

NYCC HER	
SNY	8746
ENY	2110
CNY	3293/3507
Parish	3070
Rec'd	09/03/2004

**Land at Back Side
Duggleby
North Yorkshire
(SE 8774 6699)**

Archaeological Evaluation

**MAP
Feb 2004**

**Land at Back Side,
Duggleby,
North Yorkshire
SE 8774 6699**

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Non Technical Summary

Four trenches were excavated in February 2004 on land south of Back Side, Duggleby in order to evaluate the archaeological potential of a proposed development site.

Trench 1, in the northern part of the site, uncovered a series of negative features of medieval date, along with the robbed remains of a chalk-built structure of late medieval/early Post-medieval date. Another, better preserved, chalk-built structure of similar date was revealed in Trench 2.

Trench 3 in the western, and Trench 4 in the southern area of the site illustrated the build-up of deep hill-wash deposits, apparently in the medieval period.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at land south of Back Side, Duggleby, Kirby Grindalythe CP, North Yorkshire (Figs. 1 & 2 : SE 8774 6699). The evaluation took place in the fortnight commencing February 2nd 2004.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out on behalf of, and funded by, Birdsall Estates Company Ltd following a full planning application for domestic housing at the site (Ref. 03/00947/FUL). The Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council advised Ryedale District Council that a scheme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching should be undertaken in response to the planning application.
- 1.3 The evaluation was designed to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The information provided from the evaluation will enable an assessment of the impact of the development on archaeological deposits at the site, so that a reasonable and informed planning decision can be made as to whether the development should be permitted. If permission is granted, this information will assist in identifying options for minimising, avoiding damage to, and/or recording any archaeological remains. This strategy follows the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG 16)*.

- 1.3 Four areas, totalling c. 92 square metres were examined, at locations agreed by the Archaeology Section of the Heritage Unit, NYCC (Fig, 2).
- 1.4 The MAP site code for the project was 05-01-04.
- 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 is on the western side of Duggleby village, between Back Side to the south, and Salents Road, running alongside the Gypsy Race, to the north. Highbury Farm lies immediately to the west, and there has been recent development on the site of a former chapel on the south-east side. Comprising of c. 0.25 hectares, the site is an area of pasture, bounded by wire fences to the west and east, and hedges to the north and south. The topography consists of a slope downwards to the north, from c. 117m to c. 113.5m A.O.D. The surface of the field is not level, but contains a number of linear and more amorphous earthworks.

3. Geology and Soils

- 3.1 The geology at the site is recorded as chalky drift and chalk (Mackney *et al.* 1983), with overlying well-drained calcareous fine silty soils of the Coombe 1 Association (*ibid.*).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The Great Wold Valley, through which the Gypsy Race flows, forms a huge landscape of Prehistoric features, known largely from cropmarks on aerial photographs, but also represented by earthworks (Stoertz 1997).
- 4.2 The most notable Prehistoric feature in the vicinity of the site is the Neolithic round barrow of Duggleby Howe, which, prior to partial excavation by J R Mortimer in 1890, was 6m high and 38m in diameter. Mortimer recovered a series of richly furnished burials from the barrow (Mortimer 1905).
- 4.3 Duggleby Howe is surrounded by a circular cropmark, 370m in diameter, believed to show a Neolithic 'interrupted ditch system' (Riley 1980). At its closest, this ditch system lies 200m south-east of the development area.
- 4.4 The cropmark features plotted by the RCHME show a series of linked rectangular enclosures forming a 'ladder settlement' running eastwards into Duggleby from the direction of Wharram le Street (Stoertz 1997, Map 1). These cropmarks are lost when they run into pasture to the west of Home Farm, and the buildings of the farm itself, but it is reasonable to assume that the ladder settlement continues on the south-facing slope of the valley, c. 200m north of the development area.

