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Meadow Croft
 Castlegate
 Kirkbymoorside
 North Yorkshire

Archaeological Recording Brief

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 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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MAP 01-12-01
 February 2002

**Meadow Croft
Castlegate
Kirkbymoorside
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Recording Brief

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**Meadow Croft
Castlegate
Kirkbymoorside,
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Recording Brief

1. Introduction

1 1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological recording brief carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at a development plot immediately north of Meadow Croft, Castlegate, Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire (Fig 1 - SE 6952 8700), in December 2001

1 2 The evaluation was carried out on behalf of, and funded by, Mr D Lumley to follow the Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Recording prepared by the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC 2001) This Written Scheme formed an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission for the site's development as a private house (Planning Application Number 99/01029/FUL) + 01/00874/FUL

1 3 The Written Scheme of Investigation laid out the archaeological requirements needed to mitigate the effects of the development upon potential archaeological deposits at the site This was in accordance with Policy C13 of the Ryedale Local Plan and the policy of the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG 16)

1 4 A single area 12m by 8m in size was examined, comprising the footprint of the proposed building

1 4 The MAP site code for the project was 01-12-01

1 5 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 325 square metres, consisting of the former gardens, and site of the former garage and greenhouses belonging to Meadow Croft, a bungalow situated immediately to the south The topography consists of a gradual slope downwards to the south, at an approximate elevation of 90m A O D

2 2 The site lies at the extreme north-eastern tip of Castlegate, a thoroughfare leading northwards from Kirkbymoorside's Market Place to the site of Neville

Castle Castlegate runs parallel to Manor Vale, a steep-sided dry valley, c 100m to the west. The site is surrounded by pasture fields on its northern and eastern sides, and bounded to the west by Castlegate, and to the south by Meadow Croft.

- 2.3 The proposed development consists of a detached bungalow with integral garage, c 11m x 8m in size, aligned parallel to Castlegate.

3. Geology and Soils

- 3.1 The geology at the site is recorded as Upper Calcareous Grit of the Middle Oolite (OS 1960). The covering soils are of the Rivington 1 Association, defined as well-drained coarse loamy soils over sandstone (Mackney *et al* 1983).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Kirkbymoorside is illustrated by the discovery of quantities of Neolithic implements in the area, notably an axe at the eastern end of Park Lane c 300m east of the site. A Bronze Age arrowhead was found behind Ryedale Crescent, and a bronze looped and socketed axe was found north of the church (these locations are respectively 400m south-west and c 400m south-east of the site).
- 4.2 The nearest known Roman activity to the site concerns Romano-British sherds from an area close to the church. Further afield, at Hagg Nook Quarry, 1.5km to the north-west of the site, quantities of late Third/early Fourth century sherds were found.
- 4.3 The pre-conquest period is represented by a coin of Aethelred I (789-76) from the area close to the church where the above-mentioned Roman sherds were found (Rushton 1982). Fragments of Anglo-Danish carved stone situated in the church, including a distinctive wheel-shaped cross head (Richards 1991), point to important pre-conquest occupation at the town.
- 4.4 Kirkbymoorside was first mentioned in the Domesday book (1086) where it was recorded as *Churchebi*. The name means 'farm by the church' (Smith, 1979). The second element of the name was added by 1469, when the town was recorded as *Kirkebi Moresyd* (*ibid*), i.e. 'head of the moor'.
- 4.5 Pre-conquest, Orm, son of Gamal, held five carucates worth £12 per annum, but by the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) these had been taken over by Hugh, son of Baldric, but were worth only £5. There was also a priest and a mill worth 4/- per annum (VCH 1968). By the Thirteenth century, the De Stutevilles held the manor as part of the Mowbray baronetcy, although in the same century it passed to the crown.

