
COVERHAM ABBEY, MIDDLEHAM.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS 1995-2015
OSA REPORT No: OSA14WB48

July 2015



OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA14WB48

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COUNTY: North Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 10601 86402

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1.0 Abstract.

This document will fully report the work carried out by On-Site Archaeology in 2010 and 2014-15 while placing it within the context of the work carried out by others between 1995 and 2005. This report will also seek to draw overall conclusions regarding the history of the monastery and its subsequent development based on the combined results from the archaeological investigations.

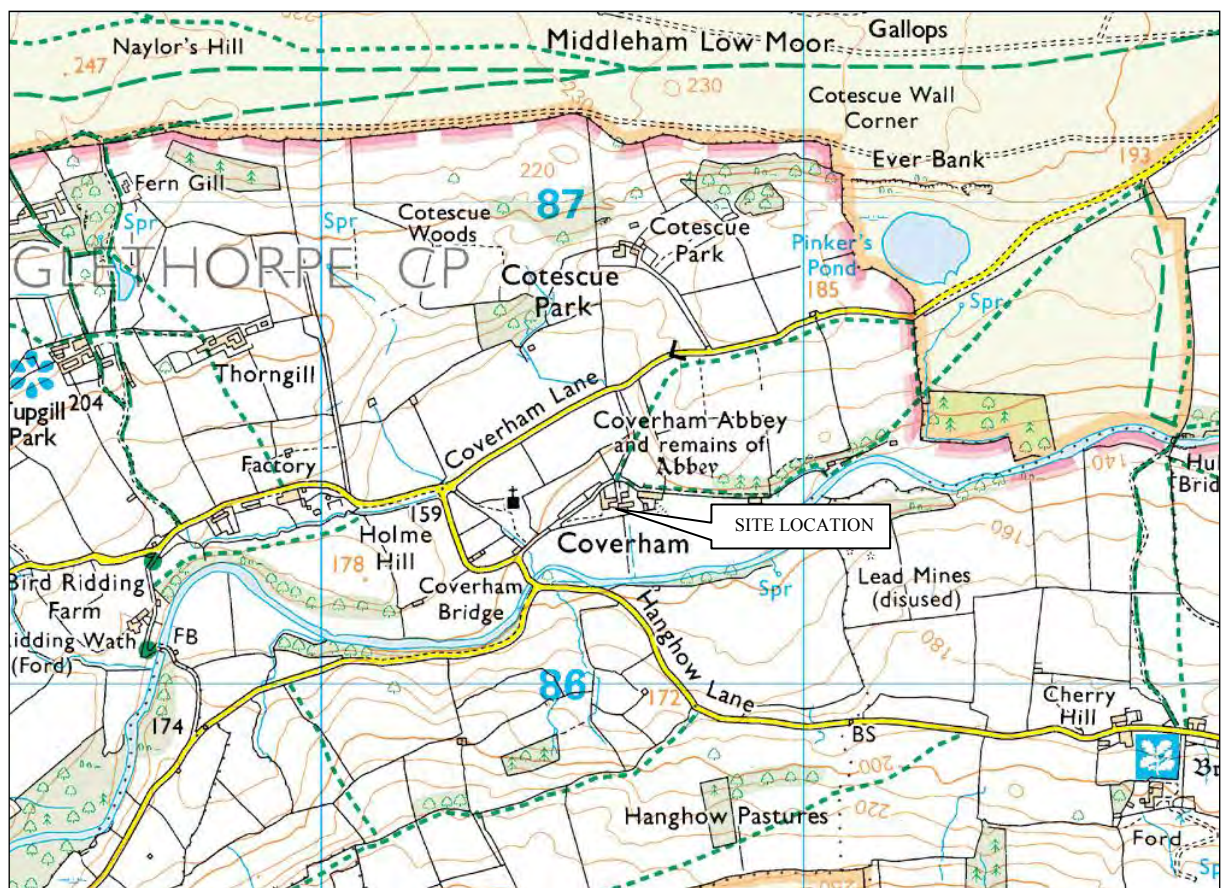


Figure 1. Site location (NGR SE 10601 86402).

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2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use.

The site lies approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the village of Middleham in the county of North Yorkshire. The remains of the Premonstratensian Abbey and later residential structures are located to the north of the River Cover.

The work reported here took place in and around the present day Coverham Abbey House that was built in c.1800 potentially on the site of the southern part of the former west claustral range of the abbey.

3.0 Archaeological Background.

The present site of Coverham Abbey comprises a number of later dwellings as well as the fragmentary standing remains of the former Premonstratensian Coverham Abbey itself. The site lies on the northern bank of the River Cover and is 2.5km southwest of the market town of Middleham.

The standing remains of the abbey church include parts of the eastern elevation of the chancel, a part of the north transept, part of the western elevation of the nave, a fragment of the south transept and three standing pillars of the arcade of the nave's south aisle. The later dwellings of Abbey Cottage, Garth Cottage and the northern 'service area' of Coverham Abbey House incorporate substantial masonry from the western claustral range. In addition copious decorated masonry from the former abbey buildings has been preserved on the site albeit divorced from its original contexts and now forms landscape features and decorative architectural detail. The existing known medieval fabric is shown in Figure 2 derived from the work of the Victoria County History and Peter Ryder (2006).

The abbey consisted of an inner and outer precinct and to the west lies a well-preserved late medieval gateway into the inner precinct. The thirteenth century Holy Trinity Church lay within the outer precinct and is today in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

After the dissolution of the abbey in 1536 the remains of the abbey are recorded as being sold in 1557. In the centuries that followed the abbey site passed into the hands of multiple owners. During the post-Dissolution period Garth Cottage and Abbey Cottage were constructed and finally Coverham Abbey House itself was built around 1800.

The site was described in the Victoria County History complete with a basic phase plan (1914) and was the subject of an article by William l'Anson (1920). In recent times there has been relatively little study of the medieval remains at Coverham Abbey. A detailed assessment of the standing remains was carried out by Peter Ryder in 2006 (Ryder 2006) together with a detailed analysis of the standing fabric and a number of phase plans. A further contribution is an article written by Stuart Harrison (Harrison 2013) specifically regarding the remains of an elaborately decorated arcade found in a watching brief by On-Site Archaeology in 2010, and described later in this report.

There are a number of designated sites and structures on and around the site:

Coverham Abbey Scheduled Monument (scheduled number 1015725)

Grade II listed. Outbuilding to east of Coverham Abbey House (listed building 1318564)

Grade II listed. Abbey Cottage (listed building 1130894)

Grade II* listed. Garth Cottage (listed building 1302197)

Grade II listed. Coverham Abbey House (listed building 1318563)

Grade II listed. Stone effigies of knights approx. 7 metres east of Coverham Abbey House (listed building 1130897)

Grade II listed. Gate and gate piers approximately 8 metres east of Coverham Abbey House (listed building 1130896)

Grade II listed. Garden wall with archway approx. 10m east of Coverham Abbey House (listed building 1130895)

Grade II listed. Gate and gate piers approx. 200 metres west of Coverham Abbey House (listed building 1178944)

Grade II listed. Coverham Abbey Gatehouse (listed building 1178895)

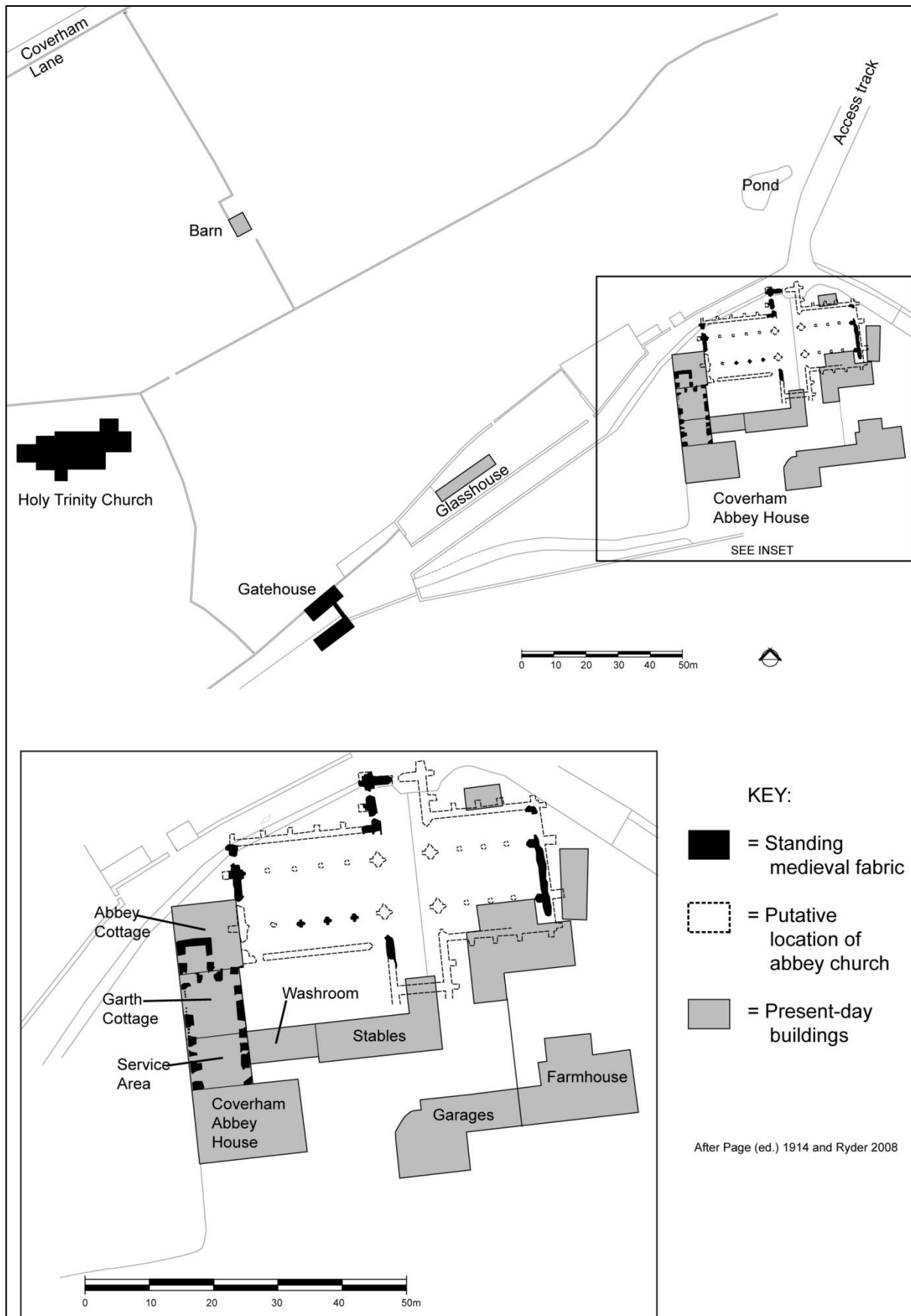


Figure 2. Upstanding medieval fabric (after Page (ed.) 1914 and Ryder 2008)

4.0 Methodology.

4.1 General

Several archaeological investigations are covered by this report, spanning the period from 1995 to 2015. The investigations comprise a mixture of trial trench evaluations and watching briefs and were carried out by three different archaeological contractors (the precise nature of each investigation will be described in the results section below):

A) Between 1995 and 1997 Kevin Cale Archaeological Consultant undertook a series of small evaluation trenches and watching briefs in and around Coverham Abbey House and the former Garth Cottage. These were prompted by the construction of a patio to the west of the service area, new drainage to the south of the house, reflooring and remodelling in Garth Cottage, the service area and the washroom, and construction of a new garden wall to the west of Garth Cottage. The work was reported on in 2008 (Cale 2008).

B) In 2005 trial trenching was undertaken on the northwest side of the track to the northwest of Coverham Abbey House by Alan Williams Archaeology following an earlier geophysical survey. This work was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of a swimming pool that was not subsequently built (Williams 2005).

C) On-Site Archaeology excavated three trenches in 2010 to evaluate the course of a proposed electricity cable trench in the track to the northwest of Coverham Abbey House. A watching brief was later carried out on the cable trenching as well as on various cable trenches excavated to the northwest of the track. In the same phase of works a watching brief was carried out during resurfacing and drainage work in the yard area on the northeast side of Coverham Abbey House. Although reported only in interim form (OSA 2010a and b), an article has been published about the architectural fragments found during the yard area watching brief, which briefly deals with the results of the watching brief derived from the interim report (Harrison 2013).

D) In 2014-15 On-Site Archaeology carried out a watching brief during construction of a new porch to the east of the service area and a new drain in the same area as well as during the installation of new flooring within the service area and the washroom.

In total eleven separate spatial areas of the Coverham Abbey site were investigated, some of which were covered by separate phases of investigation. The eleven areas are shown in Figure 3 and are individually described in the results section below. The eleven areas comprise (from west to east):

1. *Pool Area* - the proposed site of a swimming pool and garages on the northwest side of the track northwest of Coverham Abbey House. Although planning permission was obtained, the project has not been taken forwards. Four evaluation trenches totalling approximately 26sqm were excavated.

2. *Track Area* - a new electricity cable was laid along the length of the track northwest of Coverham Abbey House with a total length of c.200m.
3. *Other Cable Trenches* - various electricity cable trenches to the northwest of Coverham Abbey, totalling around 300m, together with a small number of small excavations for the erection of new electricity poles.
4. *Patio Area* - lying to the west of the service area of Coverham Abbey House. The patio area measured approximately 12.6x3.4m.
5. *Garden Wall* - a new garden wall built to the west of Garth Cottage. This had a footprint of 17sqm.
6. *Drainage Area* - new surface water drainage installed on the south side of Coverham Abbey House. The two evaluation trenches have a total footprint of 8sqm.
7. *Garth Cottage* - originally a separate dwelling from Coverham Abbey House, but now incorporated into the latter. The area is approximately 98sqm, although not all of the floor area was excavated.
8. *Service Area* of Coverham Abbey House - a small block between the main body of Coverham Abbey House and the former dwelling of Garth Cottage. In the absence of a more suitable or generally used name, this is known as the Service Area in this report. According to Cale, the block formerly comprised stairs, a game larder and a kitchen (Cale 2008). The service area itself has an area of c.35sqm, but the full area was not stripped.
9. *Washroom Area* - The small room north of the porch and east of the service area, containing a WC at the east end and a stone sink. The washroom measures around 54sqm, although this area was not excavated in full.
10. *Porch Area* - the site of a proposed new porch lies in the passage to the east of the service area formed by the washroom area to the north and the main body of Coverham Abbey House to the south. The area had previously contained a lightweight porch, but this was removed some time previously.
11. *Yard Area* - The yard/forecourt/parking area to the east of Coverham Abbey House and north of the existing garages. The total area of the excavation was c.305sqm.

