illustrates the Scheduled Area, which protects the Roman settlement of Cataractonium (SAM NY 169). Cataractonium to the north of the River Swale dates to the Antonine period when it possessed a defensive bank and ditch (SMR 13511). To the south stood the Flavian fort surrounded by a vicus, which was enclosed by a defensive wall in the late Third century. The settlement continued until the end of the Fourth century after a major remodeling in the Fourth century (SMR 13510). The application site is well to the north of these features
- 5 3 11 This area has also produced evidence for Anglian settlement, both in the form of houses (gimbenhouse SMR 13511 13000 – SE 2247 9939 SMR 13511 1201 – SE 2245 9942, SMR 13511 1202 – SE 2245 9940) and cemeteries at

Cattenck Bndge (SMR 13511 34000 – SE 2268 9942) and at Hollow Banks Quany (SE 2270 9960)

6 Walk Over Survey

6 1 The area of land under consideration has been divided into four distinct zones (Areas A - E Fig 4)

6 2 Area A

6 2 1 Area A is a flat expanse of pasture with examples of mature planting (ash and sycamore) along its eastern boundary with Area D (Pl 1) The western boundary of Area A is marked by a hawthorn hedgerow with elder, holly and ivy as well as mature ash This boundary also possesses a low earthen bank (Pls 5 & 6) which follows exactly the line of the hedgerow for much of its length

6 3 Area B

6 3 1 Situated immediately to the west of Area A there was the slight trace of an infilled ditch (Pl 7) which corresponds with the earthen bank in Area A It is possible that together these features represent a much earlier field boundary The ditch was seen to continue along the eastern boundary of Area B before returning to the west and miming along the boundary with Area C In this area there was standing water in the ditch and concentrations of cobbles in the top of a slight bank

6 3 2 Area B is a mixture of pasture and an area which has been developed as a children's play ground for the Augustus Gardens development (Pl 2)

6 4 Area C

6 4 1 A levee was recorded miming along the side of the stream, which forms the western boundary to this area, an area of standing water was also noted in the south-western corner of Area C (Pl 3) A marked slope nsing from the west to the east was also observed

6 5 Area D

6 5 1 A gradual slope was observed from the south to the north along with possible earthworks (Pl 4). However, these were shallow and the depth of vegetation at the time of the survey made an exact interpretation problematic. Along the northern boundary with Area C the vestiges of a bank with a large amount of cobbles was recorded (Pl 8).

6 6 Area E

6 6 1 This area of pasture (Pls 9 & 10), bounded to the south by mature trees and a hawthorn hedge to the north, was at the time of survey bisected by a post and wire fence. The land slopes down to the beck in the east where a levee exists.

6 6 2 Vestiges of ridge and furrow were observed on an east to west alignment in the eastern half of the area.

6 6 3 An east west aligned earthwork representing a trackway was noted. This feature ran for the full length of the area before ending at the beck. No fording point was observed, nor any continuation of the feature to the east in Area C. It would appear that the trackway was in use when this area of the site was used as a nursery (D Atkinson pers. com).

7 Assessment of the Importance of the Archaeological Remains

7 1 The potential for the preservation of archaeological, palaeo-environmental and geoarchaeological remains is considered below as set out by the Secretary of State's criteria for the Scheduling of Sites in Annex 4 of Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment. An indication of importance is also given. The categories used are explained in Appendix 1.

7 2 Period

7 2 1 The date of any remains is unknown at this time. Settlement of prehistoric and later periods may be present, as indicated by cropmark evidence and archaeological excavations in the sites environs.

7 3 Rarity

7 3 1 Remains of all periods are known and recorded in the area of the site

7 4 Group Value

7 4 1 Previous records from finds in the locality of the site could add to the information building an overall picture of past activity in the region through a variety of periods

7 5 Documentation

7 5 1 Archaeological artefacts, crop marks and features are noted on the County Sites and Monuments Records. There are documentary sources for World War II activity in the area.

