

NYCC HER	
SNY	11065
ENY	3142
CNY	5157, 5670
Parish	6142
Rec'd	17.07.06

SYNINGTHWAITE PRIORY FARM, BILTON.

**REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.
OSA REPORT No: OSA06EV03.**

APRIL 2006.

OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY LTD

25A Milton Street • York • North Yorkshire • YO10 3EP
telephone • 01904 411673 • fax • 01904 414522 • mobile • 07767 385766

e-mail • mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk

© *On-Site Archaeology*, 2006.

Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA05EV02**SITE NAME:** Syningthwaite Priory Farm, Bilton**COUNTY:** North Yorkshire**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 46156 48710**ON BEHALF OF:** Mike Griffiths and Associates

Houlgate House

128-130 Clifton

York

YO30 6BQ

TEXT: Graham Bruce**FIELDWORK:** Graham Bruce

Tim Robinson

TIMING: Fieldwork8th to 24th March 2006

Post excavation & report preparation

27th March to 19th April 2006**ENQUIRIES TO:** Nick Pearson

On-Site Archaeology

25A Milton Street

York

YO10 3EP

tel (01904) 411673*fax* (01904) 414522*mobile* (07767) 385766*e-mail* mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk**PERIODS REPRESENTED:** ?Prehistoric?, Medieval, Post-Medieval, Modern.

Table of Contents.

1.0 Abstract.....	4
2.0 Site Location, Topography and Land Use.....	6
3.0 Archaeological Background.....	8
4.0 Methodology.....	10
5.0 Results.....	11
6.0 Discussion.....	35
7.0 Conclusions.....	37
8.0 Bibliography.....	38
9.0 Appendix 1 ~ Table of Contexts.....	39
10.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.....	43
10.1 Drawing Register.....	43
10.2 Photographic Register.....	43
11.0 Appendix 3 ~ Finds Assessment Report.....	47
12.0 Appendix 4 ~ Biological Remains Assessment Report.....	63
13.0 Appendix 5 ~ The Plates.....	68

List of Figures.

Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 46156 48710).....	5
Figure 2. Trench location plan.....	6
Figure 3. Trench 2 plan.....	14
Figure 4. Trench 2, west facing section.....	14
Figure 5. Trench 4, north facing section.....	15
Figure 6. Trench 4 wall elevation (411).....	16
Figure 7. Trench 5, south facing section.....	16
Figure 8. Trench 5 wall elevation.....	17
Figure 9. Trench 6, south facing section.....	17
Figure 10. Trench 6 wall elevation.....	18
Figure 11. Trench 7, south facing section.....	19
Figure 12. Trench 7 wall elevation.....	19
Figure 13. Trench 8, north facing section.....	20
Figure 14. Trench 8 wall elevation.....	20
Figure 15. Trench 9, north facing section.....	21
Figure 16. Trench 9 wall elevation.....	22
Figure 17. Trench 10 plan.....	24
Figure 18. Trench 12 plan.....	27
Figure 19. Trench 12, west facing section.....	27
Figure 20. Trench 13 plan.....	29

Figure 21. Trench 14, west facing section.	30
Figure 22. Trench 14 wall elevation.	30
Figure 23. Trench 15, south facing section.	31
Figure 24. Trench 15 wall elevation.	31
Figure 25. Trench 16 plan.	34
Figure 26. Trench 16, south facing section.	34
Figure 27. Trench 16, east facing section.	34

List of Plates.

Plate 1. Trench 1 looking south. (Scale of 1m).	68
Plate 2. Trench 2 upon completion, looking south. (Scale of 1m & 0.5m).	68
Plate 3. Trench 2 north facing section through ditch [211], looking south. (Scale of 1m).	69
Plate 4. Trench 2, (202) prior to excavation looking southeast. (Scale of 1m).	69
Plate 5. Trench 2, foundation (217) prior to excavation looking south. (Scale of 1m).	70
Plate 6. Trench 3 looking west. (Scale of 1m).	70
Plate 7. Trench 4 looking east. (Scale of 1m).	71
Plate 8. Trench 5 looking east. (Scale of 0.5m).	71
Plate 9. Trench 6 looking southeast. (Scale of 0.5m).	72
Plate 10. Trench 7 looking west. (Scale of 1m).	72
Plate 11. Trench 8 looking west. (Scale of 1m).	73
Plate 12. Trench 9 looking west. (Scale of 1m).	73
Plate 13. Trench 10, features [1004], [1006] & [1008] looking east. (Scale of 1m).	74
Plate 14. Trench 11 looking west. (Scale of 1m).	74
Plate 15. Trench 12, northwest facing section through ditch [1212], looking southeast. (Scale of 0.5m).	75
Plate 16. Trench 12, pit [1214], looking northwest. (Scale of 1m).	75
Plate 17. Trench 12, gulley [1209] looking northwest. (Scale of 1m).	76
Plate 18. Trench 12, [1209 & [1211] looking southwest. (Scale of 1m).	76
Plate 19. Trench 13, looking southwest. (Scale of 1m).	77
Plate 20. Trench 14, looking south. (Scale of 0.5m).	77
Plate 21. Trench 15, looking west. (Scale of 0.5m).	78
Plate 22. Trench 16, looking west. (Scale of 1m).	78
Plate 23. Trench 16 showing part of south facing section, looking north. (Scale of 2x0.5m).	79

1.0 Abstract.

On-Site Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at the site of Syningthwaite Priory Farm, Bilton, North Yorkshire, during March 2006. The evaluation was undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application to develop the site, and was carried out in response to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section.