- 4.5 The Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian periods are poorly documented at Duggleby, but the fact that the village was mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086), along with the origins of the place-name, point to the fact that there was an Anglo-Scandinavian settlement there. Duggleby was referred to as *Difgelibi* and *Digheli* in 1086, the name meaning 'Dufgall's farm. Dufgall is a personal name, borrowed from the Old Irish *Dubhgall*, meaning 'the black foreigner' (Smith 1937).
- 4.6 The Domesday Survey revealed a complicated series of land holdings at Duggleby. The main holding was held by Berenger in 1086, having been held by Thorbrandr and Gamall prior to 1066, when there was land for eight ploughs. In 1086 Berenger had one plough, with five villagers and two smallholders, with a total value of 10s. Berenger also held another eight carucates (of the manor of Warter), and the king a further two. Finally, there was another landblock of eight carucates, held by the king at the time of Domesday, having been held by Morcar prior to 1066.
- 4.7 The main focus of the village lay to the east of the development site, around New Road; an 18th century map of Duggleby showed an irregular cluster of farms at that location. Judging by the "old foundations" marked on 19th century O.S. maps the village was formerly much larger. It has been suggested that the triangular area of land now occupied by the development site and Highbury Farm, once existed as a green at the west end of the village.
- 4.8 Three Archaeological Watching Briefs have recently taken place at Duggleby giving information on medieval activity at the village. The first of these took place on a plot of land (Holm Cottage) adjacent to South Wold Farm, on the west side of New Road, 180m north-east of the development site. Three parallel linear features (perhaps ridge and furrow remains), an oven or grain drier and a posthole, all of medieval date, were recorded (MAP 2002). On the plot immediately to the north of Holm Cottage, a row of medieval postholes and a pit were revealed (MAP 2003). The Watching Brief at Home Farm, immediately north of the development site, across the Gypsy Race, recorded undated linear features, perhaps of Roman or medieval date.
- 4.9 Reference has already been made to the 18th century map of Duggleby (held at the Borthwick Institute). Analysis of the map suggested that the crossing point of the Gypsy Race dictated the focus of the village at this time (Cale, rapid desktop assessment 1999). The framework of the pre-enclosure field system was intact at this time. The early 19th century Tithe Map showed that Duggleby had expanded from ten buildings to approximately sixty-eight, with expansion along the banks of the Gypsy Race. The triangular 'green', of which the development area forms a part, had been subdivided into six, with intermittent development along the northern edge.
- 4.10 The development site is shown vacant on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1858, and similarly unoccupied on the 1912 6" map. Also in 1912, a Methodist Chapel (now demolished) is shown at the plot lying immediately east of the site. The earthworks at the site would therefore appear to pre-date

the time of the First Edition map, and relate to structures that had been previously demolished.

5. Objectives

5.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish:

(a) the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the development proposals.

(b) to prepare a report summarising the results of the work and assessing the archaeological implications of the proposed development.

(c) to prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum.

5.2 Two particular topics were to be addressed:

(a) the presence of any pre-medieval land-use at the site, whether Prehistoric or Romano-British

(b) the character of any medieval and Post-medieval activity.

6. Methodology

6.1 *Evaluation*

6.1.1 Four areas were subjected to evaluation, Trench 1 a 10m x 3m area in the northern part of the site, Trenches 2 and 3, both 8m x 2m in size in the central part of the site, and Trench 4, 10m x 3m in size in the southern part of the site. The trenches were sited in consultation with the Archaeology Section of NYCC (Fig. 2).

6.1.2 The evaluation areas were 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 natural, whichever appeared soonest.

6.1.3 Postholes, and pits were half-sectioned to determine function and record their form.

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.

6.1.6 Samples were taken from sealed deposits for environmental 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. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at 1:10, also on drawing film, and included an OD height.

6.4 *Photographic Record*

- 6.4.1 The photographic record comprised monochrome and colour prints, and colour transparencies, in 35mm format, recording all archaeological features encountered.

