38 Leeming Lane, Catterick Village, North Yorkshire

archaeological evaluation

ASUD Report 981
May 2003

Archaeological Services University of Durham

on behalf of

Mr Ramsay
The Bungalow Home Farm, Bedale, North Yorkshire DL8 1NG

Contents

1 Summary

The project

1 1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted in advance of a proposed development at 38 Leeming Lane, Catterick Village The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trial trenches within the development area

1 2 The works were commissioned by Mr Ramsay, and conducted by Archaeological Services University of Durham in accordance with a specification provided by the North Yorkshire County Archaeology Officer

Results

1 3 Significant archaeological deposits were identified in two of the three trenches evaluated These are most likely to represent the continuation of an Anglian settlement previously identified and partially excavated in the adjacent field One Roman coin, probably reused as a pendant in the Anglian period, some charred breadwheat of post-Romano-British date, and a small quantity of animal bone were recovered from the features

Recommendations

1 4 A suitable strategy is required in order to mitigate the impact of the development on the identified archaeological resource This will enable the archaeological recording of the remains in advance of their removal by the development

2 Project background

Location (Figure 1)

2 1 The site is located behind 38 Leeming Lane, Catterick Village (NGR SE 2410 9765) The area of the site is c 1500m^2, and had been in use as a garden The area is bounded by fences to the north, west, south and north-east, and by a bungalow, 38 Leeming Lane, to the south-east

Development proposal

2 2 The proposal is to construct three residential dwellings, along with associated access roads and services

Objective

2 3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the extent, depth, character and quality of any surviving archaeological features within the proposed development area A secondary aim is to assess and determine the origin of any deep soil on site Key objectives were to recover finds, informative section diagrams, and soil samples for environmental analysis, as well as to examine the residuality of ceramic finds This would enable an informed decision to be made regarding the nature, and scope of, any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in advance of development

Specification summary

2 4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Specification provided by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit and a Method Statement provided by Archaeological Services The scheme comprised the excavation of three evaluation trenches, followed by post-excavation assessment and reporting

Dates

2 5 Fieldwork was undertaken between 2nd and 4th April 2003 This report was prepared between 7th and 28th April 2003

Personnel

2 6 Fieldwork was conducted by Jane Gosling, David Graham, Mark Douglas and Peter Came This report was prepared by Jane Gosling and Peter Came, with illustrations by David Graham Specialist analysis was conducted by Louisa Gidney (animal bone), Dr Jacqui Cotton (macrofossils) and Richard Brickstock (com) The Project Manager was Peter Came

Archive

2 7 The site code is CTL03, for Catterick , Leeming Lane 2003 The archive will be deposited with the Yorkshire Museum

3. Landuse and topography

3 1 At the time of the evaluation the proposed development area comprised overgrown horticultural land, partially covered with modem debris A garden shed was present m the south-east comer of the site

3 2 There was a gentle slope from the east down to the west The ground was shghtly raised compared to the excavated site immediately to the west

4 Historical and archaeological background

4 1 Occupation and substantial quantities of archaeological remains are known throughout the Catterick area, particularly from the later prehistoric, Roman and Anglian periods The site therefore had the potential to contain archaeological remains from each of these periods

4 2 The closest known archaeological site to the development lies under the new housing immediately to the west of the proposed development Several schemes of investigation took place here (LUAU 1997, Geoquest 1995, YAT 1995, NAA 1997) Evidence was identified for settlement and occupation dating to the Anglian period, including a ***Grubenhaus***, other timber-framed buildings and boundary features (NAA 1997) One soil sample was collected from the numerous archaeological features encountered, which indicated that charred cereal grains were present Animal bone and a small iron knife were also recovered The remains may form part of the Anglian estate centre known from documentary evidence

5 The evaluation trenches

Introduction

5 1 Three trenches covering an area of 30 square metres were opened (Figure 1) The topsoil was removed by mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision

Trench 1 (Figures 2 & 3)

