

# Summary Report

## Negative Results

*Site Address:* 1 Manor Farm Cottage, High Worsall, Yarm, North Yorkshire TS15 9PW

*Application No.:* 06/00052/FUL

*Date of works:* 10<sup>th</sup> April 2008

*Date of Report:* 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008

*Contractors Report:* No. 19

*Location:* The site represents land adjacent to 1 Manor Farm, High Worsall, NGR NZ 3876 0942. The rectangular footprint of the extension measures 8.4m x 6m. Planning permission has been granted for a 2 storey extension to the east facing gable of 1 Manor Farm Cottage. Permission has been granted on condition that an archaeological watching brief is undertaken. The archaeological interest in the site comes from the proximity of standing earthworks associated with the Deserted Medieval Village of High Worsall with St John's Chapel at its centre.

*Description of Intervention:* This entailed an initial site strip down to 0.1m below the pre-existing surface bisecting the top soil. After the site strip was recorded ([Plate 1](#)), four foundation trenches 0.6m wide and were excavated down to 0.9m below the surface.

*Results:* The **site strip** revealed the lower course of a Post Medieval boundary wall. The wall was three brick width (0.32m wide) and consisted of roughly fired bricks (0.22 x 0.11 x 0.75m) bounded with lime mortar (up to 0.01m in thickness). The revealed wall was offset and parallel with the existing dwelling's gable wall by 1.4m ([Plate 1](#)), and extended out of the site to the north and south. The wall appeared to be consistent in material and construction to the adjacent cottages

The **foundation trenches** revealed that the topsoil had a consistent thickness of c. 0.2m across the site and there was no developed subsoil. The drift geology was a pinkish brown boulder clay which lay 0.2m below the surface and extended to the base of the trenches. A representative sample of finds from the topsoil was recovered, including transfer decorated pottery, glass, fragments of red clay pantiles, plain and decorated clay pipe stems, a mass produced button with the impressed label "Buttons Limited", two nickel plated buttons and a Victorian penny dated 1865. Finds are to be retained by the land owner.

The site had been truncated by 2 modern drains, to the north and south trenches. The northern trench ([Plate 2](#)) had a glazed earthenware drain (6" diam.) aligned east-west. The south trench featured a very modern clay pipe (8" diam.) with plastic couplings that channelled the surface water from the cottages into a soak away which was dug towards the south-west corner of the site ([Plate 3](#)).

The site contained no archaeological deposits neither did it feature any notable variations in the natural, indicative of ploughing or other agricultural processes, suggesting that the site had been historically levelled. This may have been carried out in association with the construction of the cottages and the construction of the revealed boundary wall and probably occurred post 1856 (1<sup>st</sup> Ed OS map).



***Plate 1:*** view of the site strip with probable boundary wall revealed, looking south



***Plate 2:*** the northern foundation trench (drain removed), looking west



*Plate 3: View of the modern drain and partially removed soak away, looking south-east*



*Plate 4: Pre excavation view, looking south*