6.5 *Finds*

- 6.5.1 Finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (where possible), marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines.

7. **Results**

7.1 *Trench 1 (Pls. 1-3; Figs. 3 and 6)*

- 7.1.1 Trench 1 was a 10m x 3m area designed to examine activity in the northern part of the site. Removal of the turf and layers of chalk gravel and rubble revealed structural remains and a group of cut features. The indications are that the cut features belong to an earlier period of activity than the structural remains, in which two phases were discerned.

- 7.1.2 The earliest cut features on stratigraphic grounds were two shallow pits (contexts 1021 and 1025 : Fig. 3 a-b, c-d, e-f). Cut 1021 was 0.05m deep, with a shallow bowl-shaped profile. The fill was a dark brown silt (context 1020), with no associated finds. Cut 1025 was slightly deeper, at 0.10m, with a dished profile. It was filled by context 1024, a very dark brown silty clay, which contained two 12th-14th century sherds (Appendix 2).

- 7.1.3 Cuts 1021 and 1025 were both cut away by a south-west to north-east aligned gully (context 1023 : Fig. 3 a-b, c-d). This gully ran for a distance of 2m into the trench from the eastern baulk, and was 0.30m deep with a U-shaped profile. The fill (context 1022) was a very dark brown silty clay (context 1022), containing four 12th-14th century sherds (Appendix 2).

- 7.1.4 A series of small postholes and stakeholes (contexts 1027, 1029, 1031, 1033, 1035, 1037, 1039 and 1041 : Fig. 3 k-l, m-n, o-p, q-r, s-t, u-v, w-x, y-z) ran parallel to Gully 1023 along its northern edge. The fills (contexts 1026, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034, 1036, 1038 and 1040 respectively) were brownish silts or silty clays. The two largest of these features (contexts 1027 and 1040) were around 0.15m in diameter and between 0.05m and 0.10m in depth. The remainder of the stakeholes were around 0.10m in diameter, and between 0.05m and 0.10m in diameter. These stakeholes appeared to have formed a fence-line on the north side of Gully 1023.

- 7.1.5 Three gullies (contexts 1006, 1012 and 1019), a pit (context 1010), and two post settings (contexts 1008 and 1015) were, on stratigraphic grounds at least, contemporary with Gully 1023.
- 7.1.6 Gullies 1006 and 1012 were partially obscured by the southern baulk. With U-shaped profiles, both were c. 0.40m wide and 0.25-0.30m deep (Fig. 3 aa-ab, ac-ad, ae-af). Gully 1006 had two fills, a dark brown sandy clay (context 1004) in the base, overlain by context 1005, a very dark greyish brown silt containing a single 13th/14th century sherd (Appendix 2). Gully 1012 was filled by a deposit of dark brown silt (context 1011). Gully 1019 ran parallel to the south-eastern edge of Gully 1025, and was 0.60m with a U-shaped profile 0.20m deep (Fig 3 ag-ah). Its western end was overlain by Deposit 1003, but it was at least 1.50m long. The single fill (context 1018) was a dark greyish brown silty clay containing two 12th-14th century sherds (Appendix 2).
- 7.1.7 Pit 1010 was located immediately south of Gully 1025, was oval in form, and had a dished profile, 0.10m in depth (Fig. 3 ai-aj). It was filled by context 1009, a dark brown silt which contained a single 12th-14th century sherd (Appendix 2).
- 7.1.8 The two post settings were situated in the south-eastern part of the trench. Context 1008 was a small posthole 0.20m in diameter and 0.10m deep (Fig. 3 ak-al). The single fill (context 1007) was a dark greyish brown silt. Context 1015 was represented by a 0.60m square cut, which contained a roughly squared flat chalk block in the centre (context 1014), surrounded by a deposit of dark brown silty clay (context 1013). The most likely explanation is that context 1015 was a post pad for a timber upright.
- 7.1.9 The last of the excavated pits (context 1017 : Fig. 3 ao-ap & Fig. 6) would appear to be later than the features discussed above because of associated finds. Partly underlying the northern baulk, Pit 1017 was 1.40 wide, and had a 0.25m deep bowl-shaped profile. The sole fill (context 1016) existed as a dark greyish brown silty clay, which contained two 12th -14th century sherds, along with a single sherd of 17th century Black Ware (Appendix 2).
- 7.1.10 The dark greyish brown clay silt fills of two other cut features (contexts 1044 and 1045) were observed in plan in the western part of the trench. Both appeared to represent circular or oval pits.
- 7.1.11 As stated above positive structural remains were uncovered in the western part of Trench 1, and because Deposit 1043 and Wall 1046 overlay Pits 1044 and 1045, the structural phase was obviously later. The structural remains (Pl. 3) covered at least two periods, with Wall 1049 being later than Wall 1050.
- 7.1.12 Wall 1050 was observed for a short distance at the west end of the trench; it ran under the baulk at its west end and was obscured by Wall 1049 to the east.