5 2 This trench was 5m by 2m m size, and was located in the north-west comer of the proposed development area Natural subsoil [17 a mid-brown sandy gravel] was reached at a depth of 0 6m bgl In the north-west comer of the trench a hnear gully was identified aligned east/west [F15] The gully continued out of the trench to the west and east The gully was U-shaped in profile, although the northem edge of the feature fell outside the trench and was not identified The gully was filled with a red-brown sandy loam containing charcoal flecks and frequent small cobbles [14]

5 3 To the south of this feature [F15] another linear gully [F11] was identified aligned north-east/south-west, continuing out of the trench at both ends This feature was 0 8m in width, with a V-shaped profile, sides sloping at less than 45°, and a maximum depth of 0 21m The gully fill [10] was very similar to that of the other feature [F15], with fewer cobbles A few animal teeth were recovered from the fill The stratigraphic relationship between the two features was not observed

5 4 The natural subsoil and the features were covered with a thick layer of topsoil [16], a dark brown silty loam, 0 6m in depth

Trench 2 (Figures 2 & 4)

5 5 This trench covered an area of 15m^2 and was aligned broadly north/south in the southern part of the development area Natural subsoil [2] was a light brown gravel In the southern part of the trench a thin mottled light brown/grey silty sand layer was present [3]

5 6 At the southern end of the trench a small ditch [F9] was identified cutting through this layer [3] and the natural subsoil This feature was up to 0 94m in width and 0 3m in depth, with a U-shaped profile It was aligned north-east/south-west and continued out of the trench at both ends It was filled by a red-brown loam containing charcoal flecks and occasional rounded stones [8] A section through this feature was excavated and one fragment of burnt bone was recovered The remainder of the feature fill was also removed in the hope of recovering more finds, although none were identified

5 7 At the northern end of the trench two small narrow gullies were identified [F5, F7] cutting through the natural subsoil [2] Gully [F5] also cut through the overlying silty sand at its southern end [3] It was aligned north/south, but curved sharply to the west at the southern end It continued outside the trench at both ends Several sections of this gully were excavated The gully had shallow sloping sides and a flatish bottom, a maximum width of 0 4m and depth of 0 3m It contained a fill of red-brown loam with charcoal flecks [4] Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fill as well as a reused Roman coin This gully was partially cut by a similar feature [F7] Only a small section of this gully was identified within the trench, but it had a similar alignment, profile and dimensions The fill [6] was also similar, a red-brown loam To the east of gully [F5], a thin layer of silty sand containing large cobbles [13] was visible overlying the natural, which may have been upcast from this gully

5 8 The features were overlain by topsoil [1], a dark brown loam with a maximum depth of 0 36m

Trench 3 (Figures 2 & 4)

5 9 This trench covered an area of 7 5m by Im and was situated in the north-eastern corner of the area At the bottom of the trench natural brown gravel was present [20] Over this was a thin layer of mottled yellow and brown clay sand with many charcoal flecks and concentrations of small stones [12] One bone fragment was recovered from this layer No archaeological features were identified cutting this layer or the underlying subsoil Over this layer was a mid brown loam, garden soil with a maximum depth of 0 5m [19], which would have been formed at some stage through cultivation Over this was dark brown loam topsoil with a maximum depth of 0 2m [18]

6 The finds

The topsoil

6 1 Several fragments of modern glass bottles, bricks, nails, modern pottery and other debris were noted within the topsoil These were not retrieved

The coin

6 2 A mid-2nd-century Roman coin was recovered from Context 4, the fill of a gully This coin had been perforated, probably for attachment to a necklace The coin was also very worn, which may indicate that the com was in use m the Anghan period as some form of 'good luck' charm or talisman Several similar coins exhibiting these traits have been discovered in Anglian graves at Scorton (R Brickstock, pers com) Apart from the spatial relationship between these features and the nearby Anglian features excavated in the Old Coal Yard, this is the strongest indication of an Anglian date for these features

Conservation

6 3 The coin is stable and does not require conservation The coin was x-rayed as part of a conservation assessment Little detail is visible on the x-ray, and few corrosion products are present