The evaluation involved the excavation of a total of sixteen trenches. These included machine excavated trenches located around the farm buildings to evaluate the potential impact of proposed new buildings, machine excavated trenches in a field to the west of the farm, along the proposed route of a new access road, and several hand-dug test pits to examine the nature of foundations of some of the existing buildings.

The various areas of the site evaluated have encountered a varying range of archaeological survival. Within the courtyard area in the centre of the farm complex no archaeological features or deposits were present. To the south of the farm buildings the evaluation revealed the presence of a well preserved sequence of archaeological features dated to the medieval and post medieval period. The field to the west of the farm complex also contained features of medieval date, which again relate to the occupation of the Priory. These included pits and gullies, cut into the natural and sealed by a medieval to modern ploughsoil, but no evidence for masonry structures or buildings. The trenches excavated in this field also encountered several undated features, some of which may represent an earlier, pre-Priory phase of activity.

Only one of the hand-dug test pits was excavated adjacent to a certainly medieval wall, that of the southern range. This revealed well-built limestone foundations. None of the walls along the eastern range were founded on such well constructed foundations. It is suggested that the standing eastern range is of post-medieval or early modern construction. A trench excavated to the southeast of the standing buildings has revealed evidence for substantial robbed walls, which are interpreted as forming parts of the original priory complex. These were dismantled during the mid 17th century.

The archaeological evaluation has shown that in addition to the Grade 1 listed building the site contains below ground medieval remains relating to the Cistercian nunnery. To maximise the in-situ preservation of these remains a scheme of archaeological mitigation, employing sympathetic design is required. The mitigation proposals may also require further fieldwork where impact to the archaeological remains is unavoidable.



Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 46156 48710).

Reproduced from the 2000 Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office.
© Crown copyright. OSA Licence No: AL 52132A0001

