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SNY	8039
ENY	1461/1462
CNY	
Parish	3151
Rec'd	28/07/2003

LAND ADJACENT TO THE HARE & HOUNDS,
STAXTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION.
OSA REPORT No: OSA98EX02.

JUNE 2003.

OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY

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Report Summary.

REPORT NUMBER: OSA98EX02.

SITE NAME: Land adjacent to the hare & Hounds, Staxton.

COUNTY: North Yorkshire.

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: TA 0152 7906.

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PLANNING APPLICATION No: 97/00676/FUL.

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TIMING: Watching Brief
April 1998
Excavation
May - July 1998
Post excavation & report preparation
April - May 2003.

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1.0 Summary.

This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation and watching brief, carried out on behalf of Fulford Builders (Northern) Limited, on the site of a residential development in the village of Staxton, near Scarborough.

The work undertaken revealed the remains of a number of structures, two of which were within the area of open excavation, the others being observed during the watching brief. Three of these took the form of rubble spreads with areas of paving, and were the remains of buildings. The fourth was a small sub-circular stone built structure. In addition to these buildings, a large assemblage of Staxton ware pottery was recovered, the majority from within layers of ash and burnt soil or peat. A number of pits were discovered in the vicinity of the buildings, again containing Staxton ware but also significant quantities of iron slag. Ditches, running both east – west and north – south, were also evident.

It would seem, therefore, that the development was located on the site of a small medieval 'industrial complex', separated from the main road by a large ditch which was frequently cleaned out or re-cut, and with smaller ditches marking property divisions.

2.0 Introduction.

2.1 *Site Location.*

The site lies to the north of the A64 Malton to Scarborough road, and immediately to the west side of the Hare and Hounds public house, Staxton, in the parish of Willerby, North Yorkshire (NGR TA 0152 7906).

2.2 *Geology, Topography and Land Use.*

The site is located between the foothills of the Yorkshire Wolds and the Vale of Pickering, at an elevation of approximately 41m AOD and on a gentle slope facing north towards the Vale. There are no distinct or noteworthy topographical features in the immediate vicinity of the site.

The underlying geology of the area comprises Lower Cretaceous Speeton Clay, which is overlain by periglacial aeolian sands.

The site, prior to this investigation, had been open land owned by The Hare and Hounds public house. A number of both mature and immature trees were growing on the site immediately before the excavation began.

3.0 Archaeological Background.

3.1 *Archaeological evidence.*

The village of Staxton has been the subject of a number of previous archaeological excavations, of which several have focused on land adjacent to The Hare and Hounds Public House. Before this particular site is examined in detail, however, the village must be placed in its broader archaeological and historical context. The following, therefore, is a précis of the known archaeological evidence from the region.

3.1.1 *Late Upper Palaeolithic (c. 10 000 - 7600 BC).*

The Vale of Pickering holds some potential for the archaeology of this period, as indicated by discoveries made at Flixton Carr and Seamer Carr. Both these sites have produced Creswellian flint artefacts, and Spratt (1993) suggests that this area might have been part of the 'exploration zone' for Upper Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers.

3.1.2 *Mesolithic (c. 7600 - 3500 BC).*

The Vale of Pickering appears to have been widely exploited during the Mesolithic, (for example the landscapes around Seamer Carr (NGR TA 040 830), Flixton (NGR TA 040 813 and TA 034 810) and Star Carr (NGR TA 027 810) are renowned for discoveries of this period). It would appear that Mesolithic sites in the Vale of Pickering tend to focus on the 24m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) sub-surface contour (P. Lane, *pers. comm.*), which lies to the north. A few minor surface sites have been discovered on or near the Tabular Hills, but the majority of sites in East Yorkshire are focused on the sandstone moorlands (Spratt, 1993).

3.1.3 *Neolithic (c. 3500 - 1700 BC).*

A number of Neolithic sites are present in the vicinity, but the majority seem to be located to the south, on the Yorkshire Wolds. One of the nearest Neolithic sites is Sammy Rider's Pit, at Flixton, where a row of pits or post holes were discovered with Grimston and Grooved ware pottery sherds in the fills (Brewster, unpublished)

3.1.4 *Bronze Age (c. 1700 - 600 BC).*

During the Bronze Age both the general area and the immediate vicinity of the site were extensively used. The transitional zone between the Yorkshire Wolds to the south and the low lying Carrlands to the north would have provided a suitable base from which to exploit the resources of the two areas.