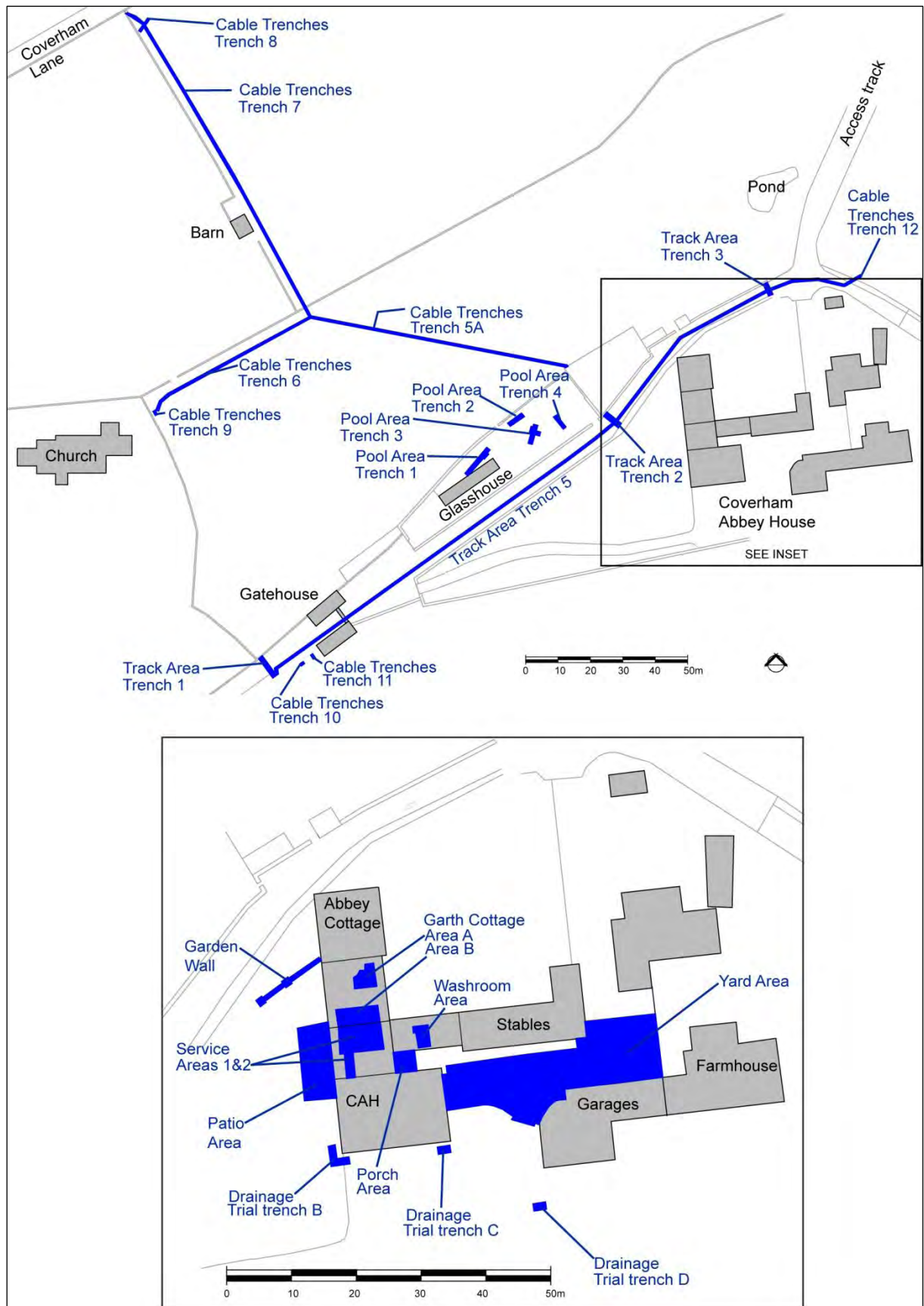


Figure 3. Investigation area locations (in blue)

4.2 *Archive*

The artefacts found during On-Site Archaeology's work are being curated by the owners of Coverham Abbey House. This includes all the smaller artefacts and the architectural stone, including the medieval spandrels thought to be from a lavatorium arcade. Where appropriate the finds are stored in self-sealing backs with project code and site number appended. It is intended to deposit the paper archive and a gold, archive standard CD containing the digital archive with the North Yorkshire County Record Office at Northallerton. On-Site Archaeology have had no involvement with or responsibility for the archives relating to the work of other contractors.

5.0 Results.

5.1 *Pool Area*

A swimming pool and garage were proposed to be built in an area to the northwest of Coverham Abbey House, although the development was never actually constructed. The proposed site was on the north side of the northeast-southwest access track on the northwest side of the house and lay within the putative area of the medieval abbey's inner precinct. A geophysical survey had been carried out in 2005 (TimeScape Surveys 2004) that indicated the potential presence of buildings in the proposed development area. Because of this and the site's potentially significant position within the inner precinct four evaluation trenches (equal to c.6.8% of the surface area of the proposed development) were excavated by Alan Williams Archaeology in 2005 (Alan Williams Archaeology 2005) to further assess the archaeological potential of the site. Although a number of drystone walls and a cobbled surface were found, these did not match well with the geophysical anomalies and all features seem to have been of post-Dissolution date.

Trench 1 measured 10mx1m with a small extension of the southeast side of the trench giving a total surface area of c.12sqm. The earliest deposit was composed of unsorted cobbles at 0.5m below ground level (BGL), which was overlain by a 100mm thick layer of compact yellow sand. These seem to have been undisturbed natural geology. Above this layer lay the fragmentary remains of two perpendicular drystone walls, one running northeast-southwest, context number (14), and one running northwest-southeast (15). The walls seem to have been c.500-700mm wide and composed of one course of rubble walling made up of sub angular stone fragments with only a single larger, but unworked, stone (13). Wall (14) paralleled the course of the present day boundary wall, lying 4m to the north, and may have been an earlier iteration of the same boundary.

Also within the trench was layer (12), described as a sandy loam with small stones and interpreted as, "a foundation/soak away under drystone wall" (Alan Williams Archaeology 2005, 18) and "the fill of a broad but shallow foundation drain running beneath dry stone walls" (p.8) Two fragments of possible fifteenth century pottery were contained in the layer. However, the layer and the walls were interpreted as being of post-Dissolution date and overall there was. "no indication of medieval activity within the trench" (p.8).

Trench 2 was 5x1m and contained compacted yellow brown sand at c.1m BGL, which was undisturbed natural geology. Built on top of this layer was a remnant of a boundary wall (8) running northwest-southeast. The full width of the wall was unclear as it extended beyond the trench to the northeast. Its remains varied between 200-400mm deep and included at least two courses of stone, some of which were chamfered blocks of ashlar, presumably reused masonry from the former abbey and indicative of a post-dissolution date or later for the wall.

Butted against the wall, and occupying the rest of the trench, was a layer of hardstanding (9) made up of river cobbles mixed with fragments of broken stone. It contained three fragments of residual medieval pottery and ten pieces of clay roof tile. As well as the presence of clay tile, the stratigraphic position of this deposit (either post-dating or contemporary with the post-Dissolution wall) indicated a post-medieval date. It was overlain by present-day topsoil that was c.0.5m thick.

Trench 3 measured 6x1m with an irregular side extension, giving a total area of c.8.7sqm. The stratigraphic sequence was similar to that in the southeastern half of Trench 2. Undisturbed natural river cobbles and gravel at c.0.8m BGL were overlain by hardstanding (3). This was composed of cobbles mixed with other stone fragments and was very similar to deposit (9) in Trench 2 although the layer became gradually less dense to the north. This was described as "crude hardstanding" (p.18) and exhibited signs of disturbance. By analogy with the equivalent layer in Trench 2, the hardstanding was of post-medieval date, although no artefacts were found. It was overlain by the present-day soil horizon (2/1).

Trench 4 measured 5x1m and was excavated to 0.9m BGL. The earliest deposit revealed was natural river cobbles with gravel. Above the natural geology was a 0.45m thick layer of "grey brown humic ashy loam" containing copious numbers of bones predominantly from cattle. The bones were characteristic of a butchery assemblage and there was considerable evidence for butchering marks. The lack of evidence for 'improved' cattle stock (increasingly common from the eighteenth century) and the pre-modern nature of the butchery (no use of saws, no evidence of medial splitting of the carcass) rules out a modern date and the assemblage is likely to relate to post-Dissolution farming of post-medieval or early modern date. The deposit was overlain by topsoil.

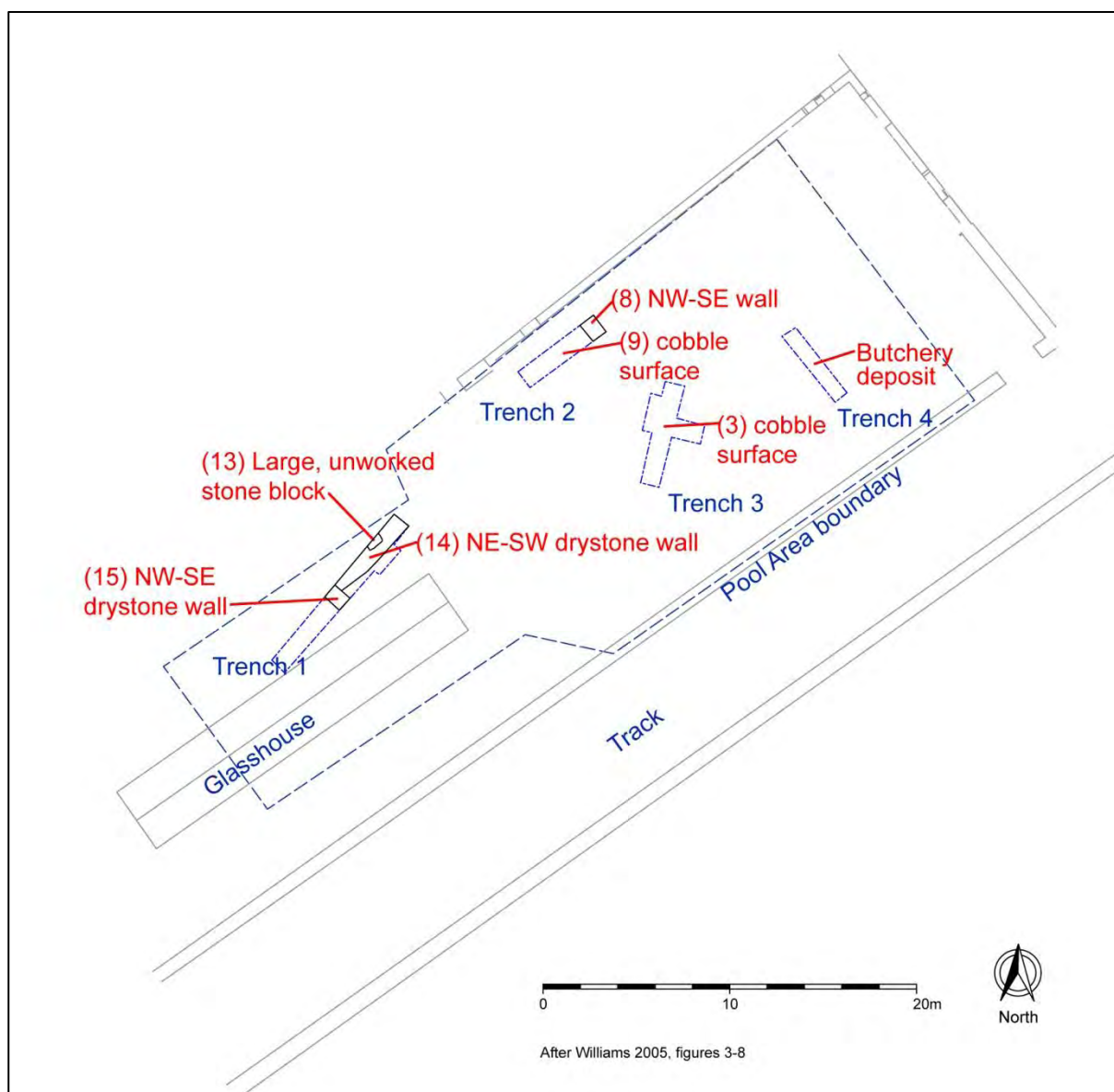


Figure 4. Pool Area evaluation trenches (after Williams 2005)

5.2 Track Area

A new electricity cable was inserted in the track running northeast-southwest and forming the southern extent of the Pool Area. The track is of special interest as the presence of the ruined sixteenth century abbey gatehouse shows that the track is of medieval date, although its course may have deviated from the original line. The foundation trench for the cable was initially evaluated by On-Site Archaeology in 2010 (Trenches 1-3) and subsequently monitored via a watching brief in the same year (Trench 5). Trenches 1-3 were up to 600mm deep and crossed the full width of the access track. The subsequent cable trench (Trench 5) was 0.30m wide, 0.45m deep.

Evaluation Trench 1 was located towards the southwest end of the track, to the southwest of the gatehouse (Plate 1). The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of mid grey brown sandy silt containing frequent fragments of sub-angular stone rubble and occasional flecks of mortar (106). This deposit clearly tipped down from the northwest to the southeast and appeared to be a dump of demolition debris of unknown date. It was sealed by a thick layer

of grey to dark brown sandy silt containing fewer inclusions (105), which contained occasional fragments of abraded medieval pottery, animal bone and clay tobacco pipe dating it to the post-medieval period. Deposit (105) also dropped down to the southeast. Three further tip deposits were recorded (104, 103 and 102) sloping down from northwest to southeast each containing varying quantities of building rubble and cobbles. The latest of these contained occasional fragments of animal bone. The tip deposits were sealed, in the centre of the trench, by the compacted gravel and stone (101) forming the present day track.

Evaluation Trench 2 (Figure 5) was located in the central area of the track, to the southeast of the proposed pool building. The earliest archaeology recorded comprised a masonry structure (206) at the northwest end of the trench. This consisted of a stone surface, the top of which was noticeably worn. This surface was not excavated as it lay at the basal limit of the trench. At the northwest end of the trench masonry (206) included a single block approximately 0.15m above the rest of the surface (Plate 2). Within the confines of the trench it was not clear if this represented a kerb, a step up to a higher level, the remains of a wall foundation, or some other kind of feature. Masonry structure (206) was confined to the northwest end of the trench, extending for a total distance of 1.40m. Although there was no dating evidence, given its alignment this may have been a track surface associated with the access to the abbey. Deposits found in the southern part of the trench were seen to overlie the southeast edge of the masonry, and therefore post-dated it. The earliest of these deposits was (208), a dark grey sandy clay silt with cobbles, which contained occasional sherds of post-medieval pottery. At the southeast end of the trench this deposit was overlain by a loose dump of demolition rubble-like material (207). The entire trench was then covered by two similar dark grey and grey brown sandy silt (205 and 204) containing sherds of post-medieval to early modern pottery. These were followed by a compacted layer of light brown sandy silt containing frequent small fragments of sandstone (203), which appears to have formed a surface for the access track. At the ends of the trench this surface was covered by topsoil deposits (202 and 201) which were in turn sealed by a final layer of track metalling formed from compacted gravel (200).

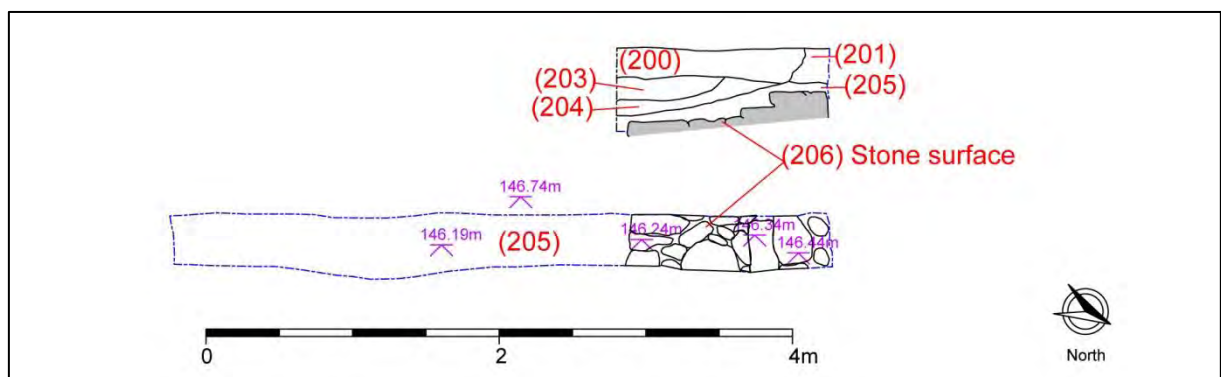


Figure 5. Track Area Trench 2, partial section (top) and plan (below)

Evaluation Trench 3 was located at the northeast end of the track, adjacent to the standing remains of the former abbey church. As in Trench 2, to the north were the remains of a stone surface (306) in the base of the trench, together with a taller element of masonry (305) at the end of the trench although the actual surface was less complete than in Trench 2 and had been truncated by the insertion of a modern concrete gatepost foundation (Plate 3). The deposit in

the base of the southern part of the trench was dark brown silty sand containing frequent small fragments of sandstone (304). This was followed by a compacted, yellow brown silty sand deposit, (303) again containing frequent sandstone fragments. This appears to have formed a make-up layer for a thin, discontinuous, tarmac road surface (301 and 302), which was sealed by the most recent compacted gravel surface of the track (300).

