

Part OS Field 5592, Gatenby, North Yorkshire

archaeological watching brief

on behalf of

Mr Graham Clarke

and

Pickhill Engineers Ltd

ASUD Report 1168
December 2004

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of a watching brief conducted during a development at Part OS Field 5592, Gatenby, North Yorkshire. The site comprised a single building plot, on the site of a now demolished house. The development had the potential to expose archaeological features relating to the 'shrunk' medieval village that had existed at Gatenby.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Mr Graham Clarke and conducted by Archaeological Services University of Durham in accordance with guidelines provided by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit.

Results

- 1.3 Topsoil was stripped from the site and several foundation trenches were excavated into the natural subsoil.
- 1.4 No significant archaeological remains were uncovered. A small quantity of pottery of medieval and post-medieval date was recovered from the topsoil. This will be archived in accordance with standard procedures for this area.

Recommendations

- 1.5 There is no recommendation for further works in relation to this development.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at Part OS Field 5592, Gatenby village, North Yorkshire, and centred on NGR 325879.

Development proposal

- 2.2 The proposal is to construct a single two storey residential dwelling, along with associated access road and services.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to record any archaeological features of artefacts that came to light as a result of the development.

Specification summary

- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section guidelines for archaeological watching briefs.

Dates

- 2.5 Fieldwork was undertaken between 18th and 20th October 2004. This report was prepared during November 2004.

Personnel

- 2.6 Fieldwork was conducted by Vaughan Wastling. This report was prepared by Vaughan Wastling, and edited by Peter Carne with illustrations by Linda Bosveld. Finds analysis was conducted by Alejandra Gutierrez. The project manager was Peter Carne.

Archive

- 2.7 The site code is **GVY04**, for **Gatenby Village North Yorkshire 2004**. The site archive is currently held by Archaeological Services and will be transferred to the appropriate depository in due course.

3. Methods statement

- 3.1 At the time of the survey the proposed development area comprised a former dwelling site, with the old structure already removed to ground level.
- 3.2 The site was cleared of all scrub; topsoil and modern overburden was removed using a JCB equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Areas of the site were hand-cleaned by the archaeologist for the identification of archaeological remains. A series of foundation trenches were excavated through the subsoil. All groundworks were subject to archaeological monitoring.

4. Results

- 4.1 The natural subsoil comprised poorly-drained grey-brown clay [8]. This was observed to a maximum depth of 1m. At the frontage of the site, a layer of dark loamy soil and rubble was present up to 0.35m in depth [7]: this is likely to have been deposited to level up this area with respect to the construction of the drive to the former dwelling. This was covered by a layer of clay loam topsoil up to 0.25m in depth [9].
- 4.2 A recent small dog skeleton was buried within the topsoil (not recovered).
- 4.3 Three linear land drains [F1/F2; F3/F4; F5/F6] traversed the site, cutting through context [7]. These measured up to 0.35m in width, 0.9m in depth, and were partially filled with stone and occasional brick fragments.
- 4.4 Several fragments of pottery of medieval and post-medieval date were recovered from the topsoil and from one of the land drains.

5. The finds

- 5.1 The assemblage of finds recovered during the monitoring includes 13 sherds of pottery, 2 clay pipe stem fragments and 1 land drainage pipe sherd. Most of the finds were recovered from the topsoil, and only two further sherds derived from context [1] (a land drain). The assemblage is dominated by pottery types of modern date, although some residual late medieval fragments were also found. The finds assemblage is detailed in Table 2.1.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 No further work is recommended in relation to this development.