Excavations carried out in 1957 on land adjoining the Shell filling station at Spital Corner revealed a Beaker funerary complex comprising eleven crouched, contracted or flexed inhumations, two of which were associated with Beakers. Some of the inhumations had been placed within well-defined grave cuts whilst others had been placed directly on top of the subsoil with stones packed on top of the body. The majority of the burials were orientated

east-west, however one was found to be orientated north-south and another northeast-southwest. All the burials have been dated as prehistoric, and given the lack of evidence for a barrow have been interpreted as being part of an Early Bronze Age flat cemetery (Stead, 1960). The nearest example of a similar flat cemetery is thought to be at Middleton-on-the-Wolds, to the south of Driffield, which also contained a number of beaker burials.

An archaeological watching brief undertaken in 1993 during the renovation of the Shell filling station at Staxton (MAP, 1994) revealed a crouched inhumation within a sub-oval grave cut, the upper fill of which contained large flint boulders.

3.1.5 *Iron Age & Romano-British (c. 600 BC - AD 410).*

Evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British activity has been recovered from the immediate vicinity of the site. The remains of an Iron Age settlement comprising a palisade trench and a series of pits containing pottery, bones, bone needles and saddle querns and rubbers were found during sand extraction at Grainger's Pit to the southwest of the site.

Slightly further afield, a recent excavation at Potter Brompton, to the west of Staxton, revealed an Iron Age square barrow cemetery (M. Johnson, *pers. comm.*).

Excavations carried out at Newham's Pit revealed a double-ditched Romano-British enclosure. Although the majority of the area enclosed by the middle ditch had been destroyed through sand removal, three hut stances and two rubbish disposal pits were found in the remaining area. Two separate phases of occupation have been proposed dating AD 80-90 and AD 100-120 and the site has been interpreted as a probable camp or fortlet under military control (Brewster 1957). Iron Age and Romano-British pottery was also found during the excavation of the Beaker funerary complex (see section 3.4 above).

Stead's excavation of the Bronze Age cemetery also revealed three parallel ditches immediately to the south of the funerary complex. These contained no dating evidence, but the confinement of medieval pottery sherds to the topsoil above the ditches suggests they are pre-medieval, and they have been interpreted by Stead (1960) as possible field boundaries associated with a nearby Romano-British settlement at Newham's Pit to the east. Recent work on the site immediately to the west of Stead's excavation revealed the continuation of these three ditches, and produced a sherd of 2nd century from one of the fills (Hopkinson & Tyler, 1999).

3.1.6 *Anglo-Saxon to Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1540).*

The village of Staxton has a pre-Conquest foundation date, the name being first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. The name means 'Stakk's farmstead', and demonstrates an Anglo-Scandinavian influence (Smith, 1937).

An Anglian cemetery was discovered at Grainger's pit, immediately to the south of the filling station, during sand-quarrying operations. Thirty-eight burials were excavated by Brewster between 1936 and 1937, of which twenty-one had associated grave goods. The records and

many of the finds from this excavation, however, were lost during World War II. Subsequent excavations revealed a further eighteen burials, but little material has been published. Artefacts recovered include iron spear heads, a key, chatelaines, fibulae and a small bucket made of yew (Sheppard, 1938). More recently an evaluation carried out on land adjacent to this site has revealed a further Anglian burial (Hopkinson & Tyler, 1999).

Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds were found associated with two chalk floors located within the outer enclosure ditch of the Romano-British enclosure (section 3.5). The floors probably represent the remains of a 6th century settlement, perhaps contemporary with the nearby Anglian cemetery.

In 1950 part of the grounds of the Hospitium of St Mary, to the north of the A64 at Spital Corner, were excavated. The Hospitium was founded in 1180 and dissolved before 1535. The excavations revealed the main hospice building south of Spital House Farm, a large univallate enclosure to the west, and a graveyard to the east of the hospice (Brewster 1951).

A rectangular medieval building situated within a ditched enclosure was located to the north of the Romano-British enclosure in Newham's Pit (Brewster 1952).

3.2 *Staxton Ware.*

In the 1940s two sites in the Vale of Pickering were excavated by Brewster, at Staxton and Flixton. Both these sites produced quantities of coarse, sand-tempered medieval pottery, which Brewster suggested were produced locally. The scarp of the northern foot of the Wolds, Brewster argued, contained sand deposits for tempering while the local Speeton clays were suitable for potting, and peat deposits from the carrs would have provided fuel for the firing.

