



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
WYAS

**Thanets Yard
Skipton
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1314

November 2004

CLIENT

Pennine Motor Services

NYCC HER	
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ENY	2814
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Thanets Yard
Skipton
North Yorkshire

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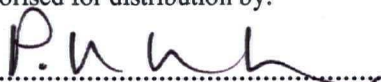
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Summary

A site visit was undertaken to observe a series of test pits excavated in association with a proposed development at Thanets Yard, Skipton, North Yorkshire. No conclusive archaeological remains were observed within the trenches, although one test pit contained a possible cobbled surface. Seen only in section, neither its date nor function were determined.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) were commissioned by Wales Wales and Rawson, on behalf of their client Norman Simpson of Pennine Motor Services, to observe a series of test pits previously excavated by Strata Surveys Ltd. The work was carried out in accordance with the archaeological condition placed on planning application no. 63/2004/4024.

The site is located in central Skipton and occupies a strip of land due south of the Town Hall, at NGR SD 991 518 (Fig. 1). The underlying geology comprises of Glacial Till overlying Skibeden Shales from the Lower Carboniferous limestone (British Geological Survey 1974). The archaeological watching brief was carried out on 14th October 2004.

- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken because the site is of potential archaeological significance, and it is believed that any groundworks may disturb possible archaeological deposits.

2. Method

- 2.1 The methodology involved the investigation of six previously excavated test pits to determine the presence of archaeological remains or deposits (Fig. 2). Unfortunately, due to one pit being already backfilled, and two others being inaccessible to the visiting archaeologist, the observation of only three test pits was possible.
- 2.2 The removal of a fuel store and part of its west-facing enclosing wall, within the garage, also afforded the opportunity to record a stratigraphic section. The sections of the test pits were sketched and where possible, photographed. Due to the nature of the building however, there was very little natural light, and this made the compiling of a photographic record problematic.

3. Results

Test pits

- 3.1 Test pit A was located approximately 10m due south of the garage within a locked enclosure, and to which a representative of Wales Wales and Rawson and the visiting archaeologist could not gain access.
- 3.2 Test pit B was situated approximately 0.5m due south of test pit A, and was also inaccessible.
- 3.3 Test pit C was situated near the western, exterior-facing wall and had been backfilled prior to the attendance of the archaeologist.
- 3.4 Test pit D measured 1.5m in length by 1.0m in width by 0.45m in depth. Underlying the concrete surface, a mid greyish brown clay deposit was observed. No archaeological features were noted within the limits of the trench.
- 3.5 Test pit E measured 1.2m in length by 0.9m in width by 1.4m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised of a mixed concrete and overburden layer (to a depth of 0.4m), overlying a mid brownish clay, 1m in depth. The latter sealed a possible cobbled surface at 1.4m in depth. The cobbled surface butted up

against a stone wall that represents part of the earlier stone phase of the extant building (Fig. 3, S.1). Due to the limits of the excavated test pit, it was unclear whether the cobbled surface formed part of a footing for the earlier stone phase, or an associated floor.

- 3.6 Test pit F measured 1.6m in length by 0.7 in width by 1.25m in depth and exhibited similar stratigraphy as seen in test pit E. No archaeological features were visible within the limits of the excavated area.

Fuel store

- 3.7 The removal of the fuel storage tank and the west-facing enclosing wall revealed a section through the strata 0.8m in width and to a depth of 2.8m. The stratigraphy comprised of mixed concrete and overburden overlying a layer of mixed dark greyish brown clay deposit with rare flecks of charcoal at a maximum depth of 0.6m. This overlay a mid orangey brown natural clay deposit. An examination of the section revealed no archaeological features. This was subsequently photographed and a sketch was made (Fig. 3, S.2).

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 A visit was undertaken at Thanets Yard, Skipton, North Yorkshire on the 14th October 2004 to observe a series of test pits previously excavated in association with a proposed development. No conclusive archaeological remains were observed within the trenches investigated, although within test pit E a cobbled surface was exposed in section. This was probably associated with the earlier stone phase of the extant building, although this could not be confirmed categorically.

Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 1974. 'Bradford. England and Wales Sheet 69'. Solid Edition. 1 inch series.

Acknowledgements

Project Management

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Report

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Graphics/illustrations

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