Animal bone

6 4 Finds of animal bone were extremely sparse Trench 1 Context 10 produced two cattle maxillary molar teeth from the same skull The dentine has decayed and the enamel is starting to disintegrate There is little wear on these teeth, suggesting that they derive from a young adult animal Also present was a maxillary molar tooth from a sheep, in wear and probably from an adult animal Trench 2 only produced an identifiable bone from Context 4 This is a radial carpal from a sheep Trench 3 contained only an unidentifiable fragment from Context 12 The data are in Appendix 2

6 5 These sparse finds only provide positive evidence for the presence of cattle and sheep on this site It is not even possible to speculate about general preservation conditions as the teeth are, surprisingly, in poorer condition than the bone fragments

7 The environmental evidence

Methods statement

7 1 5,000ml sub-samples of sediment from the six contexts were manually floated and sieved through a 500µm mesh The residues were retained, described and scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments The flots were dried slowly, then scanned at x40 magnification for waterlogged and charred botanical remains Plant macrofossils were identified by comparison with modem reference material held m the Environmental Laboratory The abundance of each waterlogged species was noted and total counts of charred species were logged

Results

7 2 With the exception of Context 10, the sample processing produced only small volumes of flot, which contained charcoal, coal and small bone fragments Four of the samples contained charred cereal grains Due to the aerobic nature of the contexts, waterlogged remains contemporary to the contexts were not preserved The complete set of results is presented m Tables 2 2 and 2 3 (Appendix 2)

Discussion

7 3 Two of the samples assessed, from Contexts 4 and 8, contained no charred plant macrofossils Context 4 was dominated by charcoal, although the flot was small and hence the remains were insignificant The absence of charred remains suggests that waste from agricultural or domestic activity was not deposited in these contexts

7 4 Single degraded charred cereal grains were present in Contexts 6 and 12 The limited quantity and poor preservation of these grains suggests that they may be residual, and have been transported from nearby areas of waste deposition

7 5 Higher numbers of charred grain, including breadwheat were preserved in Contexts 10 and 14 Breadwheat has been commonly cultivated since the post-Romano-British period in northern England, and hence its presence in the contexts cannot be used to ascertain their chronology The finds are however compatible with an Anglian date Furthermore, the numbers of grain present are relatively low compared to sites containing significant finds of grain from domestic and agricultural settings

Conclusions

7 6 The relatively low numbers of grain preserved in the six samples indicates that extensive waste material was not deliberately deposited in the contexts Although the grain is suitable for radiocarbon dating, the species of grain cannot provide dating evidence for the contexts or site Due to the absence of significant numbers of charred plant macrofossils, the contexts have little potential to produce environmental or economic data

Recommendations

7 7 Further evaluation or full analysis is not recommended for the six contexts

8 Recommendations

8 1 Significant archaeological features are present across the proposed development area These are most likely to be of Anglian date, and may reflect a continuation of the settlement previously identified m the field to the west

8 2 A further scheme of archaeological recording is necessary in advance of the proposed development

9. Sources

NAA 1997 *Richardson s Coal Depot, Catterick – archaeological excavation report* Unpublished

YAT 1995 *Leeming Lane, Catterick, North Yorkshire – evaluation report* Unpublished

Geoquest 1995 *Geophysical survey of land at Leeming lane Catterick N. Yorks* Unpublished

LUAU 1997 *Old Coal Yard Catterick, North Yorkshire – report on evaluation on archaeological evaluation* Unpublished

Appendix 1 Context data

Summary list of contexts The • symbols in the columns at the right indicate the presence of finds of the following types **P** pottery, B bone, **M** metals, F flint, S slag, O other materials

No	Description	P	B	M	F	S	O
1	Topsoil						
2	Subsoil						
3	Silty-sand layer over subsoil						
4	Fill of gully F5						
5	Cut of gully						
6	Fill of gully F7						
7	Cut of gully						
8	Fill of ditch F9		•				
9	Cut of Ditch						
10	Fill of gully F11		•				
11	Cut of gully						
12	Soil over natural in Trench 3		•				
14	Fill of gully F15						
15	Cut of gully						
16	Topsoil in Trench 1						
17	Subsoil in Trench 1						
18	Topsoil in Trench 3						
19	Garden / agricultural soil in Trench 3						
20	Subsoil in Trench 3						

