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**Land Opposite Cottage Farm
Foxholes
North Yorkshire
(TA 0123 7273)**

Archaeological Watching Brief

aka: Land adj White House farm

MAP

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Non Technical Summary

An extensive Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd between May 2002 and March 2003. During the excavation of the foundation trenches, ditches, pits and walls were observed. Dating of these features showed the main period of activity at the site was in the 12th to 14th centuries A.D. However, a background scatter of Roman material was recovered and a number of undated features may be of Prehistoric date.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of Hartley Developments, in accordance with a Standard Written Scheme of Investigation for Limited Archaeological Recording (Watching Brief) prepared by the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council to satisfy a condition attached to Planning Application Nos. 01/00428/OU & 02/00092/REM.
- 1.2 The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken between May 2002 and March 2003, during the excavation of footings for nine dwellings and associated garages on land to the east of Cottage Farm, Foxholes (Figs. 1 - 3)
- 1.3 All work has been funded by Hartley Developments.
- 1.4 All maps were produced with kind permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Reference No AL 50453A

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The development site measured approximately 80m by 50m and was situated at the southern end of the village. The western boundary of the site was High Street, with recent residential development to the south and north, and open agricultural land to the east (Fig. 2). Prior to development the site had been used for pasture. Vegetation had been cleared prior to the start of the Watching Brief (Pl. 1).

3. **Geology**

- 3.1 The site stands at 65m AOD on soils of the Andover 1 soil Association : shallow well drained calcareous silty soils (on slopes and crests), with deep calcareous and non calcareous fine silty soils (in valley bottoms), both overlying a solid geology of chalk.

4. **Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 4.1 Foxholes lies on the valley floor of the Great Wold Valley (Fig. 1), which is a wide linear valley running east/west bisecting the fertile upland region known as the Yorkshire Wolds.

- 4.2 Generally, the Wolds is characterised, archaeologically, by the remains of settlement/occupation from all periods, with substantial remains existing in the form of earthworks, dating from the Roman, post Roman and medieval periods. The remains of material from the prehistoric period still survive above ground (in places), in the form of burials and monuments most noticeably around the Rudston area, and still exists as a landscape of national importance.

- 4.3 Although in the immediate area of the village, there are according to existing sources, very little excavated remains or earthworks. Beyond the village boundary and within a two mile radius of the village, there lies a wealth of prehistoric remains. These include dense concentrations of Iron Age settlements, which includes a Barrow cemetery to the west, and what appears to be a series of enclosures based around Boythorpe cottage. Additionally just to the south of the village, clustered around the course of the Gypsy Race, which runs east west, are further unidentified sub rectangular enclosures. Further south, sited high on the ridge overlooking the valley floor, is the site of Paddock Hill, a notable circular defended Iron Age enclosure.

- 4.4 Foxholes means 'Fox-earths' (Smith 1937 115)

- 4.5 Foxholes is recorded in the Domesday Survey under Foxele, Foxohole. There are two estates in Foxholes of 2 and 5 carucates, belonging to the king. The smaller was soke to the Bridlington Manor, while the larger estate was given to Robert de Brus soon after 1086 and the overlordship descended in the Brus, Thwing and Lumley families.

- 4.6 There is some evidence of early enclosure in the parish, dating to 1376 when, John Middleton had enough inclosed land at Foxholes, to provide pasture for 6 horses, 12 cows, 12 swine and 200 sheep.

