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Archaeological Recording at Ebenezer Methodist Chapel,

Rosedale East, North Yorkshire, SE 708 977



Work undertaken by Stephen Sherlock in May 2007  
on behalf of the Trustees of Headland School  
OASIS ref. stephens1 - 26855

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Archaeological Recording at Ebenezer Methodist Chapel, Rosedale East SE 708 977

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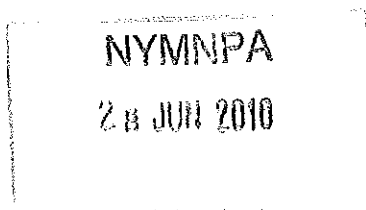
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## 1 Executive Summary

1 A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken beside Ebenezer Chapel, Rosedale East, North Yorkshire in advance of a proposed access road.

2 A programme of photographic and measured recording of walls exposed was proposed to provide a record of features that would be removed during the development.

3 One long length of partly robbed sandstone wall was exposed in the course of the work. This was drawn and photographed.

4 No other features were exposed and work on the north side of the site will build upon the existing ground surface and will not affect archaeological horizons. This report therefore comprises the archaeological record for the development.



2 Introduction

2.1 An archaeological programme of recording was undertaken on land to the north-west of the Old Ebenezer Chapel and School Building Rosedale East, on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd April 2007 (fig.1). The site is to the north of the present village, at Grid Reference SE 708 977 at an altitude of 223m OD.

2.2 The village of Rosedale East was a community that grew with the opening of Rosedale East Ironstone mine by the Rosedale and Ferryhill Iron Company in 1859-60 (Hayes 1973, 25). The opening of the mine created a population surge, so that the population of Rosedale grew from 558 in 1851 to 2,839 in 1871 (Hayes 1973, 21) and terraces of houses were built to accommodate this influx of people. At Rosedale East terraces were built at High Baring, Florence Terrace, Hill Cottages and School Row.

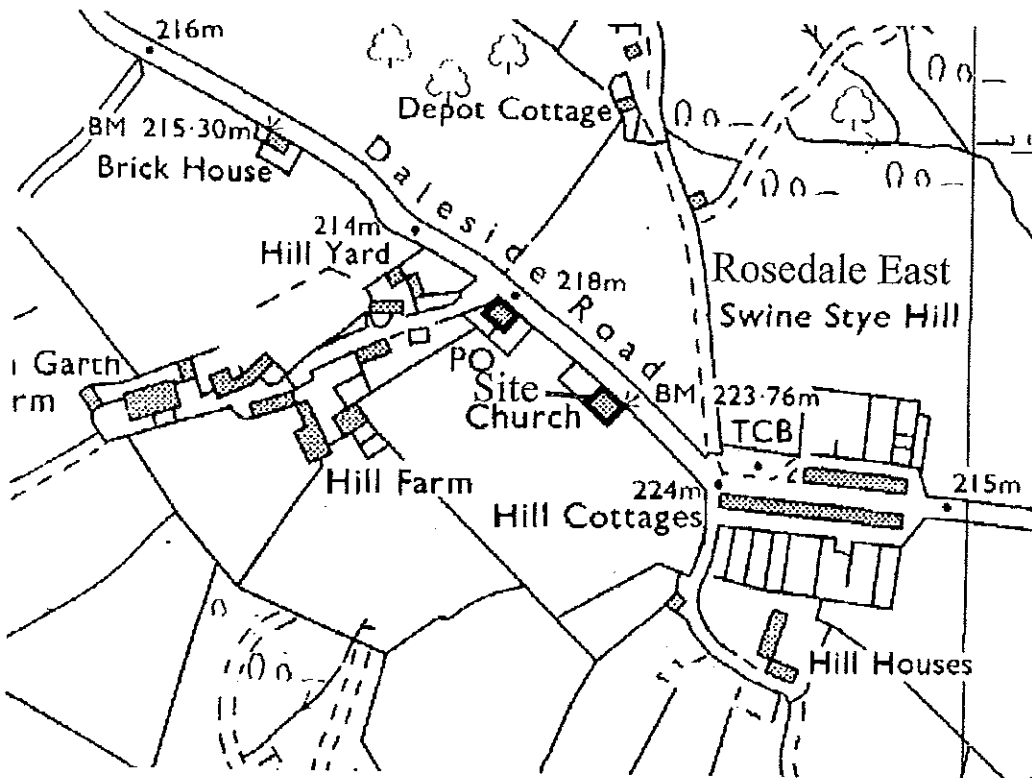


Fig. 1 Location Plan of the site at Rosedale East. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey material under Ordnance Survey Licence No. AL 100042193