In 1953 Brewster excavated two sites at Staxton, at 'Stephenson's Works' and 'Boythorpe'. Both these sites produced assemblages of similar coarseware pottery, as did his 1957 excavation at 'Dean's House'. All three of these sites centred on the Hare and Hounds Inn, and in 1963 he returned to excavate at the rear of the public house from where he recovered a substantial assemblage of pottery, and also excavated traces of a wall which was tentatively interpreted as the remains of a potter's workshop. In 1967 Brewster returned again, this time to undertake an excavation at 'Young George Dobson's House', where another waster pit was identified (Hayfield, 1992).

In 1957 Brewster carried out two experiments to try and ascertain the provenance of the materials used in the Staxton ware pottery he had excavated. One of these was laboratory based, and involved the disaggregation of an unfired sherd of Staxton ware from Potter Brompton. The sand and clay fractions obtained from this process were analysed and compared with samples of sand from Staxton and Potter Brompton and with Speeton clay from Knapton. Zumpe (in Hayfield, 1992) states that;

'the results of the laboratory tests strongly suggest that the raw materials used in the manufacture of Staxton ware pottery were obtained locally. The pottery clay

appears to be practically identical with the Speeton clay from Knapton, except that an appreciable percentage of calcite is present in the former. This has probably been added to the potter's clay intentionally, since it is unlikely to be a natural feature of the Speeton clay on account of its inferred depositional environment. The sand again has very close similarities to local Pleistocene sands occurring at Staxton and Potter Brompton.'

(Zumpe, in Hayfield, 1992).

The second experiment Brewster undertook was the firing of several samples of Speeton clay, tempered with various proportions of the local sand. These firings were carried out in an electric kiln at various temperatures, and, based on the subsequent colour of the material, indicated a temperature of around 850°C having been the average achieved by the Staxton ware kilns (Brewster, 1958).

The thick, heavily tempered coarseware pottery produced in these kilns is of a type common across East Yorkshire and areas of North Lincolnshire from around the eleventh century through to the fourteenth (Hayfield, 1985). Such fabrics would have been produced at a number of manufacturing centres, Hayfield and Slater (1984) suggest the possibility of one such centre being located at Hedon, while Hayfield (1992) states that there were at least two production sites in North Lincolnshire.

4.0 Strategy.

4.1 *Research Design.*

A previous planning application (3/151/90/OA) submitted for development of this site was subject to the condition that an archaeological evaluation should be carried out. This work was undertaken by the MAP Consultancy in September 1995, and followed a desk based assessment carried out by Colin Briden (Briden, 1995). The report submitted to the County Heritage Unit by MAP concluded with the recommendation that an open area excavation could be merited in the north-western area of the site.

Following this recommendation, when a later application was submitted (97/00676/FUL) an area of 200 square metres was selected for open area excavation, while interventions in the remaining area were observed as a watching brief. The excavation was located in the north-western corner of the site as this area seemed to hold the greatest potential, and also to avoid re-excavation of a number of earlier trenches dug by Brewster and MAP Consultancy.

It was proposed that, following the removal of the topsoil within the 200 square metres designated for open-area excavation, the underlying material was to be thoroughly cleaned in order that any surviving archaeological deposits could be identified, recorded and assessed. Any features evident were to be sample excavated. Excavation was to proceed until the proposed level of the developers 'reduced level dig' were reached. In other areas of the development, groundworks were to be monitored by means of a watching brief, with the contractors allowing reasonable time for the rapid cleaning and recording of any archaeological features evident. This scheme was agreed by the developer, the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), and On-Site Archaeology.

Provision was made in the project design for post-excavation funding to provide for Level III analysis and reports as outlined in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* document (1991). Copies of this report are to be deposited at the appropriate archives (the Yorkshire Museum).

4.2 *Methodology.*

The watching brief was undertaken following the NYCC standard watching brief guidelines. The ground reduction was completed by a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, and any archaeological features exposed during this process were recorded on plan. Unfortunately the majority of features were only visible as rubble spreads, and stones were frequently dragged by the excavator making accurate planning very difficult.