It consisted a single course of four squared blocks, each 0.30m wide, faced to the north. Three of the stones were chalk, the other of limestone.

7.1.13 The remainder of the structural remains are seen as forming a coherent unit, consisting of two stretches of walling (contexts 1046 and 1049), a post-pad (context 1045), surfacing (contexts 1042 and 1051), a rubble spread (context 1043 – perhaps more surfacing), and a hearth (context 1047).

7.1.14 Wall 1049 consisted of an intermittent stretch of chalk blocks running for approximately 4m eastwards into the trench. The blocks were a single course high, around 0.30m wide and were faced to the north. Wall 1046 ran at right-angles to the end of Wall 1049, the two being separated by a narrow gap. Wall 1046 was formed by a single course of shattered chalk blocks. Both east and west faces were present, giving a total width of 0.50m.

7.1.15 Post-pad 1045 was situated in a position slightly offset from the projected intersection of Walls 1046 and 1049. The post-pad consisted of a block of hard quartzitic sandstone 0.60m long and 0.28m wide. Its location suggests that it may have formed the base of a large vertical timber at the corner of the building.

7.1.16 Inside the L-shape formed by the two walls a compact spread of brown silty clay with c.50% chalk fragments (context 1042) formed a likely internal floor. This was bounded on the east side by a spread of chalk rubble of regular size (context 1043), possibly representing a more coherent surface. Immediately south of Deposit 1043, a heat-affected flat slab of limestone (context 1047) formed the remains of a hearth. In situ burning was indicated by the reddening of a number of stones lying immediately west of the hearthstone.

7.2 *Trench 2 (Pl. 4; Figs. 4 and 6)*

7.2.1 Trench 2 was 8m x 2m in size and situated in the central/eastern part of the site. Beneath the modern turf and a layer of chalk gravel and rubble structural remains were revealed.

7.2.2 Context 2008 was the earliest deposit identified, and was located in a slot excavated in the central part of the trench. This deposit consisted of a brown clay silt with small chalk fragments, and probably represented colluvium similar to that observed in Trench 4 (see below).

7.2.3 The structural remains were represented by a 0.45m wide chalk wall (context 2005 : Fig. 4 aq-ar, as-at, au-av) and an associated chalk setting (context 2007). The wall was made of a maximum of three courses of roughly squared unbonded chalk blocks running on a rough north to south alignment for 4.2m before continuing into the north baulk of the trench. Wall 2005 terminated at its southern end at a rectangular setting of laid chalk rubble (context 2007), 1.1m x 0.85m in size, which continued eastwards out of the trench.

7.2.4 To the west, externally to Wall 2005, an integrated surface of rounded chalk fragments was identified; a single medieval sherd was associated with the

surface (Appendix 2). Inside the wall lay a deposit of brown clay silt (context 2006), which apparently represented an earth floor. Context 2006 contained two sherds of Post medieval Red Coarse Ware (Appendix 2).