7 6 Survival/Condition

7 6 1 The survival or condition of any remains is unknown at this time

7 7 Fragility/Vulnerability

7 7 1 Any features within the proposed residential development area have the potential to be destroyed

7 8 Diversity

7 8 1 Diversity of any remains is unknown at this time

7 9 Potential

7 9 1 The scale, extent and importance of any archaeological features are currently unknown. It is likely that archaeological features or artefacts will be found

8 Archaeological Potential of the Site Conclusions

8 1 The site lies within an area of archaeological activity, dating from the Prehistoric to the Modern period, known from chance archaeological finds, fieldwork, aerial survey and documentary evidence

- 8 2 No artefacts are known from the site itself but aerial photography suggests the presence of ?enclosures or buildings associated with Scorton airfield in the northern part of the site
- 8 3 The map regression showed that from the mid-Eighteenth century to the present day that the Proposed Development Area had been fields with the exception of a small area which was used as a nursery

Geophysical Survey

9 Summary of Survey Results

- 9 1 A sample detailed gradiometer survey of the proposed development site, covering approximately 5.8 hectares (total area c 14.4 hectares) identified anomalies caused by ridge and furrow ploughing and more recent agricultural activity (Figs 12 & 13). A number of features of possible archaeological nature were noted (WYAS 2002)
- 9 2 The localised variations in the composition of the topsoil/subsoil were thought to explain the marked contrast in the strength of the ridge and furrow anomalies and why no anomalies correlated with the position of the cropmarks present on the site

Trial Trenching

10 Aims and Objectives

- 10 1 The significance of the archaeological activity to the east and south of the proposed development lay in its date, which covers the period from the Mesolithic through to the Second World War
- 10 2 The aim of the archaeological evaluation by Trial Trenching was to gather sufficient information as to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, quality and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an

assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeology of the site to be made

- 10.3 The Evaluation took the form of 17 trenches (Trenches 1-17 Fig 14), as follows

Trench 1 20m x 2m To evaluate the absence of two east west geophysical anomalies

Trench 2 20m x 2m To evaluate an area outside of the Geophysical Survey grid and adjacent to the stream

Trench 3 10m x 10m (max) To evaluate an area of magnetic enhancement

Trench 4 10m x 10m (max) To evaluate an area where a cropmark is shown to exist on the SMR

Trench 5 10m x 2m To evaluate an area outside of the area of the Geophysical Survey and immediately to the south of a cropmark feature

Trench 6 10m x 2m To evaluate an area outside of the area of Geophysical Survey and immediately to the south of a cropmark feature

Trench 7 20m x 2m To evaluate an area which was not part of the Geophysical Survey of the site

Trench 8 15m x 10m To evaluate the intersection of three geophysical anomalies

Trench 9 10m x 10m To evaluate the position of a cropmark feature not located by the Geophysical Survey

Trench 10 20m x 2m To evaluate an area outside of the Geophysical Survey

Trench 11 20m x 2m To evaluate an area outside of the Geophysical Survey

Trench 12 20m x 2m To evaluate an area outside of the Geophysical Survey

Trench 13 20m x 2m To evaluate an area where ridge and furrow anomalies may mask earlier features

Trench 14 10m x 10m (max) To evaluate an area of magnetic enhancement

Trench 15 10m x 2m To evaluate the intersection of two geophysical anomalies aligned at a different angle to the ridge and furrow anomalies

Trench 16 20m x 2m To evaluate an area where ridge and furrow anomalies may mask earlier features

Trench 17 4m x 2m To evaluate an earthwork of a former trackway

11 Method Statement

11.1 Trench Location

11.1.1 The evaluation trenches were set out as agreed by MAP and the Heritage Unit, NYCC (Fig 14)

11.2 Machining

11.2.1 Machining took place under direct archaeological supervision, using a 360 degree excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket for Trenches 3 - 16 and a JCB with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket for Trenches 1, 2, 7 & 17. Topsoil and any subsoil were kept in separate locations

11.3 Excavation & Recording

11.3.1 Topsoil and any other overburden were removed by machine to the primary definition level

11.3.2 Standard excavation and recording methodologies and systems were used. All archaeological deposits were recorded according to principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* sheets which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system