- 4.7 Foxholes church was mentioned c.1100-15, when, it was given by Geoffrey Bainhard to St. Mary's Abbey, it was described as a small ancient building, consisting of nave and chancel, separated by a fine Norman arch. It had a west door and a small bell turret. The church was restored in 1785 and completely rebuilt in 1866.
- 4.8 A mill is first recorded in Foxholes in 1302 and there was a windmill in 1614, Mill Hill is mentioned in 1716.
- 4.9 The wold slopes were largely occupied by open field land in the middle ages. The regular field pattern throughout the parish, reflects the various enclosures of the 18th and 19th centuries. Most of the land was under arable in 1970, although there was some pasture in the valley, and the landscape presents a typically open appearance, broken by a few small plantations in Butterwick, the result of planting activities in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 4.10 In 1935, the three townships of Foxholes, Butterwick and Boythorpe were combined, to form Foxholes Civil parish, an area which runs for three miles along the floor of the Wold Valley. Foxholes and Butterwick were probably Anglian settlements, while Boythorpe may have been a subsidiary Scandinavian village (VCH).
- 4.11 Foxholes consists mainly of houses and cottages dating from the 18th to the 20th centuries, the most impressive of which is the former rectory now called Foxholes Manor (VCH 1976)

5. Methodology

- 5.1 In total six individual plots were excavated by a back acting mechanical digger with a smooth toothless bucket (Fig. 3). The depth of the footings varied from 0.70m to 1.5m. All were excavated either on to or into the natural chalk gravels.
- 5.2 Where archaeological features were observed within the foundation trenches sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20, with a plan of the archaeological deposits being drawn at a scale of 1:100. A photographic record was taken in colour print in 35mm format where possible. The narrowness of excavations in Plots 1 and 2 restricted photographic recording. A written record was compiled under the continuous context recording system on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets.

6. Results

6.1 During the course of the Archaeological Watching Brief a number of ditches, pits and walls were recorded, providing a valuable insight into the previously unknown archaeological record for the village.

6.2 Plots 1 & 2

6.2.1 Located in the north-west area of the site, the footings for this plot were excavated to accommodate one 4 bedroomed and one three bedroomed house, with two adjoining garage spaces (Fig. 3).

6.2.2 The archaeological features recorded consisted of seven ditches, seven pits and an enigmatic feature, which, on first impressions, would fall into the category of 'shaft grave'! Only a small finds assemblage was recovered, the majority of the material being recovered from two features (Pits 1076 & 1077) and being of medieval date (12th – 14th centuries). There is the tendency therefore, to suggest that features without associated dating evidence, are of an earlier date and possibly Prehistoric. Of course, where possible, stratigraphic relationships have been given priority of conclusion. However, the nature of the excavations i.e. under a Watching Brief specification meant that areas of excavation were predetermined and outside the control of the on site archaeologist.

6.2.3 All the features described below with the exception of Ditch 1070, were sealed below the subsoil (context 1001) and a further deposit of loamy sand/sandy loam (contexts 1005, 1015 & 1035/1041), measuring up to 0.20m in depth and most probably representing a stand still horizon, when the site went out of use, post 14th century, as suggested by the recovered pottery assemblage.

6.2.4 Ditches 1034, 1070-1074 & 1075

6.2.4.1 A total of seven ditches were observed and recorded during the excavation of the footings for Plots 1 & 2.

6.2.5 Ditch 1034

6.2.5.1 Ditch 1034 represented the only north south aligned ditch recorded in Plots 1 & 2. Measuring up to 1m in width and cut in to the natural chalk gravels (context 10000), to a depth of in excess of 0.60m. Two sections were recorded through this feature (Fig. 4 a-b & c-d). Both showed a variation in the profile of the ditch (cuts 1040 and 1045), but the fills were consistent and suggestive of gradual silting processes (contexts 1039, 1038, 1036 within Cut 1040 &

1044, 1043, 1042 within Cut 1045), with the exception of context 1037 (cut 1040), which may be an example of deliberate backfilling or side slumpage.

6.2.5.2 *Ditch 1034* was observed for a distance of 1.9m before the northern extent terminated (Fig. 4 a-b, c-d: Pl. 3). The southern extent was less clear. An east west ditch (*Ditch 1074*) was observed (Fig. 4 : Pl. 4 – see below). There was no indication of *Ditch 1034* in the south facing section of the footing, suggesting that either *Ditch 1034* was contemporary with *Ditch 1074* or, that it was earlier and had been removed by the cutting of *Ditch 1074*.