Appendix 2 Data tables

Table 2 1 Animal bone data

Context	Species	Element	Comment
4	s/g	carr	
4	indet	frag	
8	indet	frag	Burnt
10	cow	tooth	Maxillary molar, slight wear on enamel
10	cow	tooth	Fragmentary maxillary molar
10	s/g	tooth	Maxillary molar, in wear
12	indet	frag	

Table 2 2 Macrofossil assessment data

Context	4	6	8
Volume processed (ml)	5,000	5,000	5,000
Volume of flot (ml)	10	65	45
Volume of flot assessed (ml)	10	65	45
Residue contents	-	-	-
Flot matrix (relative abundance)			
Bone	1	1	
Charcoal	4	2	2
Coal		1	
Coarse sand	1	4	4
Modern roots	2	1	2
Charred remains (total counts)			
(c) Cereaha indeterminate		1	
Waterlogged remains (relative abundance)			
(a) *Chenopodium album* (orache)	1		
(t) *Sambucus nigra* (elder)	1		

[a arable c cereal t-trees]
Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)

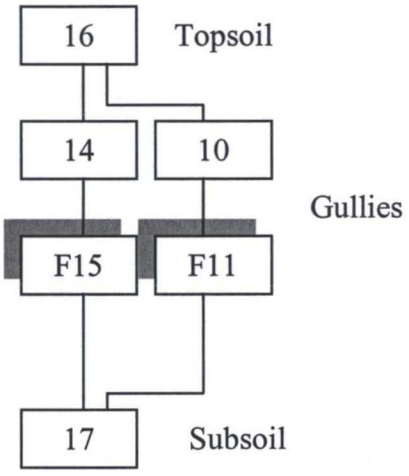
Table 2 3 Macrofossil assessment data

Context		10	12	14
Volume processed (ml)		5,000	5,000	5,000
Volume of flot (ml)		125	40	20
Volume of flot assessed (ml)		125	40	20
Residue contents		-	-	-
Flot matrix (relative abundance)				
Bone				3
Charcoal		1	1	
Coarse sand		4	5	3
Modern roots			1	1
Charred remains (total counts)				
(c) *Triticum aestivum* grain	(breadwheat)	7		6
(c) *Triticum* spp gram	(wheat)	4		
(c) Cereaha indeterminate		8	1	3
Waterlogged remains (relative abundance)		-	-	-

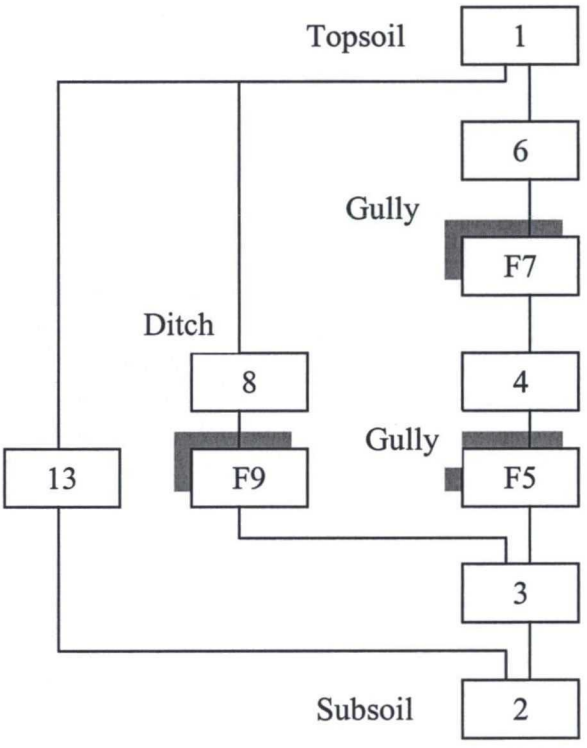
[c cereal]
Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)

Appendix 3: Stratigraphic matrices

Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3