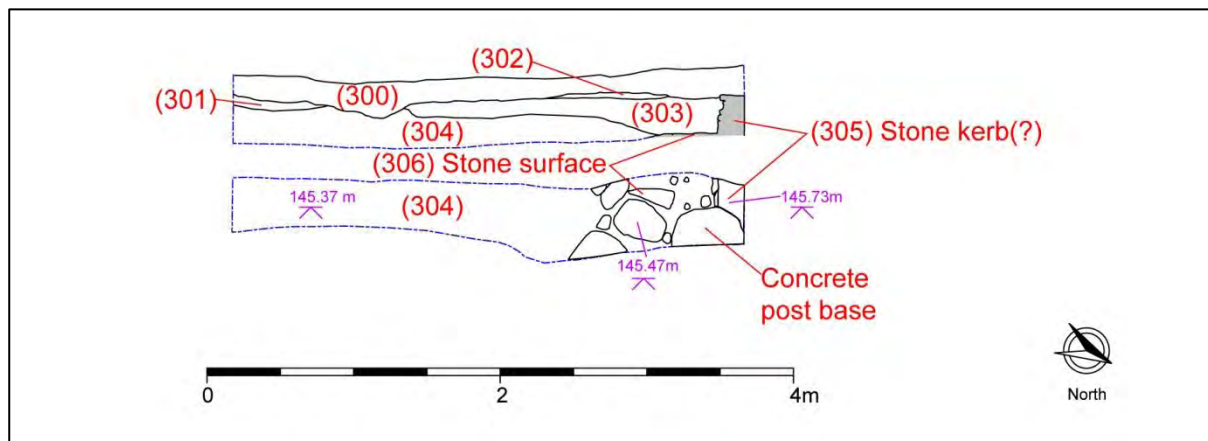


Figure 6. Track Area Trench 3, section (top) and plan (below)

A watching brief was carried out by On-Site Archaeology during the excavation of the new electricity cable trench along the length of the track during 2010 (Trench 5). The results of the trial trenches were used to inform the location of the trench, which was dug in the central/southern part of the lane to avoid impacting upon the possibly medieval surfaces seen in Trenches 2 and 3 (see above). Almost the entire excavation of the cable trench was achieved without revealing any further archaeological features apart from two small areas of masonry. These were undamaged by machine operations and were not uncovered sufficiently to be fully examined. They were interpreted as a short length of cobble-built wall of unknown date (Plate 4), seen in the edge of the cable trench close to Trial Trench 2, and a north-northeast/south-southwest aligned sandstone box drain over a potentially earlier cobble surface (Plate 5). The box drain was located in a part of the lane in close proximity to the projected northern elevation of the nave of the former abbey church.

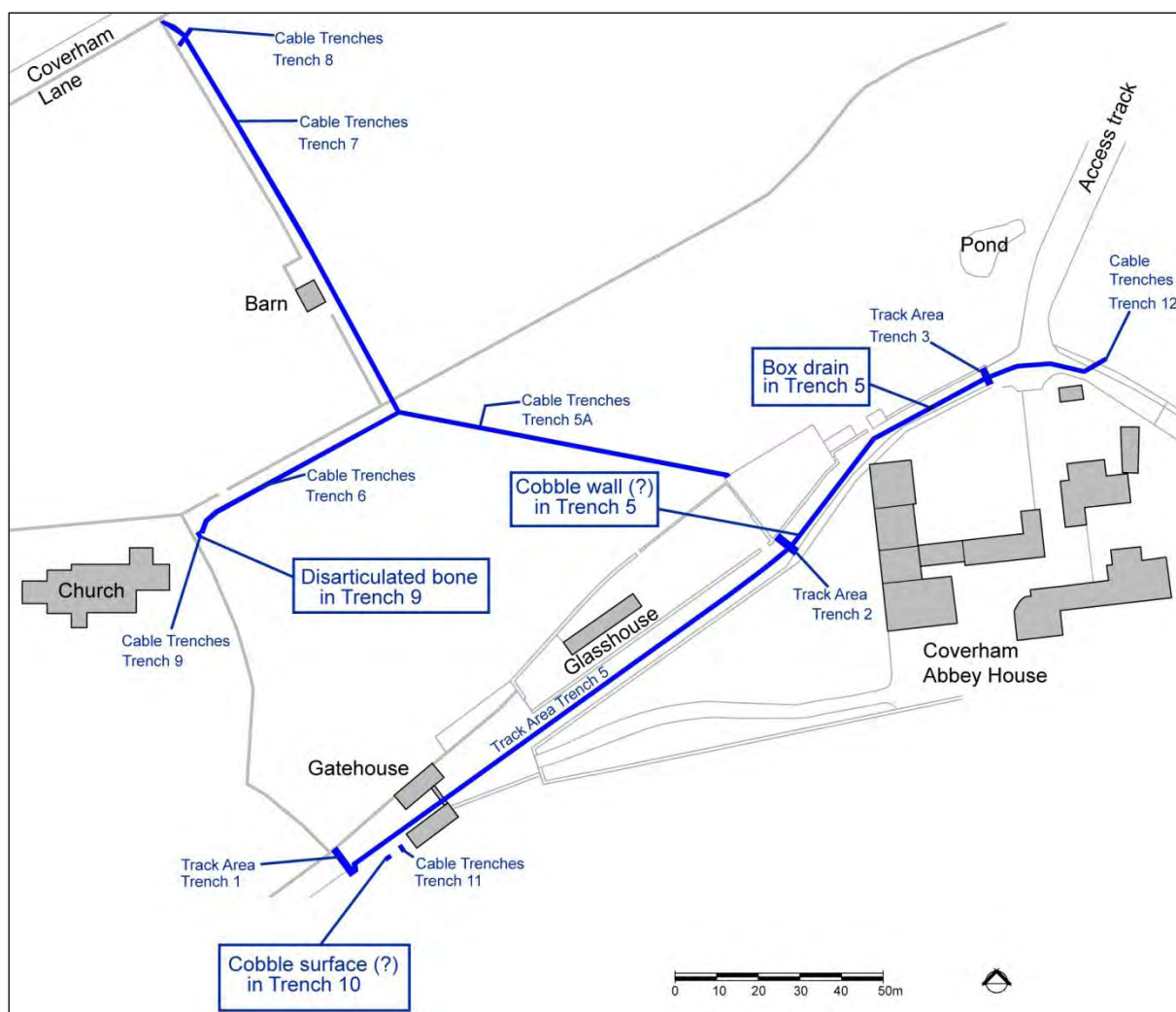


Figure 7. Track Area Trench 5 and Cable Trenches

5.3 Cable trenches

During the course of 2010 a number of cable trenches and electricity pole foundations were excavated in addition to the work in the Track Area to allow for re-routing of the electricity supply in the area around Coverham Abbey House. These lay primarily in fields to the northwest of Coverham Abbey House and were subject to a watching brief carried out by On-Site Archaeology (Trenches 5A-14). For the most part, these trenches were excavated within existing topsoil or penetrated into subsoil or in some cases the undisturbed natural deposits below, especially in the hill slope to the northwest. The cable trenches were 300mm wide and up to 450mm deep, while the pole foundations were 500mm wide and ranged from 1-4.5m long. Only a limited number of archaeological features or deposits were found (Figure 7).

Trench 9 was a 1.2x0.5m trench excavated to replace an existing electricity pole. The trench was 1.2m deep and was located immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary wall of Holy Trinity Church. A small amount of disarticulated human bone was found in very deep buried topsoil deposits, suggesting that the church graveyard may once have been at least a little more extensive than its present day boundary. The human bone was re-buried on site.

Trench 10 was a similarly sized trench also for pole replacement excavated just to the south of the southwestern end of the Track Area and around 15m southwest of the former abbey gatehouse. A 150mm thick possible cobblestone surface was observed in the excavated side of the trench 0.5m BGL, but the trench was too deep and narrow to permit further investigation. No artefacts were found.

5.4 *Patio Area*

The area of a proposed patio and its subsequent excavation were archaeologically recorded by Kevin Cale in 1995-7, initially by means of a 4x1m evaluation trench then by a watching brief on the reduced level excavation for the patio foundations. It lay on the west side of the service area of Coverham Abbey House and consisted of a rectangular area that measured 3.4x12.75m, with a maximum depth of depth of 420mm. The limited depth meant that several exposed features were inconsistently revealed since their full depth was not excavated. All the features revealed were thought to be of post-Dissolution date or later.

The earliest deposit encountered was identified as natural subsoil, described as 'orange grey brown clayey sand' and lay 0.62m BGL (revealed in a sondage in the base of the trial trench). Above the natural geology a loamy sand layer (1012) was found that contained limestone and sandstone fragments. It was overlain by a buried topsoil horizon (1005) that contained animal bones, iron nails, clay pipe stems and pottery body sherds. The layer was interpreted as '17th century buried topsoil'.

A number of masonry features were dated to the post medieval period. A drainage channel (1008) consisted of eight gritstone blocks with crudely dished upper surfaces laid in a line. It formed a feature approximately 2m long running parallel to the western elevation of Coverham Abbey House. The exposed section was clearly part of a longer feature that had been disturbed to the south by the construction of drains in the twentieth century, and may have continued to the north below the excavated level of the trench. Its stratigraphic relationship with the buried seventeenth century topsoil (1005) was unclear, although it was interpreted as 'near contemporary'. There was also an area described as '17th century crazed paving' lying adjacent to the gritstone drain (1010).

There were two further areas of masonry. In these cases, too, any stratigraphic relationship with layer (1005) was not clear, but they were presumably stratigraphically later. One was a foundation with up to three courses of sandstone (1017) below the existing garden wall. It incorporated a re-used block from the gritstone drain (1008) and its position below the existing garden wall is also suggestive of a late date. A second area of masonry (1015) consisting of a double-skinned rubble wall close to a blocked door in the western elevation of Coverham Abbey House. Although the juxtaposition suggests that the walling is contemporary or later than the house and may be the remains of a porch or flight of steps, Cale rejected this explanation. A small number of additional features, mainly of twentieth century date, were also uncovered, all of which lay below modern topsoil.

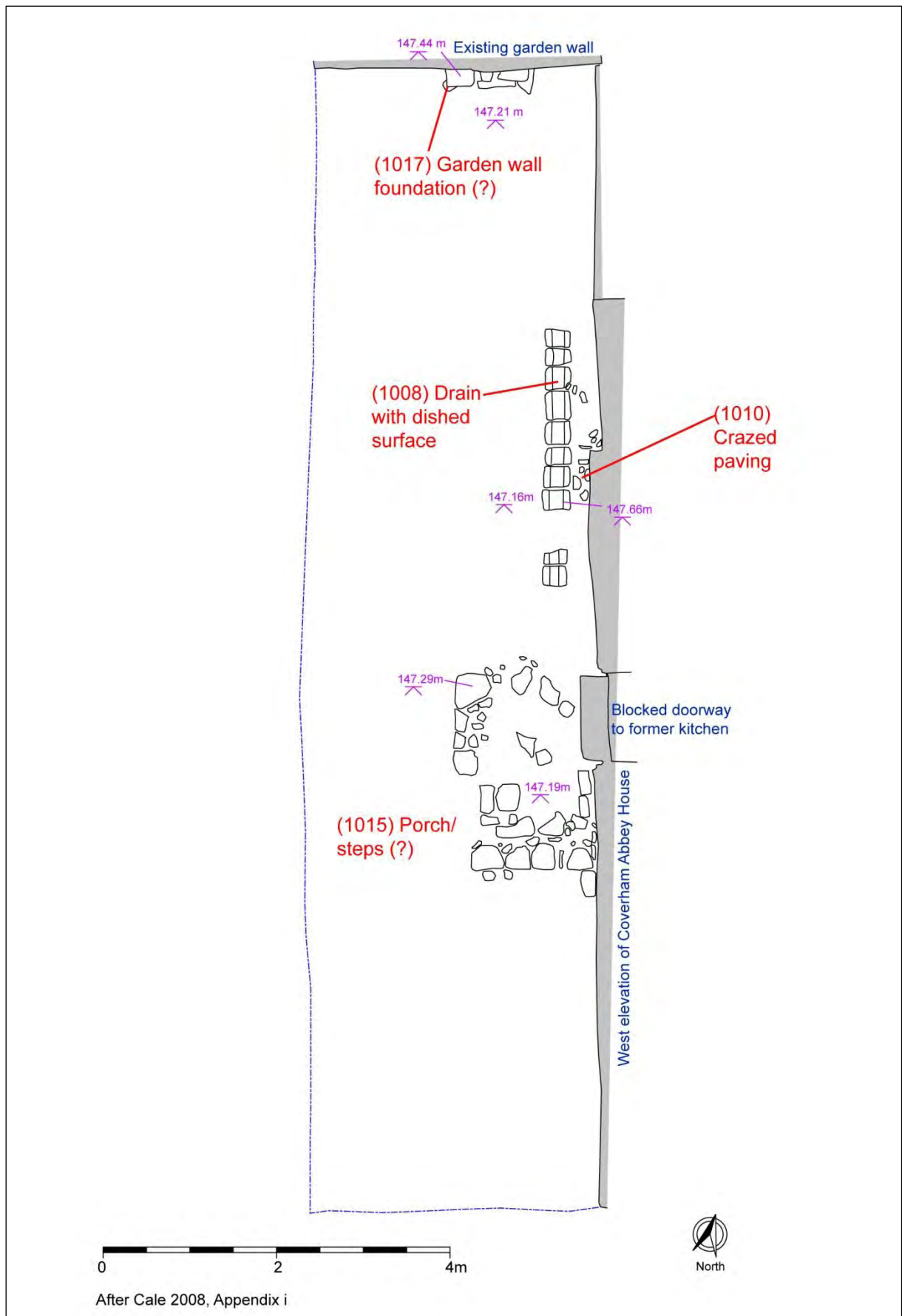


Figure 8. Plan of Patio Area (after Cale 2008)

5.5 *Garden Wall*

The foundations of a new garden wall butting against the west wall of Garth Cottage and running away to the southwest were subject to a watching brief having been initially examined by two trial trenches, all of which work was carried out by Kevin Cale in 1995-7. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features due to the shallowness of the required excavation. The two trial trenches were deeper, being excavated to c.0.55m. In the first (Trial Hole 3), the earliest deposit (3004) was a cobble floor/yard surface identified as post medieval or 18th century in date, although no dating evidence in the form of either stratigraphy or artefacts was found. It was overlain by a nineteenth century buried soil with modern deposits above. The earliest deposit in the second trench (Trial Hole 4) was a probable natural alluvial deposit, which was covered by early modern deposits including the ashy fill of an apparently eighteenth century pit.

5.6 *Drainage Area*

Surface water drainage was intended to be installed to the south of Coverham Abbey House. Three trial trenches were excavated by Kevin Cale in 1995-7. As a result of the discoveries in these the decision was taken not to proceed with the drainage installation. The trial trenches (Trial Trenches B, C and D) revealed what were interpreted as post-medieval structural features and intact medieval stratigraphy.

Trial Trench B was located to the southwest of Coverham Abbey House and was an L-shape 6m long overall and 1m wide. Found within the trench was a wall foundation interpreted as "the corner of a late 16th century building" (2005), a contemporary surface (2012) and a box drain (2008/2013/2014) although the stratigraphic sequence was unclear. Wall foundation (2005) is described as being stratigraphically above a 'construction/demolition layer' (2011) that contained pottery body sherds described as medieval or post medieval. The box drain (2013) and its covering slabs of sandstone and limestone (2008) was aligned roughly northeast-southwest, neither matching the alignment of the medieval abbey or the later developments, but on a similar alignment to another box drain found in the watching brief on the Access Track.

A 'water worn cobbled floor' (2017) is shown in the stratigraphic matrix for this trench to be the earliest feature along with the sandstone box drain mentioned above. The cobbled floor evidently lay adjacent to wall foundation (2005) although it is not clear whether the two features were linked.

Everything in the trench seems to have been covered by a buried topsoil of seventeenth or eighteenth century date (2003/2004) that contained medieval pottery, animal bones, clay pipe, iron nails, lead off cuts, a 'carved bone point' and a copper alloy pin with an incised, rounded head of possible late medieval date. This was overlain by modern deposits.