6.2.3 Ditches 1070-1072 & 1075

6.2.3.1 A section of footing in the south-western corner of Plot 1 & 2, revealed evidence for four ditches, all aligned east to west and sealed by context 1005/1015. The east and west facing sections of the footing were recorded (Fig. 4 e-f & g-h), thus providing a stratigraphic sequence.

6.2.3.2 *Ditch 1072* was the earliest, although not so easily defined on section e-f, the opposing section g-h confirmed this interpretation. Consisting of a 'U' shaped cut (context 1012), with two well defined fills (contexts 1014/1021 & 1013/1020 loamy sands with varying percentages of pea gravel), *Ditch 1072*, measured originally over 0.60m in width and 0.40m in depth. The southern edge of *Ditch 1072* had been cut away by *Ditch 1071*, after it appears that *Ditch 1072* had fully silted up. The assignment of *Ditch 1072* to a specific archaeological period is difficult. No finds were recovered and stratigraphically it is cut into natural deposits and predates three further phases of ditch cutting, all on the same alignment and two of which could be argued as reinstatements of *Ditch 1072*. It is therefore suggested that *Ditch 1072* was either a very early medieval land boundary ditch or represents a much earlier period of activity on the site. No evidence for the continuation of these features was seen in the opposing footing 6m to the east.

6.2.3.3 *Ditch 1071* (cut 1011) presented a completely different profile to *Ditch 1072*. This broad straight sided feature (Fig. 4 e-f & g-h) exhibited variants in profile, (possibly due to the angle the footing trench cut through the feature) and fills in the opposing recorded sections. *Ditch 1071*(cut 1011) measured up to 2.4m in width and between 0.20m and 0.40m in depth, cut in to the natural chalk gravels. The primary fill (contexts 1009/1019 – clay loams), contained a number of limestone fragments, which were recorded towards the base of the ditch, whether they represent an attempt at deliberate backfilling is unclear. The east facing section (Fig. 4 e-f) shows a deposit composed of 95% gravel,

suggesting that this deposit represents slumpage. The upper fill of Ditch 1071 was a sandy loam (contexts 1008/1018), which appeared to have gradually accumulated, until the ditch had fully silted up. It was at this point that a further cut feature (Ditch 1075 – cut 1022) came into existence.

6.2.3.4 The full width of *Ditch 1075* is unknown, as it continued southwards beyond the southern limit of the footing, but it was over 1.60m in width and 0.46m in depth. The dimensions of this feature are somewhat distorted, by the angle of the footing excavation. However it would appear to have been a gentle 'U' shape in profile (Fig. 4 e-f & g-h), with fills of silty loam, with gravel inclusions (contexts 1007 & 1017-1016).

6.2.3.5 There is a period of inactivity after Ditch 1075 has fully silted up and the depths of the deposits recorded (contexts 1005 & 1002), suggests a considerable number of years before activity reappears in this area of the site, as represented by Ditch 1070.

6.2.3.6 *Ditch 1070* is a much later feature represented by a 'U' shaped cut (context 1002), filled with sandy loams (contexts 1004 & 1003). Ditch 1070 continued to the east, outside of the excavated footings as confirmed by section g-h. The fact that this feature was sealed by the topsoil (context 1001), makes it of relatively recent date.

6.2.7 Ditches 1073 & 1074

6.2.7.1 During the excavation of two east west footings in the south of Plots 1 & 2, evidence for two linear features were observed in the base of the footings (Ditches 1073 & 1074 : Pls. 5 & 4). Both features were cut into the natural chalk gravels. Ditch 1074 may be related to the north south ditch, Ditch 1034, but Ditch 1073 seems likely to be a continuation of Ditch 1071.

6.2.8 Pits 1023, 1059, 1060, 1076-1078 & 1079

6.2.8.1 A total of seven features were observed, recorded and interpreted as pits, either due to the fact they were only seen in one side of the footing excavation (Pits 1059, 1060 & 1079), or due to the nature of their fills (Pits 1023, 1076-1078) and associated finds assemblages (Pits 1076 & 1077).