2.3 The Methodist Chapel was constructed around this time based upon the inscription on the north wall dated 1872. The lower ground floor of the Chapel is now used as field study centre for Headland School and the development NYM/2007/0080/FL relates to the school.

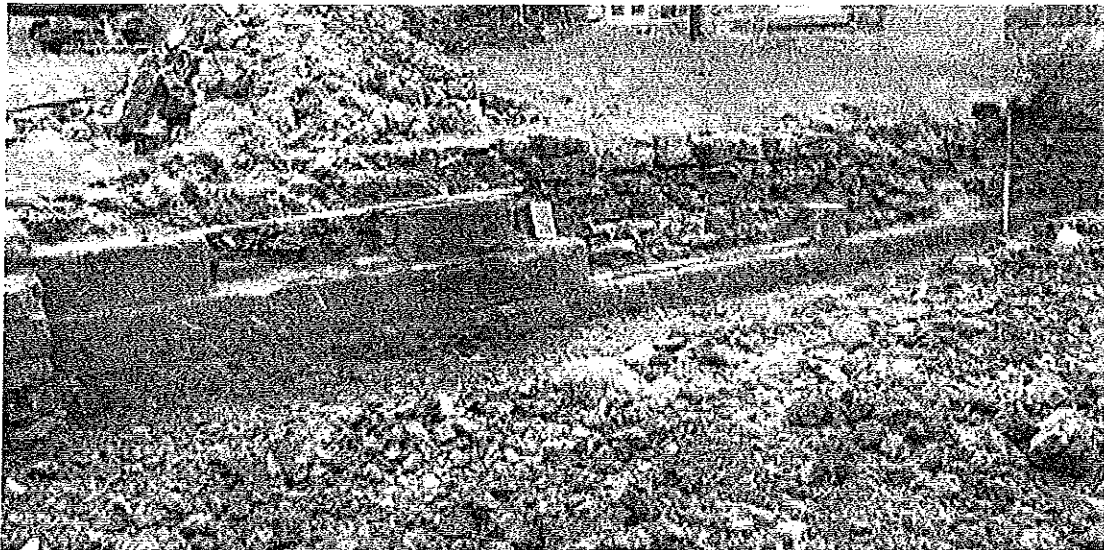
2.4 The proposed development is to create vehicular access to the north of the chapel across an empty parcel of land that was formerly the site of Rosedale East School dining hall (pl.1). The contours of the land dictated that the north side of the site would have to be built up above the existing ground surface. This would not affect

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any earlier buildings. On the south side of the site a parking area would be created and the ground surface reduced. The agreed strategy for development was for a programme of archaeological supervision during the removal of any material in this area, any remains would be recorded by measured drawing and photography.

### 3 The Building Recording

3.1 Following the clearance of the undergrowth across the site loose rubble and stones were removed from the route of the new access road. The removal of the rubble comprising undressed sandstone blocks, brick, tile and barbed wire exposed the line of a wall. This wall was traced from the boundary of the Chapel westwards for a distance of 9m. The wall was cleaned, photographed and drawn (fig.2). The wall had been robbed of dressed stone at the east end for 5m to the west, with only a single course of sandstone wall at ground level. Behind this lay in inner course of rubble and irregularly laid stones that comprised the inside of the wall not normally visible. To the west the original sandstone wall was intact, surviving in places with a herringbone pattern (fig.2). The final metre of the wall illustrated is a brick extension to the original school dining room. It is not proposed to remove this wall in the development. Plate 1 shows the surviving exterior wall and an internal wall behind which, to the north, are further remains of the school dining hall. The original building can be seen in a photograph kindly supplied by Janet Dring (plate 2), showing the Ebenezer Chapel and a building adjoining to the west.