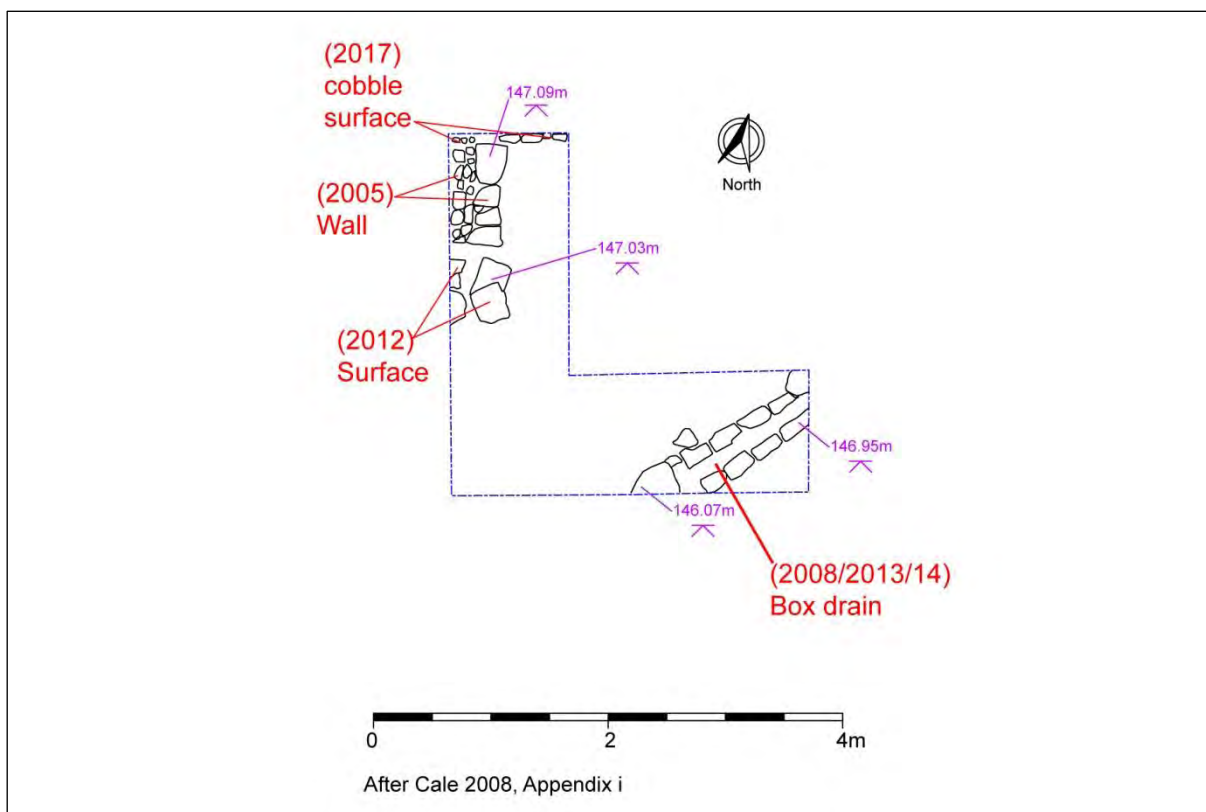


Figure 9. Plan of Drainage Area Trial Trench B (after Cale 2008)

Trial Trench C was located south of the southeast corner of Coverham Abbey House and measured 2x1m. The earliest deposit in Trial Trench C is described in the main report text as being a 'laminated pebble floor surface' (3011/12) at 0.94m BGL. It was identified as late medieval in the context list but no finds were present.

A 'buried topsoil' or 'surface' (3007) is described as overlying the pebble floor. The list of finds records that post medieval pottery was also present meaning that the deposit is likely to post-date the medieval period. A further buried topsoil (3006) stated to be of seventeenth or eighteenth date is shown as lying above this topsoil in the stratigraphic matrix and context list but it is not clear whether this can be identified with the seventeenth century topsoil in the Patio area (1005).

Above (3006) was a layer of disturbed rubble (3003) assigned to the eighteenth century (the only recorded find was a strip of twisted lead) and thought to be associated with the construction of Coverham Abbey House (c.1800). This was overlain with modern topsoil.

Trial Trench D also measured 2x1m and was sited several metres southeast of Trial Trench C. Its earliest deposit was a 'roughly cobbled stone yard surface', which was identified as similar to the surface in the base of Trial Trench C. Rubble deposits were also found, identified as the same as layer (3003) in trench C, and dated to the eighteenth century on the basis of pottery, glass and clay pipe stems. These were overlain by modern rubble and driveway surfaces.

5.7 *Garth Cottage*

Garth Cottage lies within the extended wing running north from the main body of Coverham Abbey House. It is remarkable for the survival of a substantial amount of upstanding medieval masonry, much of it thought to be the result of a remodelling of the former west range of the Abbey's claustral complex in around 1500 carried out under the auspices of Abbot Askew (Ryder 2006, 4). This also applies to Abbey Cottage (to the north of Garth Cottage and in separate ownership) and the service rooms to the south of Garth Cottage.

The floor of Garth Cottage was re-laid. Kevin Cale excavated/observed three trial trenches (Trial Holes 1, 2, and 5) and subsequently carried out a watching brief in 1995-7. The watching brief covered three areas. Area A lay in the northeast corner of Garth Cottage, Area B consisted of the southern half of Garth Cottage, and Area C was described as 'centrally located within Garth Cottage'. Presumably the floor levels were not reduced in the other parts of Garth Cottage that were not covered by the watching brief.

In Area A the earliest feature revealed was a layer of sandy mortar seen to clearly extend beyond the edges of Area A and likely to be present throughout Garth Cottage. It was the earliest deposit found within Garth Cottage and the report suggests that this may have been the sub-base for a removed medieval paved floor. Above this lay a later slabbed floor (6008) laid on two layers of sub base; this too was identified as medieval in date and consisted of highly polished large sandstone slabs with narrow joints.

No artefacts are recorded as being found during the course of the watching brief so the assignation of this paving (and the stratigraphically lower mortar layer) to the late medieval period relied on their stratigraphic relationship with the fireplace (6007) in the northern wall of Garth Cottage, which appears to have led to the disturbance of the paving during its construction. If this interpretation is correct, the floor must pre-date the fireplace. The fireplace is generally regarded as a construction of c.1500, although there is some doubt about the date and it could be an early post-Dissolution feature (Ryder 2006, 4).

Cale notes that the same pattern of damage to the floor was evident around the north wall of Garth Cottage but this does not carry much stratigraphic importance as the north wall is dated to c.1900 by Ryder (2006, 4).

Above the paved floor (6008) was a layer identified as 'made ground', consisting of sandstone rubble. Above this was a layer of sub-base underlying a further paved floor (6003) described as 'heavily crazed' and assigned a date of the early eighteenth century. Above this were deposits associated with the insertion of a stairwell in the nineteenth century.

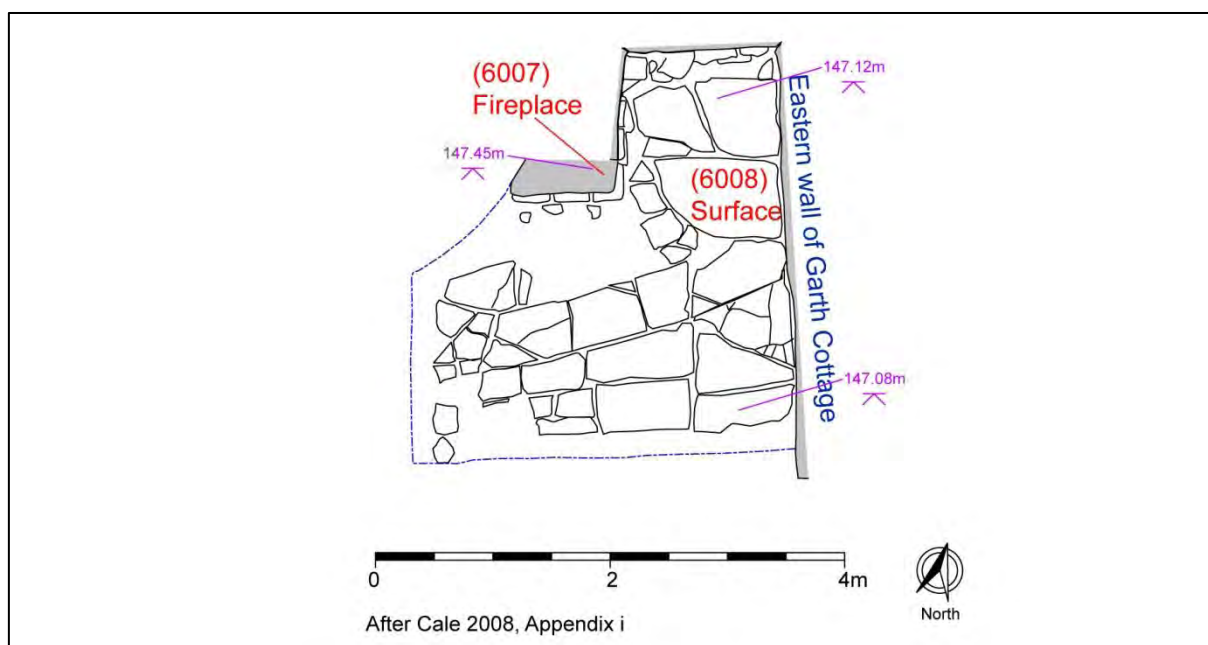


Figure 10. Plan of Garth Cottage, Area A base of trench (after Cale 2008)

Area B encompassed the southern half of Garth Cottage. Its northern edge appears to have been formed by an eighteenth century (Ryder 2006, 4) partition wall, its western and southern boundaries by the walls of Garth Cottage and it is not clear how its eastern boundary was defined.

The earliest feature found was a compacted sandy mortar floor, comparable with the earliest deposit, dated to the medieval period, in Area A. This was cut by a sandstone box drain, running east to west and running underneath the window in the western elevation of Garth Cottage. If continuing in the same direction the box drain should have appeared in the patio area watching brief; however it would appear that the excavation in the patio area was too shallow to reveal the feature. Cale noted, presumably referring to the box drain identified in Trial Trench B in the Drainage Area, that the drain 'shared many similarities with the external drains identified in Phase 1' (2008, 22).

The drain was blocked by a fill. Cale assigned a post-Dissolution date to the box drain, but Ryder (who appears to have either been present or had subsequent access to Cale's findings) states that its fill contained finds that were mid-sixteenth century in date and he describes the drain as being 'late medieval' (Ryder 2006, 11). Stratigraphically the box drain cuts the medieval mortar floor (which was elsewhere overlain by a later, flagged medieval floor) meaning that stratigraphically it could be medieval in date (note that the similar box drain found by Cale in the Drainage Area also appears to have occupied a stratigraphic position that would allow it also to be medieval in date).

The drain was found adjacent to re-used masonry blocks, interpreted as a sink support, and a feature described as a 'conduit' leading into the box drain. All the features are assumed by Cale to be near contemporary. The box drain and other features were covered by trampled earth identified as eighteenth or early nineteenth century in date, itself sealed by nineteenth century sub bases for the former floor.

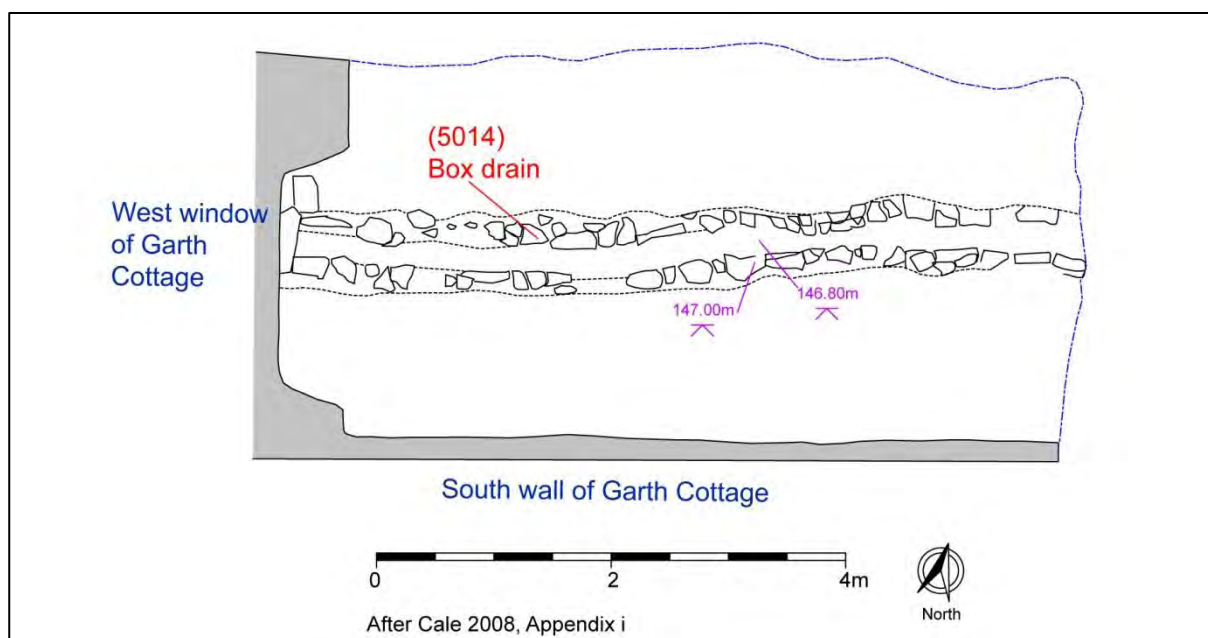


Figure 11. Plan of Garth Cottage Area B box drain (after Cale 2008)

It is not clear how the boundaries of Area C related to Area B. However, the same mortar floor (of probable medieval date) was found in Area C. In addition a wall foundation, seemingly running east-west lay below the foundation of the former east-west partition wall (of eighteenth century date according to Ryder). The wall foundation and a further feature consisting of 'two non-load bearing stone alignments' interpreted as the 'branches of a drainage network' were identified as the earliest phase of activity in Garth Cottage. However, it is not clear from the report what their stratigraphic relationship with the mortar floor was. Ryder briefly describes the remains in Area C, but in contrast to Cale's description he identified 'fragmentary structural features' that 'may possibly relate to a central pier in a 13th century undercroft' (2006, 11).

5.8 Service Area

Lying between Garth Cottage and north of the main body of Coverham Abbey House is an area containing a staircase, entrance hall and various service rooms. In the absence of a generally recognised name for this area, it is known in this report as the 'service area'. The area was examined twice, once by Kevin Cale in 1995-7 in advance of re-flooring and also in 2014 by On-Site Archaeology in advance of the installation of underfloor heating. The latter uncovered no new information and served only to establish that the new heating work did not penetrate beneath the existing modern floor.

The watching brief by Kevin Cale was divided into two areas, Area 1 (the northern half of the service area) and Area 2 (the southwestern corner of the service area). Both excavations were limited to a maximum depth of 230mm BGL. No intact medieval deposits were revealed. A number of masonry structures were exposed including a plinth and a 'plinth-like structure', the existing building foundation walls and a small area of paving. All were interpreted as post-medieval in date.

5.9 Washroom Area

Like the service area the washroom area was examined twice, once by Kevin Cale in 1995-7 in advance of re-flooring and also in 2014 by On-Site Archaeology in advance of the installation of underfloor heating. The latter uncovered no new information and served only to establish that the new heating work did not penetrate beneath the existing modern floor.

The watching brief carried out by Kevin Cale reached a maximum depth of 230mm BGL but revealed post medieval and potentially medieval masonry structures. The earliest feature revealed appears to have been a north-south aligned wall foundation that ran through the centre of the washroom area. It was of double-skinned sandstone rubble construction bonded with lime mortar and its upper surface was polished from previous exposure and wear (3004). Although investigation was limited by the shallowness of the required ground reduction, and the feature was described as 'very much fragmentary', enough of the feature was revealed to show that it had been truncated by the north and south walls of the washroom. This in itself does not demonstrate a medieval date as the washroom walls are definitely post-Dissolution, and are potentially contemporary with the construction of Coverham Abbey House (c.1800). Cale was of the opinion that the wall was medieval and associated with the west claustral range.

Also within the excavated area were two 'plinths' butted against the east wall of the room, suggesting that they were built after the washroom was standing, and are therefore likely to post-c.1800. These were interpreted as 'the bases of pot boiling stoves'. All the masonry structures were sealed by a layer described as nineteenth century bedding sand below the existing floor.

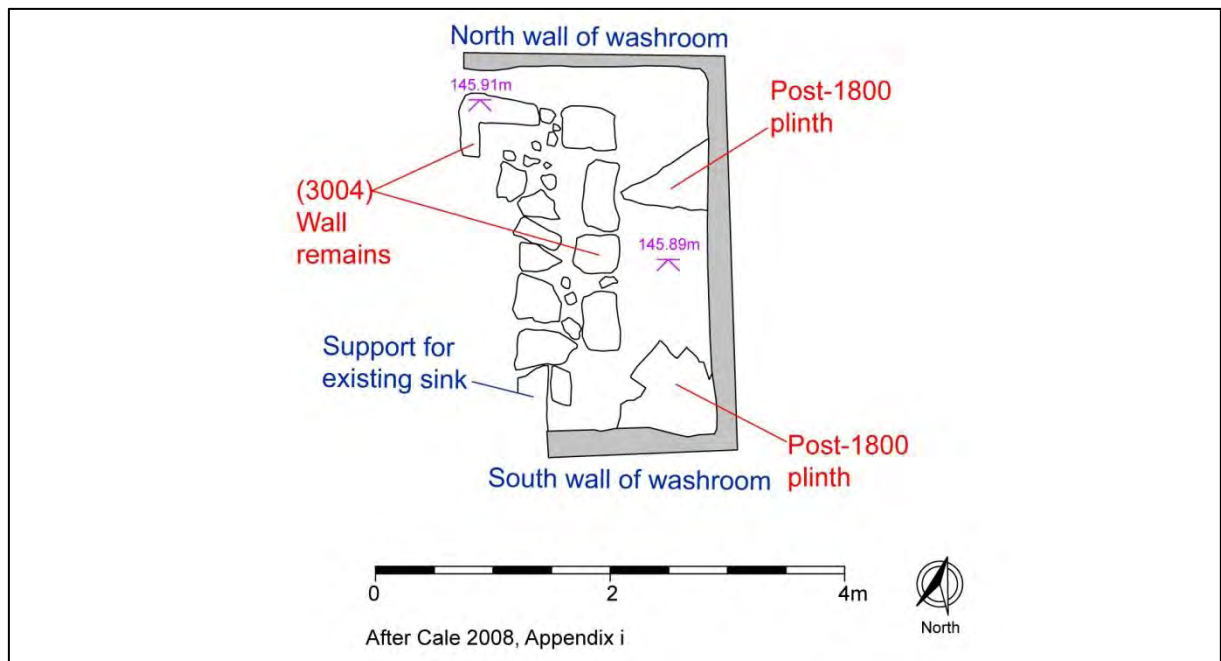


Figure 12. Plan of Washroom Area features (after Cale 2008)

5.10 Porch Area

The Porch area lies between the north wall of Coverham Abbey House and the Washroom, being bounded to the west by the service area. It was examined twice, initially as a watching brief by Kevin Cale in 1995-7, then by On-Site Archaeology in 2014-15. At the time of Cale's investigation a lightweight porch seems to have been in place but this was absent by the time of the On-Site Archaeology investigation, which was prompted by the intention to (re-)construct a porch.