11 3 3 Planning and surveying were based on a site grid tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid Temporary Ordnance Survey datum(s) were established on the periphery of the site for present and future works

11 3 4 Sections were drawn at 1 10 or 1 20 as appropriate Plans were drawn at scales appropriate to the level of record required (1 20, 1 100 and by EDM)

11 3 5 All features were planned, whether excavated or not

11 3 6 The surface of the machined area was sufficiently cleaned to ensure that any archaeological features or deposits present were visible Excavation of individual features was by hand

11 3 7 Linear features and spreads of material were sampled at a level appropriate to their size, contents and stratigraphic importance

11 3 8 A photographic record comprising colour and digital images was made Record sheets/register noting film no , shot no , location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject was compiled

11 4 Finds and Environmental Work

11 4 1 Finds from all features and deposits were collected by context

11 4 2 All finds were properly processed according to the 'IFA Guidelines for Finds Work'

11 4 3 All finds, where appropriate were marked with site code and context

11 4 4 No programme of environmental sampling was undertaken as suitable contexts were not found within the trenches excavated

12 Results

12 1 A total of 17 evaluation trenches were excavated (Fig 14) which are discussed below by their area designation (Figs 4 & 15)

12 2 Area A

12 2 1 At the time of the Trial Trenching Area A was a pasture field. A total of 3 trenches were excavated in this area of the site (Fig 14 Trenches 10, 13 & 16 Pls 11 - 14). All three trenches measured 20m x 2m. Trench 10 was located in an area outside of the Geophysical Survey, whereas Trenches 13 and 16 were sited to evaluate an area where ridge and furrow anomalies may have masked earlier features.

12 2 2 Excavation in Trench 10 revealed a topsoil varying in depth between 0.22m and 0.40m which sealed a yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with gravel and water worn pebbles (Fig 16). The only archaeological feature present was a land drain in the south-eastern corner of the trench running on a north-east south-west alignment (Pl 11). The absence of ridge and furrow, located by the Geophysical Survey to the south and north may be explained by Trench 10's location close to the hedgerow.

12 2 3 Three linear features were revealed in Trench 13 (Pl 12) beneath a topsoil which varied between 0.38m and 0.54m in depth (Fig 16). Their alignment and size suggested that they represented plough furrows. Excavation of the features confirmed this interpretation and showed them to be extremely shallow, only 0.10m in depth (Pl 13 & Fig 16). No earlier features were observed in the trench. The subsoil in this trench was a yellowish brown sandy clay with large water worn cobbles.

12 2 4 In Trench 16 excavation removed a layer of topsoil measuring between 0.30m and 0.38m in depth (Fig 16). Below this horizon was a deposit of yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil with gravel and water worn cobbles (Pl 14). No archaeological features were discernible.

12 2 5 No finds were recovered from any of the trenches in Area A.

12 3 Area B

12 3 1 Only the southern half of Area B was available for evaluation and at the time of excavation was overgrown with grass and weeds. Two trenches were excavated (Pls 15 & 16). Trench 14 measuring 10m x 10m was placed to

evaluate an area of magnetic enhancement Trench 15 measuring 10m x 2m was sited to evaluate the intersection of two geophysical anomalies

12 3 2 Excavation in Trench 14 revealed a topsoil deposit of brown clayey sand varying in depth from 0 20m to 0 30m which sealed a deposit up to 0 30m in depth of brown silty sandy clay representing possible hillwash (Fig 16) Below this deposit in the north-eastern corner of the trench was a deposit of brown 'peaty' friable sand which may either represent the relics of a stream bed or an episode of flooding This area of the proposed development site has been known to flood on a fairly regular basis in the past The subsoil was recorded as a yellowish brown sandy clay containing gravel and large water worn cobbles The changes in the geology in this trench probably account for the geophysical anomaly