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University of Durham

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Figure 1

Location of archaeological monitoring

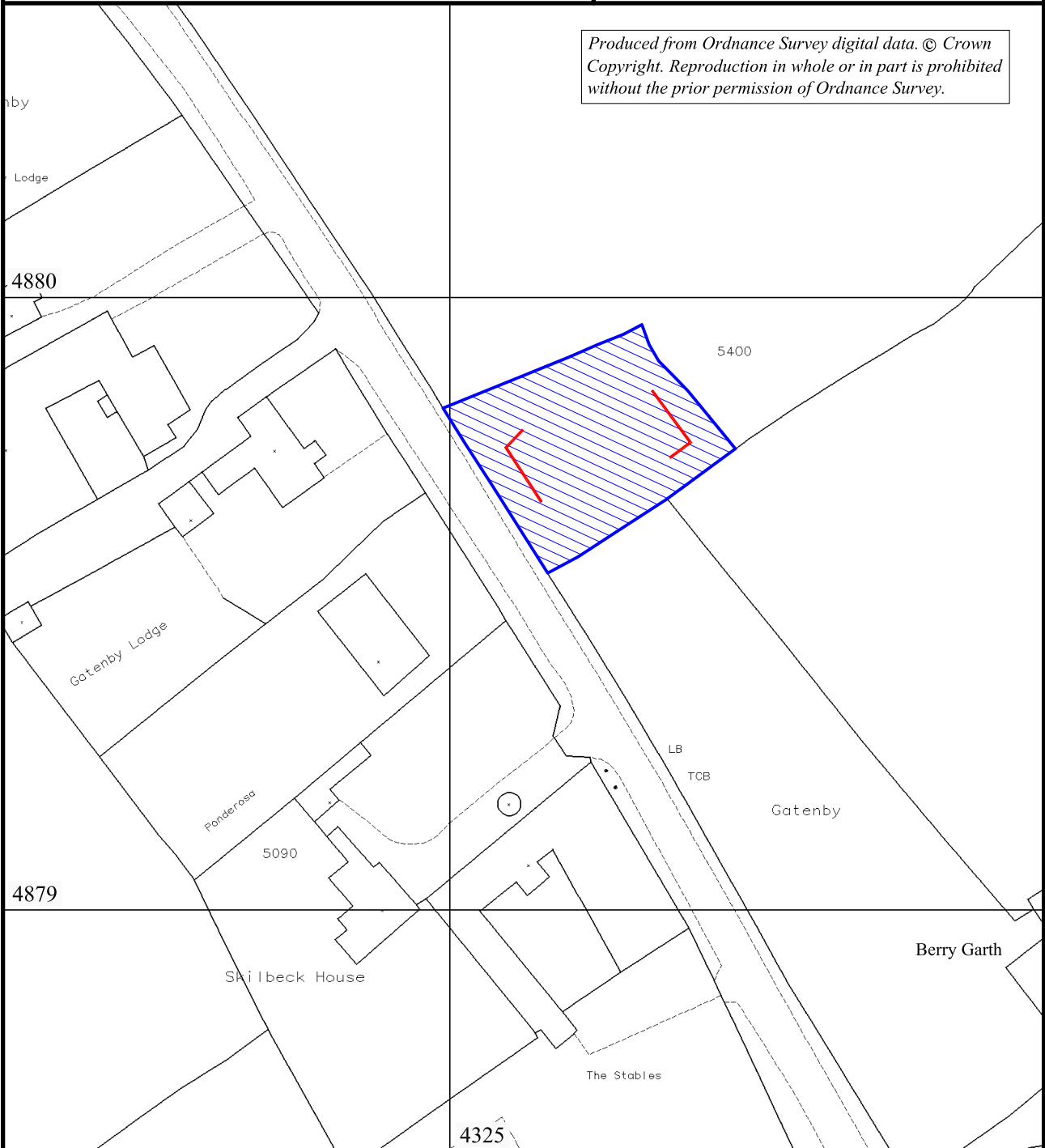
on behalf of
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0 50m



scale 1:1000 - for A4 plot

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area of archaeological monitoring



land drain



Appendix 1: Context data

No	Description	Pottery	Clay pipe
F1	Drain	2 sherds	
F2	Cut for drain 1		
F3	Drain		
F4	Cut for drain 3		
F5	Drain		
F6	Cut for drain 5		
7	Dumping/levelling layer		
8	Natural (clay)		
9	Topsoil	11 sherds	2 stem fragments