- 4 6 The medieval settlement at Kirkbymoorside was centred on the broad north-south market place, although there is a tradition that the original settlement was situated at the foot of Castle Hills (Parker 1982), which lies c 400m to the east. The town was granted a weekly market and yearly fair by Henry III in 1254.
- 4 7 Castle Hills was the site of the castle of the De Stutevilles, being described as a moated and embanked enclosure, 80m by 65m in size, with ditches 4m deep. Trial trenches dug by Raymond Hayes revealed Twelfth-Thirteenth century pottery and stone footings (*ibid* 24).
- 4 8 Kirkbymoorside passed to the Neville family at the end of the Fourteenth century. The Nevilles concentrated their holding away from Castle Hill at the top of Castlegate, where substantial buildings already existed, and this seems to have stimulated development along Castlegate.
- 4 9 At the top of Castlegate the Nevilles built a castle in the later medieval style with corner towers linked by walls, with a Great Hall, kitchens, leaved gallery, Dining Chamber, and three lodges of stone with brew houses, ox-houses, dovecote and stables covering 2.5 acres (1 ha), the accompanying park was bounded by a wall 2.5 miles in length (Rushton, quoting a survey of 1570). This form of site differs from earlier castles, where the emphasis was on defence, and concentrated on comfortable, grand living, albeit with a defensible perimeter. Indeed the 1570 survey describes the site as a Hunting Lodge rather than a castle.
- 4 10 This important site whose national significance is recognised by scheduling (National Monument No 30135), has attracted three campaigns of excavation during the construction of properties immediately to the west of Meadow Croft by B. H. Davison (1962), Ann Domier (1963 and 1965) and R. A. H. Williams (1974).
- 4 11 The 1962 excavations took the form of five trenches along the western boundary of Manor Garth where walls standing to window-sill height were revealed (YAJ 1963, 8).
- 4 12 Domier's excavations concentrated on the north-eastern area of Manor Garth prior to the construction of Castle Lodge, c 20m west of the Meadow Croft site. Five successive building periods were recognised. The first phase concerned a cruck-built hall with stone foundations and a kitchen to the east. The kitchen was demolished, and a new kitchen, or more likely, solar wing was built above it. The eastern end of this wing was later walled off. The last two phases concerned a substantial stone-built structure of Fifteenth-Sixteenth century date (Domier IV and V) which relate to the Neville's Hunting Lodge (Domier 1967). The walls of Domier IV and V will figure again, in the discussion of the 2001 excavations.

- 4 13 The 1974 excavations concentrated on the north-west corner of Manor Garth. Nine main periods of building were recognised (Williams 1977), the remains extending into Horse Park, the scheduled area to the north.
- 4 14 The 1974 excavations also revealed an early constructional phase represented by soil-bonded limestone foundations replaced by others in patchily mortared sandstone and limestone. These were interpreted as path-bases or some form of surfacing. A large shallow contemporary pit was dated to the Fourteenth century.
- 4 15 A substantial limestone foundation cut through the earlier structures, and this was interpreted as an extension to the Hunting Lodge. These three structures were overlain by a 0.20m deep layer of soil.
- 4 16 Substantial masonry walls cut through the above-mentioned layer of soil and represented the south wall of the hall and the east end of the kitchen. A fine-cobbled pathway led up to an entrance into the hall. These walls were clearly seen by Williams as post-dating the lodge, perhaps representing a manorial or farm complex. However, Domier identified similar features as being earlier than the substantial masonry of the lodge.
- 4 17 It seems most likely that the Hunting Lodge was a rebuild of an earlier stone-built manor house, but more work is required before the full story of Neville Castle is understood, both by further excavation in Horse Park, and by integrating the results of the 1960s and 1970s campaigns of excavation.
- 4 18 Political events dictated the later history of Neville Castle, when in 1569 Christopher Neville raised 114 local men to take part in a revolt against Queen Elizabeth. He was attainted (convicted of treason) and his property became forfeit to the crown. One source (Rushton 1982) has it that this directly resulted in the Old Hall and kitchen being taken down under the orders of the crown and the materials used to repair other houses. The archaeological evidence backed this up as late Sixteenth century pottery was located in demolition levels associated with the kitchen. The lodge was then leased to a farmer, and again the presence of post-lodge structures in the archaeological record illustrates this.
- 4 19 Sir John Gibson bought the site of the Hunting Lodge in 1602 from George, Duke of York. High Hall, lower down Castlegate, was built in 1616 to become the new centre for the manor. The history of Neville Castle thereafter becomes obscure, but there is no reason to doubt that lower status occupation continued at the site as the 1974 excavations recovered 17th Century Glazed Ware of the late Seventeenth/Eighteenth century from the demolition levels of the kitchen, implying that occupation could have continued well into the 1700s. It is said that stone from Neville Castle was taken in the Eighteenth century to build the new toll booth in the market place.
- 4 20 More evidence of the Hunting Lodge is provided by features showing on aerial photographs of Horse Park, indeed Ordnance Survey maps show the outline of