The watching brief conducted by Cale was carried out during ground reduction for the installation of new drainage and encompassed a relatively limited area both east of the threshold to the service area (1.6x0.7-1m) and west of the threshold (1.2x1m). The earliest feature uncovered was a paved surface with fine unmortared joints with a polished upper surface. Cale identified this as 'thought to be late medieval in date', presumably by comparison with the pre-c.1500 floor in the north end of Garth Cottage (which is described in very similar terms). It was overlain by a further 'crazed paved floor surface' on a sub-base attributed to the nineteenth century. This was overlain by 'disturbed layers' next to the existing threshold. Cale also mentions that the stratigraphy of the area was heavily disturbed by the insertion of a 19th century cistern.

The Porch area east of the threshold to the Service Area was further examined by On-Site Archaeology in 2014-15 as a watching brief. This covered a shallow ground reduction outside the doorway to the Service Area (3.7x2.2m) with an adjacent deeper excavation of a foundation trench for the new porch (3.7x0.6m) and a single parallel drainage trench (Plate 6). Despite encompassing the area in which Cale found a medieval flagged floor, no trace of this feature or the overlying crazed floor surface were found. These seem to have been removed, presumably during the works at the time of Cale's watching brief.

The earliest deposit found was in the foundation trench for the new porch wall, which was c.800mm deep and split in the middle by a nineteenth century brick chamber. At the bottom of the trench was a 450mm deep dark brown sandy silt (15004) that extended below the excavated depth (although there was a suggestion of a lighter coloured deposit below in the southernmost extent of the trench) (Plates 7 and 8). The deposit contained a number of loose blocks of worked masonry, including several architectural fragments derived from the former abbey buildings (Plates 9 and 10). If this deposit was a buried topsoil, the presence of the medieval masonry suggests it was disturbed in the post-Dissolution period. The wall foundations of Coverham Abbey House to the south appeared to cut through the deposit but the relationship with the wall of the washroom to the north was not clear due to the presence of large blocks of masonry in the buried soil at that point.

Above the buried topsoil were disturbed deposits, up to 200mm deep, of dark brown/black sandy silt containing copious finds of early modern/modern date (15003). This deposit was exposed across the entire area of the new porch and was overlain by modern slabs and their sub-base. It was cut by, or may have butted up against, a brick-built chamber 1.2m wide and 1.2m deep. The bricks appeared to be of early modern date and the chamber was rendered with hard cement mortar on the base and sides, presumably to create a watertight cistern or

cess pit (Plate 11). Rusted cast iron pipes visible in the backfill of the unexcavated part of the feature may have been pipework for a pump.

A new drain was later excavated to the immediate east of the new porch wall but the depth of this did not exceed 320mm BGL and no new deposits were revealed.

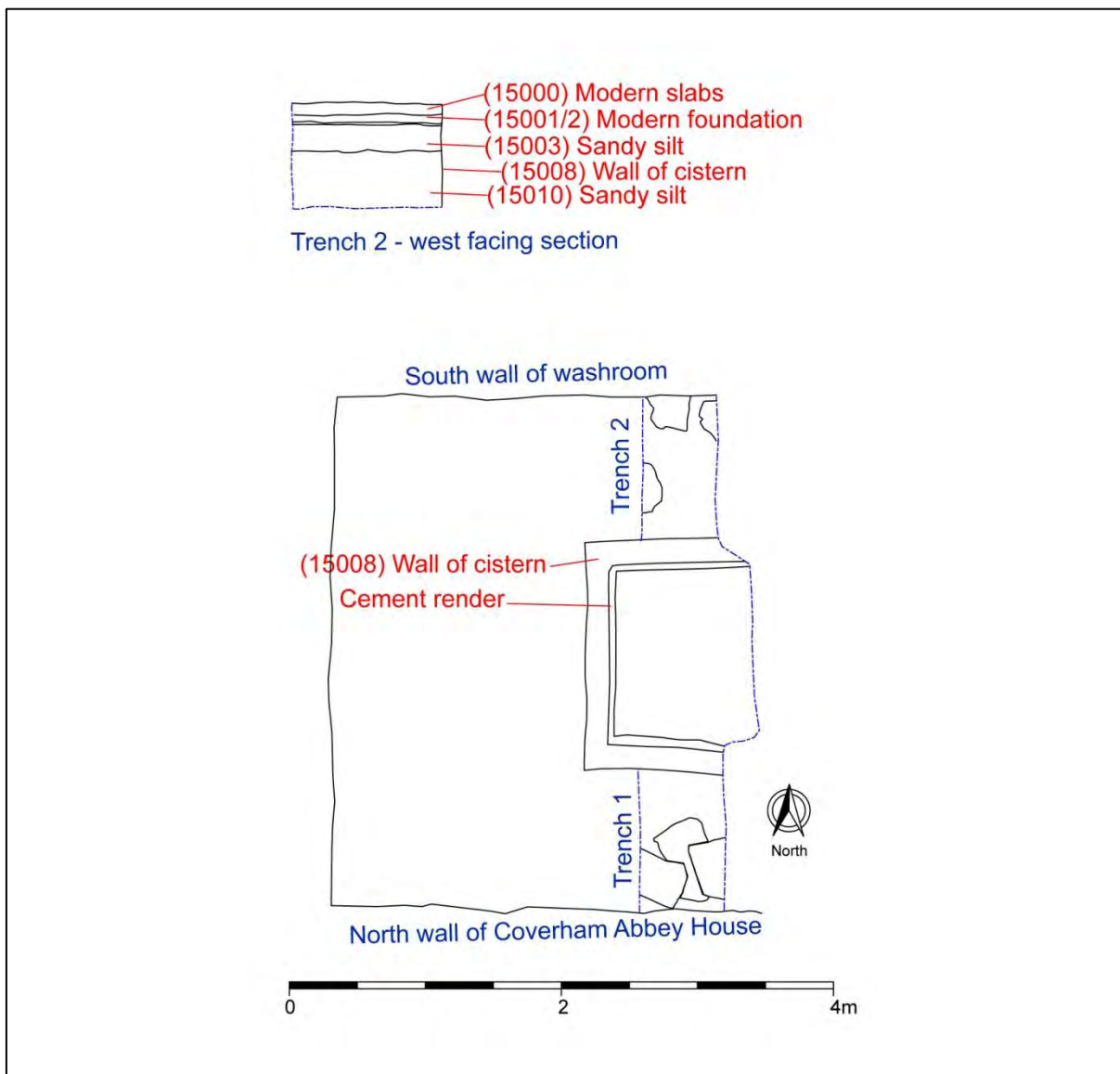


Figure 13. Porch Area 2014/5 watching brief section (top) and plan (below)

5.11 Yard

The yard area to the northeast of Coverham Abbey House was resurfaced in 2010, during the course of which additional sub-surface drainage was installed. It was subject to a watching brief carried out by On-Site Archaeology. The work involved the reduction of the ground surface to a depth of c.200mm with a single slightly deeper drainage trench running east-west. The area encompassed by the ground reduction measured up to 33m (east-west) by 11m (north-south). A number of elements from the former claustral ranges of the abbey were uncovered including *in situ* masonry features and a number of decorative architectural details likely to have been originally part of the cloister walk or decorative lavatorium arcade.

However, the opportunity for investigation was limited by the shallow depth of the formation level for the new yard surface, and in most cases only the top surfaces of buried masonry features were seen.

The excavation of the existing surface of fine gravel chips and its bedding of crushed stone revealed a yellow brown silty sand across the area of the yard that contained copious subangular sandstone fragments and moderate numbers of rounded river cobbles. The exact nature of the deposit was difficult to establish but it appeared to consist of levelling material made up of soil mixed with either demolition rubble from the post-Dissolution destruction of the abbey buildings or debris associated with the construction of the later buildings on the site (or a mixture of the two). Where seen in a longitudinal drain running east-west across the Yard Area, excavated at the time of the resurfacing works, this deposit was seen to be over 200mm deep. A medieval jetton made of copper alloy was recovered from this deposit in the central part of the yard. Stratigraphically below, but projecting upward through, this deposit were a number of masonry features.

Below the existing eastern gable wall of Coverham Abbey House was a fragment of linear masonry above which the current structure was built (4005). This consisted of a single visible course of lime-mortared sandstone rubble on a slightly different alignment to the house wall above (Plate 12). Revealed below the garden wall running east from the eastern elevation of Coverham Abbey House were the remains of a further wall foundation upon part of which the present-day curving garden wall was founded, although the different alignment of the foundation clearly indicates it to be older than the garden wall above it. The foundation consisted of lime-mortared sandstone rubble (4007) (Plate 12). A 2.2m long and 300mm wide section of this foundation was found below the garden wall, and two metres to the east a further 1.6m long section was also preserved (Plate 13). The remains were fragmentary and it was not possible to establish the original width of the foundation.

Together with (4005), the foundation below the eastern elevation of the present-day house, wall (4007) may be the remains of the southwestern corner of a building forming part of the south claustral range, although this is based on its geographical location rather than any positive dating evidence. If medieval, as seems likely, this building would probably have been the refectory or an undercroft below the refectory. A small patch of cobble flooring preserved to the north of wall (4007) may be the remains of the internal floor of the refectory.

Slabs lifted on the south side of the stable block temporarily revealed the ground surface at the base of the stable block on the north side of the Yard Area. Opportunity to investigate was limited as the slabs were relaid rapidly but a fragment of east-west masonry was seen comprising three sandstone blocks, each c.500mm long and 300mm wide, with a chamfered upper surface on their south side. These aligned at 90 degrees to masonry (4005) and were parallel to masonry (4007). It is possible that this was the foundation for the inner wall/arcade of the southern cloister walk itself perhaps supported by the fact that the stones themselves were finished with chamfered bases.

A group of elaborate architectural fragments were recovered from an area approximately 2.5m south of the wall foundation at the base of the stable block during the excavation of a drain

trench (4003). This included four intricately carved spandrels, each measuring almost a metre across their tops (Plates 14 to 19). Each of the four had springers on the rear suggesting they attached to vaulting ribs. Three of the four were broadly similar in their working. Each contained a *vesica piscis* set between two trefoils containing a seated figure. Each figure was represented with a halo. The fourth spandrel had a blank front. Found with the spandrels were an intricate capital and several fragments of cylindrical shaft. These cylindrical pieces may have formed the columns for the spandrels although at just 105mm in diameter they would have been slender in proportion to the spandrels they supported. The investigation was limited to an examination of the excavated sides of the drain trench, which did not reveal any stratigraphic relationships. An explanation for the apparently linear, east-west deposition of the fragments may be that they were the backfill of a 'robber trench' for the extraction of building stone from a putative former wall. However, this is speculative and no physical evidence for such a robber feature was found.

Lying to the south of the stable block and at the end of the wall running broadly east west under the curved garden wall was a small rectangular stone structure (4010). This was not clearly exposed as it lay largely below the machine reduction. It measured 2m north south by 1m east west. It lay south of the putative rear of the south claustral range buildings.

Approximately 5m to the east of structure (4010) was the first of two parallel broadly north south aligned masonry structures, both seemingly the remains of substantial wall foundations. These were constructed from large well-dressed sandstone ashlar.

The first of the two substantial structures (4019) ran underneath the curved end of the garage range and continued under its floor beyond the limit of the investigation. This was just visible on the surface of the ground reduction and was further visible in the east facing side of the newly-dug drainage trench. At its northern end, seen in the exposed drainage trench side, was large stone block with a shaped rebate forming the jamb of a doorway. The masonry covered an area of at least 4.1m north-south and was approximately 1.2m wide, which indicates that this was a substantial wall foundation, and it was bonded with lime mortar.

Approximately 5.5m to the east a second example of a substantial north-south wall (4022) was found, running parallel to the first (Plate 20). It too had a rebated block at its northern end for containing a door, identical in form to the block to the west. Both examples were for separate doors (that would have been orientated north-south when closed). This foundation was 1.45m wide and 3.5m was exposed, although it clearly continued to the south beneath the existing garages and it was also bonded with lime mortar.

Also observed were two north-south culverts (4013) and (4017), both of which were seen to extend under the existing garages. Both features consisted of unmortared sandstone slabs, each in the region of 350-400mm wide, over a shallow channel formed by two parallel sandstone walls. The slabs were not lifted as they lay at the lower limit of the ground reduction, but the structure of the underlying drain was visible through gaps in the cover stones. Although no dating evidence was recovered, both drains ran parallel to the proposed foundation for the dormitory undercroft and it is likely that they are of medieval date. Both drains continued north and south of the area exposed during the watching brief.

Two short, isolated preserved lengths of wall foundation were found in the northern part of the yard, (4028) and (4025). The wall was constructed of unmortared rubble sandstone of two skins with a rubble core. Each section was 1.3m long and the wall would have been 1.1m wide. It is unclear what these remains represent and, although their character slightly differed from the other masonry in that they lacked lime mortar, a medieval date is possible. If so, they will have been a part of the east claustral range with the westernmost wall within the projected line of the undercroft and the eastern wall outside.

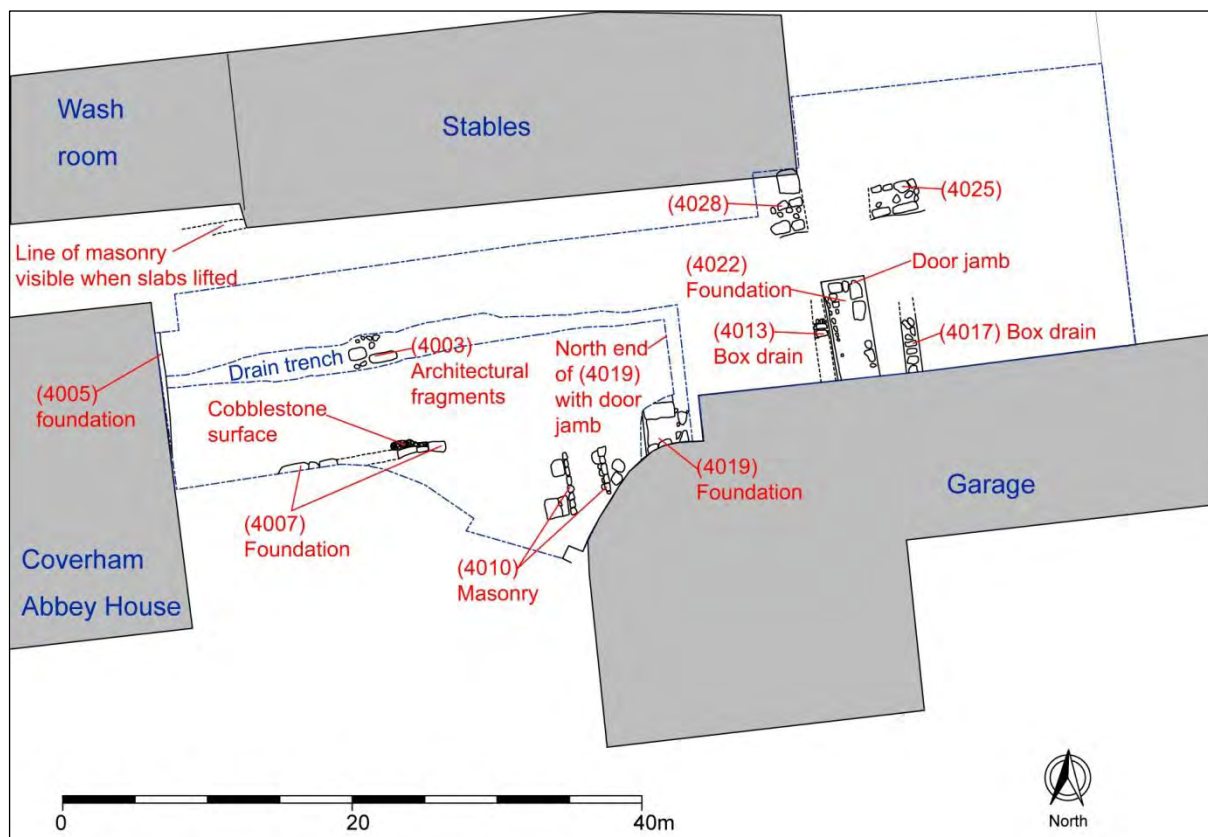


Figure 14. Plan of Yard Area

6.0 Discussion.

6.1 Medieval features

Several medieval - or potentially medieval - deposits and features have been found during the course of the various works since 1995, which have collectively added to the knowledge of the layout of the medieval abbey. A number of stone box drains, stone surfaces were found to the south, north and west of Coverham Abbey House in areas likely to be part of the inner precinct of the abbey. Masonry structures, drains, surfaces and masonry in secondary contexts within and to the west of the house illuminate the layout of the west and south claustral ranges. Figure 15 shows the medieval features that were found in the vicinity of Coverham Abbey House.