Appendix 2: Data tables

Table 2.1: Finds Assemblage

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Description	Date
topsoil	1	2	plain creamware plate	18th-19thC
topsoil	1	30	Sunderland coarseware: sgraffito plate; all-over slip on interior surface, decorated with sgraffito parallel lines, under transparent glaze with some tinge of green. Fine orange fabric with some quartz sand	19thC
topsoil	1	6	plain pearlware ?jar	19th-20thC
topsoil	1	4	blue-printed pearlware plate (oriental pattern) sherd	19th-20thC
topsoil	1	95	undecorated, industrially made, coarseware, flower pot?	19th-20thC
topsoil	1	50	slipware bowl/pancheon; all-over white slip on interior surface, under transparent lead glaze	19th-20thC
topsoil	1	25	English brown stoneware bottle/jar; brown glaze exterior, brown wash interior. Fine grey fabric with no inclusions visible	19th-20thC
topsoil	1	10	strap handle from a jar; some spots of dark brown glaze. Fine fabric with some quartz and clay relicts; grey core and orange margins and surfaces	post-medieval
topsoil	1	20	lead-glazed bowl/jar; green glaze on interior surface, brown wash on exterior. Fine grey fabric with orange ext surface, with some quartz sand	post-medieval
topsoil	1	10	late medieval jug; green glaze on exterior surface only. Fine dark grey fabric with some quartz inclusions	late medieval
topsoil	1	100	base of large storage jar/crock; remains of green glaze on exterior surface only. Very fine dark grey fabric with orange interior surface; micaceous matrix	late medieval
topsoil	1	5	water pipe/ land drainage pipe	20thC
topsoil	2	4	clay pipe stem fragments; ¼ inch (6 mm) diameter and bore: 1/16 inch (2 mm); yellow glaze at the tip	19thC
1	1	5	yellow ware bowl	19thC
1	1	4	glazed jug sherd; partial green glaze on exterior surface only. Orange fabric throughout, with some quartz sand	late medieval

Appendix 3: Specification

STANDARD WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING (“WATCHING BRIEF”)

- 1 The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains which are:
 - a) affected by proposed development only to a limited and clearly defined extent,
 - b) not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or
 - c) of limited importance or potential.The work should not require the construction programme or development to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although some developers may give such a facility.
- 2 The WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements needed to comply with an archaeological planning condition. The scheme does **not** comprise a full specification, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. The details of implementation must be specified in a contract between the developer and the selected archaeological contractor.
- 3 The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) should be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI. The Archaeologist should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal.
- 4 Removal of overburden by machine should be undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where materials are exceptionally difficult to lift, a toothed bucket may be used temporarily. Subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by back-acting excavator but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist on site, and only with archaeological supervision. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Where reinstatement is required, topsoil should be kept separate from other soil materials.
- 5 Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.
- 6 Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The sampling of deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence should be a standard consideration, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available if appropriate.

Contd\....

- 7 Heavy plant should not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the Archaeologist on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision. Where reinstatement is required, subsoils should be backfilled first and topsoil last.
- 8 Upon completion of fieldwork, samples should be processed and evaluated, and all finds cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated, and properly stored. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist should arrange for either the County Archaeologist or an independent post-excavation specialist to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to an appropriate museum or records office.
- 9 A summary report should be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report should contain planning or administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas should be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features should be illustrated with conventionally scaled plans, sections, or photographs. Where few or no finds are made, it may be acceptable to provide the report in the form of a letter with plans attached.
- 10 Copies of the summary report should be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Unit (SMR), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage.
- 11 The County Archaeologist should be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If human remains are encountered, they should be exhumed subject to the conditions of a Home Office licence.