Pl. 1 To show the southern wall of the former building looking north, scales 2m & 1m

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Ebenezer Chapel, Rosedale East

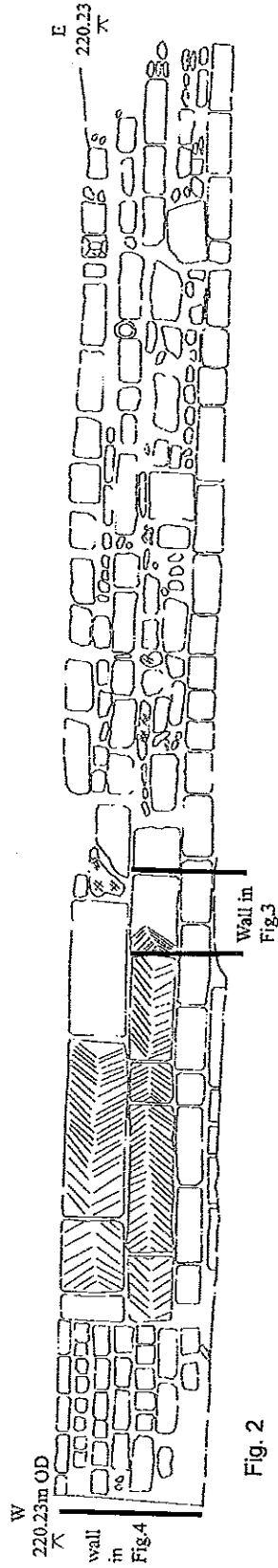


Fig. 2

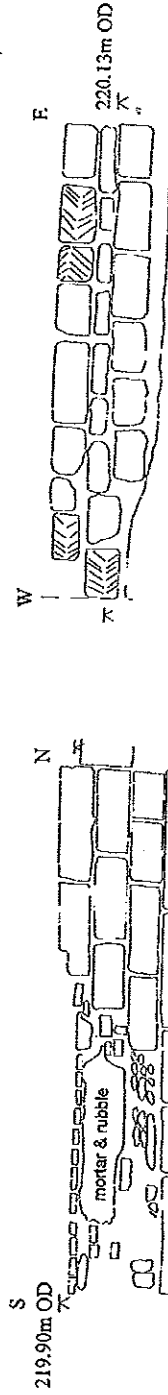
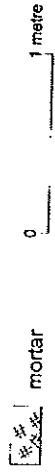


Fig. 4

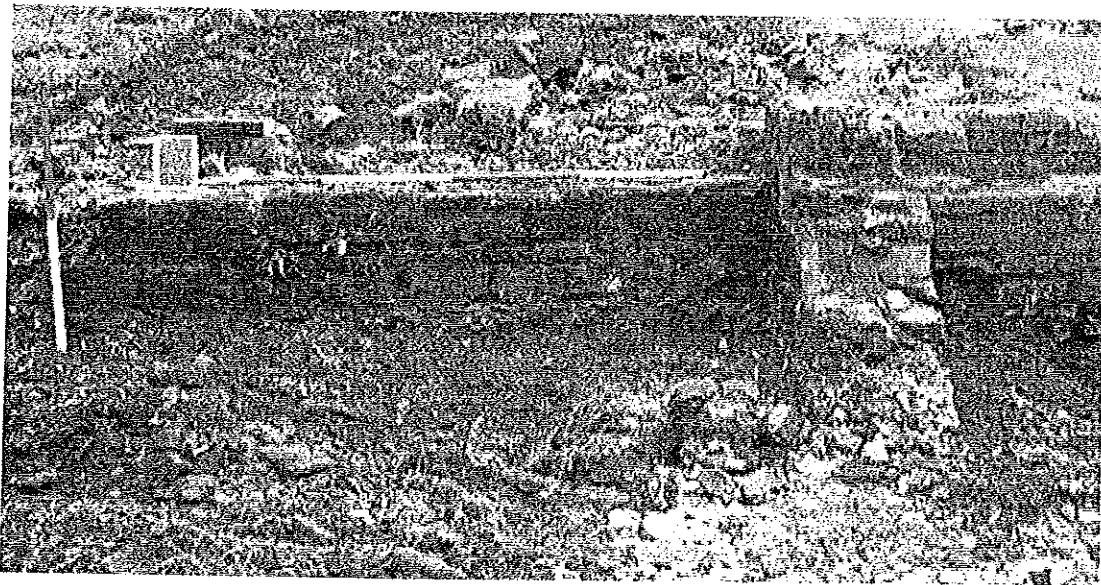
Fig. 3



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the eastern side as illustrated in figure 3. The southern wall had been robbed of sandstone and was merely rubble and plaster, and the western wall had a threshold and entrance into this extension.