a large rectangular feature - presumably a building - in this area. Additionally, even a cursory look in to the field immediately to the north-east and east of Meadow Croft will reveal a large number of earthworks, including probable building platforms, and an artificial water-course of more recent date

- 4 21 The 1790 'Plan of the Township of Kirbymoorside' shows the area of Neville Castle in some detail. Meadow Croft occupies the north-west corner of plot 254, with a row of buildings depicted along the Castlegate frontage of Manor Garth (plot 256). The picture is similar on the 1799 township map
- 4 22 By the time of the 1827 'Plan of the Estates in the Township of Kirbymoorside' the layout of Manor Garth (plot 81) has changed with the buildings fronting Castlegate having disappeared, to be replaced by a building along the plot's southern boundary. A footpath crosses Manor Garth on a north-west to south-east alignment. The field now occupied by Meadow Croft (plot 87) has been combined with the field to the north. A building is now shown on Horse Park (plot 82) immediately to the north. The situation is similar on the 1849 'Plan of the Township of Kirbymoorside'
- 4 23 After the Second World War residential development took place up Castlegate beyond Park House culminating in the construction of Squirrel's Lea and Castle Lodge in the former Manor Garth, and Meadow Croft at the extremity of Castlegate
- 4 24 From the above information it can be seen that the development of the plot immediately north of Meadow Croft had a high potential of effecting multi-period archaeological deposits

5. Aims and Objectives

- 5 1 The aims of the archaeological recording work within the proposed development area were to
- 5 1 1 locate, sample, record and interpret any archaeological deposits exposed during the development,
- 5 1 2 locate, recover, identify and conserve (where appropriate) any archaeological artefacts exposed by the development,
- 5 1 3 to prepare a report summarising the results of the work,
- 5 1 4 to prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum.

6. Methodology

6 1 *Excavation*

- 6 1 1 The excavated area was c 12m x 8m in size with the longest axis aligned north-south. This area formed the footprint of the proposed bungalow

- 6 1 2 The excavation area was stripped of topsoil by a rear-acting excavator using a toothless blade, under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the top of archaeological deposits, or the occurrence of natural, as appropriate.
- 6 1 3 The excavated area was cleaned by fine trowelling to define the features present.
- 6 1 4 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 6 1 5 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis.
- 6 2 *On-site Recording*
- 6 2 1 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.
- 6 3 *Plans and Sections*
- 6 3 1 The full extent of archaeological deposits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film, and included AOD heights linked to the Ordnance Survey bench-mark at the junction of Castlegate and Beast Market.
- 6 4 *Photographic Record*
- 6 4 1 The photographic record comprised monochrome and colour prints, and colour transparencies, in 35mm format, to record all archaeological features encountered.
- 6 5 *Finds*
- 6 5 1 The finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated, marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines.
7. **Results**
- 7 1 Five phases of archaeological activity were revealed by the trowel-cleaning of the area. The uppermost deposits lay immediately below the modern garden soil, which had implications for their survival within the development. An on-site meeting between the Heritage Unit (NYCC), the client, MAP and English Heritage led to an agreement that the development would proceed without any further disturbance to the archaeological remains. A full written, drawn and photographic record was made prior to the construction of a rafted foundation over the archaeology.
- 7 2 Natural deposits were present along the southern margin of the excavation, and consisted of reddish yellow silty clay (context 015). A patch of material (context 014), but with a similar matrix, with the addition of angular sandstone fragments, in the central area of the site may also have been natural.

