

Figure 11. Trench 7, south facing section.

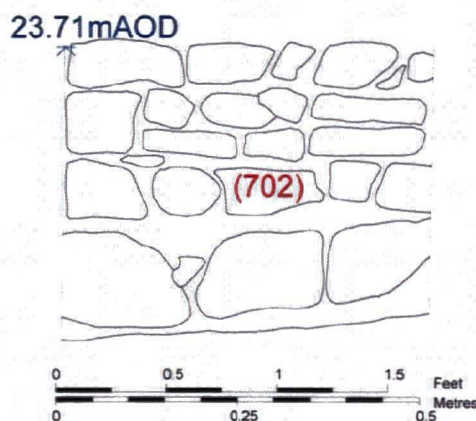


Figure 12. Trench 7 wall elevation.

### 5.8 Trench 8, (see Figs. 13&14).

This trench was located to investigate the external face of the foundations of the east wall, of the eastern range of farm buildings, approximately in its centre and was 1m x 1m in plan (Plate 11). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m. The earliest deposit encountered was the firm brownish yellow sandy clay natural (807), which was visible in part of the base of the trench at a maximum height of 23.28m AOD. The foundation for the standing east wall was constructed directly on the surface of the natural. This comprised a single course of unmortared limestone blocks (808) a maximum of 350mm across. Butting against the east face of the foundation blocks was a deposit of firm yellow brown clay silt, containing small angular fragments of limestone (806), together with at least one much larger block (up to 500mm across). There was no evidence for a construction cut for the foundation, so it is likely that this lies further to the east and that deposit (806) represents the construction backfill. The top of this backfill lay at a height of 23.45m AOD.



The east wall of the east range (804) had clearly been constructed at this level, as there was a significant overspill of mortar from between the lowest course of the wall and the top of the foundation course, onto the surface of the construction backfill. The wall itself consisted of limestone blocks of a similar size to those seen in the foundation, bonded with a hard pale cream lime mortar. The remaining deposits excavated in this trench were all butted against the east face of the wall. The earliest of these deposits directly overlay the construction backfill (806) and comprised a 0.20m thick layer of mid grey sandy silt with frequent flecks of mortar and small fragments of limestone (803), together with a sherd of pottery dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century or later. This was overlain by a layer of loose mid grey brown clay sand silt (802), suggestive of topsoil, from which fragments of late 19<sup>th</sup> century or later pottery were recovered. The final two deposits recorded were a recent dump of broken paniles (801), covered by the most recent topsoil (800), from which a 20<sup>th</sup> century glass perfume bottle was retrieved. The modern ground surface was recorded at a height of 23.93m AOD.

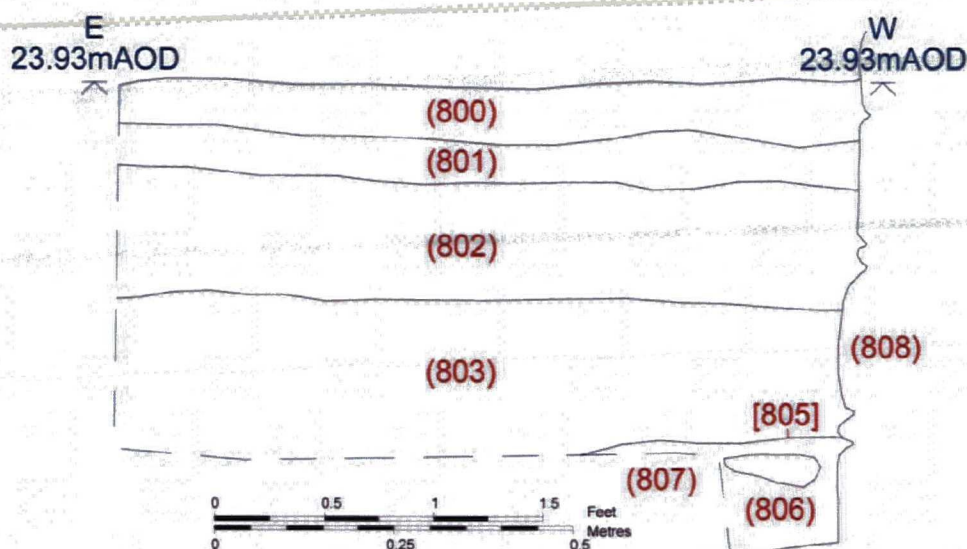


Figure 13. Trench 8, north facing section.

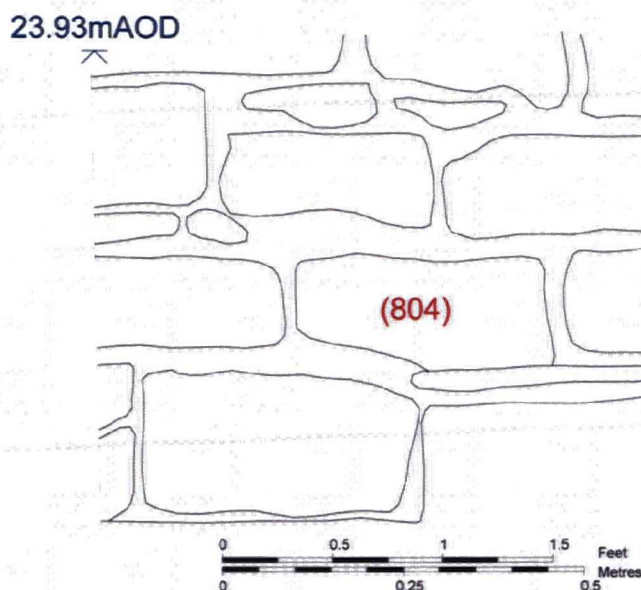


Figure 14. Trench 8 wall elevation.



### 5.9 Trench 9, (see Figs. 15&16).

This trench was located to investigate the external face of the foundations of the east wall, of the eastern range of farm buildings, to the north of the centre and was 1m x 1m in plan (Plate 12). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m. The earliest deposit encountered was a firm mid brown clay sand with occasional small fragments of limestone (903). This was visible in the base of the trench and continued up to a maximum height of 23.73m AOD (0.30m below the modern surface). This deposit also continued below the foundations for the standing east wall. The foundations (904) comprised a single course of mixed rough limestone and large cobbles, a maximum of 0.15m deep. Although no construction cut was visible and deposit (903) was tight against the face of the foundation stones, it is likely that a narrow cut was present, presumably with the foundations being placed directly against the side of the cut. The fact that deposit (903) was visible, both against the side of the foundation and continuing under it, strongly supports the presence of a cut.

Whilst the foundation observed within this trench appears to be a single continuous course the wall above clearly represents separate phases of construction. Within the southern half of the trench this is constructed with limestone blocks, but to the north it comprises a levelling course of brick, followed by 20<sup>th</sup> century breeze blocks. All of the deposits subsequently excavated were butted against the face of the latest breeze block stretch of wall. These comprised a mottled creamy white and mid brown clay sand (902), loose yellow brown sand (901) and modern topsoil (900), at a height of 24.03m AOD. A coin dated to 1943 was recovered from deposit (902).

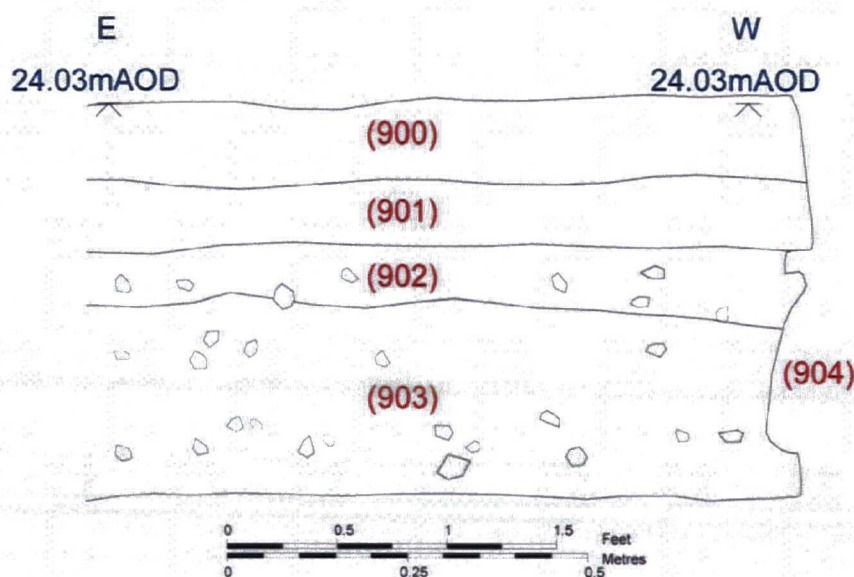


Figure 15. Trench 9, north facing section.



24.03m AOD

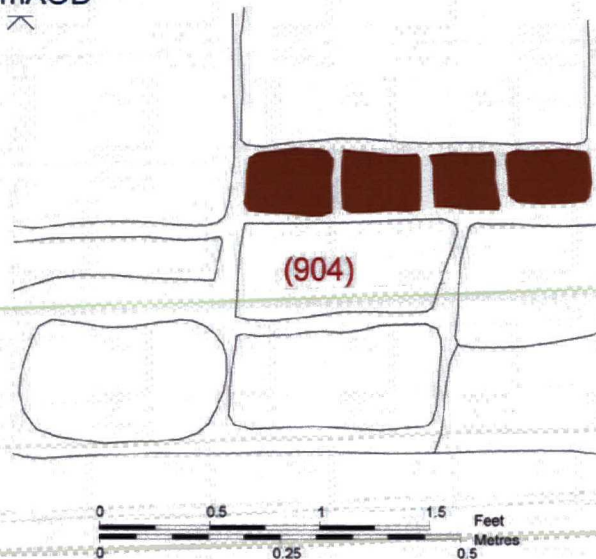


Figure 16. Trench 9 wall elevation.