3.3 The original wall of the school dining room was abutted on the west by a brick wall (on fig.2). This formed part of an extension to the dining room. The extension appeared to have corrugated sheet walls (pl.2) but was built upon a low coarse stone wall (fig.4). The foundations for this wall survived for a length of 2.7m and may originally have been longer and robbed during demolition. The walls were three courses high, to a maximum height of 0.50m. There were four dressed stones but the materials were of poorer quality than the main building further east and were more unevenly laid. The wall can be seen in figure 3 and plate 3.



Pl.3 To show the low foundation wall of the corrugated extension from the south

#### 4 Finds

One clay tobacco pipe stem was found during the removal of rubble and vegetation around the walls. This was not retained and no other finds were made.

#### 5 Conclusions

5.1 The archaeological work has recognised the remains of a sandstone building that is described here as the Rosedale School dining hall. This abuts the Ebenezer Chapel (pl.4). It is thought this may have been the first school at Rosedale East and that this was later replaced by a building to the SE near Hill Cottages (on fig.1 and seen in the background of pl.4). This later school, made of corrugated sheets, was photographed in 1925 (pl.5). At that time the buildings that are the focus of this study are occupied as the school dining rooms.

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Pl.2 A family at Hill Farm with the Ebenezer Chapel in the background and a range of lower sandstone and corrugated buildings to the west (left). Courtesy of Janet Dring

The date that the chapel was demolished is unknown although a Rosedale resident, Doreen Dale, recalls enjoying a school dinner in the building c.1940 (Sean Doughty, pers. comm.). Plate 2 shows a sandstone building with an entrance to the south and a further corrugated building to the west. It was possible to measure the extent of the sandstone building. It was 9.5m E-W and 6.1m N-S. In the western wall of the Ebenezer Chapel a roofline can be seen to have been inscribed into the wall. This appears to correspond with the buildings in plate 2.

3.2 A small sandstone extension was built onto the southern side of the school dining room, the low walls of which survived and the eastern wall is illustrated (fig.3). The extension was 1.6m N-S and 3.9m E-W and is thought to form an entrance to the building in a second phase of occupation. The wall abutted the main wall, but was not keyed into the structure. The only surviving dressed sandstone in the extension was on





Pl. 4 To show the choir outside the Chapel with the school in the rear of the image (courtesy of Janet Dring)



Pl.5 To show the school in a photograph dated 1925 (courtesy of Janet Dring)

