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OSA99WB15: Sherburn Road Farm, Cawood, N.Yorks

Watching Brief Report.

NYE 2209
NYS 8648

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NYC1998

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT SHERBURN STREET FARM, off RYTHERGATE, CAWOOD, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by On-Site Archaeology at Sherburn Street Farm, off Rythergate, Cawood, North Yorkshire on behalf of Allinson Machinery Ltd. of Elvington and Mr Brickell of Cawood. This work was required to fulfil the archaeological condition attached to planning application No: 8/35/321/PA, for the construction of a swimming pool within a pre-existing prefabricated farm building.

The watching brief comprised the observation of the area that had previously been excavated for the insertion of the pool structure. This work was carried out after the area had been cleared and after the base slab had been inserted. In addition the sides of the excavated area were shuttered in preparation for pouring the concrete to form the pool sides. It was not therefore possible to properly view the standing sections as these were obscured by the shuttering. In addition the excavated material had already been removed from site and was not therefore available for inspection. A single feature was observed which may have archaeological significance.

2.0 Site Location

SE 5729 3778

The site is situated at NGR ~~SE 5705 3757~~, on the site of Sherburn Street Farm to the rear of Rythergate and Market Place, Cawood.

3.0 Methodology

An area measuring approximately 12m x 6m had previously been excavated to accommodate the pool. The watching brief comprised the inspection of the standing sections in those places where it was possible to do so, given the presence of the steel shuttering which was already in place. It was not possible for safety reasons to climb down into the space between the edge of the excavated area and the shuttering in order to inspect the material at close quarters. In addition there had been partial collapse of the vertical face in several areas, which rendered interpretation of the remaining material problematic.

4.0 Results

In general terms it was clear that the material sealed by the modern concrete slab and above the yellow natural sand was recent in origin, comprising a homogenous grey brown silty sand with frequent brick and tile fragments. This material was approximately 0.70m in depth below the level of the slab. At the northern corner of the excavated area a single feature was observed which may be of archaeological significance. Although it was not possible to make a detailed record or to photograph this feature it appeared to form a U shaped intrusion measuring up to 3m in width with a maximum depth of 1.20m beneath the modern material. As it was only visible in section it was not possible to ascertain whether this feature was a pit or was linear in nature. Its single fill was a clean grey silty sand.



General view of pool showing shuttering.