The open area excavation was begun by machine removal of the overburden (again by a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) down to the first recognisable archaeological horizon. The exposed surface was then cleaned by hand in order to detect any archaeological features revealed through textural or colour changes in the deposits. Once this had been completed, sections were hand excavated through those features identified.

Excavation of the exposed deposits was continued to the depth of the proposed ground level reduction, i.e. the archaeology threatened by this process was recorded. Because the excavation revealed an earlier phase of deposits, the subsequent foundation trenching was the subject of a continuation of the watching brief. Due to the fact that excavation ceased at the level to which the development necessitated ground level reduction, it was not possible to determine the stratigraphic relationship between a number of the features and deposits revealed.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the excavation. This involved the completion of a *pro forma* context sheet for each structure, deposit or cut encountered, along with plans and/or sections drawn to scale. A photographic record comprising black and white and colour transparencies was also kept.

Features observed during the watching brief prior to archaeological excavation were assigned context numbers between [100] and [199].

Features observed during the watching brief carried out during and after excavation were assigned context numbers between [200] and [299].

Features observed during the open area excavation were assigned context numbers from [1000] onwards.

5.0 Results.

5.1 Soils.

The natural was comprised of small sub-angular chalk fragments in a matrix of brownish yellow sand, with evidence for iron panning visible in parts. This was higher at the southern end of the development site, and sloped downwards to the northern end.

5.2 Watching Brief.

5.2.1 Trial pit 1.

This trial pit comprised a roughly rectangular area measuring 3m x 1m. Natural, consisting of a sand and chalk fragment mix was observed at 1.40m BGL. This was sealed by a 0.70m thick deposit of small and medium sized chalk fragments which was itself sealed by a loose brown loamy topsoil.

The band of chalk fragments may represent the collapse or demolition of a structure and is similar in appearance to the feature that was found further to the east in the evaluation trench excavated in 1995 by the MAP Consultancy.

5.2.2 Trial pit 2.

This trial pit comprised a roughly rectangular area measuring 4m x 1m. Natural, again consisting of a sand and limestone fragment mix was observed at 1.30m BGL. This was sealed by a loose brown loamy topsoil. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

5.2.3 Trial pit 3.

This trial pit comprised a roughly rectangular area measuring 4m x 1m. Natural, consisting of a sand and limestone fragment mix was observed at 1.40m BGL. This was sealed by a loose brown loamy topsoil. No features of archaeological interest were observed, but a number of pottery sherds were collected from the topsoil.

5.2.4 Area Strip.

During the area strip of the site, a number of features were located. Many of these [104], [105], [106], [107] and [108] represent previous archaeological investigations on the site. [108] was MAP's Trench 4 from the 1995 evaluation, while the others are presumably the remains of Brewster's trenches.

The archaeological features identified were mainly spreads of rubble. [101] was located to the north-east of the site, [102] to the north-west, and [103] to the south. Due to the action of the JCB, which dragged stones for some distance during reduced level dig, it is difficult to give precise locations or dimensions for these features. They were, however, located using an EDM, the locations of [102] and [103] are illustrated in Figure 2. Rubble spread [101] overlay

the area that was subsequently opened up for detailed excavation and broadly mirrored the area of the building recorded as context [1088].

Spread [101] is undoubtedly the same feature as was located by MAP, their trench being visible in part of the feature.

Spread [102] consisted of angular and sub-angular chalk fragments measuring between 0.05m and 0.30m, and was presumably the collapse from a building.

Spread [103] again consisted of angular and sub-angular chalk fragments, although in this case some of the stones measured up to 0.60 x 0.60 x 0.20m.

5.2.5 *Drainage.*

During the relocation of the main sewer running from the Public House to Main Street, a ditch was observed towards the northern limit of the development area. This ditch measured approximately 2m in width, and was around 0.70m deep, running on a roughly east – west alignment, i.e. parallel with Main Street. Although the machining of this feature was observed, no artefacts could be recovered, and little other than a sketch section could be drawn due to the fact that the depth of the drainage trench was beyond safe working limits.

5.2.6 *Footings.*

During the excavation of the footings after the open area excavation was complete, a number of features came to light. These were a ditch [205], running west-south-west – east-north-east, a pit [201] just to the east of the excavation limits and approximately 0.60m below the depth at which archaeological excavation ceased, and a further pit [207]. Pit [207] was severely truncated by the excavation of the foundation trenches and for that reason could not be accurately planned, but it was observed that the feature cut into the natural which appeared to have been scorched to a depth of approximately 0.06m below the base of the cut. Due to the severe truncation it was not possible to establish the shape of the cut in plan, but it was presumed to be sub-circular. In profile the feature was fairly shallow, with concave sides and a flat base, forming a dish shape.