7.2.5 The structural and surfacing remains were covered over by a 0.20m deep layer of sub-angular chalk gravel and rubble (context 2003). This layer tailed off to south where it overlay a layer of chalk gravel (context 2004). These two deposits apparently represent the demolition and/or collapse of the preceding structure.

7.2.6 The topsoil covering the entire trench was a rich dark silt (context 2001), deepest to the north-east where it occupied a hollow formed by the interior of the structure (where it was recorded separately as context 2002). Context 2002 contained a relatively large number of sherds, ranging in date from the 17th to the 19th centuries (Appendix 2).

7.3 *Trench 3 (Pl. 5; Fig. 6)*

7.3.1 This trench was excavated in the western part of the site and measured 8m x 2m in size. No archaeological deposits were found.

7.3.2 Natural deposits consisted of frost-shattered chalk bedrock with solution hollows filled with chestnut brown clay.

7.3.3 A 0.10m deep, 4.5m wide linear band of dark yellowish brown silty clay (context 3003) ran through the bedrock surface on a south-west to north-east alignment, and contained a single calcite-gritted sherd (Appendix 2). Context 3003 was interpreted as representing silting into a natural solution channel.

7.3.4 Above context 3003 was a 0.50m deep layer of homogenous dark brown silt with chalk gravel inclusions (context 3002), representing colluvium. Associated finds consisted of nine sherds dated to the 12th-14th centuries (Appendix 2).

7.3.5 The modern topsoil (context 3001) completed the sequence.

7.4 *Trench 4 (Pl. 6; Fig. 6)*

7.4.1 Trench 4 was positioned at the southern margin of the site, and was 10m x 3m in size with a south-west to north-east alignment. A single possible posthole was present, cut into the top of a sequence of colluvial deposits (contexts 4007-9).

7.4.2 Natural deposits consisted of frost-shattered chalk bedrock, the surface of which dipped down markedly to the south-east.

7.4.3 Context 4009 was recorded immediately above the chalk bedrock, and consisted of brown clay silt with c.50% inclusions of sub-angular chalk fragments.

- 7.4.4 The next deposit was a 0.35m deep layer of largely stone-free yellowish brown clay silt (context 4008), again dipping down to the south-west. It contained a single sherd of Roman Greyware and a fragment of tile (Appendix 2).
- 7.4.5 The final colluvial deposit consisted of an extensive, 0.50m deep layer of chalk gravel with a brown clay silt matrix (context 4007). This contained four 12th-14th century sherds (Appendix 2).
- 7.4.6 A possible circular posthole (context 4004) had been cut in to the top of colluvium 4007. The posthole was filled by a deposit of brown clay silt (context 4003), which contained two 12th-14th century sherds (Appendix 2).
- 7.4.7 Two amorphous deposits of brown clay silt/silty clay (contexts 4005 and 4006) also lay above context 4007. These deposits occupied shallow hollows in the top of colluvium 4007, and this shallowness, coupled with their amorphous forms, points to them having a natural origin.
- 7.4.8 Subsequent deposits consisted of a subsoil layer of dark greyish brown clay silt (context 4002), overlain by a deep layer of modern turf and topsoil (context 4001).