6.2.9 Pit 1023

6.2.9.1 *Pit 1023*, was further evidence for the concentration of archaeological features in the south-western corner of Plots 1 & 2. An early indication that an archaeological feature existed, was the appearance of a concentration of

limestone blocks (context 1025), which were intermixed with Deposit 1005 (Fig. 4 i-j). In situ blocks measuring up to 0.20m x 0.10m x 0.4m were recorded capping a cut feature (1033), measuring 1.10m in width and cut into natural chalk gravels, to a depth of 0.70m (Fig. 4 i-j). The full depth of this feature was not determined. The primary fills consisted of silty deposits of sands, clays and loams (contexts 1030 & 1031). A deposit of large pieces of gravel (context 1032), along with Deposits 1030 and 1031, appear to represent deliberate backfilling of the feature. This interpretation is substantiated by the non uniform stratigraphy and composition of Deposits 1027, 1028, 1029 and 1026 (Appendix 1 : Fig. 4 i-j).

6.2.9.2 The nature of the fills associated with Pit 1023 suggested a feature with, a function which demanded its backfilling and this, in conjunction with the use of a stone capping, suggests it may well have functioned as a cess pit. The lack of finds argues against its use as a rubbish pit.

6.2.10 Pits 1059 & 1060

6.2.10.1 The earlier of these two features was *Pit 1060*. Measuring originally in excess of 0.54m. The eastern side of the feature had been removed by the cutting of Pit 1059, when Pit 1060 had fully silted up (Fig. 4 k-l). Pit 1060 (cut 1069), was cut into the natural chalk gravels to a depth of 0.42m, with a primary fill (context 1068), composed almost entirely of gravel, with only a small percentage (10%), of sandy loam. The upper fills (contexts 1067 & 1066), were sandy loams. No finds were recovered from any of the fill deposits.

6.2.10.2 *Pit 1059* was much deeper than Pit 1060, measuring in excess of 0.70m with steep sides and four distinct fills (contexts 1064-1061 - cut 1065 : Fig. 4 k-l). Although Pit 1059 appeared to continue below the level of the foundation trench, the nature of fill deposit 1064 (a chalk gravel) suggested that it did represent the primary fill. Upper fills (contexts 1063-1061), were slightly clayey sandy loams (1063) and sandy loams (1062 & 1061), with varying percentages of chalk gravel. No finds were recovered from the excavation of this feature.

6.2.11 Pits 1076-1078

6.2.11.1 Footing excavations, along the central western area of the plot, revealed three distinct features, quite unlike any of the pits and ditches recorded in other areas of Plots 1 & 2. They were characteristic, due to the total unstable nature of their fills, quantities of limestone, within very little soil matrix, thus creating infilled features with numerous voids. This quality resulted in

whole sections of the footings collapsing and making the written recording of sections impossible (Pls. 6 - 8). Perhaps of equal interest was the recovery from two of these features (Pits 1076 and 1077), of associated pottery (Appendix 2).

6.2.11.2 The majority of the archaeological features recorded were cut into the natural chalk gravels. Pits 1076-1078 were no exception, their size and their proximity to each other suggested that they shared a common function. The fact that these pits were deliberately backfilled and considering their size, may argue that they represent quarry pits. Such features are a common occurrence in and around Wold villages where the gravels were extracted as building and surfacing materials.

6.2.12 Pit 1079

6.2.12.1 Excavation in the northern half, of the western north-south footing, revealed the remains of a pit, which contained modern rubbish.

6.2.13 Feature 1046

6.2.13.1 Excavation of the main western north-south footing, revealed evidence of eight cut features, of which perhaps Feature 1046 is the most interesting. Initially the full depth of this feature was not known, as excavation of the footing ceased at 1.40m. Hand excavation, of the in situ deposits seen in the base of the footing, revealed the full profile of Feature 1046 (Fig. 4 m-n).

6.2.13.2 Feature 1046 was a steep sided 'U' shaped cut (cut 1057), measuring approximately 1m in width, with a depth of 1.10m, cut into the natural chalk gravels. The feature was filled with nine distinct fills (contexts 1056, 1055, 1054, 1053, 1052, 1058, 1051, 1050, 1049 & 1048 : Fig. 4 m-n).