### 5.10 Trench 10, (see Fig.17).

This trench was 10m x 2m in plan, aligned approximately northeast to southwest. It was located in the field to the west of the main farm complex, along the route of the proposed new access road, to investigate a curvilinear anomaly identified through geophysical survey. The earliest deposit encountered was the mottled yellow brown sand natural (1002). This was found at a maximum height of 21.82m AOD at the northeast end of the trench (approximately 0.75m below the modern ground level), and sloped down to 21.24m AOD at the southwest end, broadly mirroring the current slope of the surface. Three features were cut into the natural (see Plate 13).

Approximately 3m from the northwest end of the trench was a shallow gully [1004]. This was aligned approximately east west, was 0.50m wide, with sides sloping at 45° down to a flat base at a depth of 0.15m. The fill (1003) of mid brown silty clay sand contained occasional flecks of charcoal and pebbles but no other inclusions. This feature was recorded for a total length of 1.20m, extending beyond the edge of excavation at its east end and being truncated by a later feature [1006] to the west. Feature [1006] was a steep sided, sub-rectangular cut, a minimum of 1.80m long and 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep. This was also aligned east west and extended beyond the northwestern edge of excavation. It may either be a sub-rectangular pit or the terminus of a ditch, possibly replacing the earlier shallower gully. The fill (1005) of mid greenish grey brown silty clay sand, contained occasional flecks of charcoal and limestone, together with occasional sherds of pottery dated to the late 12<sup>th</sup> century or later.

The final feature excavated in Trench 10 was an oval pit [1008] approximately 1m to the southwest of [1006]. This had a maximum diameter of 1.05m with gently sloping sides down to a flat base at a maximum depth of 0.13m. The fill (1007) of mid brownish grey clay sand silt again contained occasional flecks of charcoal and limestone, together with small pebbles. A small assemblage of pottery, dated to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century was also recovered.



The excavated features were sealed by a 0.40m thick layer of mid yellow brown clay sand silt (1001). A range of medieval pottery was retrieved from this layer, the latest of which dated to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. This layer is likely to represent an early ploughsoil horizon, with the pottery being derived either through manuring, or through plough truncation of the underlying features. At the southwestern end of the trench the base of this ploughsoil was excavated by hand (1009). It was initially thought that this may be the upper fills of the feature suggested by the geophysical survey, but this proved not to be the case. Several sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from (1009). The latest deposit recorded throughout the trench was the modern topsoil (1000), a very dark grey sandy clay silt, 0.20m thick. The modern surface was recorded as 22.54m AOD at the northeast end and 21.99m AOD at the southwest.



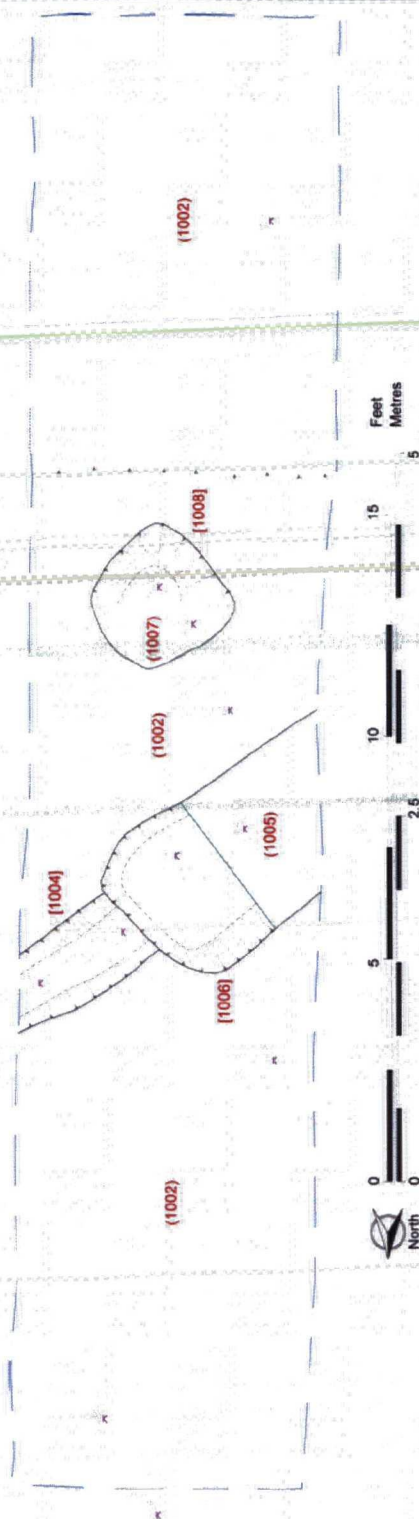


Figure 17. Trench 10 plan.

### 5.11 Trench 11.

This trench was 4m x 2m in plan, aligned approximately north-northeast to south-southwest (Plate 14). It was located in the field to the west of the main farm complex, along the route of the proposed new access road. The earliest deposit encountered was the firm mid brownish yellow silty sand natural (1102). This was found at a height of 22.12m AOD at the



northernmost end, sloping down to 21.94m AOD towards the south (0.60m to 0.65m below the modern surface). No archaeological features were present. The natural was sealed by the same sequence of mid yellow brown clay sand silt (1101) overlain by modern topsoil (1100) as had been recorded in Trench 10 to the southeast.

### **5.12 Trench 12, (see Figs. 18&19).**

This trench was located in the field to the west of the farm complex, close to and parallel to the open ditch that forms the northwest boundary of the field, along the route of the proposed new access road. It was positioned to investigate a curvilinear anomaly indicated through geophysical survey, was aligned approximately northeast to southwest and was 8m x 2m in plan. The earliest deposit encountered was the firm mid yellow brown slightly sandy clay natural (1215). This was found at a maximum height of 22.03m AOD at the northern end of the trench and sloped down to 21.68m AOD approximately 2m from the south end (the remaining southern 2m of the trench contained a cut feature). The natural was consistently at a depth of 0.40m to 0.55m below the modern ground surface. Several features were cut into the surface of the natural.

The northernmost feature recorded was a shallow, oval pit [1203], with a maximum diameter of 0.70m, steep concave sides and a flat base at a depth of 0.16m. This contained a single fill (1202) of pale greenish grey clay sand, which lacked inclusions or artefacts, so unfortunately could not be dated.

Approximately 3m from the northern end of the trench was a second undated feature. This comprised a substantial ditch [1212], running almost exactly perpendicular to the line of the trench (northwest to southeast). This ditch was 1.30m wide, with moderately sloped sides and a flat base at a depth of 0.50m (Plate 15). The fill (1207) of firm yellow brown sandy clay was similar in character to the surrounding natural and almost certainly derived from it. Inclusions were limited to occasional natural rounded cobbles and pebbles, with no obviously anthropogenic material.

The northwest end of ditch [1212] had been substantially truncated by two subsequent, intercutting features. The earlier of these was a deep, sub-rectangular pit [1214] (Plate 16). This was a minimum length of 1.15m (extending beyond the edge of excavation) 1.10m wide, with steep sides and a flat base, at a depth of 0.75m. The primary fill (1213) comprised a layer (maximum 0.15m thick) of friable mid grey brown sandy silt containing moderate flecks of charcoal. Although no datable artefacts were recovered during excavation a sample of this fill was analysed to assess its palaeo-environmental potential. This contained occasional unidentifiable charcoal and charred hazel nutshell fragments, together with a small assemblage of animal bone (see Appendix 4). The remaining depth (0.60m) of the pit was filled with a homogenous, pale reddish brown clay sand (1206). This was presumably a deliberate backfilling of the pit and contained moderate small pebbles, together with fragments of pottery dated to the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. The northwest edge of the pit (and earlier ditch) had been truncated by a vertically sided linear feature [1204]. This was aligned approximately east west and crossed the entire width of the trench. It was 0.67m wide, and upon inspection of the trench sections was seen to have been cut from a substantially higher



level (directly below the modern topsoil) than the other features encountered. The form of this feature is strongly indicative of a modern service trench (its alignment suggests that it carries a pipe from the farm to the drain), so excavation was limited to removing the fill immediately adjacent to the earlier features to avoid contamination of finds. The fill of the modern trench (1205) was a mixture of redeposited natural yellow clay and dark grey topsoil (this feature is also visible on Plate 16).

Two more features were found intercutting in the southern half of the trench. The earlier of these [1209] was a short length of curvilinear gulley, a maximum of 0.70m wide and 0.40m deep. Although some variation of the profile occurred along the excavated length this was typically an irregular V-shape. The fill (1208) of mid greenish brown silty sand contained no inclusions or artefacts. A total length of 1.60m of this feature was present, it continued beyond the edge of the trench to the northwest and was truncated by a later feature to the southeast. The truncating feature [1211] was the final one recorded in Trench 12 (Plate 18). This feature fully occupied the southernmost 2m of the trench and may correlate to the curvilinear anomaly indicated by the geophysical survey. [1211] comprised a broad shallow cut, a single edge of which was within the trench and aligned northwest to southeast. This cut was a maximum of 0.26m deep at the southern end of the trench, with no indication that the base had been reached. The fill (1210) consisted of compact brownish grey sandy clay containing frequent cobbles, from which a small quantity of medieval pottery dated to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century was recovered.

The features recorded in Trench 12 (with the exception of the modern service trench) were all sealed by 0.25m to 0.40m thick layer of mid yellow brown clay sand silt ploughsoil (1201) and 0.15m to 0.20m of modern topsoil (1200). The modern surface was recorded at a height of 22.61m AOD at the northern end of the trench and 22.14m AOD to the south.