2.0 Site Location, Topography and Land Use.

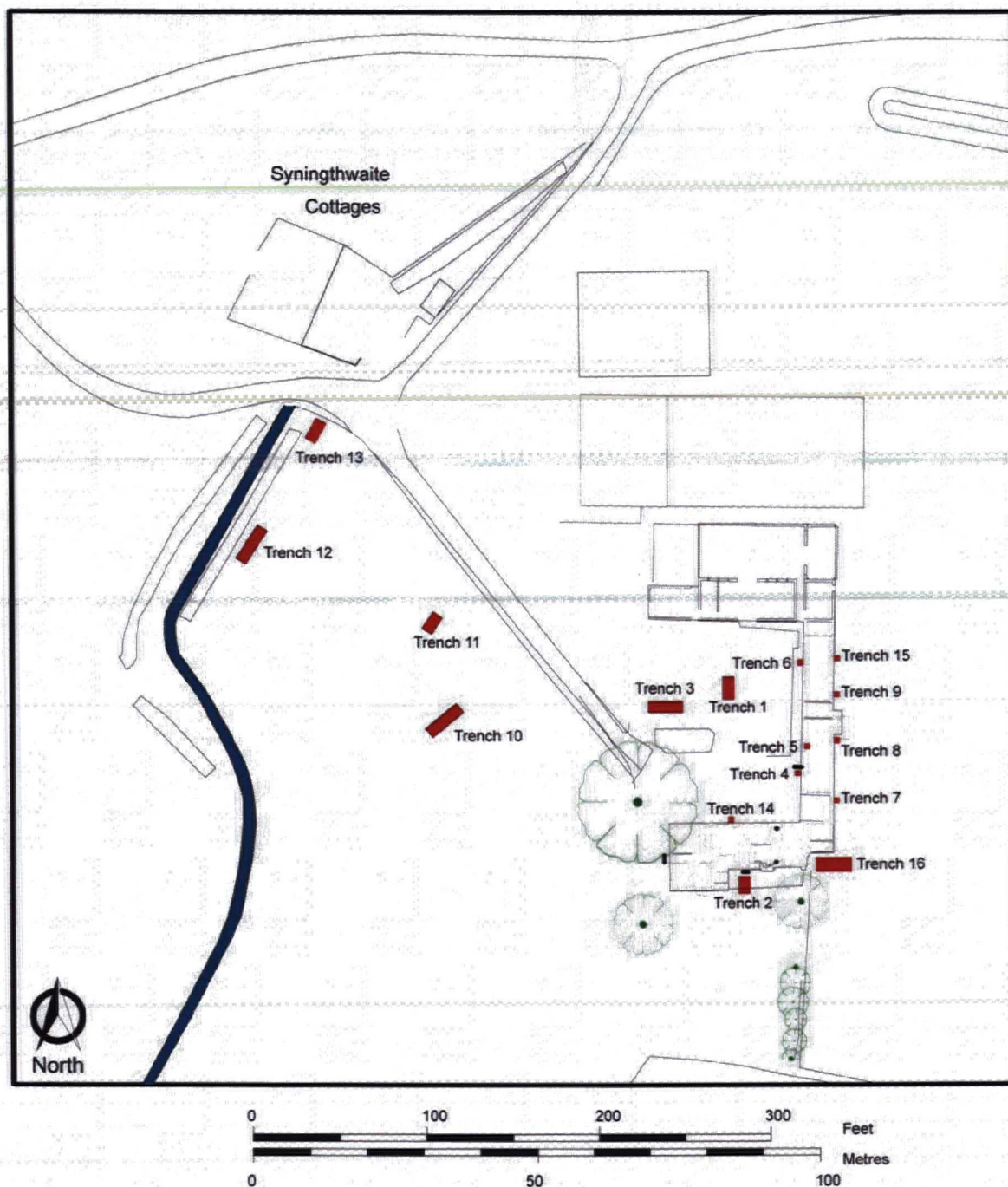


Figure 2. Trench location plan.

Syningthwaite Priory Farm is located within the Harrogate District of North Yorkshire, in the parish of Bilton-in-Ainsty with Bickerton, 2km southwest of the village of Bilton and 5.5km east of the town of Wetherby. The site is close to the county boundary between North and West Yorkshire and is centred at National Grid Reference SE 46156 48710. The ground around the farm itself is approximately level at between 23.00m and 24m AOD, although the central courtyard is noticeably lower (0.50m to 0.70m) than the surrounding area. The farm is situated to the south of Featherbed Lane, east of Rudgate and until recent years was a mixed

arable and livestock farm, which also provided stabling for horses from one of the Tadcaster Breweries.

3.0 Archaeological Background.

Prior to the current evaluation the Syningthwaite Priory has been the subject of a historic buildings survey by English Heritage (2005). This was undertaken at the request of the Historic Buildings Architect of the Yorkshire Region in order to inform the future management and conservation of the Grade 1 Listed Building. The survey involved a comprehensive documentary study supplemented by a photographic and measured survey. It is not the purpose of this report to repeat this information. A summary of the history is included to provide a context to the evaluation.

No previous intrusive archaeological investigation has taken place on the site.

Syningthwaite Priory is a Grade 1 listed building and is currently on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register. The only standing medieval remains comprise the refectory or southern range of the nunnery which would originally have been constructed in a claustral arrangement. The curtilage buildings along the northern and eastern range are of later construction comprising a 19th century tithe barn and stables respectively. The medieval structures which would have comprised a dormitory, ancillary range and church have now long since gone. It has been suggested that the layout of the farm complex in the 1893 Ordnance Survey map may have reflected the original location of the medieval buildings, but the scale and rectangular shape of the claustral arrangement, suggest otherwise.

The Priory is located 550m to the east of Rudgate, the line of the Roman road. The Priory was founded in 1155 by Bertram Haget and was established as a nunnery of the Cistercian order. While records exist referring to the various gifts and endowments there are no records relating to the layout or construction of nunnery itself.

The southern range contains few elements relating to its 12th century origins. These are limited to a series of arched windows, a louver and an ornate doorway which was set into the northern wall at a later date. Internally the refectory contains evidence for 13th century wall painting/decoration. In the early 16th century the refectory underwent significant internal refurbishment. This included the insertion of a first floor, alterations to existing windows, the insertion of a fireplace and the rebuilding of part of the southern wall.

The priory was dissolved in 1536 when it was valued at £69 9s 2d. Following the dissolution the priory and its land was passed between various families and run as a tenanted farm. At some point after the dissolution the eastern and western ranges and the church were dismantled and the site redeveloped. This involved the partial demolition of the eastern end of the south range. The western end of the south range was probably also truncated prior to the addition of a farmhouse in the early 19th century. This phase of building may be contemporary with the construction of the barn which now occupies the northern side of the farm complex.

The nunnery was enclosed within a moat. The location of this is depicted in the 19th century Ordnance survey maps and is partially visible on the site today. The main thoroughfare to the

Priory would have been from Rudgate along Featherbed Lane and probably crossed the moat at its current location. Along its northwestern length the ditch is wide and deep and appears to be regularly cleaned out. The southwestern part of the circuit is no longer visible on the ground and may have been infilled in the 19th century to facilitate ploughing.

The 20th century saw the development of areas to the north and northwest of the farm complex with the addition of housing close to the entrance of the farm adjacent to the moat and the construction of modern agricultural barns immediately to the north.

Architectural fragments of the Priory buildings have been reused in later walls or have been collected and placed around the site by the current owner. Interestingly a studded oak door which is now located at the entrance to Bilton in Ainsty Parish Church originally came from the southern range and was removed in the 20th century. Other fragments of the priory now rest in the parish church including an effigy of the abbess (Mr Rawlings, pers com).

4.0 Methodology.

In total 16 evaluation trenches of various sizes were excavated. Trenches 1 and 3 were located within the central courtyard area to the north of the present farmhouse and were 4m and 6m long respectively, by 2m wide. Trench 2 was located to the south of the standing farmhouse, within the footprint of the proposed garden room extension. Trenches 4 to 9, 14 and 15 were approximately 1m x 1m square, located against the standing walls of the eastern and southern ranges of buildings to expose and examine the foundations of these buildings. Trenches 10 to 14 were located within the field to the west of the main farm complex, along the route of the proposed new access road and car parking. These trenches were all 2m wide and were 10m, 4m, 8m and 4m long respectively. Trench 16 was located to the southeast of the existing farmhouse, at the presumed junction of the outer walls of the south and east ranges of buildings. This trench was 5.50m long and 2.30m wide.