Another rubble spread [206] was also observed during this phase of the watching brief. This appeared to be more consolidated than those previously recorded, with small areas appearing to have been paved. This feature, however, was only just clipped by the development, the majority of it being located to the west in the area undisturbed by ground works.

5.3 *Open area excavation.*

The part of the development that was subject to an open area excavation can be divided into two discrete units, separated by a ditch running on a north – south alignment. This ditch [1022], which extended beyond the southern excavation limit but terminated just before the northern limit (where it was recorded as [1058]), appears to have been superseded at some point by a wall [1062], running on the same alignment and with its footings within the ditch fill [1021].

5.3.1 *Western Area.*

To the west of ditch [1022] was an area of paving [1015], although it appeared that a substantial amount of the feature had been robbed out (see Plate 1). Associated with the paved surface were the vestiges of a wall to the south, running east – west [1017], and beyond this a small area of chalk cobble surface (1018). To the north of the paving was a possible hearth [1020]. These structures suggest a paved floored building, with external cobbled surface to the south. To the east of the paved surface was an area of angular chalk rubble, which appeared to represent collapse from this building.

These features all sat on a highly lensed layer of silty material [1028] and [1029]. These deposits were not threatened by the reduced level dig, and [1028] was therefore only investigated by means of a small slot (c.2.40m x 1.00m) and the collection of artefacts from the surface of the deposit. Despite this, a relatively large assemblage of Staxton ware sherds were recovered. The deposit, although assigned two context numbers, appeared to be a single layer produced by the repeated dumping of burnt material and broken pottery, and contained frequent lenses of both black and red sandy silt/silt. Particularly noticeable was the fact that many of the pottery fragments were associated with small discrete areas of the red material¹, which was adhering to the sherds.

Beneath [1028] and [1029] were a number of ditches. These, however, were only superficially investigated as they were not under direct threat from the development groundworks.

Several other ditches were located at the northern extreme of the excavation area. Ditch [1060] was cut into deposits [1028]/[1029], running on an approximately east-north-east – west-south-west alignment. The ditch extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north-west, but its extent to the south-east could not be determined due to the presence of large scale root disturbance. Ditch [1060] was above ditch [1067], which ran east – west, and this in turn was above ditches [1041] and [1071], apparently running parallel to each other, and on a broadly east – west alignment.

At its southern end ditch [1022] was found to post-date two earlier ditches [1024] and [1026]. The relationship between these two ditches could not be ascertained as they were not directly threatened, and therefore only partially excavated. [1024] was on a north – south alignment, while [1026] was aligned approximately east-north-east – west-south-west.

5.3.2 *Eastern Area.*

To the east of ditch [1022] the archaeology was somewhat more complicated. The first feature to be exposed during the topsoil strip (and therefore presumably the latest stratigraphically) was a roughly rectangular rubble spread [1008]. This consisted of angular and sub-angular chalk fragments varying in size from 0.05m to 0.25m, within a matrix of dark grey/brown sandy silt [1009], and was interpreted as the collapsed core from the walls of a

¹ A fire lit by the contractors to burn vegetation resulted in the earth beneath it turning an identical red colour.

building after the facing stones had been robbed away. Layer [1009] also extended around the rubble spread.

Once the dismantling of [1008] had commenced, it became apparent that the collapse was covering a number of walls (see Plate 2). The majority of these were of fairly poor construction, with only one or two courses surviving. The earliest of these were [1032], [1033] and [1076].

Wall [1032] ran east – west for a distance of approximately 1.6m, and was located within a construction cut [1030]. The wall continued to the east, beyond the limit of excavation, and survived to a height of 0.55m (6 courses). The lowest course, below the level of the construction cut fill, was of much larger stones than successive courses, with a particularly large stone, possibly a quoin, at the junction of [1032] and [1033]. This stone was slightly off the alignment of the rest of [1032], and appeared to have been moved, perhaps during the later addition of wall [1072].

Presumably contemporary with [1032], wall [1033] ran in a southerly direction from the western end of [1032]. This had been almost entirely robbed out, with only part of the lowest course remaining. These two walls represent the western end of a building [allocated context number 1088] (there was no sign of the southern wall), the rest of which extended to the east, out of the excavation limits.