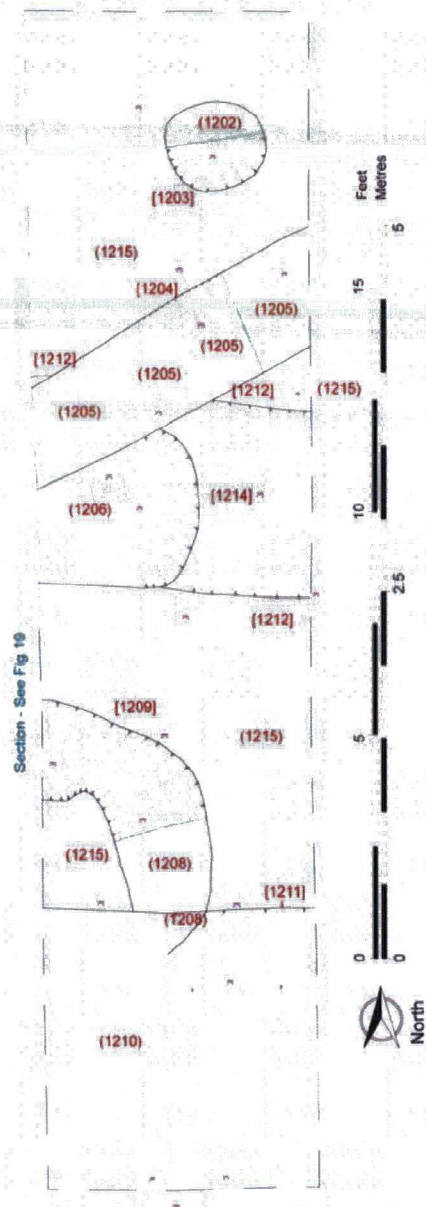


Figure 18. Trench 12 plan.

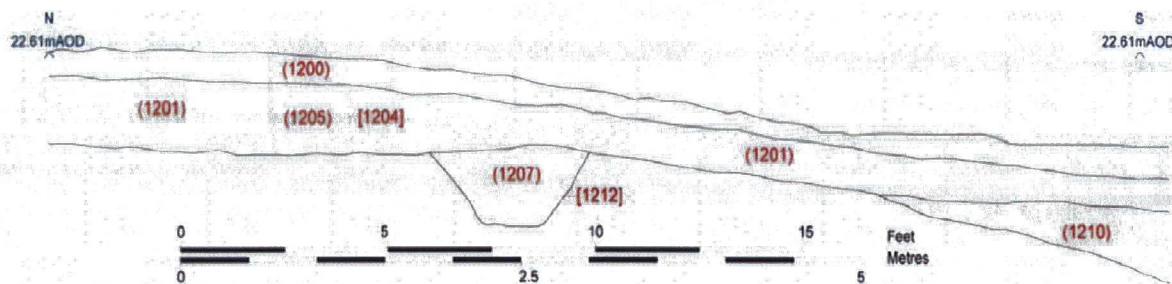


Figure 19. Trench 12, west facing section.



### 5.13 Trench 13, (see Fig. 20).

This trench was located in the northern corner of the field to the west of the farm complex, within the area of a proposed new car park and was 4m x 2m in plan and aligned approximately northeast to southwest. The earliest deposit encountered was the firm mid brownish yellow clay sand natural (1310). This was found at a maximum height of 22.80m AOD at the northern end and sloped down to 22.52m AOD to the south. The natural was cut by four features (Plate 19).

Approximately in the centre of the trench was a circular, steep sided, flat based post hole [1306] a maximum of 0.25m in diameter and 0.20m deep. It contained a light grey brown sandy silt fill (1302) with occasional flecks of charcoal and small pebbles but no other inclusions or artefacts. A second circular post hole [1308] of identical dimensions was found 1.60m to the south, next to the end of the trench. The fill of this was also a light grey brown sandy silt (1304), with the same inclusions and lack of artefacts.

Between the two post holes were two larger, but much shallower cuts. One of these [1307] lay predominantly beyond the southeastern side of the trench, with only 0.15m visible for excavation. This revealed a moderately sloped side, which continued for a minimum depth of 0.10m but did not reach the base within the confines of the trench. The fill (1303) of light grey brown sandy silt once again contained no finds. The final feature recorded in this trench appeared in plan, prior to excavation, to be the terminus of a east west aligned ditch [1309]. Upon excavation this proved to be very shallow (only 0.10m), with very gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was recorded for a total length of 2.20m from the western corner of the trench and was 1.10m wide. The fill (1305), like the other features excavated in this trench, was a light grey brown sandy silt, although it contained more pebbles than had been present in the other features. In common with the other features fill (1305) did not contain any datable artefacts.

The features recorded in this trench were sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of mid yellow brown clay sand silt ploughsoil (1301) and 0.30m of modern topsoil (1300). The modern surface was recorded at a height of 23.27m AOD at the northern end of the trench and 23.10m AOD to the south.



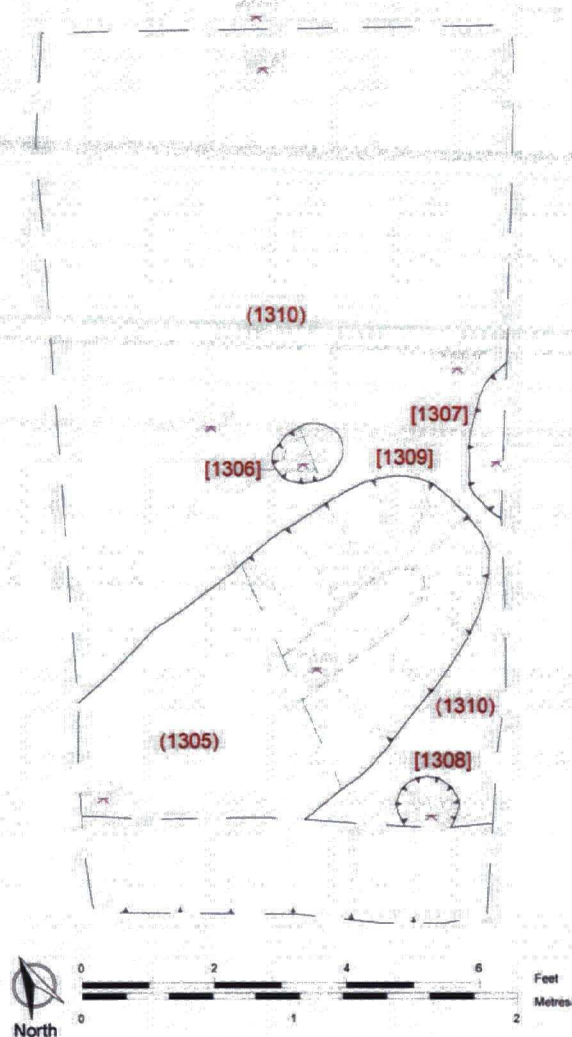


Figure 20. Trench 13 plan.

#### 5.14 Trench 14, (see Figs. 21&22).

This trench was located to investigate the foundations of the north wall, of the southern range of farm buildings, a short distance to the west of the main entrance and was 1m x 1m in plan (Plate 20). It was positioned to record the foundations of the known medieval building so that these could be compared with the foundations of the undated east range. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m. The earliest deposit encountered was the firm yellow brown sandy clay natural (1406), which was visible in a small area at the base of the trench at a maximum height of 23.09m AOD. Set in to the surface of the natural, in the southeast corner of the trench, were three cobbles (1405), following an apparently west-northwest to east-southeast alignment. These cobbles were below the foundations for the standing wall and may have formed part of a structure pre-dating the front wall of the south range. The foundations (1404) were constructed with two courses of large limestone blocks up to 550mm across. These blocks stepped out approximately 40mm from the face of the upstanding wall and included, on the tops of the upper course, a slightly chamfer back to the wall face. The top of the foundation course was found at a depth of 0.25m below the modern ground surface (23.52m AOD).



Despite the clear evidence for the level of the top of the foundation no construction cut was present. This was due to truncation of the deposits by a later cut [1402]. The southern edge of this cut was formed by the wall and foundation itself, followed by a steep slope down away from the wall and cutting into the natural at the base of the trench approximately 0.10m from the base of the foundation. This cut then continued below the basal limit of excavation. There was no sign of the northern edge of the cut within the confines of the trench. This cut contained two fills. The earliest (1403) of mid orange brown silty clay with frequent limestone rubble fragments and occasional cobbles, which was sealed by a layer of mid brown sandy clay (1401), with smaller limestone fragments and mortar flecks. This second fill also contained a fragment of glass dated to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, together with two sherds of later medieval pottery. The entire trench was sealed by a 0.30m thick layer of soft, dark grey organic topsoil (1400), up to the surface at a height of 23.77m AOD.

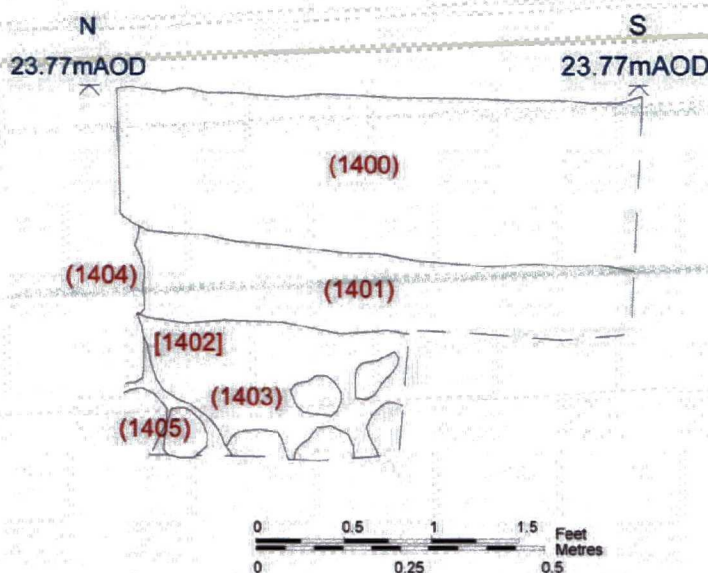


Figure 21. Trench 14, west facing section.