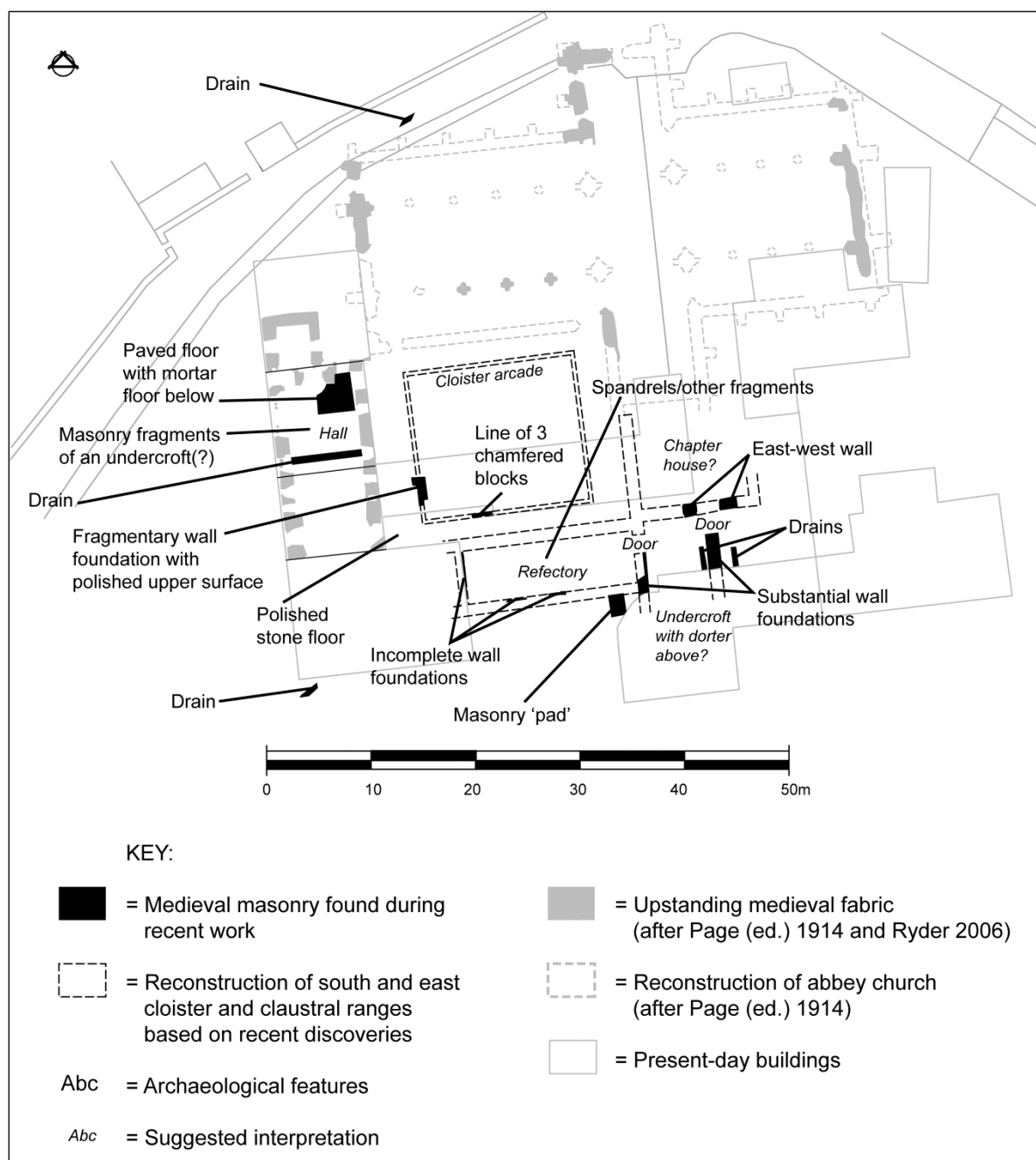


Figure 15. Medieval remains in the vicinity of Coverham Abbey House

6.1.1 Drains

In total five masonry drains were found that were of similar construction. While none were fully excavated - either because their top slabs were at a level with the desired level of excavation or because evaluation excavation did not extend below the drain - all consisted of two parallel lines of sandstone covered by flat slabs of sandstone or limestone. While none were associated with artefacts that would allow secure dating, all were of potentially medieval form (although similar forms are known in the post-medieval or even early modern period) and the known skill of monastic builders in matters of water management strongly suggest a medieval rather than post medieval date.

The example found during the watching brief in the Track Area lay just to the north of the projected line of the north elevation of the nave of the monastic church. It ran approximately north-northeast to south-southwest (subject to the caveat that only a tiny part of the feature was seen in the cable trench) and while the orientation was clearly not in line with that of the church building, it also does not match the orientation of the later buildings on the site. It is a possibility that the drain would have run below the church itself, thus potentially dating to the earliest monastic settlement of the site. The drain uncovered in a trial trench at the southwest corner of Coverham Abbey House had a similar alignment and it too makes little sense in the context of the later buildings on the site. This too is likely to have been a medieval feature.

The east-west drain found in Garth Cottage cuts a mortar floor of medieval date and is itself almost certainly medieval (although Cale allocated it to the post-medieval period, Ryder described it as 'late medieval'). It was the only drain that was partially excavated by lifting the top slabs. The central drain was an average of 300mm wide and was 200mm deep (although it is not clear whether the material within the drain was fully excavated), and the sides were formed by a single thickness of stones laid in at least two courses. This drain would have been an internal feature within the west claustral range, at one time cutting the mortar floor. However at a later date a higher level medieval floor of sandstone paving was evident elsewhere in Garth Cottage and the Porch Area that would probably have been laid over the top of this drain and hidden it from view, although this was missing in the part of Garth Cottage where the drain was found.

Within the Yard Area two drains orientated parallel to the medieval masonry (see below) were almost certainly of medieval date. The westernmost of the two drains would have been situated within the putative undercroft of the east claustral range, with the second eastern drain lying just outside the wall. If the two drains were contemporary - which is not necessarily the case despite their similar construction - it may be that they fulfilled specific separate functions, thus explaining their close proximity.

6.1.2 Track and other surfaces

To the south and east of Coverham Abbey House were a number of surfaces, albeit in some cases revealed in quite small investigations making interpretation difficult. As with the drains, it was difficult to be certain of the date of these but each is potentially medieval and would have been sited within the inner precinct of the abbey.

In two of the evaluation trenches in the Track Area, elements of sandstone paving were found. In both cases the southern part of the track was missing and only the very northern edge was preserved with a raised element just visible at the northern edge of the trench that may have been a kerb (or possibly the base of a wall). In Trench 2, the track was well-preserved and its surface appeared to have been well worn by the passage of feet. The remains of the track surface are very likely to be of medieval date. If so, they indicate that the present-day trackway through the gateway of the inner precinct and leading around the north side of the former abbey church fossilises the medieval entry route to the abbey.

Elsewhere to the west and south of Coverham Abbey House there were occasional glimpses of cobble floors in the all three Drainage Area trenches on the southwest and southeast sides of Coverham Abbey House (all three undated but stratigraphically the earliest features in each trench), in the Garden Wall trench (Cale allocated a post medieval or eighteenth century date, but no dating evidence was recovered to confirm this), and just southwest of the standing remains of the abbey gatehouse. All but the latter may represent internal or external surfaces in the inner precinct, with the latter probably within the outer precinct.

6.1.3 *West claustral range*

Standing medieval fabric of the west claustral range is preserved in the upstanding fabric of Garth Cottage and the Service Area. Many of the standing features date from Abbot Askew's remodelling of the range in c.1500 to form a ground floor hall with chambers above and likely to have comprised the abbey guest hall and/or the abbot's lodgings. However, fragmentary elements of the standing remains show evidence of earlier phases of building including the suggestion that a vaulted undercroft may have stood there in the thirteenth century (Ryder 2006).

One of the earliest features of the west claustral range was a floor of sandy mortar seen in the north and south parts of Abbey Cottage. This was either a floor in its own right or a foundation for a removed flagged floor and appeared to be present throughout Garth Cottage. Although not dated by artefacts, the floor was stratigraphically shown to be of probable medieval date. It was cut by a substantial box drain (see above).

In the north part of Garth Cottage a later, paved floor, complete with layers of sub-base, sealed the mortar floor. The paving - of tightly set sandstone flags was polished with use and may have formed the floor of the west range at the time of its remodelling in c.1500. The paving was earlier than the fireplace in the north wall of Garth Cottage, which is usually thought to be an original medieval feature - although Ryder notes that it could in fact be 'early post-Dissolution work' (2006, 4). In either case the paved floor is likely to have been laid in the late medieval period.

In the central part of Garth Cottage, fragmentary masonry was interpreted by Cale as the remains of an east-west wall foundation and by Ryder as a possible central pier of the thirteenth century undercroft. Whichever interpretation is correct, it is clear that this masonry almost certainly belongs to a medieval phase earlier than the conversion of this part of the west range into a hall in c.1500.

A fragmentary north-south wall foundation was found in the Washroom Area, consisting of a double-skinned rubble wall bonded with lime mortar. Cale noted that the upper surface was heavily worn as if it had been previously exposed at floor level and walked upon, presumably in the post-Dissolution period. The wall was truncated to the south and north by the walls of the existing washroom, which probably dates to c.1800. Although firm dating evidence was lacking, Cale felt that the proportions of the wall and its orientation suggested that it was "medieval and associated with the layout of the west claustral range" (2008, 15). In fact the position of this wall would place it to the east of the west claustral range (fixed by the eastern

elevation of Garth Cottage/Service Area) and it occupies exactly the putative position of the inner arcade of the western cloister walk suggested by Ryder (2006, 4-5).

Polished stone paving found by Cale during a watching brief in the Porch Area was not securely dated but lay below later paving and was described as similar to the medieval paving found in the northern part of Garth Cottage. If medieval, as seems likely, this paving would have been the surface in the southwestern corner of the cloister walk.

6.1.5 *South claustral range*

In contrast to the west claustral range there is no upstanding medieval fabric to aid interpretation of the southern claustral range, although several masonry features exposed during watching briefs in the Porch Area and Yard Area allow the putative medieval layout of the claustral ranges to be established. Firm dating evidence is again lacking but the orientation and topographical layout of the features, as well as their form, are strongly suggestive of a medieval date.

Fragments of wall foundation below the eastern gable of Coverham Abbey House and beneath the modern garden wall extending east from the house are likely to represent the west and south walls of a building on the south side of the cloister, given its position almost certainly a refectory. The northern wall of the refectory was not found. The east-west masonry found projecting from under the present-day stable block is too far north to have comfortably formed the north wall and is more likely - if medieval - to have been the base of the inner arcade of the southern cloister walk. If so, the northern wall of the refectory may have lain roughly in the area from which the elaborate masonry was retrieved during the excavation of a water pipe. However tempting to link this with a putative 'robber trench', it must be stressed that no physical evidence for a wall or robber trench was found and only further investigation can settle the matter.

The three spandrels decorated with holy figures, the fourth plain spandrel and the associated column with foliate capital have been examined by Stuart Harrison (Harrison 2013). They are component parts of an elaborate vaulted arcade - as indicated by the springers on the rear of the spandrels - and date from the first half of the fourteenth century. Harrison notes the similarity between the excavated figures and a re-used figure set high on the eastern gable of Coverham Abbey House. Although reduced in size to a rectangular block of stone and heavily weathered there is a striking similarity to the figures on the excavated spandrels. If so, this would indicate that the arcade comprised at least five bays.

Rather than forming part of the cloisterwalk arcade, Harrison suggests the possibility that the arcade was actually for a lavatorium, presumably situated in the southern cloisterwalk. This explains the largely unweathered nature of the figures, although it should be noted that - in contrast to the figures - the foliate capital is heavily weathered. Although found together it is possible that the columns and the capital do not match the spandrels and originated instead from the cloister arcade. This might also explain the rather gracile nature of the columns compared with the heavy, broad spandrels.

Whatever the correct interpretation, the Coverham arcade is, "a rare and precious survival and the sculptured decoration adds substantially to that known from English monastic cloisters of the period" (Harrison 2013, 138).

At the eastern end of the projected line of the south wall of the refectory was a rectangular 'pad' of mortared sandstone that measured c2x1m. This masonry lay to the south side of the projected line of the refectory's south wall. Although Ryder has suggested this may be the traces of a reader's pulpit (pers. comm.) this would not explain why the masonry is on the outside of the building, unless a rather more complex interpretation is suggested in which this is the base of an external stair ascending to an internal, high level pulpit. Harrison further objects on the basis that a pulpit would normally be located further east (2013, 126). Interpretation of this masonry is made more difficult because only the very top of the structure was exposed and the fact that the south wall of the refectory itself was not preserved at this point.

6.1.6 East claustral range

To the east of the refectory were two parallel lines of mortared masonry, each between 1.2m and 1.45m wide. The two foundations were in line with the surviving and conjectural walls of the south transept of the abbey church. The two substantial foundations were probably for a two-storey building forming the southern end of the east range, hence the possibility that this was an undercroft with a dorter above (Ryder pers. comm.).

Both foundations terminated to the north with rebates for doors. Although there was no evidence of a dividing wall, it is likely that the opposed doorways represent an east-west covered passage marking the division between two rooms of the east range.

A north-south box drain lay within the east range buildings and a second parallel box drain lay just to the east.

No further foundations of the east range north of the doorways survived, or at least survived at a level that could be seen in the limited ground reduction. However, c.2.5m to the north of the doorway/passage were two fragments of an east-west cross wall of which the western fragment would have been within the east claustral range and the eastern fragment would have lain to the east of the range. The wall was wide (1.1m), which is potentially indicative of a further two-storey element of the range. Although the wall was of a slightly different construction (seemingly lacking lime mortar) it was probably of medieval date and may be the remains of the south wall of a further component building of the east claustral range.

6.2 Post-Dissolution features

As might be expected, a number of features and deposits relating to the post-Dissolution use of the site were also found. Probably the most interesting of these were in the Pool Area where a number of drystone walls, a cobbled surface and a dump of butchered cattle bones were found. The remains were interpreted as a post medieval stockyard (Williams 2005, 13). The nature of the butchery indicated a pre-modern date due to the absence of saw marks or the

practice of medially splitting of the carcass and no evidence was seen for the use of improved stock, which became increasingly normal from the eighteenth century onward. The use of this area as a stockyard/butchery site is most likely to date to the post-Dissolution period due to the presence of re-used medieval masonry in the drystone walling that was found.

In the Patio Area a gritstone drain ran north-south, parallel to the western elevation of Coverham Abbey House. In addition masonry adjacent to a door in the west elevation may have been the remains of a porch or a step into the house. A small area of north-south walling was found the Drainage Area in the L-shaped trench at the southwest corner of Coverham Abbey House. This was interpreted by Cale as a "the corner of a late 16th century building" and was recorded as cutting a layer containing medieval and post-medieval pottery body sherds. Detailed stratigraphic analysis seems to have been difficult in this trench but, if Cale's dating is correct, this wall is not part of the medieval abbey but may belong to the period immediately after the Dissolution.

Various deposits of post medieval date were found in the drainage area including eighteenth century rubble deposits that may be associated with the construction of Coverham Abbey House in c.1800.