Wall [1076], running parallel to, and some 0.50m to the west of wall [1033] had also been severely robbed, with only a few of its stones remaining. It may have been contemporary with building [1088], forming a narrow covered walkway or lean-to, or may have been added as an extension to [1088]. The first hypothesis, however, seems the most likely, particularly given the effort that would have been required for the addition of only half a metre to the length of the building. Given the insubstantial nature of [1076], it seems unlikely to have been particularly high, or indeed load bearing. Between walls [1076] and [1033] was a mortar surface [1077].

To the west of building [1088] was a stone hearth (tentatively identified during excavation as an anvil, although see Appendix C, below, for a detailed discussion) [1074], surrounded by burnt material [1080] and [1081]. This burnt material either butted wall [1076] or had been cut by the construction trench [1082] of that wall. As this material was not directly threatened by the reduced level dig, however, it was not possible to verify the relationship. It seems plausible, however, that the burnt material butted wall [1076], and that the hearth and its associated debris were external to, but contemporary with, building [1088]. To the east of these burnt deposits a small sub-circular pit [1085] was observed at the basal limit of excavation, but was not excavated.

At a later date, building [1088] was extended further to the west, with the addition of walls [1031], [1034], [1035], and [1072]. All of these were built above the burnt deposits associated with hearth [1074], and above a layer of foundation material [1011]. Although no associated foundation cuts were visible during excavation, this is probably due to the fact that the extension walls were left in place until weather conditions allowed the erection of a tower

from which to photograph them. In the meantime excavation continued around these walls, which may have inadvertently removed any evidence for a cut². The walls were of much poorer construction than those comprising the earlier phase of building [1088], usually only surviving as a single course.

To the northwest of wall [1035] was a sub-circular pit [1052], which was cut into dump layers [1056] and [1057]. The dump layers certainly pre-dated wall [1035] and may have been contemporary with deposits [1080] and [1081]. However, whilst it is possible that the wall and pit were contemporary this is not certain.

Immediately to the north of building [1088] was a rectilinear feature [1046], filled with context [1045]. These were the cut and backfill of the west end of MAP's Trench 4, excavated in 1995. This was emptied, and below the level at which MAP stopped their evaluation trench was found a cobbled surface [1027], butting wall [1032]. Fused to these cobbles were a number of slag nodules.

Immediately to the north of [1027] was cut [1039]. This feature was half sectioned and found to contain three fills; [1038], the upper fill, was a sandy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions; [1049] comprised charcoal in a silty matrix; and [1050] comprised slag nodules in a sandy silt matrix with occasional charcoal flecks. A sample was taken from [1049] for general biological analysis, and to check for the absence or presence of hammer scale. A spot sample was also taken of the material from context [1050], which appeared to have plant material adhering to it. During the excavation of this feature it became apparent that it was either larger than originally thought, or was cut into another feature, which was masked at the surface by redeposited natural. However, as neither were threatened by the development this was not pursued. A second pit was encountered in this northern area [1037]. This had previously been half sectioned in MAP's evaluation Trench 4 (as [042]).

To the south of building [1088], and partially covered by [1004], a layer of redeposited natural, was a stone built structure [1073] (see Plate 3). This was roughly oval in plan, with one of the longer sides (the southern) flattened, and an entrance in the opposite (northern) side. This survived to a height of 0.45m at the rear, and 0.25m at either side of the entrance. The structure also appeared as though it was originally domed, each successive course being of a slightly smaller circumference than the previous one. The wall was random coursed of small rough hewn blocks, with seven courses surviving at its highest point, and three courses surviving adjacent to the entrance.

Structure [1073] overlay feature [1063], which ran on an approximately east – west alignment (and is visible on Plate 3). Only a small section through this feature was excavated, but it appeared to be a shallow ditch containing frequent chalk fragments, presumably more wall collapse.

² This putative cut has been assigned context number [2000] during post excavation.

To the south of [1073], again beneath deposit [1004], was ditch [1083] running on a south-west – north-east alignment. This was not excavated as it was not threatened by the development, although it was re-recorded during subsequent watching brief as ditch [205]. Two small, shallow, sub-circular pits [1002] and [1005] were also found within this southern area of excavation, one on either side of the ditch, although their relationship with it, or any of the more substantial structures to the north, was not clear.