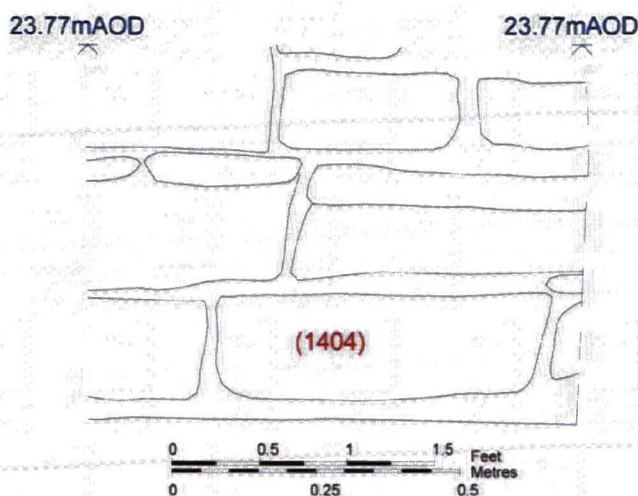


Figure 22. Trench 14 wall elevation.



### 5.15 Trench 15, (see Figs.23&24).

This trench was located to investigate the external face of the east wall, of the eastern range of farm buildings, at the north end and was 1m x 1m in plan (Plate 21). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m (23.72m AOD). The earliest deposit encountered was a mixed, mid brownish yellow sand, with frequent fragments of limestone and occasional cobbles (1501). This included at least one substantial block of limestone. This deposit continued below the base of the trench and was found at a maximum height of 23.90m AOD. The foundations for the standing east range wall were built onto this deposit (above the limestone block mentioned above). The foundations (1502) comprised a single course of unmortared limestone blocks and large cobbles, with a maximum depth of 0.25m below the modern ground surface. The standing brick wall of this northernmost east range building was built directly on top of the foundation course. The remaining depth of the trench was filled with 0.15m thickness of modern topsoil (1500) the surface of which was at a height of 24.07m AOD.

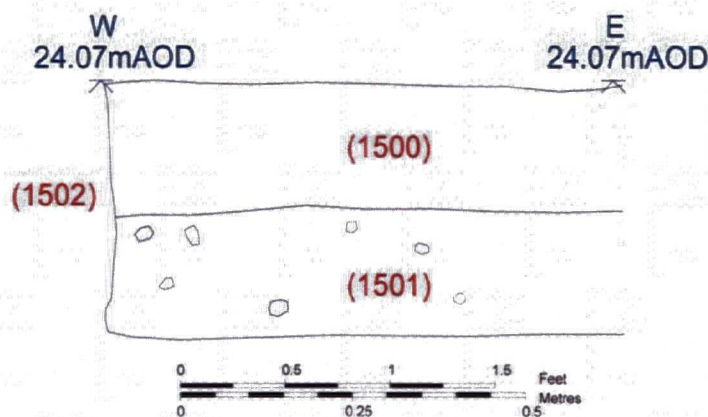


Figure 23. Trench 15, south facing section.

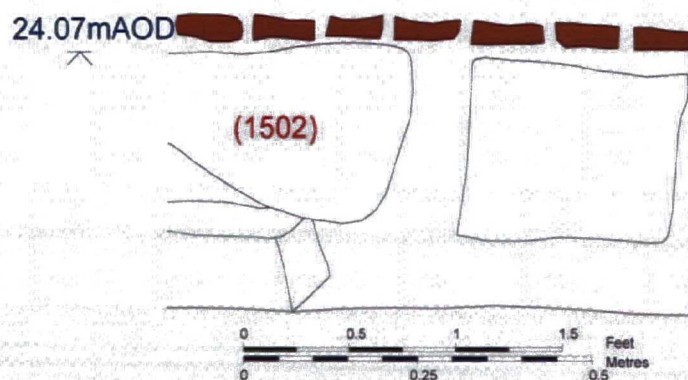


Figure 24. Trench 15 wall elevation.

### 5.16 Trench 16, (see Figs. 25-27).

Trench 16 was positioned primarily to establish the relationship between the current eastern range of farm buildings and the medieval refectory which makes up the southern range. It had been suggested that a short length of the eastern wall of the eastern range may be of medieval date and part of the original nunnery complex (English Heritage 2005). Trench 16, therefore, sought to establish the date and origin of that wall at its projected junction with the



southern range. The excavation of deposits within Trench 16 was deliberately limited to those required to answer this question. The trench measured 5.5m x 2.3m.

The earliest deposit encountered was the firm yellow clay sand natural (1616), which was recorded at a maximum height of 23.02m AOD. The natural was not exposed in plan, but was recorded in the side of a modern intrusion, which ran close to the northern limit of the trench (this intrusion is shown on Plate 22 and the natural is visible on Plate 23).

Within the southern part of the trench the earliest deposits recorded were two stone surfaces or foundations (visible along the left side of Plate 22). In the southwest corner this consisted of large, rounded cobbles (120mm to 250mm in diameter) (1614), covering an area 2.60m long and 0.50m wide. These cobbles continued beyond the west and south edges of the trench, were truncated to the north (see [1608] below) and possibly truncated to the east. Cobble feature (1614) was divided into two unequal parts by a later land drain (1604)/[1605].

In the southeast corner of the trench was an area of smaller angular limestone fragments (1615), a maximum of 150mm across. This may have formed a surface and covered a maximum of 1.60m from east to west and 0.60m from north to south. Like (1614) to the west this deposit continued beyond the limits of the trench to the south and east, and appears to have been truncated to the north and west.

The northern edge of both of the stone features (1614 and (1615) appeared to have been cut by the south side of a substantial east west aligned intrusion [1608]. Within the western end of the trench this relationship was confirmed through limited excavation, which also showed that the intrusion almost certainly represents a robber trench, excavated to remove the eastwards continuation of the south wall of the standing south range. This robber trench was a minimum of 1.50m wide and 0.40m deep. Whilst its south edge was fairly well defined against the stone features described above, the north edge was truncated by a modern service trench, so the full original width could not be ascertained.

The robber trench contained a friable grey brown sandy silt fill (1607). This included moderate to frequent fragments limestone rubble, flecks of mortar and occasional cobbles. Towards the base of the excavated section was a single large slab of limestone, which was allocated a separate context number (1609) as it may have formed part of the original foundation. However, the fill above and below this slab did not appear to differ, so it is more likely to represent part of the robber backfill. At the very base of the section were two cobbles, which like slab (1609) may simply be part of the backfill; alternatively they may be an *in-situ* base of the foundations themselves. The excavation of this section through the robber backfill enabled the recovery of several sherds of pottery, dated to the later 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. During the initial cleaning of the surface of the robber trench several sherds of pottery were collected (and allocated context number (1617). These represented a closely dated group from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Further to the east it was not clear if the robber trench stopped within the confines of the trench or continued beyond the edge of excavation to the east. During recording in plan it was noted that the frequency of limestone fragments diminished within the final 1m of the eastern end of the trench (see Plate 22). This was regarded as possible evidence that the



feature terminated or turned to the north. The less stony deposit found at the east end of the trench was recorded as (1613). However, as the northern edge of the possible stone surface (1615) is so well defined, right up to the east end of the trench, this would seem to suggest that the robber trench continues beyond the east end of the trench. Deposit (1613) was also recorded between the two stone features (1614) and (1615). If the interpretation that this deposit may represent further areas of robber trench backfill is correct then this would imply that the two stone features were originally divided by a wall, extending to the south from the southern edge of the main east west robbing.

The northern edge of the main east west robber trench was truncated by a modern service trench [1602]. This service trench extended for the full length of the trench, was 0.55m wide and had vertical sides. It separated the deposits so far described from a narrow surviving band (a maximum of 0.25m wide) of stratigraphy, immediately adjacent to the northern edge of excavation (shown on Plate 23). The earliest deposit within this northern sequence was the natural (1616). This was overlain by a layer of brownish grey sandy silt recorded as (1613). This deposit was cut, approximately 4m from the western end of the trench, by a steep sided, flat based, north south aligned feature [1611]. This was 0.60m wide, a maximum of 0.30m deep and continued beyond the northern limit of the trench. There was no sign of this feature to the south of the modern service trench. Tightly placed against the eastern edge of this cut, on the base, was a single block of roughly squared limestone (1610) (see Plate 23). This was a maximum of 0.40m long and 0.14m high. This cut and surviving block are likely to have formed the foundation for a north south wall, presumably of similar date to the robbed east west one. The foundation had been substantially disturbed by the excavation of the trench for the modern service, but did appear to have undergone an earlier phase of robbing, as evidenced by the presence of a fill of mid grey clay sand silt with moderate flecks and lenses of mortar and small fragments of limestone (1612).

On its eastern edge the foundation trench appeared to have been cut through a very thin layer of crushed mortar that lay on the surface of deposit (1613). To the west a much thicker (0.10m) band of mortar (1606) was clearly seen in the section to extend over the foundation or robbing backfill (Plate 23). This deposit was sealed by a trench wide deposit of friable grey brown clay sand silt (1603), between 0.10m and 0.20m thick. Layer (1603) was cut by the northeast to southwest aligned land drain (1604)/[1605], which was in turn cut by the later east west service trench (1601)/[1602]. The entire trench was sealed by a 0.20m to 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (1600), the surface of which was recorded at between 22.28m AOD (at the southeast corner of the trench) and 22.50m AOD (at its highest point along the northern side).