- 7 3 *Phase 1* was represented by an east-west linear feature (context 012) and a stone surface (context 013) both of which were partly obscured by deposit 008
- 7 3 1 Context 012 consisted of a linear band of sub-angular sandstones narrowing from 1 65m m width at the east to 1 15m at the west The stones were between 0 10m and 0 35m in length, and closely packed together There were indications at the north-east limit of the context that the stones were more regularly arranged, with two probable facing stones present
- 7 3 2 The surface consisted of an expanse of flat sandstones, up to 0 6m x 0 8m m size on the southern side of context 012 These were best defined at the north-east margin of the context, elsewhere the surface was more fragmented
- 7 3 3 The linear band of sub-angular stones can be confidently interpreted as the remains of a collapsed or partly demolished wall Such features are commonly found on medieval sites, where collapse or demolition of a wall leaves a linear mound of stones obscuring its intact parts The strategy adopted at Wharram Percy (amongst others) was to initially remove all stones of less than 0 15m in size, and subsequently all others to reveal *in situ* walling (Andrews and Milne eds 1979, 3) There was not the opportunity to do this at Meadow Croft, but the fact that facing stones were recognised shows that intact walling survived below the general spread of stones
- 7 3 4 Surfacing was only recognised on the south side of wall 012, suggesting that the wall either formed the northern boundary of a yard or the northern wall of a structure The nature of the surfacing - large flat slabs rather than smaller cobbles - suggests that it represented an interior surfacing of a building, but there were no further clues to this suggested structure
- 7 4 *Phase 2* consisted of the accumulation or deposition of a layer of dark greyish brown silty clay over wall 012, surface 013 and the area to the north This deposit contained a single sherd of Köln/Freschen stoneware, suggesting a Seventeenth century date (Appendix 2)
- 7 5 In *Phase 3* an extensive layer of brownish yellow clay (context 010) was dumped north of wall 012, lapping over its northern edge and extending northwards out of the excavated area, achieving its maximum depth (0 25m) at that point A single sherd of mid/late Eighteenth century Pearl Ware was recovered from this deposit (Appendix 2)
- 7 6 *Phase 4* was represented by a north-south aligned wall (context 009) at the eastern edge of the excavated area. Two east-west linear features (contexts 005 and 003), along with a possible posthole (context 007), are included in this phase, although not actually stratigraphically linked to Wall 009 it seems likely that they are roughly contemporary.
- 7 6 1 Wall 009 was at least 4 2m in length, being obscured by topsoil to the north and on its eastern face, and truncated at its southern end, possibly by a modern

garden terrace. The wall was composed of roughly squared, unbonded sub-angular sandstones, the average size of which was 0.15m x 0.12m x 0.10m, roughly faced to the west and having a maximum height of two courses.

7.6.2 Contexts 003 and 005 crossed the southern part of the excavated area on east-west alignments parallel to wall 012. Context 003 was situated c. 1.8m south of the wall, and context 005 1.7m further to the south. These linear features were between 0.40m and 0.60m wide and filled with similar stoney silty clay deposits (contexts 002 and 004 respectively). These features would appear to represent relatively modern field drains.

7.6.3 Context 006 was a sub-oval deposit of sub-angular sandstones within the central part of Dram 005. Without excavation it is unclear whether this represented a separate posthole (context 007) or simply a machine-disturbed area of the drain fill.