Trenches 4 to 9, 14 and 15 were entirely excavated by hand. Within the remaining trenches the overburden was removed by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket down to the level of the first visible archaeological horizon. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand in order to detect any archaeological features revealed through textural or colour changes in the deposits. Once this had been completed, hand excavation was undertaken in a stratigraphic manner. Where structural features and archaeological deposits that may be worthy of preservation in-situ, or benefit from detailed open area excavation were encountered excavation was limited to that required to understand the stratigraphic sequence.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the excavation. This involved the completion of a written context description for each deposit, structure or cut encountered, along with plans and/or sections drawn to scale. Heights above Ordnance Datum (AOD) were calculated by taking levels from a Temporary Benchmark (TBM) which was then tied in with an existing Ordnance Survey benchmark. A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained.

5.0 Results.

5.1 Trench 1.

This trench was located within the central courtyard area and was 4m x 2m in plan (see Plate 1). It was positioned to establish whether structural elements or burials associated with the Priory were present in this area of the site. The earliest deposit encountered was the firm, yellow, slightly sandy clay natural (101), which was found at a height of between 23.00m and 23.05m AOD. This was directly overlain by a 0.15m to 0.20m thick layer of mid brown clay sand, containing frequent cobbles together with less frequent fragments of concrete, brick, cement roof board, metal and plastic (100). The top of this deposit formed the modern ground surface at a height of 23.18m to 23.24m AOD. No archaeological deposits were present.

5.2 Trench 2, (see Figs.3&4).

This trench was located to the south of the present farmhouse, within the footprint of the garden room extension and was 4m x 2m in plan. The earliest deposit encountered was the firm reddish brown sandy clay natural (230). This was found at a maximum height of 22.83m OAD (approximately 0.60m below modern ground level). The natural was cut by several archaeological features.

Towards the eastern edge of the trench, approximately in the centre, was a large oval post-hole, or small pit [227] (visible towards the left side of Plate 2). This was a maximum of 0.65m across, with steep to vertical sides, down to a flat base at a depth of 0.30m. The fill (226) of mixed yellow sandy clay and grey brown sandy silt contained several small cobbles, which may have originally formed packing. A single small sherd of pottery dated to the mid 11th century or later was recovered from this fill. Within the western half of the south end of the trench the natural had been cut by the northern terminus of a north south orientated ditch [211]. Approximately 1.20m length of this feature was visible, with the northern end being truncated by a later drain and the southern continuation being obscured by the unexcavated portion of another medieval feature (see [203] below. A section excavated through this ditch terminus revealed a broad (0.90m wide) shallow (0.22m deep) V-shaped profile (Plate 3), although observations in the sides of a series of later postholes ([205] and [223]) showed that it became deeper to the south. The fill (210) of friable, light yellow brown sandy clay silt, contained occasional small pebbles, flecks of charcoal and a single sherd of pottery of late 12th century date.

As stated above the southern continuation of ditch [211] was obscured by a later feature [203]. This feature comprised a shallow, east west, linear cut, which crossed the entire width of the trench and extended beyond the southern limits of excavation. The cut itself was a maximum of 0.10m into the surface of the natural, with a minimum width of 0.80m. At the extreme southern edge of the trench the base of the cut appeared to rise very slightly. This may reflect a minor undulation in an otherwise level base, or form the bottom of the slope of the south side of the cut. If the second of these suggestions is true then the true southern edge may only lie a short distance beyond the confines of the investigated area. The shallow linear

contained a much more substantial fill (202) that was recorded for a total depth of 0.40m. The fill comprised mid brownish grey sandy silt, containing frequent medium and large cobbles (up to 200mm in diameter), together with occasional larger (up to 250mm) fragments of sub-angular limestone rubble (see Plate 4). A small assemblage of late 12th century pottery was recovered from the excavation of this feature. The difference in depth of the cut and thickness of fill material clearly requires some discussion. It is possible that the feature was originally cut from a significantly higher level than was recognised during excavation. Examination of the sections did not, however, indicate that this was the case. It appears therefore, that the fill actually stood proud of the top of the cut, as a positive feature, possibly as a rough, low wall foundation, or a bank. This interpretation may be supported by the presence towards the east end of the excavated section of the feature of what appears to be a post setting [229]. This was a small oval, a maximum of 0.20m in diameter, with steep sides and a flat base at a depth of 0.10m. The fill (228) of mid grey sandy clay silt contained several large pebbles and small cobbles. Whilst it is possible that this feature is earlier than [203] and has been truncated by it, the cobbly nature of the fill and position, apparently within the centre of the linear cut, may indicate that they are contemporary and formed part of the same structure.

These earliest features were sealed by a layer of mid yellow brown sandy clay (219), between 0.10m and 0.30m thick. This deposit contained frequent small pebbles and chippings of limestone and appears to form a deliberate act of levelling. Fragments of pottery of late 12th century or later were retrieved. In the extreme western edge of the trench a possible hearth (220) had been constructed on the surface of dump (219). This comprised a series of flat lain sandstone slabs (the largest of which was a maximum of 250mm long), covering a total distance of 0.80m from north to south and extending only 0.05m into the trench. There was evidence for burning of the surface of these slabs, hence their interpretation as a possible hearth (this is visible in the right foreground of Plate 2). Presumably the majority of this feature lays undisturbed to the west of the trench, so no attempt was made to excavate the exposed portion.