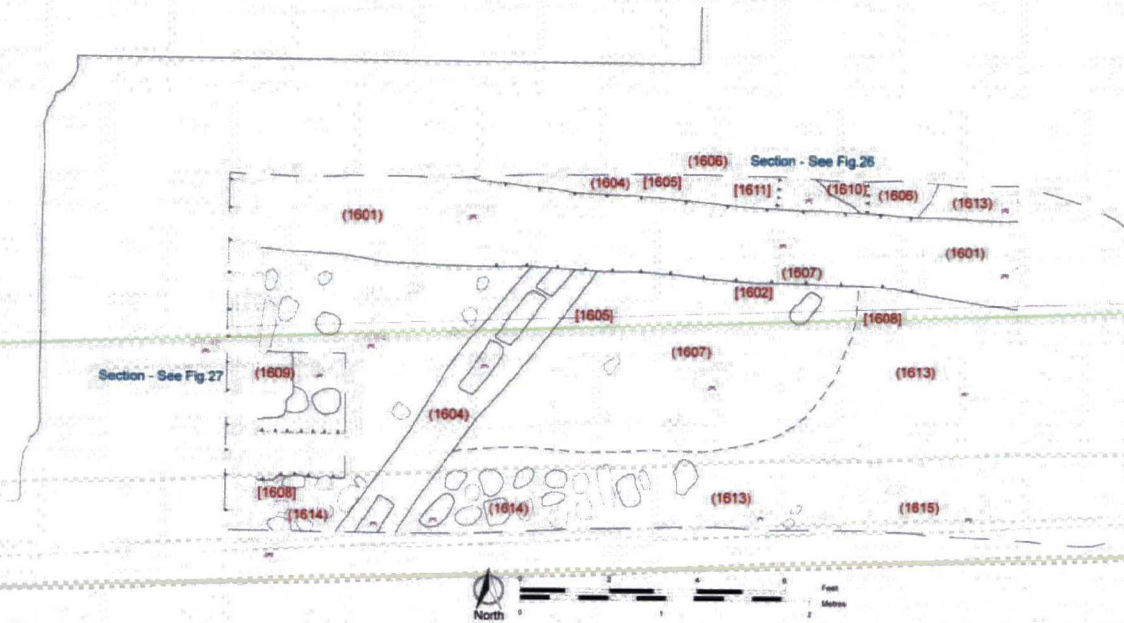


Figure 25. Trench 16 plan.

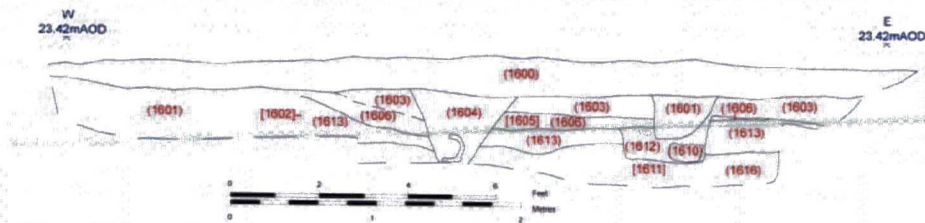


Figure 26. Trench 16, south facing section.

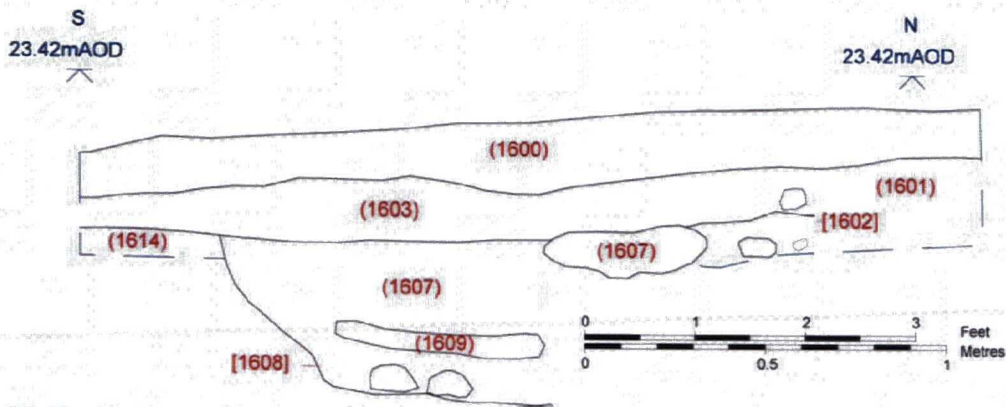


Figure 27. Trench 16, east facing section.



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## 6.0 Discussion

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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. There was clear evidence that the ground level had been reduced, by up to 0.50m, in the relatively recent past, which is likely to have removed any medieval stratigraphy and shallow cut features. If the original layout of the nunnery buildings had been in a smaller quadrangle as has been suggested, then any evidence is likely to have been destroyed in this area.

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. These features include structural elements such as post holes and foundation pads, together with a hearth, supporting the suggestion that buildings extended into this area. The earlier of these features clearly date to the occupation of the priory, whilst the later suggest that during the post-Dissolution period some additional building was taking place.

The structural remains revealed in this area of the site were found within 350mm of the modern ground surface. The evaluation trench (Trench 16) to the southeast of the farm buildings confirmed that much of this area is likely to contain structural medieval archaeology. This trench has also suggested that the original Priory buildings extended further to the east and possibly to the southeast than had previously been thought.

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. None of the trenches in this field encountered any evidence for masonry structures and only Trench 13 found any post holes, which could represent timber buildings. Given the location of the two post holes, they are more likely to represent a fence alongside the moat rather than be part of a building within this area of the Priory. The only deposit excavated in these trenches that appeared to contain material with palaeo-environmental potential was sampled and processed. Upon analysis this sample was shown to contain no material of interpretable value and this is likely to be an accurate reflection of the palaeo-environmental potential in this area.

The western field also included several undated features. These may also be medieval in date and relate to the Priory, although on stratigraphic grounds at least some of these pre-date certainly medieval features and they may represent an earlier phase of activity on the site.

The results of the evaluation trenches did not closely resemble the suggested anomalies indicated through the geophysical survey of this area of the site. It is likely therefore that the ground conditions are not conducive to accurate recognition of buried archaeology.



Examination of the foundations of the eastern range has shown that these buildings contain several phases of rebuilding and alteration. The only trench excavated against a certainly medieval wall was Trench 14, which was located against the northern wall of the refectory. This revealed a substantial depth of well dressed limestone foundation. None of the walls along the eastern range were founded on such well constructed foundations. In the case of the west wall of the east range very little foundations exist at all. The trenches excavated in this area were not dug down to certain natural and the possibility remains that earlier archaeological structures may survive below the east range. It appears from the only trench excavated within the eastern range (Trench 5) that the interior has been subjected to a certain degree of truncation. Where recorded this appeared to be between 0.30m and 0.4m below the current ground level. The trenches excavated against the exterior of the eastern wall revealed a more substantial foundation than that to the west, especially towards the southern end. This may indicate that this east wall is the earlier part of the east range. However, the partially robbed wall foundation encountered in Trench 16 to the south of the east range is approximately 1.5m to the east of the east wall. This would seem to indicate that the standing east range has all been constructed following a fairly comprehensive phase of post-Dissolution robbing, of the eastern end of the south range and the entire east range. The pottery collected from the robbing in Trench 16 suggests that the dismantling of the structures took place some time during or after the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.



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## 7.0 Conclusions

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The evaluation has succeeded in identifying archaeological deposits dating from the medieval period to the present day. Deposits relating the early priory were recorded to the south of the current southern range and in fields to the northwest. Due to the deep ploughsoil and prevalence of modern objects across the area, geophysical survey has proved to be of little use in detecting the presence of below ground deposits. Excavation appears to be the only reliable form of identifying and characterising the deposits on the site.

In addition to characterising the archaeology the evaluation was designed to target areas of potential impact from the development proposal. The investigation has provided sufficient information to enable a mitigation strategy which is based on the principle of preserving the deposits in situ to be produced. A mitigation strategy for the proposed development has been developed in consultation with the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council and follows as a separate document.

The evaluation has not resolved the original extent of the priory buildings. Information from Trench 16 to the south of the eastern range may help in producing a hypothetical model of the original scale of the nunnery. The high levels of truncation visible in the courtyard to the north of the refectory may mean, however, that this may never be resolved with any certainty.

It was clear that following the dissolution the site has undergone significant reorganisation and redevelopment which has clearly had a detrimental impact on the below ground archaeological deposits relating to the Cistercian nunnery.

The investigation has shown that the eastern range of was clearly all a later construction. The dating evidence from the robbing of the refectory wall and overlying deposits suggests that this occurred sometime after the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. The current building does not sit precisely on the footprint of its medieval predecessor nor does it incorporate in situ medieval fabric in its build. Considering the postulated dimensions of the Priory it is possible that part of this structure sits within what would have been the medieval cloister, although this interpretation does not account for the presence of a wall scar visible at the eastern end of the southern range. Ground levels within the eastern range have been reduced for the construction of concrete and brick floors and feeding troughs. It is likely that this activity has caused significant truncation to underlying deposits if present.

While the evaluation has added to our knowledge of the development and potential of the priory site there are still significant gaps in our knowledge of the layout and history of the building. It is hoped that further investigation associated with redevelopment of the site will add significantly to our understanding of the nunnery and later farm.



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## 8.0 Bibliography.

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English Heritage (2005). Historic Buildings Report, Syningthwaite Priory Farm, Featherbed Lane (off Rudgate) Bilton, Bilton-in-Ainsty with Bickerton, N Yorks. Architectural Division Report Series B/019/2004.

NYCC (2006). Syningthwaite Priory Farm, off Rudgate, Bilton, North Yorkshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation by Geophysical Survey and Trial Trenching.