6.2.13.3 The primary fill (context 1056) was a sandy clay loam, with 50% gravel inclusions, this alone was unusual, as the primary fills tended to possess a much higher percentage inclusion of chalk gravels. Sealing Deposit 1056 was Deposit 1055, a sandy loam with 60% chalk gravels and above which was a band of four deposits. Fills 1054, 1053 & 1052 were due to their compositions (Appendix 1), interpreted as deliberate backfill deposits, as is probably Deposit 1058, although this may also represent natural erosion of the sides of Feature 1046. The upper fills of Feature 1046 (contexts 1051, 1049, 1050 & 1048), due to their composition again, are suggestive of deliberate backfill. The final intriguing element of this feature is Deposit 1047, a compacted band of pea gravel. Such deposits are generally indicative

of accumulation over a long period of time and no similar deposits were noted associated with any of the other recorded features within Plots 1 & 2.

6.2.13.4 So what was the function of Feature 1046? and what archaeological period can be ascribed to its existence?

6.2.13.5 The excavator's initial reaction to the feature, was that it represented a shaft grave – this being based on its form, the fact that the site was located within a geographical area where such examples are known, and that it appeared to be of a greater antiquity than any other features revealed in Plots 1 & 2. Unfortunately the hand excavation of the primary fill failed to recover any associated finds. Animal bone was a rare find on the site, therefore the acidity of the gravels may have destroyed any such evidence for the survival of human bone. Even so, no staining, nor shading was observed within Deposit 1056. However, the fact remains that Feature 1046 is likely to be the oldest feature recorded on the site and one that could be ascribed to the Prehistoric period. Whether it is a shaft grave, or a storage pit of the later Prehistoric period remains unknown, but the latter seems more likely.

6.3 Plots 3, 4 and 5

6.3.1 Plots 3, 4 and 5 were located in the central area of the site and covered an area measuring 16m by 6m, with footings measuring 1.20m in depth and 0.80m wide. A range of features were observed sealed below the deposits of topsoil and subsoil including, Ditches 2011 &, 2015, Pits 2004 & 2007 and possible stone structures 2005, 2020 & 2021.

6.3.2 Ditches 2011, 2013, 2015 & 2016

6.3.2.1 *Ditch 2011* measured 0.45m wide by 0.25m deep, with a U-shaped profile and filled with a clayey silt (context 2012 : Fig.5 o-p).

6.3.2.2 *Ditch 2013* was 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep, with a regular U-shaped profile, and a single clayey silt fill (context 2014), with two limestone fragments approximately 0.15m in length, which may have been part of a later intrusive feature (Fig. 5 q-r : Pl. 9).

6.3.2.3 *Ditches 2015 and 2016* ran parallel on a north-south alignment. The larger of the two, Ditch 2015 measured 1.00m in width and 0.30m in depth, with a steep outer edge and a shallower less acute angled inner edge (Fig. 5 s-t). Ditch 2016 was 0.50m wide and 0.25m deep, and appeared to have a

reduced eastern edge. Both features shared identical fills of clayey silts (contexts 2033 & 2032 respectively : Fig. 5 s-t).

6.3.3 Pits 2004 & 2007

6.3.3.1 *Pit 2004* measured 2m wide by 0.65m deep, with sides of varying angles, one vertical and one at an angle of approximately 30 degrees. The fill, a clayey silt (context 2005), contained medium to large limestone fragments of approximately 0.12m by 0.07m in size (Fig. 5 u-v : Pl. 10). Three sherds of medieval pottery, of 12th and 14th century date, were recovered from Pit 2004 (Appendix 2).