All of the features in Trench 2 so far described appear to relate to the earliest century of occupation of the Priory. The remaining features recorded are significantly later, either from the late medieval, post-medieval or early modern periods.

In the northeast corner of the trench dump layer (219) was cut by a steep sided, flat based, oval post hole [225]. Although extending beyond the trench edge this was seen to be at least 0.45m in diameter and 0.40m deep. The mid reddish brown silty clay sand fill (224) contained occasional sherds of pottery, the latest of which was dated to the late 15th century or later.

To the southwest of this post hole dump layer (219) had been cut by a larger, rectangular feature [218]. This was approximately 0.90m long, 0.70m wide, with steep to vertical sides down to a flat base at a depth of 0.25m. The fill (217) comprised a pale greenish grey brown silty sand matrix around frequent large water worn cobbles (up to 250mm in diameter). The cobbles were tightly packed and almost certainly formed a foundation pad (Plate 5). A small

assemblage of pottery was recovered from this feature, which dates it to the late 17th century or later.

Within the southern part of the trench was another post hole of similar date [223]. This was sub-rectangular in shape, a maximum of 0.35m long, with steep to vertical sides and flat base at a depth of 0.22m. The fill (222) of mid brownish grey sandy silt, contained possible packing in the form of occasional cobbles, and a single sherd of pottery dated to the late 16th century.

In the northern part of the trench the post hole and larger pad foundation were both overlain by a dump of light to mid grey sandy silt (220), with frequent flecks of mortar suggestive of demolition or robbing. Occasional sherds of late 16th century pottery were recovered from this layer, although as it seals the cobble pad foundation, which was dated to the late 17th century these sherds are likely to be residual. The surface of this deposit was found at a height of 23.20m AOD (0.25m below the modern ground level).

The remaining features and deposits recorded in Trench 2 were all of relatively recent date. These included three sub-rectangular post holes [205], [207] and [209] within the southern part of the trench. These three had distinctive dark grey sandy silt fills (204), (206) and (208), the former of which contained pottery dated to the later 18th century or later. These post holes may have formed a fence to the rear of the farmhouse, separating it from the field beyond.

Recent features also included a ceramic drain (214), taking rain water from the corner of the current farmhouse out to the field to the south, and a lead water pipe (231), which is also likely to have fed the farmhouse itself. The latest deposits in each end of the trench varied; to the south was a 0.30m thick dark grey turfed topsoil (201), whilst to the north was a sequence of make-up deposits (235, 236 and 237), for a cobbled yard surface (234), which was overlain by the current tarmac surface (200). The tarmac was at a maximum height of 23.45m AOD at the north end of the trench and the turf at 23.31mAOD at the south.

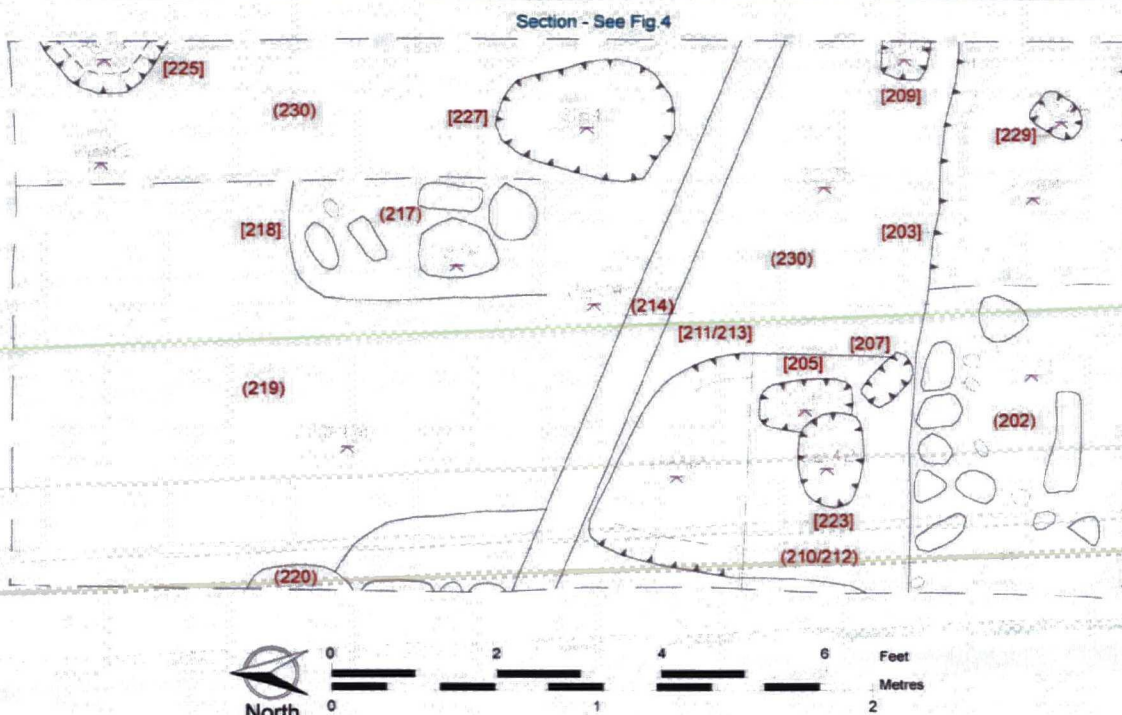


Figure 3. Trench 2 plan.