## 9.0 Appendix 1 ~ Table of Contexts.

Context	Description	Depth	Extent
<b>Tr.1</b>			
100	Mixed deposit of brown clayey sand with frequent river cobble – dump.	0.20	Tr
101	Firm yellow slightly sandy clay – natural.	Un-ex	Tr
<b>Tr.2</b>			
200	Existing tarmac surface in northern half of trench.		
201	Turf in southern half of trench.		
202	Cobble rich fill of large east west linear [203]	0.40	2.10 x 0.80
203	E-W linear.	0.10	2.10 x 0.80
204	Fill of modern post hole [205]	0.13	0.30 x 0.20
205	Modern post hole [205]	0.13	0.30 x 0.20
206	Fill of modern post hole [207]	0.16	0.20 x 0.10
207	Modern post hole [207]	0.16	0.20 x 0.10
208	Fill of modern post hole [209]	0.09	0.15 x 0.15
209	Modern post hole [209]	0.09	0.15 x 0.15
210	Fill of north south ditch [211]	0.22	1.20 x 0.95
211	Ditch [211]	0.22	1.20 x 0.95
212	Same as (210)	0.22	1.20 x 0.95
213	Same as (211)	0.22	1.20 x 0.95
214	Modern drain.		2.20 x 0.15
215	Fill of modern drain.		2.20 x 0.15
216	Cut for modern drain.		2.20 x 0.15
217	Cobble rich fill of foundation pad [218]	0.25	1 x 1
218	Foundation pad	0.25	1 x 1
219	Mixed dump deposit in northern half of trench.	0.10	Tr width
220	Masonry hearth in western trench edge.	Un-ex	0.80 x 0.05
221	Dump deposit.	2 x 2	0.25
222	Fill of post hole [223]	0.22	0.35 x 0.20
223	Post hole.	0.22	0.35 x 0.20
224	Fill of post hole [226] in north east corner of trench.	0.40	0.40 x 0.20
225	Post hole.	0.40	0.40 x 0.20
226	Fill of post hole [227]	0.30	0.65 x 0.30
227	Post hole.	0.30	0.65 x 0.30
228	Fill of post hole [229]	0.10	0.20 x 0.15
229	Post hole.	0.10	0.20 x 0.15
230	Natural	Un-ex	Tr.
231	Lead service pipe.	0.15	2 x 0.77
232	Backfill of lead service pipe.	0.50	2 x 0.77
233	Construction cut for lead service pipe.	0.50	2 x 0.77
234	Cobble service in section under (200)	0.08	
235	Sand raft for above.	0.12	
236	Layer of charcoal in section.	0.22	
237	Layer of charcoal in section.	0.05	
<b>Tr.3</b>			
300	Mixed deposit of brown clayey sand with frequent cobble – dump.	0.20	Tr
301	Natural	Un-ex	Tr
<b>Tr.4</b>			



400	Concrete surface.	0.10	Tr
401	Make up material for above.	0.04	Tr
402	Robber fill associated with blocking of an earlier doorway.		1
403	Robber cut.		1
404	Well laid earlier cobble yard surface.		Tr
405	Setting material for cobbles (404)		Tr
406	Dump of mottled sand.		Tr
407	Dump of mottled sand.		Tr
408	Mid brown soft sand fill of [409]		
409	Cut		
410	Firm reddish brown sand – not thought to be natural.		
Tr.5			
500	Concrete floor.		1 x 1
501	Cobble floor.		1 x 1
502	Loose sand make up.		1 x 1
503	Crushed mortar make up.		1 x 1
504	Wall foundation seen in base of trench.		
505	Cobble rich deposit under (504) – earlier foundation or surface.		
Tr.6			
600	Concrete floor.	0.04	1 x 1
601	Cobble floor.	0.14	1 x 1
602	Setting material for cobbles (601)	0.04	1 x 1
603	Rammed limestone chunks – foundation of (601)	0.10	1 x 1
604	Mid brown soft sand at base of trench.	Un-ex	1 x 1
605	Iron pipe.	Un-ex	1 x 0.10
606	Backfill of above.	Un-ex	1 x 0.10
607	Construction cut for (606)	Un-ex	1 x 0.10
608	Wall foundation seen in base of trench.		
Tr.7			
700	Topsoil.		1 x 1
701	Dump or backfill.		
702	Wall foundation.		
703	Cut for (701)		
704	Firm yellow brown sand/clay – natural.	Un-ex	
Tr.8			
800	Topsoil.		1 x 1
801	Dump of loose pan tile.		1 x 1
802	Plough soil.		1 x 1
803	Mortary dump.		
804	Wall.		
805	Cut for wall clearance.		
806	Firm mid yellow silt – dump or construction backfill.		
807	Firm yellow brown sand/clay – natural		
808	Single course un-mortared wall foundation.		
Tr.9			



900	Topsoil.	0.10	1 x 1
901	Loose sand and pebble – dump or yard clearance.	0.10	1 x 1
902	Friable mottled whit and brown clay sand – occupation horizon?	0.10	1 x 1
903	Possible medieval horizon of firm sand and rare mortar.	0.40	1 x 1
904	Existing wall footings.		
Tr.10			
1000	Topsoil.		Tr
1001	Plough soil.		Tr
1002	Natural sands.	Un-ex	Tr
1003	Sandy fill of gully [1004]		1 x 0.55
1004	Gully.		1 x 0.55
1005	Sandy fill of ditch [1006]		1.60 x 1.10
1006	Ditch .		1.60 x 1.10
1007	Sandy fill of shallow pit [1008]		1 x 1
1008	Shallow pit.		1 x 1
1009	Plough soil remnant in southern end of trench.		
Tr.11			
1100	Topsoil/plough soil.	0.30	Tr
1101	Earlier plough soil/sub soil.	0.35	Tr
1102	Natural sands.	Un-ex	Tr
Tr.12			
1200	Topsoil.	0.10	Tr
1201	Plough soil/sub soil.	0.50	Tr
1202	Fill of small pit [1203]	0.16	0.70 x 0.55
1203	Pit.	0.16	0.70 x 0.55
1204	Cut for modern service	0.40	1.50 x 0.67
1205	Backfill of modern service	0.40	1.50 x 0.67
1206	Firm clayey sand fill of large pit	0.50	1.10 x 1
1207	Fill of E-W ditch truncated at west end by large pit	0.50	1.10 x 1
1208	Silty sand fill of curvi-linear feature [1209]		
1209	Curvi-linear feature	0.40	1.60 x 0.70
1210	Sandy clay fill of ditch	0.26	? x tr width
1211	Cut of broad shallow feature	0.26	? x tr width
1212	Cut of broad ditch	0.50	1.20 x 1.20
1213	Sandy clay primary fill of [1214]	0.15	
1214	Cut of large pit	0.50	1.10 x 1
1215	Natural sands.	Un-ex	Tr
Tr.13			
1300	Topsoil.		Tr
1301	Plough soil/sub soil.		Tr
1302	Sandy fill of post hole [1306]		0.15
1303	Sandy fill of gully/post hole [1307]		0.80 x 0.15
1304	Sandy fill of post hole [1308]		0.15
1305	Fill of possible pit [1309]		2.20 x 1.10



1306	Post hole.		0.15
1307	Pit/gully cut.		0.80 x 0.15
1308	Post hole.		0.15
1309			2.20 x 1.10
1310	Natural sands.	Un-ex	Tr
Tr.14			
1400	Topsoil.	0.22	Tr
1401	Firm mid brown sand.	0.20	Tr
1402	Cut of probable linear.		
1403	Silty clay fill of [1402]		
1404	Existing wall footings.		
1405	Possible cobble foundation in the surface of the natural – pre-dating wall (1404)		
1406	Sandy clay natural.		
Tr.15			
1500	Topsoil.	0.10	Tr
1501	Mixed dump of sand with limestone and cobble.	0.25	Tr
1502	Existing wall footings.		
Tr.16			
1600	Topsoil.	0.25	
1601	Fill of modern service trench.	0.50	5 x 0.50
1602	Cut of modern service trench.	0.50	5.50 x 0.65
1603	Dump.		5.50 x 0.65
1604	Fill of drain.		2.20 x 0.40
1605	Cut of drain.		2.20 x 0.40
1606	Mortar demolition deposit.		1.60 x 0.20
1607	Fill of E-W robber.		4 x 1.40
1608	E-W robber trench.		4 x 1.40
1609	Foundation.		0.40 x 0.20
1610	N-S wall foundation.		
1611	N-S wall foundation cut.		
1612	Robbing backfill over (1610)		
1613	Deposit.		
1614	Masonry/deposit.		
1615	Masonry/deposit.		
1616	Natural		
1617	Finds from above robber.	N/A	N/A



## 10.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

### 10.1 Drawing Register.

Dwg No	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
01	Tr.4 cobbles	1:20	08/03/06	TPR
02	Tr.2 post-ex	1:20	08/03/06	TPR
03	Tr.10 post-ex	1:20	13/03/06	TPR
04	Tr.10 west facing [1004]	1:10	14/03/06	TPR
05	Tr.12 post-ex	1:20	14/03/06	GJB
06	Tr.13 post-ex	1:20	09/03/06	GJB
07	Tr.4 elevation	1:10	15/03/06	TPR
08	Tr.5 elevation	1:10	15/03/06	TPR
09	Tr.14 elevation	1:10	15/03/06	TPR
10	Tr.6 elevation	1:10	15/03/06	TPR
11	Tr.7 elevation	1:10	15/03/06	TPR
12	Tr.8 elevation	1:10	15/03/06	TPR
13	Tr.9 elevation	1:10	15/03/06	TPR
14	Tr.15 elevation	1:10	15/03/06	TPR
15	Tr.12 west facing section	1:10	16/03/06	TPR
16	Tr.2 post-ex	1:20	16/03/06	TPR
17	Tr.2 west facing section	1:10	17/03/06	TPR
18	Tr.2 [211/213]	1:10	17/03/06	TPR
19	Tr.12 [1214] east facing section.	1:10	16/03/06	TPR
20	Tr.4 north facing section	1:10	17/03/06	TPR
21	Tr.6 south facing section	1:10	17/03/06	TPR
22	Tr.9 north facing section	1:10	17/03/06	TPR
23	Tr.15 south facing section	1:10	17/03/06	TPR
24	Tr.15 plan	1:20	17/03/06	TPR
25	Tr.9 plan	1:20	17/03/06	TPR
26	Tr.14 west facing section	1:10	17/03/06	GJB
27	Tr.14 plan	1:20	17/03/06	GJB
28	Tr.7 south facing section	1:10	17/03/06	GJB
29	Tr.8 north facing section	1:10	17/03/06	GJB
30	Tr.5 south facing section	1:10	17/03/06	GJB
31	Tr.16 plan	1:20	24/03/06	GJB
32	Tr.16 south facing section	1:20	24/03/06	GJB
33	Tr.16 east facing section	1:20	24/03/06	GJB

### 10.2 Photographic Register.

Frame	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
<i>Film digital 10/03/06</i>				
1	Tr.1 south	1	10/03/06	GJB
2	Tr.1 north	1	10/03/06	GJB
3	Tr.1 south	1	10/03/06	GJB
4	Tr.1 south	1	10/03/06	GJB
5	Tr.1 south	1	10/03/06	GJB
6	Tr.3 west	1	10/03/06	GJB
7	Tr.3 west	1	10/03/06	GJB
8	Tr.3 west	1	10/03/06	GJB