7.7 *Phase 5* comprised even deposit of dark greyish brown topsoil (context 001), which represented the cultivation of the area as the former garden of Meadow Croft.

8. Discussion

8.1 The recording brief was successful in identifying archaeological deposits relating to Neville Castle, particularly the latter part of its history and the use of the area in the post-demolition phase. Given the site's position between the scene of the 1960s and 1970s excavation, and the impressive earthworks in the field to the north of Meadow Croft, such remains should come as no surprise.

8.2 The most significant deposits consisted of the east-west wall (context 012) and the accompanying surface (context 013). Wall 012 continues the line of Domier's' Wall IV, which related to the Hunting Lodge. There is not sufficient evidence to say that Wall 012 was part of the same structure as Domier IV (which would make such a structure in excess of 30m in length), but it is clear that the two walls were laid out respecting each other, and were therefore presumably contemporary. The surface of large flat slabs appeared to be internal but there were no further indications concerning the form or function of the structure implied. The presence of Seventeenth century pottery within the soil layer post-dating the disuse or destruction of Wall 012 accords with the known history of the site, which saw Neville Castle drastically remodelled after Christopher Neville's attainment in 1569.

8.3 The subsequent clay layer (context 010) may have been dumped to provide a foundation for Wall 009. The relatively insubstantial structure represented illustrates the slide of the site down the social scale, and the apparent continuation of that phase of the site's occupation into the Eighteenth century.

8 4 In conclusion, the Recording Brief at Meadow Croft has extended the range of archaeological deposits relating to Neville Castle and its successor, both in terms of date and physical location, and indicates that further deposits survive in the immediate locality

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APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Context No.	Description
001	Deposit, 10 YR 3/2 clay loam, modern topsoil
002	Fill of 003, 10 YR 6/4 silty clay, ?field drain fill
003	Cut, ?field drain
004	Fill of 005, 10 YR 6/4 silty clay, ?field drain fill
005	Cut, ?field drain
006	Fill of 007, 10 YR 6/4 clay silt, ?posthole fill
007	Cut, ?posthole
008	Deposit, 10 YR 4/2 silty clay, old topsoil
009	Structure, wall, unbonded, roughly squared sandstone, max 2 courses in ht
010	Deposit, 10 YR 6/6 - 6/8 clay, dump
011	Deposit, 10 YR 4/2 silty clay, old topsoil
012	Structure, wall, unbonded sub-angular sandstone mbble
013	Deposit, 10 YR 4/2 (matrix), flat sandstone/limestone slabs, surface
014	Deposit, 7 5 YR 6/8 sandy silt with sub-angular sandstone mbble, ?natural
015	Deposit, 7 5 YR 6/8 silty clay, natural deposits

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

Context No.	Category	Description	Wt. (kg)
008	Pottery	Body sherd Köln/Freschen stoneware	0 005
010	Pottery	Base sherd with footring, Pearl Ware	0 010

APPENDIX 3

Archive Summary

4 plan drawings contained on separate sheets of drawing film, checked for contents

15 context sheets, completed and checked for consistency

8 colour print, 8 colour transparency and 8 monochrome photographic exposures

APPENDIX 4

Photographic Listing

Film 1

Colour Slide

No.	Date	Context No.	Scale	Facmg	Comments/identifier
1	20 12		2 x 2m	NW	Trench after cleaning
2	20 12		2 x 2m	NW	Trench after cleaning
3	20 12		2 x 2m	NE	Trench after cleaning
4	20 12		2 x 2m	NE	Trench after cleaning
5	20 12	012	2 x 2m	W	Wall
6	20 12	012	2 x 2m	W	Wall
7	20 12	009	1 x 2m, 1 x 0 4m	S	Wall
8	20 12	009	1 x 2m, 1 x 0 4m	S	Wall

Film 2

Monochrome Prmt

(As Film 1)

Film 3

Colour Print

(As Film 1)