6.3.3.2 *Pit 2007/2029* was sub oval in plan (Pl. 11), measuring 2m wide by 1m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Excavation revealed three fill deposits, a primary fill of soft sandy silt (context 2008/2028 : Fig. 5 ac-ad), with inclusions of burnt ashy material and nine sherds of 13th-14th century pottery (Appendix 2). Sealing Deposit 2008 was a loose, silty sandy gravel, containing a few small sherds of animal bones (context 2027). The tip line of this deposit, suggests that it was a dump of material. The upper fill (context 2026), was a loose sandy gravel, containing abundant fragments of limestone.

6.3.4 Stone Structures 2009, 2010, 2020 & 2021

6.3.4.1 *Feature 2009* was observed as a shallow cut for a dry stone wall, which measured 2m in width and survived to a depth of 0.10m. Sealing Feature 2009, was a deposit of loose clayey silt (context 2030 : Fig. 5 ae-af), which contained one sherd of Staxton ware of 12th -14th century date.

6.3.4.2 *Feature 2010*, was the remains of a wall structure (Pls. 12 & 13), standing 4 courses high, to a height of 0.40m, and measuring 0.50m in width. The wall was quite neatly built, with small blocks measuring on average 0.08m in length by 0.06m wide by 0.05m deep (Fig. 5 ae-af)

6.3.4.3 *Feature 2020* consisted of a linear foundation cut (context 2019 : Fig. 5 y-z) and loosely bonded limestone fragments (context 2020). *Deposits 2017, 2018, and 2031* were internal deposits, associated with the destruction of *Structure 2020*, which appeared in section as the remains of a loosely set feature composed of chalk fragments, built up against an outside bank of natural material, measuring 0.40m high by 0.40m wide (Fig. 5 y-z). The earliest internal deposit (context 2017), was 0.08m thick and composed of a silty, ashy, burnt material, friable and with no coarse components. Deposit

2031 was a loose, clayey silt material containing chalk gravel. Deposit 2018 was a loose clayey silty material, containing abundant chalk gravel, which may well relate to a levelling episode during the demolition of the Structure 2020.

6.3.4.4 *Structure 2021* measured 0.50m wide by 0.40m in height, and was composed of irregular chalk fragments, measuring on average 0.05m-0.07m in diameter, the fragments were slightly larger towards the base of the feature. Deposit 2022 was a loose clayey silty material, containing what appeared to be slump material from Structure 2021 (Fig.5 aa-ab : Pl. 14).

6.5 Plot 9

6.5.1 Plot 9 measured 16m by 6m and was situated at the northern end of the site. Footings for two garage units and single bungalow were 0.70m wide and up to 1.5m deep.

6.5.2 The deposits noted in section consisted of a topsoil and a subsoil overlying the natural chalk. Three ditches (Features 3035, 3037 & 3039), were recorded in section (Fig. 6 ag-ah, ai-aj, ak-al).

6.5.3 Ditches 3035 3037 & 3039

6.5.3.1 *Ditches 3035, 3037 and 3039* were all of a similar size. Ditch 3035 was 0.60m wide and 0.18m deep and Ditches 3037 & 3039 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep, all with U shaped profiles and a single fill of a clayey silt (contexts 3034, 3036 & 3038 respectively). No finds were recovered from any of these features.

6.6 Plots 6 and 7

6.6.1 Situated in the south-western corner of the site, the footings for one 3 bedroomed and one 4 bedroomed house were 1.5m deep and 0.80m wide. Excavation located five ditches (Ditches 4013, 4043/4044, 4048, 4052 & 4053), Pit 4057 and a stone structure 4046. All of these features were recorded in section (Fig. 7 ao-ap, aq-ar, as-at, au-av).

6.6.2 Ditches 4013, 4043/4044, 4048, 4052 & 4053

6.6.2.1 *Ditch 4013*, on an east-west alignment, had a rounded U-shaped profile and measured 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep. The single fill (context 4014) a clayey silt which contained two large limestone fragments, approximately 0.15m in length, which may be part of a later intrusion into the feature (not drawn).