9	Tr.2 north end	1	10/03/06	GJB
10	Tr.2 north end	1	10/03/06	GJB
11	Tr.2 north end showing detail of (217)	1	10/03/06	GJB
12	Tr.2 north end showing detail of (217)	1	10/03/06	GJB
13	Tr.2 south end	1	10/03/06	GJB
14	Tr.2 south end	1	10/03/06	GJB
15	Tr. 2 looking north	1	10/03/06	GJB
16	Tr. 2 looking north east	1	10/03/06	GJB
17	Tr.2 looking south east	1	10/03/06	GJB
18	Tr.2 looking south west	1	10/03/06	GJB
19	Tr.2 (202)	1	10/03/06	GJB
20	Tr.2 (202)	1	10/03/06	GJB
21	Tr.2 (202) looking east	1	10/03/06	GJB
22	Tr.2 (202) looking north	1	10/03/06	GJB
23	Tr.5 west	1	10/03/06	GJB
24	Tr.5 west	1	10/03/06	GJB
25	Tr.4 looking east showing (404)	1	10/03/06	GJB
26	Tr.4 looking north showing (404)	1	10/03/06	GJB
27	Tr.13	1	10/03/06	GJB
28	Tr.13	1	10/03/06	GJB
29	Tr.13	1	10/03/06	GJB
30	Tr.13	1	10/03/06	GJB
31	Tr.13	1	10/03/06	GJB
32	Tr.13 post holes	1	10/03/06	GJB
33	Tr.13 post holes	1	10/03/06	GJB
34	Tr.13 post holes	1	10/03/06	GJB
35	Tr.12 looking south	1	10/03/06	GJB
36	Tr.12 looking south	1	10/03/06	GJB
37	Tr.12 looking south	1	10/03/06	GJB
38	Tr.12 looking north	1	10/03/06	GJB
39	Tr.10 looking south	1	10/03/06	GJB
40	Tr.10 looking south	1	10/03/06	GJB
41	Tr.10 looking north	1	10/03/06	GJB
42	Tr.10 looking north	1	10/03/06	GJB
<i>Film digital 17/03/06</i>				
1	Tr.11 looking south	1	17/03/06	GJB
2	Tr.11 looking south	1	17/03/06	GJB
3	Tr.11 looking south	1	17/03/06	GJB
4	Tr.11 looking north east	1	17/03/06	GJB
5	Tr.10 looking north post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
6	Tr.10 looking north post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
7	Tr.10 looking south post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
8	Tr.10 looking south post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
9	Tr.10 [1004] [1006] [1008]	1	17/03/06	GJB
10	Tr.10 [1004] [1006] [1008]	1	17/03/06	GJB
11	Tr.10 [1004] [1006] [1008] looking NNW	1	17/03/06	GJB
12	Tr.10 [1004] [1006] [1008] looking SSW	1	17/03/06	GJB
13	Tr.10 [1004] [1006] [1008] looking SSE	1	17/03/06	GJB
14	Tr.6 looking north	1	17/03/06	GJB
15	Tr.6 looking north	1	17/03/06	GJB
16	Norman arch on farm building	1	17/03/06	GJB
17	Norman arch on farm building	1	17/03/06	GJB



18	Door knocker	1	17/03/06	GJB
19	Arch detail	1	17/03/06	GJB
20	Arch detail	1	17/03/06	GJB
21	Tr.14	1	17/03/06	GJB
22	Tr.14	1	17/03/06	GJB
23	Tr.14	1	17/03/06	GJB
24	Tr.14	1	17/03/06	GJB
25	Tr.14	1	17/03/06	GJB
26	Tr.14	1	17/03/06	GJB
27	Tr.14	1	17/03/06	GJB
28	Tr.12 showing [1209]	1	17/03/06	GJB
29	Tr.12 showing [1209]	1	17/03/06	GJB
30	Tr.12 showing [1204] [1214]	1	17/03/06	GJB
31	Tr.12 showing [1204] [1214]	1	17/03/06	GJB
32	Tr.12 showing [1204] [1214]	1	17/03/06	GJB
33	Tr.12 showing [1204] [1214]	1	17/03/06	GJB
34	Tr.12 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
35	Tr.12 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
36	Tr.12 showing [1204] [1214]	1	17/03/06	GJB
37	Tr.12 showing [1204] [1214]	1	17/03/06	GJB
38	Tr.12 showing [1209]	1	17/03/06	GJB
39	Tr.12 showing [1209]	1	17/03/06	GJB
40	Tr.12 showing [1212]	1	17/03/06	GJB
41	Tr.12 showing [1212]	1	17/03/06	GJB
42	Tr.12 showing [1209]	1	17/03/06	GJB
43	Tr.12 showing [1209]	1	17/03/06	GJB
44	Tr.12 showing [1203]	1	17/03/06	GJB
45	Tr.12 showing [1203]	1	17/03/06	GJB
46	Tr.4 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
47	Tr.4 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
48	Tr.4 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
49	Tr.5 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
50	Tr.5 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
51	Tr.6 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
52	Tr.6 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
53	Tr.7 post-ex looking south	1	17/03/06	GJB
54	Tr.7 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
55	Tr.7 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
56	Tr.8 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
57	Tr.8 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
58	Tr.8 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
59	Tr.9 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
60	Tr.9 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
61	Tr.15 post-ex looking north	1	17/03/06	GJB
62	Tr.15 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
63	Tr.15 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
64	Tr.2 working shot		17/03/06	GJB
65	Tr.2 working shot		17/03/06	GJB
66	Tr.2 working shot		17/03/06	GJB
67	Tr.2 working shot		17/03/06	GJB
68	Tr.2 working shot		17/03/06	GJB
69	Tr.2 working shot		17/03/06	GJB



70	Tr.2 working shot		17/03/06	GJB
71	Tr.2 post-ex	1, 0.5	17/03/06	GJB
72	Tr.2 post-ex	1, 0.5	17/03/06	GJB
73	Tr.2 post-ex	1	17/03/06	GJB
74	Tr.2 post-ex	1, 0.5	17/03/06	GJB
75	Tr.2 post-ex	1, 0.5	17/03/06	GJB
76	Tr.2 post-ex	1, 0.5	17/03/06	GJB
77	Tr.2 post-ex	1, 0.5	17/03/06	GJB
78	Tr.2 post-ex	1, 0.5	17/03/06	GJB
79	Tr.2 post-ex	1, 0.5	17/03/06	GJB
80	Tr.2 post-ex	1, 0.5	17/03/06	GJB
81	Tr.2 post-ex	1, 0.5	17/03/06	GJB
<i>Film digital 27/03/06</i>				
1	Tr.16 looking east	1	27/03/06	GJB
2	Tr.16 looking west	1	27/03/06	GJB
3	Tr.16	1	27/03/06	GJB
4	Tr.16 looking west	1	27/03/06	GJB
5	Tr.16 looking west	1	27/03/06	GJB
6	Tr.16	1	27/03/06	GJB
7	Tr.16 (1606)	2 x 0.5	27/03/06	GJB
8	Tr.16 (1606)	2 x 0.5	27/03/06	GJB
9	Tr.16 (1606)	2 x 0.5	27/03/06	GJB
10	Tr.16	2 x 0.5	27/03/06	GJB
11	Tr.16 (1606)	2 x 0.5	27/03/06	GJB
12	Tr.16 (1606)	2 x 0.5	27/03/06	GJB



## 11.0 Appendix 3 ~ Finds Assessment Report.

*Alan Vince.*

### 11.1 Summary.

A small collection of finds, mostly consisting of pottery with small quantities of ceramic building material, glass, clay tobacco pipe, metals and stone, was submitted for identification and assessment.

The finds date from the medieval period onwards and are consistent with the documented history of the site, a nunnery founded in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century and continuously occupied from then on. The majority of the finds probably date to the later 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century or the late 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and there is no concentration of finds of dissolution date, such as one would expect from a monastic site which had been destroyed and rebuilt during the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### 11.2 Description.

One hundred and fifty-two items were assessed. They were recorded by fragment count (Nosh), number of objects represented (NoV) and weight (Table 1).

*Table 1.*

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	6	6	720
COPP	2	2	16
CTP	1	1	4
IRON	1	1	41
LEAD	2	1	131
PMGL	2	2	265
POTTERY	136	108	2601
STONE	2	2	1292
Grand Total	152	123	5070

#### 11.2.1 Ceramic Building Material.

Fragments of two bricks, three floor tiles and one unidentified object, probably a flat roof tile, were recovered.

Two fabric groups were present: the first includes the brick and floor tiles and the second consists solely of the unidentified object. The first is an oxidized sandy fabric containing abundant subangular quartz grains up to 0.2mm across and sparse larger, sometimes angular, fragments up to 0.5mm across. The general appearance of this fabric is similar to that of pottery produced in York, but is also similar to pottery and clay samples from Follifoot and is probably typical of numerous Quaternary clays in the Vale of York.

The three floor tiles are both plain and have seen considerable wear. They are undoubtedly of medieval date but the precise date is uncertain. Plain tiles were used alongside decorated ones from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards in the north of England ({Stopford 2005 #46223}) but



became more common in the later medieval period. The similarity in fabric of the bricks suggests that the bricks too might be of medieval date, but one has traces of a coal-tempered mortar, which tends to be a post-medieval and later feature (perhaps as a result of the increasing use of coal as domestic fuel). One of the bricks is extremely thin for a brick and was moulded in a straw-lined mould and it might have been used as a hearth tile.

Chemical analysis of the brick and floor tile fragments would be able to determine how similar the bricks and tiles are to each other and would enable the fabric of the bricks and tiles to be compared with that of other groups of bricks, tiles and pottery produced in the Vale of York (e.g. Follifoot, York, Holme-upon-Spalding Moor) and thus might be able to determine whether they were produced close to the site or elsewhere.