8. Discussion

- 8.1 The evaluation was successful in identifying archaeological activity in three of the evaluation trenches, the character of the deposits differing from Trenches 1 and 2, located towards the north of the site, where solid structural activity was uncovered, to Trenches 3 and 4 in the south.
- 8.2 There were at least three phases of activity in Trench 2. The earliest features comprised the gullies, pits, stakeholes and post-settings at the eastern end of the trench, which were associated with 12th-14th century pottery. These features showed an intense area of activity, with the gullies and stakeholes representing boundaries, the pits probable rubbish disposal, and the post-settings the structural remains of a timber building(s). At Wharram Percy, timber buildings were dated to the 12th and 13th centuries (Andrews and Milne eds. 1979), which would equate well with the pottery found at Duggleby for this phase.
- 8.3 The complete plan for the chalk building was not recovered, this was due to the size of the trench, but also because of it having been partly robbed. The fact that Wall 1049 overlay Wall 1050 demonstrated that it had been remodelled. The presence of the hearth suggests that this building was domestic rather than an outbuilding or barn. Dating evidence was scarce, but the demolition rubble covering the building contained 17th century pottery. The likelihood is therefore that this was a late medieval building that was demolished or abandoned in the early Post-medieval period
- 8.4 The function of the building in Trench 2 is unknown; superficially this appeared to be more substantial than the Trench 1 structure, but this could be

due to it having been better preserved. Again dating evidence was sparse, but Post-medieval sherds pressed in to the probable internal floor suggest a date around the 17th century. A single medieval sherd was found integrated in to the external stone yard surface.

- 8.5 Trenches 3 and 4 showed considerable evidence for the movement of soils downslope during the medieval period, presumably the result of increased arable activity. The single possible posthole dug into the top of colluvium in Trench 4 hints at small-scale activity here in the Post-medieval period.
- 8.6 Taken as a whole, the results of the evaluation showed that there was a considerable amount of activity in the north of the site, related to settlement in the medieval and Post-medieval periods. A possible timber structural period dating to the 12th or 13th century was superseded by a late medieval chalk built structure of at least two phases, which was demolished in the early Post-medieval period. The presence of a hearth showed that this was a dwelling, which presumably fronted towards the Gypsey Race. This suggests that Salents Lane, the street running along the south bank of the beck, dates back at least to medieval times. The chalk-built building revealed in Trench 2 was possibly an outbuilding or barn relating to the street-side dwelling.
- 8.7 The archaeological activity revealed by the evaluation had ceased by the time that the 18th century Estate map had been drawn, the development site forming open ground up to the present day.

9. Implications of the Proposed Development

- 9.1 To judge by the evidence from the evaluation trenches the most significant deposits lie at north and north-east of the development site, where clear traces of medieval and early Post-medieval occupation were identified. The features associated with this activity are chalk-built structural remains, and features cut into the natural chalk gravel.
- 9.2 At their most shallow the structural remains in Trench 1 lie at 113.37m AOD, within 0.25m of present ground level. These deposits are therefore vulnerable to all but the shallowest processes. In addition, the structural deposits were seen to extend beyond the western, northern, southern and eastern limits of the trench, albeit for an unknown distance.
- 9.3 The level of construction for the access for Units 01 and 02 will need to be considerably lower than the present ground surface, given the fact that the public road is appreciably lower than surface of the development site. This process will physically affect the thinly buried deposits revealed in Trench 1 (Fig. 7).
- 9.4 The extent of the structural remains beyond the limits of the excavated area is unknown, but, given the concentrated features seen in Trench 1 and the presence of earthworks in the immediate vicinity, it is probable that they extend across much of the northern part of the proposed development. The

construction of Units 01 and 02 therefore has the potential to adversely affect significant archaeological deposits (Fig. 7).

- 9.5 In Trench 2 the top of Wall 2005 lies at its highest at 114.07m AOD in the south, dipping down to 113.83 m AOD in the north, at depths of between 0.15m and 0.20m of the present ground surface. The walls extended northwards and eastwards out of the excavated area. The site of the proposed garage for Unit 01 lies 5m to the west of the known archaeological deposits here. However, the presence of earthworks in the vicinity of both the garages and the access drive to them makes it probable that significant archaeology will be affected by the development of the area to the west of Trench 2 (Fig. 7).
- 9.6 No significant archaeological deposits were identified in Evaluation Trenches 3 and 4. There are, however earthworks in this area, raising the possibility that deposits exist here, which might be affected by the construction of Units 03 and 04 (Fig. 7).

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