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# DALESIDE ROAD

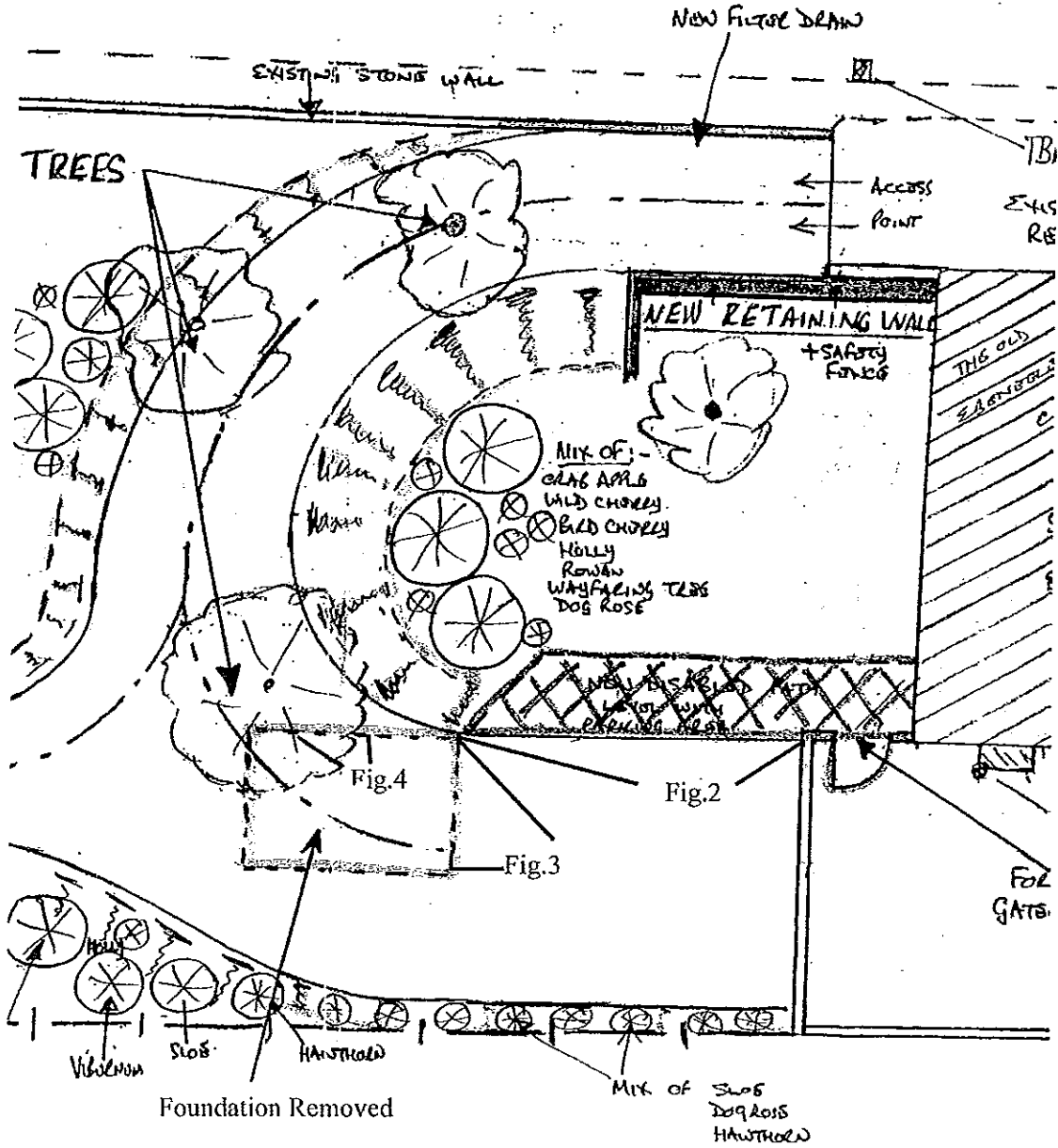


Fig.5 Plan to show walls drawn. Based upon drawing supplied by East Yorkshire Farm Services. Scale 1:100 @ A4

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5.2 An extension was built to the original school beside the Chapel. This work involved the erection of an entrance on the south side and a corrugated building to the west. It is thought that this work was to build the school dining room to service the corrugated school depicted in plates 4 and 5.

5.3 The creation of the disabled access to the present Headland School has meant that the foundations of the corrugated building and entrance have been removed. The walls that have been demolished are recorded as figures 3 and 4 and their location can be seen on figure 5.

5.4 The archaeological survey report and an OASIS record for the fieldwork project comprise a paper record of the remains. It is proposed to donate the photographs, drawings and a copy of the report to the Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton le Hole, North Yorkshire.

## 6 Acknowledgements

The archaeological survey was commissioned by Phil Fisher of East Yorkshire Farm Services, on behalf of their clients, the Trustees of Headland School. The work on site was assisted by Sean Doughty who operated the mini digger and provided local knowledge about the building. I wish to thank Janet Dring for supplying the old photographs of Rosedale East. I wish to thank Wendy Sherlock for commenting on the text, all errors and omissions relating to the building remain with the author.

## 7 Bibliography

Hayes R H 1973 **Rosedale the Story of Yorkshire's most beautiful Dale**, Ryedale Printworks, Helmsley