The second fabric has a similar quartz sand temper to the first group, but has a calcareous groundmass. It is similar to the fabric of some of the flat roof tiles found in York and is visually similar to tile wasters from Cawood, a known source of tiles for York (OSA04 EV07). The calcareous groundmass, combined with a "salt-surfacing" (a lightening of the surface of the tile, due to the presence of salt and carbonate during firing) indicates the use of a marine clay which excludes a source either in the Syningthwaite or York areas.

#### *11.2.2 Copper Alloy.*

Two copper alloy coins were recovered, both of 20<sup>th</sup>-century date. Neither shows much sign of corrosion and this suggests that they were buried in a dry environment, or have not spent long below ground. That from Trench 2 (unstratified) is a penny of Edward VII, minted in 1903 but showing moderate wear and possibly not lost until decimalisation (i.e. lost at any time between 1903 and 1971). That from Trench 9 (902) is a halfpenny of George VI, minted in 1943 and showing only slight wear.

#### *11.2.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe.*

A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from Trench 8, context 803. The fragment comes from a decorated, spurred pipe of late 18<sup>th</sup> or, more probably, early to mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century date.

#### *11.2.4 Iron.*

A single iron nail was recovered, from Trench 12, context 1206. The nail has a large, domed rectangular head and was probably used decoratively, for example on a door or chest.

#### *11.2.5 Lead.*

Two fragments of melted lead waste were recovered, from Trench 12, context 1206. The lead has run into the cracks of a fine-grained material, perhaps a clay floor or hearth but no traces of this material remain.



### 11.2.6 Post-Medieval Glass.

Two glass objects were recorded. The first is the base of a tall bottle of dark green glass. The handblowing and weathering of the glass suggest a mid 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The second is a small bottle, moulded into the shape of a thatched cottage. This bottle, in a clear glass, is likely to be of 20<sup>th</sup>-century date and was probably used for perfume.

### 11.2.7 Pottery.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

Sixty sherds of pottery dating between the mid 11<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries were recorded (Table 2). They are of three ware groups: Yorkshire Gritty ware (YG), which was produced in West Yorkshire, including Potterton, from the mid 11<sup>th</sup> to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> centuries; York glazed ware, which was produced in the later 12<sup>th</sup> and earlier part of the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, probably in the Hambleton Hills area (i.e. the predecessor of Brandsby-type ware); and Northern Gritty ware (NGR). The latter has a wide variety of colours and textures but is always tempered with a sandstone sand, containing overgrown quartz grains up to 1.0mm across and no rounded grains at all. The groundmass is often micaceous and fine-textured. Analysis of a large number of samples from sites to the north of Wetherby suggests that the ware is all produced from similar clays and sands, probably at a site or sites between Wetherby and Harrogate. Typology of the vessels made suggest that the pottery was in operation from the later 12<sup>th</sup> to the mid 14<sup>th</sup> centuries but is superseded by Humberware in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the Syningthwaite sherds may therefore be of later date than the other two wares.

Table 2.

Cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
NGR	JAR	2	2	7
	JAR/JUG	4	4	11
	JUG	18	15	349
	JUG/JAR	1	1	7
YG	JAR	25	23	163
	JUG	1	1	13
YORK	JUG	9	9	130
Grand Total		60	55	680

All of the sherds in these early fabrics come from jugs and jars and there is a general split between jar fabrics (YG) and jug fabrics (YORK and NGR). However, one of the unglazed YG sherds comes from the neck of a jug, although it is completely unglazed, whilst two of the NGR sherds come from jars.

#### Later 13<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

Twenty-three sherds of later 13<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup>-century pottery were recorded (Table 3). They are of four wares: Brandsby-type ware (BRAN); Humberware (HUM), Tees Valley Ware (TVW) and Martincamp ware (MART).



Table 3.

Form	BRAN	HUM	MART	TVW	Grand Total
DJ		1			1
FLASK			1		1
JUG	10	9			19
JUG/JAR				2	2
Grand Total	10	10	1	2	23

Brandsby-type ware was produced at a number of centres in the Hambleton Hills, including Brandsby. It was first produced in the later 13<sup>th</sup> century but continued to be produced throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, eventually being superseded by Ryedale ware in the later 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Only two featured sherds were found. The first was a squared rim from a jug with an oval or rod handle which had thumb impressions on each side of the rim/handle join and probably a series of narrow grooves down the back of the handle. Typologically, this vessel is probably early in the Brandsby-type ware production. Similarly, the second vessel is a baluster jug base with interval thumbing around the base and a thick dribble of glossy green glaze. A late 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup>-century date is likely for this vessel.

Humberware was produced at several centres around the Humber basin, including York, Holme upon Spalding Moor and West Cowick. Visually, there is little difference between these wares although they can be distinguished through chemical analysis of the fabric. Other Humberware production sites in east Yorkshire and north Lincolnshire have fabrics which can be distinguished from the Vale of York centres and none of these types is present. The Humberware sherds include no featured sherds and the only chronologically distinctive type is a body sherd from an unglazed, oxidized drinking jug. This type is typical of the later 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Tees Valley ware has a fine red-firing body with sparse quartz sand temper and usually a thick white slip. It is present in large quantities at sites in the Tees valley and as far west as Richmond, but is scarce further south in the Vale of York. Tees Valley ware is found in association with later medieval types.

The Martincamp flask is an import, probably from northern France. The type was first recognised by John Hurst at Kirkstead Abbey who recognised three types of imported flask: Type I is a white earthenware and has a flattened globular body with an added tapering neck. Type II is a grey stoneware with a spherical body and Type III is a red earthenware, with a similar form to Type 3. The attribution to Martincamp, between Dieppe and Beauvais, is questionable but it seems likely that they are a northern French product (Hurst, Neal, et al. 1986 #11313, 102-104). Type I, which is the type found at this site, is dated c.1475-1550. Examples are considerably less common than the later types, II and III, and tend to be found on port sites or inland at "high status" settlements. Despite this, the later type seems to have been imported empty, and used as a portable water or wine flask and is therefore likely to have been used by people travelling on foot (such as pilgrims, foot soldiers or agricultural labourers).



*Post-medieval.*

Ten sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from various trenches (Table 4) together with an assemblage of 17<sup>th</sup>-century date from Trench 16 (Table 5). They are mostly of earthenwares (Blackware – BL; Glazed Red Earthenware – GRE; and Late Humberware – LHUM) but include one sherd of Staffordshire Slipware – STSL, from a posset pot with white slip jewellery on a dark brown slip background, and one sherd of Frechen stoneware – FREC, from the Rhineland. The earthenwares have a long period of use and cannot be closely dated whilst the STSL vessel is of late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date and the FREC vessel is of mid 16<sup>th</sup> to late 17<sup>th</sup>-century date. The assemblage from Trench 16 in addition contains brown-glazed earthenware (BERTH), Midlands Yellow ware (MY), Ryedale ware, Staffordshire redware (STRE) and tin-glazed ware (TGW). The latest type in this assemblage is the Staffordshire redware, a bowl with marbled slip decoration on the interior. The assemblage also includes sherds from a Ryedale ware chafing dish which appears to have stood on tripod feet, a very unusual form. Three vessels are worthy of illustration: the Ryedale chafing dish, the Midlands Yellow ware bowl and the tin-glazed bowl.

Table 4.

Form	Description	BL	FREC	GRE	LHUM	STSL	Grand Total
BOWL	CUGL INT			1			1
	INT GL			2			2
DJ			1				1
JAR		3			1		4
PANC	CUGL?			1			1
POSS	WHITE DOTS ON DKBR SLIP BACKGROUND EXT					1	1
Grand Total		3	1	4	1	1	10

Table 5.

Form	Description	BERTH	LHUM	MY	RYEDALE	STRE	TGW	Grand Total
BOWL	FLANGED BOWL WITH LEAD BACK; LTBR AND LTBL PAINTED INT						4	4
	INT AND EXT LTBR SLIP WITH WHITE SLTR AROUND FLANGED RIM			7				7
	INT CUGL				1			1
	INT PLAIN REDUCED GL				1			1
	LOOP HANDLE;INT AND EXT PLAIN OXIDIZED GL	1						1
	MARbled WHITE/BROWN (SELF- COLOURED) SLIPS;KT EXT BASE					1		1
CHAF	ORNATE LOOP HANDLE; PIERCED BASE AND TRACE OF TRIPOD FOOT? INT CUGL				5			5
JAR			1					1
	INT PLAIN GL;EXT BROWN GL	4						4
JAR/J UG	FOOTRING BASE;EXT PLAIN SPLASH GL				1			1
PANC	BEADED RIM;INT BROWN GL	1						1
Grand Total		6	1	7	8	1	4	27



*Late 18<sup>th</sup>-century and later.*

Fifteen sherds of later 18<sup>th</sup>-century or later date were recorded (Table 5). These are all factory-made wares produced at numerous centres (Creamware – CREA; English Stoneware – ENGS; 19<sup>th</sup>-century Buff ware – NCBW; Nottingham Stoneware – NOTS; Pearlware – PEAR; Transfer-printed ware – TPW and Whitewares – WHITE) apart from a site sherd of flowerpot which was probably made somewhere in the Vale of York (LPMLOC).

Table 6.

Form	Description	CREA	ENGS	LPMLO C	NCBW	NOTS	PEAR	TPW	WHITE	Grand Total
-		1								1
BOT						2				2
BOWL	INDUSTRIAL SLIP				2					2
	LARGE VESSEL; JARDINIÈRE?							2		2
CUP	INDUSTRIAL SLIP EXT						1			1
FLP				1						1
JAR	MARMALADE JAR		2							2
OVAL DISH	MARKED "STONE CHINA ROYAL [...] TRIPE"							1		1
PLATE								2	1	3
Grand Total		1	2	1	2	2	1	5	1	15

A wide range of forms is present, one of which is a sherd from an oval transfer-printed dish which is marked "Stone China. Royal [S]tripe". A close parallel for this vessel was recently put up for auction (Fig A). The 156 sherds include a few of late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup>-century character (CREA and PEAR) but are mainly of mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century types, including fragments of marmalade jar with vertical ribbing.