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A98WB12: Fountains Dairy, Kirkby Malzeard

Watching Brief Report.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT FOUNTAINS DAIRY, KIRKBY MALZEARD, NORTH YORKSHIRE

### Introduction

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by On-Site Archaeology at Fountains Dairy, Kirkby Malzeard, North Yorkshire on behalf of Peters Associates during December 1998 and April 1999. This work fulfilled the archaeological condition attached to planning application No: 6.24.70D/FUL for the construction of the proposed new cheese processing plant and associated drainage works.*

*Ground clearance within the footprint of the proposed new building at the northern perimeter of the site and excavation for the drainage interceptor tank on its eastern side formed the subject of this watching brief. Recent ground disturbance was evident throughout and no significant archaeological features were encountered.*

### 2.0 Site Location

The site is situated at NGR SE 2352 7456, on the edge of the Village of Kirkby Malzeard, close to the boundary of the area designated as the site of Mowbray Castle, National Monument No: 26935. It was the proximity of this monument that created the need for an archaeological watching brief as it was thought that the two areas under consideration might impinge upon on the Castle bailey's enclosure ditch or moat.

### 3.0 Methodology

At both locations, excavation was undertaken using a 360-degree tracked excavator. At the site of the footprint of the proposed new processing plant a variable depth of material was present above natural. In the case of the drainage interceptor tank approximately 4m of material was excavated to allow for the insertion of the tank below ground level.

### 4.0 Results

At the site of the proposed processing plant it was apparent that the land had originally sloped down to the north in the direction of the Kex Beck and to the west and east, upwards towards Mowbray House and the former site of Mowbray Castle. This natural hollow had been infilled in recent times to create a level area on which various outhouses and sea containers have been placed. Excavation revealed that the bulk of this material comprised modern detritus (building demolition material, paint tins and rusty galvanised roofing sheets etc). Beneath this a thin natural soil profile survived in places above natural. The depth of material present above natural ranged from 0.75m to 1.50m in depth. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded.

To the east of the main factory complex at the location of the interceptor tank the results were as above. The excavated material was modern in origin, again comprising modern detritus, approximately 0.75m in depth, above a partially surviving thin soil profile above natural. No features of archaeological significance were recovered, nor were any artifacts or ecofacts recovered at either location.

The watching brief was concluded on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 1999