12 3 3 Excavation in Trench 15 revealed no archaeological features (Pls 15 & 16) Beneath a deposit of topsoil, on average 0 25m deep was a deposit of brown silty sandy clay (Fig 16) interpreted as hillwash in Trench 14 The base of the trench consisted of yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional water worn cobbles and an area in the north of the trench where a greater concentration of much larger cobbles, were observed It is suggested that it is this density of cobbles which was detected by the Geophysical Survey and which represent a geological feature as opposed to having an archaeological origin

12 3 4 No finds were recovered from any of the trenches in Area B

12 4 Area C

12 4 1 Area C is the largest single land block within the proposed development area and consequently possessed the highest number of Trial Trenches A total of six trenches (Trenches 3-6, 8 & 9) were excavated of differing sizes (Fig 14 Pls 17 - 26) Trench 3 measured 10m x 10m and was located to evaluate an area of magnetic enhancement Trench 4, also 10m x 10m, was sited to evaluate an area where a cropmark is shown to exist on the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Register Trenches 5 and 6 both measuring 10m x 2 7m were placed to evaluate an area outside of the area of the Geophysical Survey

and immediately to the south of a cropmark feature Trench 8 measuring 15m x 10m was located to evaluate the intersection of three geophysical anomalies Whereas Trench 9 which measured 11m x 9m was placed to evaluate the position of a cropmark feature not located by the Geophysical Survey

12 4 2 Excavation in Trench 3 revealed a topsoil of brown sandy loam which measured 0 30m to 0 35m in depth (Fig 17) Below this deposit was a subsoil which varied between a yellow sandy clay to a paler silty clay sand Cut into these deposits were three land drains (Pls 17 & 18), two of which were aligned north to south with the third on a different alignment, east to west The most westerly of the north south drains was of a cobble construction Areas of darker material in the northern corner of the trench were investigated This exercise suggested that they represented deposits of alluvial clay material, due to their high mineral content Hand cleaning of the trench recovered one piece of flint, a flake and a chert blade fragment (Appendix 2)

12 4 3 Situated to the north of Trench 3, excavation in Trench 4 located two land drains below a topsoil deposit of 0 30m to 0 35m in depth (Pls 19 & 20 & Fig 17) Both land drains were aligned east to west and the most southerly (Pl 36) may have been associated with a robbed out hedgerow/land boundary There was no evidence for the square enclosure shown on the North Yorkshire Site and Monuments Register

12 4 4 Trenches 5 and 6 revealed identical archaeology (Pls 21 & 22 & Fig 17) Sealed beneath a 0 20m to 0 30m deep deposit of topsoil was a linear feature cut into the yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil Aligned east to west this feature represents a modern land drain There were no other features in these two trenches to suggest activity associated with the crop mark feature to the north

12 4 5 Trench 8 was excavated to assess the intersection of two geophysical anomalies Excavation revealed directly below a 0 25m to 0 35m depth of

topsoil (Fig 17) the yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil. Cut into this deposit were two north south aligned land drains (Pls 23 & 24). The most westerly of which appeared as a series of ceramic fragments. The east west feature seen on the Geophysical Survey was not present but it is possible that the survey picked up the ghost of a shallow furrow in the topsoil, which was no longer visible at the machined level.

12.4.6 Trench 9 was positioned to locate a square enclosure recorded as a cropmark on the North Yorkshire County Council's Sites and Monuments Register. Excavation could find no trace of this feature. Beneath a topsoil deposit of c 0.30m in depth (Fig 17), the only feature observed was a north south aligned cobble filled drain (Pls 25 & 26). Changes in the subsoil were noted and investigated but none of which could be classed as archaeological in nature.

12.4.7 The only finds recovered in Area C of any note were the two lithics from Trench 3. Clearly of a Prehistoric date no associated features were observed.

12.5 Area D

12.5.1 Two trenches were excavated in Area D (Trenches 11 & 12 Pls 17 & 18 & Fig 18). Both trenches measured 20m by 2.4m and were located to assess the geophysically quiet areas of the Geophysical Survey.