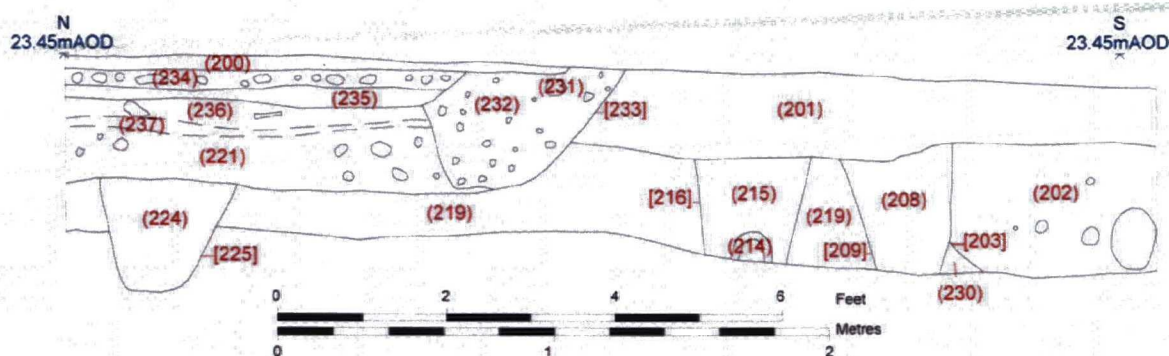


Figure 4. Trench 2, west facing section.

5.3 Trench 3.

This trench was located within the central courtyard area across the footprint of the former western range of buildings and was 6m x 2m in plan (Plate 6). The earliest deposit encountered was the firm, orange brown, slightly sandy clay natural (301), which was found at a height of between 23.01m and 23.05m AOD. This was directly overlain by a 0.15m to 0.20m thick layer of mid brown clay sand, containing frequent cobbles together with less frequent fragments of concrete, brick, cement roof board, metal and plastic (300). The top of this deposit formed the modern ground surface at a height of 23.16m to 23.28m AOD. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

5.4 Trench 4, (see Figs.5&6).

This trench was located to investigate the external face of the west wall, of the eastern range of farm buildings, towards its south end and was 1m x 1m in plan (see Plate 7). The earliest deposit encountered was a firm reddish brown sand (410), found in the base of the trench at a

depth of 0.50m below the modern ground level (23.18m AOD). As none of this deposit was excavated it is not certain if it represents undisturbed natural or a layer of redeposited natural. This deposit was overlain by a layer of darker, mottled, brownish red sand (407), followed by a mottled, orange sand (406) containing occasional small chips of limestone. A single small fragment of probably medieval tile was recovered from this context. The top of this deposit was found at a depth of 0.25m below the surface. Layer (406) was cut by the poorly defined construction trench [409] for the standing wall foundation (411), which comprised a mixture of rough limestone blocks and small cobbles. This foundation reached a maximum depth of 0.40m below the modern ground level, although in places it was as shallow as 0.20m. Sealing the construction backfill (408) and butting against the face of the foundation was a layer of fine mid brown sand (405), which formed the make up for a well laid cobble surface (404) at a depth of 0.10m below the modern surface. The cobbles were absent from a narrow band (max 0.20m wide) immediately adjacent to part of the wall. This part of the wall clearly included a recently blocked doorway and the absent cobbles may represent the robbing out [403] of a threshold at the time of the blocking. The loose sandy fill (402) of this possible robbing, was sealed by the sand make-up (401) for the modern concrete surface (400), at a maximum height of 23.60m AOD.

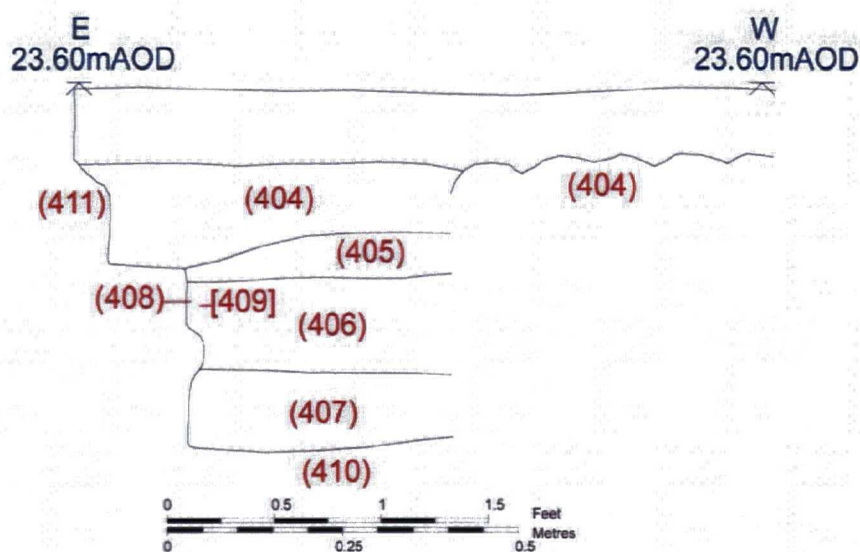


Figure 5. Trench 4, north facing section.