Within Garth Cottage and the Porch Area, crazed flagged floors were found attributed to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries respectively. An early modern rendered brick cistern or cess pit was found in the Porch Area. In the Washroom and Service Area Cale identified several stone plinths, of which the examples in the washroom were interpreted as the bases of stoves for heating water.

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8.0 Appendix 1: On-Site Archaeology Archive Index.

8.1 *List of Contexts.*

Context no.	Description
100	Dark brown clay silt
101	Dark grey gravel
102	Grey sandy silt
103	Reddish brown sandy silt
104	Greyish white sandy silt
105	Greyish white sandy silt
106	Greyish brown sandy silt
200	Dark grey gravel
201	Dark brown clay silt
202	Dark brown clay silt
203	Brown sandy silt
204	Dark grey sandy silt
205	Dark grey brown sandy silt
206	Masonry
207	Dark greyish brown sandy silt
208	Dark greyish black Sandy clay silt
300	Blackish brown silt and gravel
301	Black tarmac
302	Tarmac
303	Yellow brown silty sand
304	Dark brown sandy silt
305	Masonry
306	Masonry
307	Concrete
308	Dark brown silty sand
309	Gatepost cut
310	Medieval wall forming south of trench
504	East – west furrow.
505	Soft mid to pale reddish grey brown silty clay. Fill of [506].
506	Narrow curvi-linear cut.
507	East – west aligned linear land drain.
5000	Topsoil
5001-7	Lane surface
5008	Wall
5009	Box drain
5010	Fill of box drain
5011	Cut for box drain
5012	Surface
5013	Pebbles mixed with scree
5014	Natural
6000	Dark brown sandy silt
6001	Brown sandy silt
7000	Grey brown sandy silt
7001	Red brown sandy silt
7002	Red brown stoney natural
8000	Dark grey brown sandy silt
8001	Red brown sandy silt

8002	Red brown stoney natural
9000	Dark brown sandy silt
9001	Grey brown sandy silt
9002	Red brown sandy clayey silt
9003	Grey brown sandy silt
9004	Sandstone bedrock
10000	Dark brown sandy silt
10001	Red brown sandy silt
10002	Red brown sand
10003	Greyish brown sand
11000	Brown sandy silt
11001	Reddish brown sandstone
11002	Greyish brown sandy silt
11003	Sandstone bedrock
12000	Dark grey sandy silt
12001	Red brown sandy clay silt
12002	Grey clay sand
12003	Snadstone bedrock
13000	Dark grey sandy silt
13001	Red brown clayey silt
13002	grey clay sandy silt
14000	Dark greyish brown sandy silt
14001	Reddish brown sandy silt
14002	Reddish brown stoney natural
15000	Sandstone fragments
15001	Cement bedding
15002	Sand
15003	Rubble with plastic fragmnents
15004	Plastic sewer pipe
15005	Cut for 15004
15006	Wall foundation of Coverham Abbey House
15007	Cut for 15006
15008	Cistern
15009	Cut for 15008
15010	Topsoil
15011	subsoil

8.2 *Drawing register (Track Area trenches 1-3)*

Drawing no.	Description	Scale	Initials	Date
1	NE facing section trench 1	1:10	BMc	01.02.10
2	Plan trench 1	1:20	BMc	01.02.10
3	NE facing section trench 2	1:10	BMc	02.002..10
4	Plan trench 2	1:20	BMc	02.02.10
5	E facing section trench 3	1:10	DP	02.02.10
6	Trench 3 plan.	1:10	DP	02.02.10
7	W facing section trench 3	1:10	DP	02.02.10
7a	Trench 5 plan	1:50	TR	11.5.10
8	Annotated base plans showing drainage trenches	-	-	-
9	East facing section of trench 9	1:10	BMc	26.5.10

8.3 Drawing register (Yard Area and Drainage)

Drawing no.	Description	Scale	Initials	Date
1	Tr4 Yard west	1:50	TPR	05.05.10
2	Tr4 yard east	1:50	TPR	05.05.10
3	Sketch location of culvert tr4 east	1:20	TPR	06.05.10
4	Detail of N-S wall in trench 4	1:50	TPR	10.5.10
5	Detail of N-S wall Tr 4	1:50	TPR	10.5.10
6	Wall fragment in TR 5	1:20	TPR	10.5.10
7	Structure and culvert east end of trench 5	1:50	TPR	11.5.10

8.4 Drawing register (Porch Area)

Drawing no.	Description	Scale	Initials	Date
1	Plan of porch area	1:20	DP	11.12.14
2	West facing section trench 1	1:10	DP	11.12.14
3	East facing section trench 2	1:10	DP	11.12.14

9.0 Appendix 2: Assessment of Finds.

Berny McCluskey

An assemblage of finds was recovered by *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* during archaeological investigations at Coverham Abbey, North Yorkshire. This report details the provisional identification and assessment of the finds from the investigations. The finds were quantified and catalogued and are presented within Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1

Type	Number of sherds/fragments
Pottery	33
Glass	10
Clay pipe	2
CBM	2
Metal	2
Animal bone	7
Human bone	23

Pottery

The pottery assemblage comprised of 33 sherds. The pottery ranged in date from the medieval to early modern period.

Medieval pottery

The medieval assemblage comprised of 11 sherds that represented five vessels. The earliest pottery form was a single sherd of mid-12th to mid-13th century Brandsby type ware retrieved from context (208). A small assemblage of 13th to 14th century probable Winksley type ware was recovered from context (15003). The latest form of medieval pottery was one sherd of 14th to 16th century Humberware retrieved from context (15010).

Post-medieval pottery/early modern

The assemblage of post-medieval/early modern pottery consisted of 22 sherds. These included 16th to 18th century tin-glazed earthenware and slipware recovered from contexts (15003) and (208). Late 17th to 18th century pottery forms included brown-glazed red earthenware, black-glazed earthenware, stoneware and white stoneware retrieved from contexts (205), (300), and (15010).

Glass

A total of 10 fragments of glass were within the assemblage. Five fragments of window glass recovered from context (105) are most likely medieval in date. Bottle glass of an 18th to 19th date was recovered from an unstratified deposit within Trench 4.

Clay pipe

Clay pipe fragments were recovered from contexts (15003) and (105). These are most likely date to the 18th to 19th centuries. No makers mark, stamps or milling was obvious on any of the fragments.

CBM (ceramic building material)

Two fragments of flat roof tile recovered from context (15010) are probably of a medieval date.

Metal

One fragment of indeterminate heavily corroded metal was retrieved from context (9003). This was recovered from a context from which human bone was also recovered and may represent a fragment of funerary fitting or nail.

One medieval jetton of copper alloy was found during the excavations in Trench 4.

Bone

The bone assemblage consisted of 30 fragments. Seven fragments were animal bone and recovered from contexts (102) and (105). Most of the bone fragments displayed butchery marks.

The remainder of the bone assemblage comprised of human bone. The majority of the human bone was recovered from context (9003). The fragments included tibia, fibula, cranium, femur, ribs and metatarsal. A single fragment of probable human bone was recovered from context (9002). Both contexts lay just outside the present-day boundary wall of the graveyard of Holy Trinity Church.

Conclusion

The finds assemblage dates from the medieval through to the early modern periods. The medieval pottery assemblage that dates from the mid-12th to 16th centuries is likely residual. The human bone is most likely of a medieval date probably originating from a known nearby graveyard. The bulk of the assemblage appeared to be discarded domestic material mainly of an 18th to 19th century date.

Retention

All finds should all be retained for potential future study. Human bone was reburied as close as possible to the location where it was found.

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Table 2.

Context no.	Type	Common name	No. sherds/fragments	No. vessels	Part	Comments	Date range – centuries/period
102	Bone	Animal bone	4	-	-	Horn core and fragments of long bone, some butchery marks	-
105	Glass	Window glass	5	-	-	Small fragments opaque, heavy devitrification 1.18mm thick	Medieval
105	Ceramic	Clay pipe	1	1	Stem and heel	Reduced core 9.23mm diameter, 2.7mm borehole, concave heel	16 th – 18 th
105	Pottery	Abraded earthenware	1	1			Post-medieval?
105	Bone	Animal bone	3	-	-	Rib and long bone fragments	-
204	Pottery	Earthenware	2	2			Post-medieval?
205	Pottery	Brown-glazed red earthenware	3	2	Body sherds	High gloss brown glaze	18 th – 19 th
208	Pottery	Brandsby type ware	1	1	Body sherd,	Heavily abraded, reduced core, glaze	Mid-12 th – mid-13 th
208	Pottery	Slipware	1	1	Body sherd	High gloss yellowish-brown glaze thin bodied	16 th – 18 th
300	Pottery	Black-glazed red earthenware	2	1	Base	High gloss black glaze	18 th – 19 th
U/S Trench 4	Metal	Medieval jetton	1			Cu alloy jetton with armorial device on obverse (three chevrons) and simple cross on reverse)	Late medieval
U/S Trench 4	Glass	Bottle	2	1	Base	Internal devitrification, embossed 'Kilner Brothers – Dewsbury' '1421'	1848 - 1922

Context no.	Type	Common name	No. sherds/fragments	No. vessels	Part	Comments	Date range – centuries/period
U/S Trench 4	Glass	Bottle	2	1	Rim	Slight devitrification, milky opaque	18 th – 19 th
U/S Trench 4	Glass	Bottle	1	1	Body sherd	Slight devitrification, clear bluish glass	18 th – 19 th
U/S Trench 4	Pottery	White stoneware	2	2	Body sherds	-	18 th – 19 th
9002	Bone	?human	1	-	-	Possible fragment of temporal bone	-
9003	Bone	Human	22	-	-	12 small fragments, 2 tibia, 3 fibula, 3 cranium, 2 rib, part of upper femur, 1 metatarsal, all in reasonable condition	-
9003	Metal	Fe	1	1	-	Heavily corroded nail	-
15003	Pottery	Slipware	8	4	Body sherds, rim	Trailed slipware	16 th – 18 th
15003	Pottery	Winksley type ware	8	3	Body sherds	Thin bodied 3.75mm – 5.71mm thick, buff fabric, yellowish-green glaze	13 th – 14 th
15003	Ceramic	Clay pipe	1	1	Stem, bowl and heel	Stem 7.97mm diameter, 2.55mm borehole, flat heel, bowl 18.84mm diameter, heat damaged	16 th – 18 th
15010	Pottery	Brown-glazed red earthenware	1	1	Base	High gloss brown glaze	18 th – 19 th
15010	Pottery	Brown-glazed red earthenware	2	2	Body sherds	High gloss brown glaze	18 th – 19 th
15010	Pottery	Humberware	1	1	Body sherd	-	14 th – 16 th
15010	Pottery	Rydale type	1	1	Body sherd	-	16 th
15010	CBM	Roof tile	2	-	-	Flat roof tile 14mm thick	Medieval

10.0 Plates.



Plate 1. Track Area, Trench 1 looking south



Plate 2. Track Area, masonry (206) in Trench 2 looking northwest



Plate 3. Track Area, masonry (305) and (306) looking northwest



Plate 4. Track Area cobble masonry in Trench 5



Plate 5. Track Area, box drain in Trench 5 looking south



Plate 6. Porch Area overview



Plate 7. Porch Area, southern end of foundation trench looking west



Plate 8. Porch Area, north end of foundation trench looking east



Plate 9. Porch Area decorated masonry



Plate 10. Porch Area decorated masonry



Plate 11. Porch Area early modern cistern(?) looking west



Plate 12. Yard Area foundations (4005) (right) and(4007) (left)



Plate 13. Yard Area, both sections of foundation (4007)



Plate 14. Yard Area spandrels and drain trench



Plate 15. Yard Area spandrels and decorative masonry



Plate 16. Yard Area example of spandrel



Plate 17. Yard Area example of spandrel



Plate 18. Yard Area rear of spandrel showing springer



Plate 19. Yard Area foliate capital



Plate 20. Yard Area foundation (4022) showing door jamb

11.0 Copy of Written Scheme of Investigation

COVERHAM ABBEY, COVERHAM,
NORTH YORKSHIRE

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

November 2014.

OSA

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Coverham Abbey, North Yorks

Written Scheme of Investigation

Methodology Details.

SITE NAME: Coverham Abbey, Coverham*COUNTY:* North Yorkshire*NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:* SE 10585 86375*COMMISSIONED BY:* Holland Brown Architects
York Eco Business Centre
Amy Johnson Way
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Coverham Abbey, North Yorks

Written Scheme of Investigation

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1.0 Summary

1.1 A programme of archaeological investigation is proposed to identify and record any archaeological remains that are revealed and/or disturbed during the construction of a new porch to the east side entrance and the installation of underfloor heating to the new porch, back hall, cloakroom and kitchen. The site lies within the limits of Coverham Abbey Scheduled Monument (HA 1015725, Scheduled Monument Number 28228).

1.2 This document has been prepared to provide details of the proposed archaeological work to satisfy condition 4 of the Notice of Decision in respect of Listed Building Consent issued by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Ref R/60/25P/LB) and conditions ii, v, and vi of the Scheduled Monument Consent granted by English Heritage on behalf of the Secretary of State (ref. S00093493).

1.3 The proposed development is to comprise the construction of a new porch and underfloor heating to several rooms within Coverham Abbey House. This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared following consultations between the project architects, Holland Brown Architects, and English Heritage.

1.4 A series of archaeological investigations were carried out on the site between 1995 and 2007 by Kevin Cale, Archaeological Consultant, and reported on in 2008. (Kevin Jon Cale. 2008. Final Report. Archaeological Investigation. Coverham Abbey House, Coverham with Agglethorpe, Richmondshire, North Yorkshire. N.G.R. 410585 486377, for Mr & Mrs N Corner). A number of these investigations were located within the building which is the subject of the current development proposal. These previous investigations resulted in excavation of the previous floors and portions of their associated make-up deposits, which revealed, in places, earlier structural remains. The previous excavations had been undertaken during a programme of reflooring of these rooms. The current underfloor heating system has been designed to avoid disturbance to any additional archaeological deposits, by being limited to the depth of groundworks previously carried out. This watching brief will aim to confirm that the current development proposals only remove recently disturbed ground.

2.0 Site Location and Description

2.1 The site is located at NGR SE 10585 86375 (Figure 1). It lies within the limits of the Scheduled Monument, Coverham Abbey, Premonstratensian Monastery, and Precinct including, Holy Trinity Church and Medieval Bridge, Coverham with Agglethorpe, North Yorkshire.

2.2 The proposed works (see Figure 2 for location) are located within, or immediately adjacent to the existing dwelling of Coverham Abbey House, predominantly within part of an adjoining building, previously forming part of Garth Cottage, and before that known as Guest Hall. Coverham Abbey House and Garth Cottage (together with the adjacent Abbey Cottage to the north) are all listed buildings, originating in the later medieval period as elements of the

monastic complex. Figure 3 shows the full extent of the areas where underfloor heating is to be installed.

3.0 Archaeological Interest

3.1 The following section is taken directly from the English Heritage Listing Information for the Monument.

3.2 The Premonstratensian abbey at Coverham is situated on the north bank of the River Cover four miles west of Middleham. The monument includes the key religious buildings and the majority of the wider monastic complex lying within the medieval abbey precinct. The precinct includes upstanding remains of the gatehouse, the ruins of a mill and a mill race and drain and the earthwork remains of fishponds and other monastic structures. The Church of Holy Trinity and its adjacent redundant graveyard also stand within its precinct, while the medieval bridge over the River Cover lies immediately south west of the precinct. The abbey's main buildings lie on a low river terrace sandwiched between the River Cover and the steeply rising slope to the north and north east. Some of the core buildings survive as upstanding ruins, further remains are incorporated into buildings constructed after the dissolution of the abbey, and other remains will survive below ground. The surviving fabric, combined with a wider understanding of Premonstratensian sites elsewhere, confirms the usual monastic layout of church with cloister to the south. The cloister contained accommodation for monastic brethren, domestic functions and offices connected with the administration of the house. The west range of the cloister housed the cellars, stores and guest house, the east range the sacristy (where sacred vessels were kept) and the chapterhouse, and the south range, the kitchen and frater (refectory). The dorter (dormitory) occupied the first floor of the east range, providing easy access to the reredorter (latrine) and the east end (quire) of the abbey church, where the monks sang their offices.

3.3 Of the standing remains at Coverham Abbey, the earliest are those of the early 13th century abbey church. These comprise the west wall of the north transept standing to first floor height, a section of the west wall of the south transept and the footings for the east end of the presbytery. The nave and the aisles of the church were substantially rebuilt in the mid-14th century and, of these, a section of the west wall and three piers and two arches of the south arcade survive. The west range of the cloister housing the guest house was rebuilt in the late 15th century, and substantial medieval fabric still survives within the existing Garth Cottage.