12.5.2 Excavation revealed below a topsoil of between 0.20m and 0.30m (Fig 18) the yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil. The apparent lack of north south aligned linear features shown on the Geophysical Survey suggests that these features may now only survive as 'ghost' features in the topsoil. No land drains were observed and the almost total lack of finds, two sherds of Twentieth century factory manufactured pottery were recovered, compliments the quiet nature of the Geophysical Survey in this part of the site.

12.6 Area E

12.6.1 Originally only three trenches were planned for this area of the site (Trenches 1, 2 and 7 Pls 29 - 34) a fourth additional trench (Trench 17 Pl 35) was excavated over the line of an earthwork believed to be an old trackway (D

Atkinson pers com) Trenches 1, 2 and 7 all measured 20m x 2.5m, whereas Trench 17 was only 6.7m by 1.5m. Topsoil in all of these trenches varied between 0.20m and 0.35m in depth.

12.6.2 Trench 1 was sited to explain why a positive anomaly shown on the Geophysical survey disappeared. Excavation revealed that beneath a c. 0.26m deep deposit of topsoil four narrow furrows were visible (Pls 29 & 30). The narrowness of these features (Fig 15) in contrast to those seen on Area B may suggest that they relate to the Nursery which once existed in this area of the site. Finds from this trench consisted of Twentieth century factory manufactured earthenware, sherds of modern glass and occasional brick fragments.

12.6.3 Trench 2 located in the far east of the land block, close to the stream, revealed no archaeological features (Pls 31 & 32). To the west it is possible to see the faint earthworks associated with ridge and furrow. The location of these features, Trench 2 and the beck suggests that Trench 2 may have been either situated where a former headland had once stood or is in an area which was not ploughed due to the proximity of the beck. This area is prone to flooding (D Atkinson pers com). Finds from this trench consisted of a iron nail, a clay pipe stem, Twentieth century factory manufactured earthenware and occasional brick fragments.

12.6.4 Excavation in Trench 7 located no features cut into the yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil (Pls 33 & 34 & Fig 18). However, a single chert scraper was recovered during the cleaning of the trench.

12.6.5 The section cut through the trackway in Trench 17 (Fig 18) revealed below the topsoil a concentration of gravel c. 0.005m to 0.04m in diameter making up the main component of the metalling with also a smaller percentage (10%) of worn cobbles 0.10m to 0.14m in diameter (Pl 35). In addition excavation also revealed a high concentration of broken ceramic tiles used in the composition of the track. To either side of the track's surface were two linear features interpreted as wheel mounds. Finds from these features consisted entirely

of late Nineteenth century glass. Similar material was found at the base of the track suggesting a late Nineteenth century date for its construction or repair.

- 12.6.6 Other than the lithic from Trench 7 no finds of note were recovered from Area E.

13 Discussion and Conclusions

- 13.1 It was clear from the evaluatory trenches which illustrated the absence of archaeological activity other than plough furrows and land drains that the proposed development site has not been the focus for activity other than that of an agricultural nature for a considerable period of time.
- 13.2 The very small lithic assemblage recovered from Trenches 3 and 7 is significant and is not at all unexpected considering the known Prehistoric activity to the east of the site. In addition the topography of Areas C and E with the high land to the east and west, and the location of the stream dividing the two areas would have provided early man with both a good location for settlement and a reliable water source. The failure to locate any archaeological features/deposits of this date is easily explained by the transient nature of early Prehistoric man's settlement patterns.
- 13.3 The lack of medieval material may be explained by the actual location of the proposed development area in relation to medieval settlement. The absence of such a settlement close by would tend to suggest that this land block was a good distance away from either Gatherley or Brompton-on-Swale's open fields. The tendency for the beck to flood may also have been a contributory factor. In addition there is the possibility that the ridge and furrow in Area E may be of a later date, not medieval but post medieval or even early modern.
- 13.4 Given the quiet nature of the archaeology suggested by the Geophysical Survey, the absence of archaeological features, other than the land drains and plough furrows and the poor artefact assemblage recovered during the Trial

Trenching the requirement for any further archaeological work on the proposed Gatherley Road Phase II development site seems inappropriate

- 13.5 No planning conditions are required due the scope and results of the archaeological assessment of the site

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