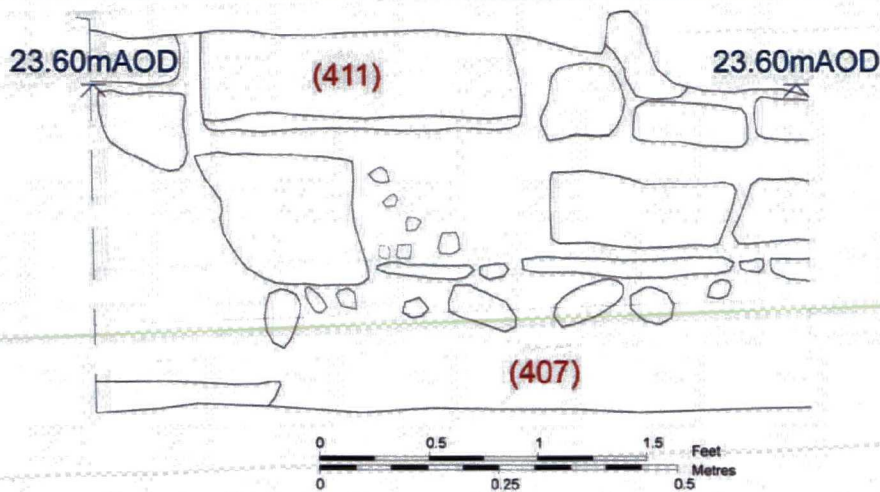


Figure 6. Trench 4 wall elevation (411).

5.5 Trench 5, (see Figs. 7&8).

This trench was located to investigate the foundations of the west wall, of the eastern range of farm buildings, just to the south of its centre and was 1m x 1m in plan (see Plate 8). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m at which point natural subsoil was not revealed. The earliest deposit encountered was a friable yellow brown clay sand (505) containing frequent cobbles. This was recorded at a depth of 0.30m below the modern surface (23.58m AOD). The foundations (504) for the east range west wall were built directly on top of the cobble deposit (505). The foundation comprised a single course of large cobbles the base of which were only 0.30m to 0.35m below the modern internal ground level, and the top just 0.15m to 0.20m down. Above this were two courses of small limestone blocks and rubble, up to the modern ground level. There was no evidence for a construction cut for the foundation within the trench; the entire trench was filled with a deposit of loose, off white crushed mortar (503), which butted against the cobbles foundation. This deposit contained fragments of pottery dated to the late 19th century or later. The mortar deposits was sealed by a thin layer of loose brownish yellow sand (502), which formed the make-up for a cobble surface (501). This was directly overlain by the present thin concrete floor (500), at a height of 23.88m AOD.

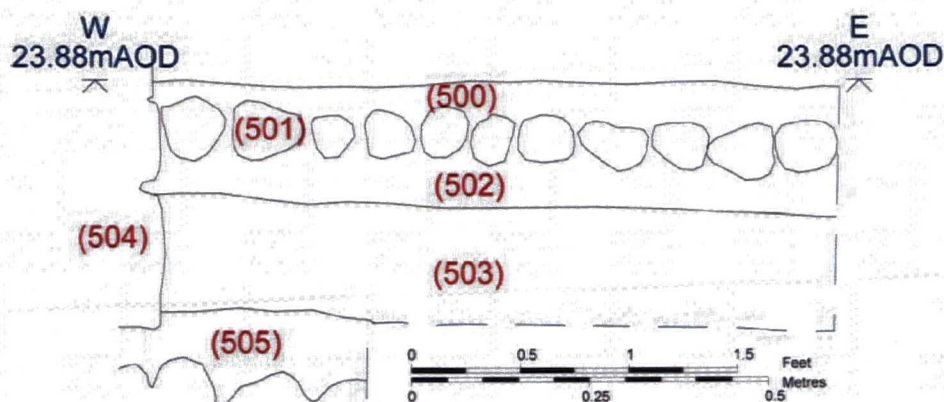


Figure 7. Trench 5, south facing section.

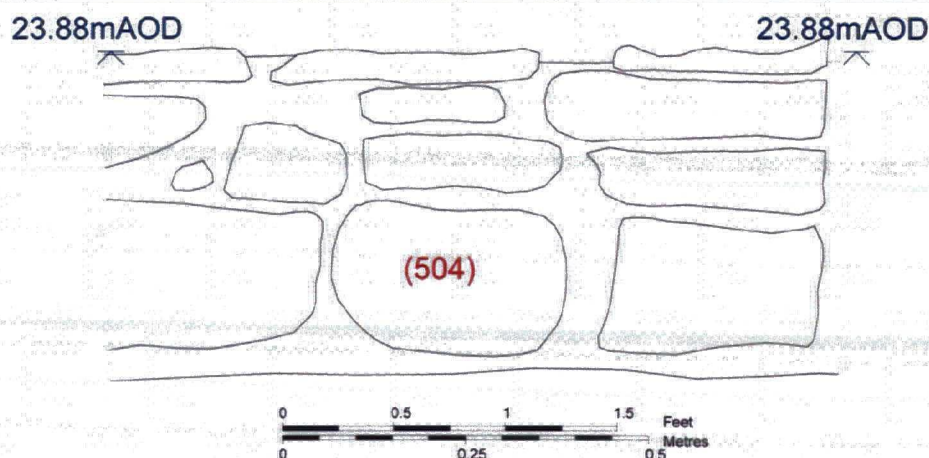


Figure 8. Trench 5 wall elevation.