3.4 In common with other monastic houses the abbey possess an inner and outer court. The inner court included yards, enclosures and buildings such as the infirmary and the Abbot's lodgings. It was defined by a stone wall, of which only the western gatehouse is currently visible. The inner precinct gatehouse stands 125m to the west of the cloister buildings and dates to the early 16th century. It stands to its full height and comprises a pair of small buildings on either side of a track. The buildings have barrel vaulted ceilings with later pitched roofs built on top. Only the inner (eastern) arch survives of the gate passageway.

3.5 The remainder of the monastic precinct, the outer court, contained a range of agricultural and industrial buildings such as stables, workshops, bakehouses, gardens, orchards and meadows, which supported the abbey as a self sufficient community. The line of the precinct wall has been identified by analysis of local topography and road patterns, but only one section of the wall is currently visible 100m to the north east of the abbey, where the top of the buried remains of the wall are exposed at ground level. Within the precinct, west of the gatehouse, lies the site of the abbey mill. The main building was rebuilt in the post-medieval period and is now a dwelling house known as High Mill. The mill was powered by water, channelled through a stone lined leat from a system of tanks and ponds on the fellside to the north. A further ruined mill lies at the east end of the monument. In the early 20th century it was used as the site of the first hydro-electric power station in Coverdale.

3.6 South of the cloister are the earthwork remains of fishponds and processing buildings and associated water management features. The earthwork remains of further monastic buildings and enclosures are visible in the fields to the west of Holy Trinity Church and to the north east of the abbey church. The medieval bridge crosses the River Cover at the south west corner of the abbey precinct, allowing access to the abbey granges and properties. It is a single arch construction dating to the 15th century with the parapets added later.

3.7 Holy Trinity Church dates to the 13th century with a number of later additions and alterations including a 15th century west tower, 14th century to 16th century windows and a 15th century chancel arch. The lintel over the south door is a reused decorated Anglo-Saxon cross shaft with worn figures still identifiable. The church continued in use as the parish church to the 1980s when it was declared redundant. The churchyard surrounding the church is no longer in use for burials.

3.8 Coverham Abbey was founded in 1212 by Ranulph Fitz-Robert, Lord of Middleham, when the abbey was moved from Swainby. The foundation gift included an existing church at Coverham and land and income from the wider region. In 1271 the patronage of the abbey passed to the powerful Neville family. By the early 14th century the house was facing near collapse following the loss of lands and income, fire, and the consequences of raids by the Scots in 1314-1318. This prompted a phase of rebuilding and by 1350 the abbey had recovered and was in receipt of land gifts from as far afield as the East Riding of Yorkshire. The abbey was held in wide esteem both locally and throughout the Premonstratensian order so that in 1367 it was used as the base for the formal visitations of the order to its property in the north of England.

3.9 In 1536 Coverham Abbey, valued at one hundred and sixty pounds, was formally dissolved, its land and possessions sold off and the site of the abbey leased for a period of 21 years. The dissolution was met by opposition in the local community and in 1540 Coverham flirted briefly with history when it became a rallying point for the ill-fated Pilgrimage of Grace, which attempted to reverse the religious and political changes of the reformation. The abbey was sold to Humphrey Orme in 1557, after which date the major structural decay appears to have started. When the site was bought by George Wray in c.1670 he proceeded to build a house incorporating carved stones from the now ruinous abbey, which was further altered and

added to in subsequent years. The abbey ruins are Listed Grade I, and the gatehouse, Coverham Bridge, Holy Trinity Church, Garth Cottage and two stone effigies of knights 7m east of Coverham House are Listed Grade II*. Coverham Abbey House, Abbey Cottage, the outbuilding east of Coverham Abbey House, a wall of reused abbey stones and a gate with gate piers, 10m and 8m respectively east of Coverham Abbey House are Listed Grade II.

3.10 Garth Cottage, the two stone effigies, all Grade II Listed Buildings, Coverham Abbey Farm and outbuildings, the nursery buildings, all other post medieval buildings, walls, fences, High Mill House, the surfaces of yards, paths, tracks, and the tennis court are excluded from the scheduling although the ground beneath these features is included. The field in the northwest corner of the precinct is not included in the scheduling as it is consecrated ground still used for burials.

3.11 A series of archaeological investigations was carried out by Kevin Cale Archaeological Consultant between 1995 and 2007. Several of the interventions undertaken during that period lay within the footprint of the works proposed as part of the current development (see Cale, 2008 for full details). In general terms the previous investigations revealed probably medieval and post-medieval structural remains beneath 19th and early 20th century floors and make-up deposits. Excavation during the previous reflooring programme was undertaken down to a depth of 230mm below the existing floor surface. The current proposal has been designed to be constructed within a shallower depth than these earlier excavations (see Figure 4 for a comparative section of the existing and proposed flooring). It is anticipated that the new porch east wall foundation is the area with the highest potential to reveal undisturbed archaeological remains.

4.0 Aims

4.1 The aims of the investigation are as follows:

- To maximise *in-situ* preservation of archaeological remains within the development area.
- To record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological features and deposits, which are disturbed or exposed during groundworks associated with the development. Within those areas where reflooring has recently been undertaken this should involve a confirmation that no archaeology is being disturbed by the current proposals.
- To prepare a report on the results of the investigation.

5.0 Fieldwork Methodology

5.1 An archaeologist should be present on site during all groundworks. The archaeologist will view areas and trenches as they are being excavated. Where archaeology is judged to be present contractor's excavations will be suspended and the excavated area will be cleaned by hand and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds will then be hand excavated and recorded. Archaeological remains will be archaeologically excavated where they survive within the foundation formation levels required for the development. Where remains are identified at the formation level they will be cleaned and

recorded but will not be excavated. Where excavation ceases within existing recent made ground a record will be made to confirm that no archaeological deposits or structures have been exposed or disturbed.

5.2 Features/deposits of archaeological interest will be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) will include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) will include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features.

5.3 The actual areas of ground disturbance (even if no archaeological remains are present) will be recorded on a suitable base map/development plan and the stratigraphic sequence and the depth/nature of the excavations will be briefly recorded. If archaeological remains are identified, their location is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on an up-to-date 1:1250 O.S. map base.

5.4 Excavated soil will be searched for finds where this is practicable. All artefacts will be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th century material, which may be noted and discarded.

5.5 Samples for environmental analysis and scientific dating will be taken if suitable material is encountered during the investigation.

6.0 Health and Safety

6.1 The archaeologist working on site will have read and will follow the guidelines and conditions set out in the Risk Assessment document produced by the building contractor for the overall renovation programme.

6.2 The archaeological contractor will produce a Risk Assessment that specifically relates to the health and safety issues involved in carrying out all potential archaeological works covered by the terms of this specification.

7.0 Notification and Monitoring

7.1 The recording exercise will be monitored as necessary and practicable by *English Heritage* who will be informed in advance of the works taking place. Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Historic Environment Team will also be given the opportunity to monitor the works and prior notification of commencement should be made to the YDNPA Historic Environment Team.

8.0 Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

8.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the terms of this specification, then *On-Site Archaeology* will contact *English Heritage* to enable the matter to be resolved to the satisfaction of all interested parties.

8.2 Any human remains that are discovered will initially be left *in situ*, covered and protected. English Heritage and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Historic Environment Team will be notified with immediate effect. If removal of burials is necessary, this will comply with the requirements as currently set down by the Department of Constitutional Affairs and any local environmental health regulations.

8.3 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996 will be adhered to with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

9.0 Post-Excavation Analysis and Report Preparation

9.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. Finds of 20th and 19th century date will be quantified and summarily described, but will then be discarded if appropriate. All finds of 18th century or earlier date will be retained and archived.

9.2 A fully indexed field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs. A quantified index to the field archive will form an appendix to the report. The original archive will accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see Section 15 below).

9.3 A fully illustrated report will be produced, which will include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of the results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. It is envisaged that a synopsis of the report may need to be published in an appropriate archaeological journal.

9.4 Location plans will be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the areas investigated. Plans will be at an appropriate scale showing: areas excavated and the identified (and, where possible, predicted) archaeological features/deposits. Trench and feature plans will include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Section drawings will include O.D heights and be cross-referenced to an appropriate plan.

9.5 All artefacts and environmental material will be analysed by a qualified and experienced specialist. Artefact analysis will include the production of a descriptive catalogue. Finds critical for dating and interpretation will be illustrated.

9.6 The report will include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, and as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

10.0 Report Submission and Deposition with the SMR

10.1 *On-Site Archaeology* will supply a copy of the report to *English Heritage* and to *Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority* within a period of three months following completion of fieldwork.

10.2 The report will be supplied on the understanding that it will be added to the *North Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Heritage Environment Record* and will become publicly accessible once it is deposited with *YDNPA*.

10.3 Upon completion of the project the OASIS (Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

11.0 Archive Deposition

11.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, *On-Site Archaeology* will determine the requirements for the deposition of the archive with the appropriate museum.

11.2 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with a public body.

11.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet the requirements of the relevant museum with regard to the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.

12.0 General Considerations

12.1 *Authorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor*

If, on first visiting the site or at any time during the course of the recording exercise, it appears in the archaeologist's professional judgement that:

- i) a part or the whole of the site is not amenable to recording as detailed above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results,

then *On-Site Archaeology* will contact *English Heritage* and the *YDNPA* in order that the matter can be resolved to the satisfaction of all interested parties.

13.0 Figures.

Figure 1. Site Location (SE 10585 86375)

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Coverham Abbey, North Yorks

Written Scheme of Investigation

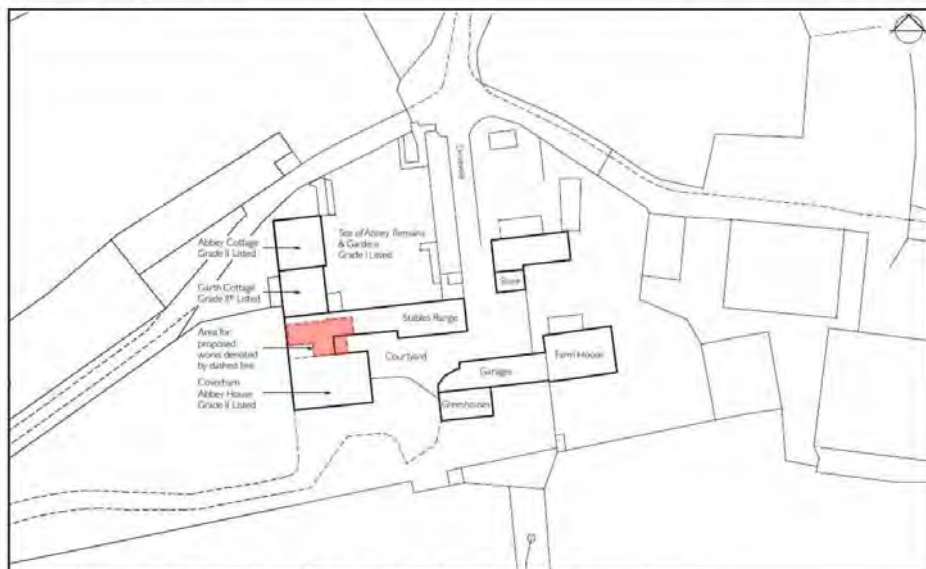


Figure 2. Detailed location plan, showing red line boundary of the proposed works.

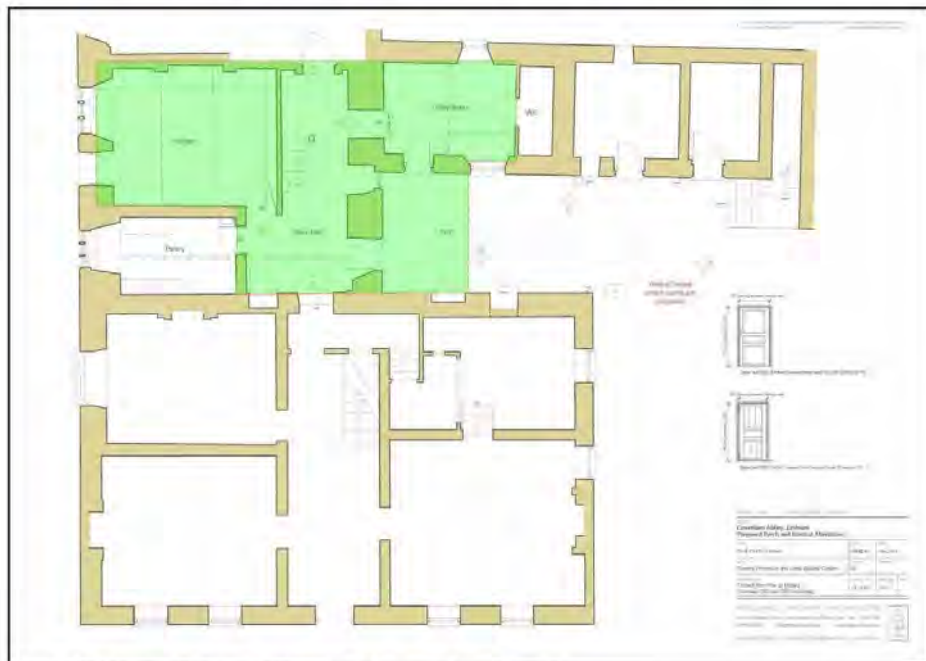


Figure 3. Plan showing detailed location of areas to be refloored.

Coverham Abbey, North Yorks

Written Scheme of Investigation

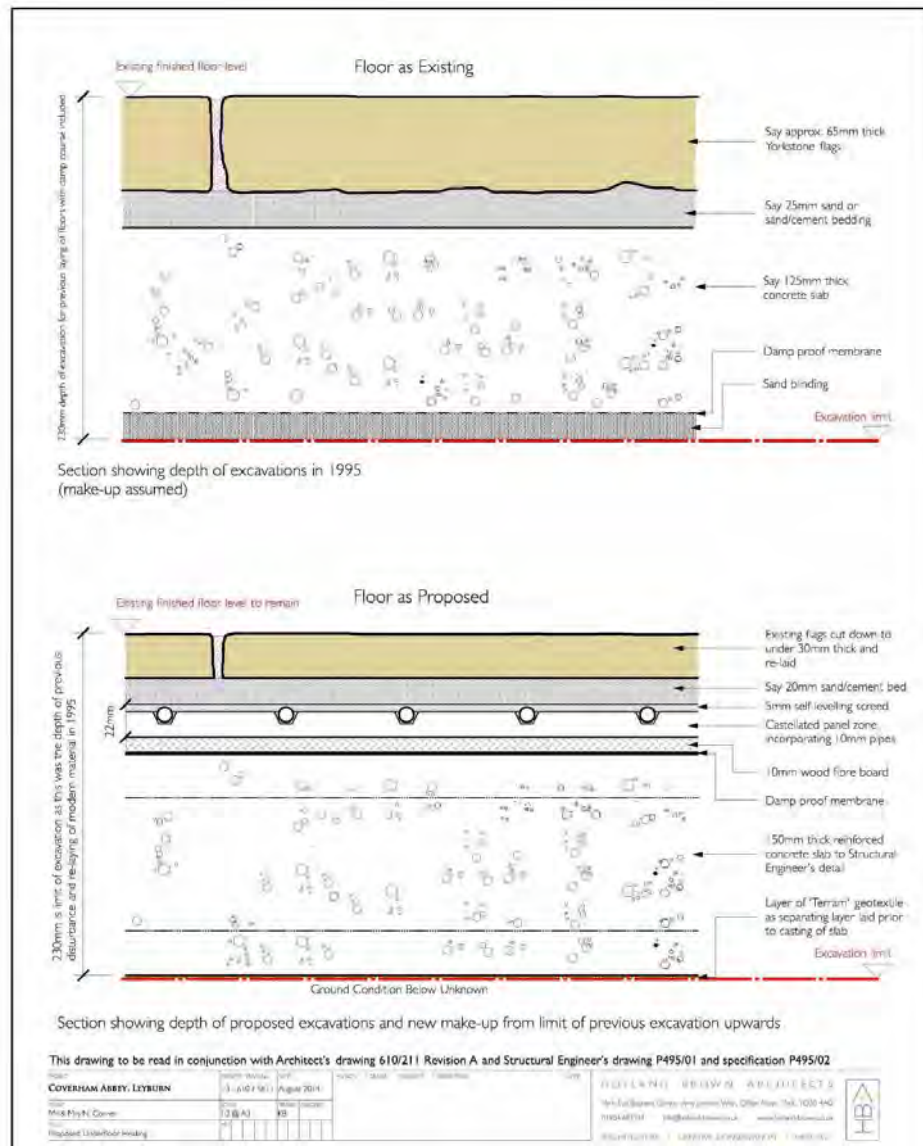


Figure 4. Indicative sections through floors as existing, and as proposed.