6.6.2.2 *Ditch 4043* measured 0.50m wide and 0.40m deep, with a V- shaped profile. Associated with *Ditch 4043*, was *Ditch 4044*, which measured 0.30m wide and 0.10m deep. Both these features were filled by the same fill (context 4042), a clayey silt, with a high percentage of chalk gravel inclusions (Fig. 7 ao-ap).

6.6.2.3 *Ditch 4048* was 1.00m wide and 0.55m deep, with a V- shaped profile and rounded base. The single fill, a clayey silt (context 4047), contained abundant amounts of chalk gravel and a Prick Spur of late 13th century date. *Ditch 4048* ran under *Wall 4046* (Fig. 5 aq-ar).

6.6.2.4 *Ditches 4052 and 4053* were two parallel features, sharing similar V-shaped profile and dimensions of 0.60m wide and 0.40m deep, and, 0.50m wide and 0.30m deep, respectively. The fills (contexts 4051 & 4050), were both clayey silts. A sherd of *Staxton Ware*, dating to the 12th/14th century was recovered from the fill of *Ditch 4053* (Fig. 5 as-at).

6.6.3 **Structure 4046**

6.6.3.1 *Structure 4046* was seen in section, as a spread of limestone fragments, measuring 0.40m deep and approximately 3m in length. On average, the limestone fragments measured 0.15m by 0.10m by 0.08m in size. At the northern end of the section, the limestone appeared to be more compact and resembled the remains of a part demolished wall (context 4049 : Fig.5 aq-ar)

6.6.4 **Pit 4057**

6.6.4.1 *Pit 4057* was a vertically sided feature, measuring 0.90m in diameter and cut to a depth of at least 0.70m (Fig 5 au-av). The fill (context 4056) was a clayey silt, containing a high percentage of chalk gravel and two sherds of medieval pottery (*Staxton Ware*) of 12th/14th century date.

6.6.4.2 Pottery recovered from the subsoil over *Plots 6 and 7* consisted of *Staxton Ware*, and *Humber Ware*, which, together provided a spot date of the late 14th / early 15th century.

6.7. **Plot 8**

6.7.1 *Plot 8* was situated in the middle of the site and the footings for four garage units and a single storey bungalow revealed no archaeological features. However, sherds of medieval pottery of 12th to 14th date, were recovered from the surface of *Plot 8*.

6.8 Plot 10

6.8.1 Plot 10 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site. The footings, for four garage units, measuring 1.5m deep and 0.70m wide, revealed a single archaeological feature – Ditch 6003.

6.8.2 Ditch 6003

6.8.2.1 *Ditch 6003* orientated on a north-south alignment, measured 0.80m wide and 0.30m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The single fill, clayey silty deposit (context 6004 : Fig.8 am-an) contained no associated finds. However, the fact that the feature was cut into the subsoil, suggested that it was of a recent date.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The Archaeological Watching Brief, undertaken during the excavation of footings associated with the residential development of the site, located and recorded a higher than usual density of archaeological features. Comprising of ditches, pits and stone structures, the majority of which were of a medieval date, with a clear hiatus of activity in the 12th/14th centuries. The latest pottery recovered was of 14th/15th century date, thereafter there appeared to be no activity, until the modern period, as illustrated by a number of modern pits. A considerable build up of subsoil deposits, which sealed the earlier medieval features, confirmed this period of inactivity. It would therefore appear, that the development plot, which is situated on the southern fringes of the village, had been used for pasture during this later period.

7.2 The type of medieval archaeological features recorded, also appears to suggest peripheral activity, rather than concentrated settlement. Although a small assemblage of pottery was recovered, it was not in keeping with a domestic site. The ditches and stone structures were, most probably of an agricultural nature, representing property/land boundaries.

7.3 Pre-medieval activity on the site, can only be suggested. A high percentage of the features provided no associated dating evidence and therefore there is the distinct possibility that some may be of a Prehistoric date.

7.4 The predetermined areas for excavation and the conditions in which these were undertaken prohibited a truly meaningful evaluation of this site. However, taking into consideration the restrictions, the Watching Brief has

provided a considerable amount of information on this area of the village, which until May 2002 could only have been suggested.

8. References

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