5.6 Trench 6, (see Figs. 9&10).

This trench was located to investigate the external face of the west wall, of the eastern range of farm buildings, towards its north end and was 1m x 1m in plan (see Plate 9). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m. The earliest deposit encountered was a soft mid reddish brown clay sand (604). This did not contain any clearly anthropogenic material, but is unlikely to be *in-situ* natural, which for the most part around the farm area is paler, more yellow in colour, and has a higher clay content. This deposit was only excavated in the bottom 0.05m of the trench. It was overlain by a 0.10m to 0.15m thick layer of compacted limestone rubble set in a similar reddish brown sand (603). The foundations for the east range west wall appear to have been built directly upon the surface of this deposit. The foundations (608) comprised a single mixed course of limestone blocks, brick fragments and cobbles. This extended to a maximum depth of 0.20m below the modern ground level. The tops of some of the blocks making up the foundation are visible above the modern ground level.

Butted against the foundation was the thin reddish brown sand make-up (602) for a cobble surface (601), which was cut by a modern iron water pipe (606). These were sealed by the modern concrete surface (600), the top of which was at a height of 24.00m AOD.

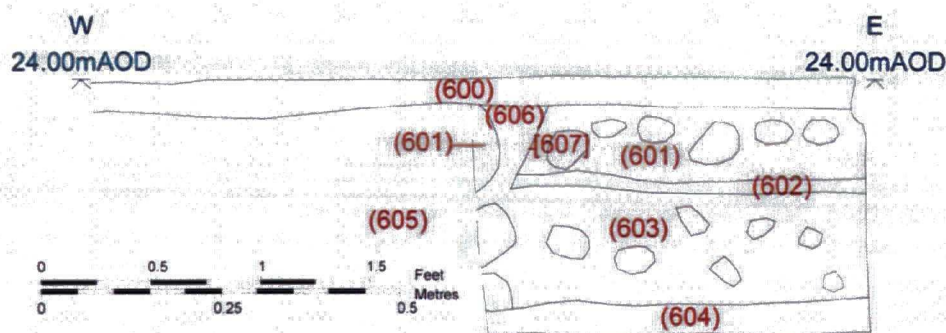


Figure 9. Trench 6, south facing section.

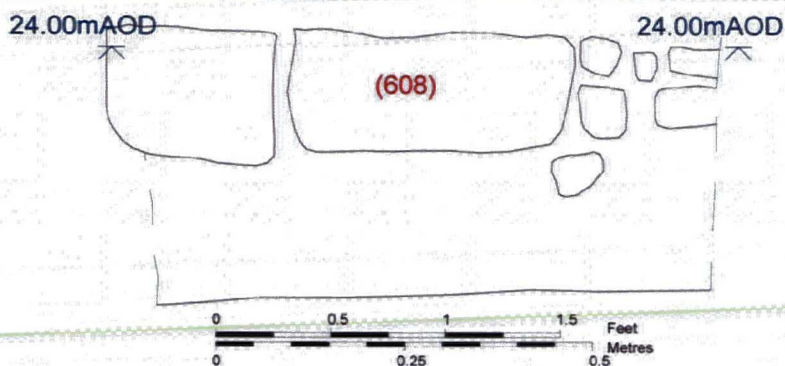


Figure 10. Trench 6 wall elevation.

5.7 Trench 7, (see Figs 11&12).

This trench was located to investigate the external face of the foundations of the east wall, of the eastern range of farm buildings, towards its south end and was 1m x 1m in plan (Plate 10). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m. The earliest deposit encountered was the firm yellow brown clay sand natural (704), which was visible in part of the base of the trench. The foundations of the standing east wall of the east range (702) sat directly on the surface of the natural at a height of 23.05m AOD. The foundations comprised a single course of rough limestone blocks a maximum of 0.35m across, overlain by three courses of smaller limestone blocks (averaging 0.20m across), mixed with occasional cobbles. It is uncertain if all of these courses were originally below ground, or if only the lowest course is a foundation and the upper ones are actually parts of the wall, which have subsequently become buried. One of the reasons for this uncertainty is due to the lack of a contemporary construction trench for the foundation. This is because the deposits immediately next to the wall and its foundation have been truncated by a substantial intrusion [703]. The western edge of this cut is formed by the wall and foundation; only at the very base, where it is recognisable against the natural can it be identified as a cut. The eastern side of the cut extends beyond the eastern limit of Trench 7, and it is deeper than the base of the trench. The cut was filled with a loose fill of yellowish white, crushed mortar sand (701), containing frequent fragments of broken limestone and pantile, together with pottery dated to the late 19th century and later. This fill was sealed by a 0.35m thick layer of loose dark brown silty sand topsoil (700), containing a variety of modern material which was discarded. The modern surface was at 23.71m AOD.