

PARISH 2093
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FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

ROSE DENE LINTON-ON-OUSE

NORTH YORKSHIRE

NYCC HER	
SNY	11720
ENY	3973
CNY	6781
Parish	2093
Rec'd	07/01/08

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) Ltd, on behalf of Higginson Homes, during the excavation of foundations for a new dwelling at a site to the rear of 'Sunnyside', Rose Dene, Linton-on-Ouse (NGR SE 4944 6081; Figure 1). The watching brief was undertaken on 15th October 2007.

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The site had previously been occupied by an orchard to the rear of the property; a number of fruit trees had been felled prior to the onset of groundworks. The site was bounded to the northwest, northeast and southeast by modern properties, delimited by fences or hedgelines (Plate 1).



Plate 1 General site view, looking northeast

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the watching brief was to identify, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered during groundworks which would be destroyed or disturbed by the development. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the NYCC Standard Written Scheme of Investigation for Limited Archaeological Recording.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The village of Linton-on-Ouse occupies in a low-lying position, bounded by the River Ouse to the west and the tributary River Kyle to the east. Documented as *Loletune* or *Luctone* in the 11th century, Linton consisted of 'two manors' and five carucates, which were held by Torphin and Tor prior to the Norman Conquest, with the property passing to the Count of Mortmain by 1086. Subsequently, the land was held as part of the barony of Roos, held in demesne by the lords of Helmsley throughout the 12th to 17th century. Following sale to Ambrose Appleby in 1626, the land descended with his family until 1705, when it was sold to University College, Oxford, who remained landowners into the 20th century.

The village retains elements of its medieval plan, with thin plots of land fronting onto the main east-west street of the settlement. It is likely, therefore, that the current site of interest would have fallen to the rear of the medieval properties.

The site appears to have been open in the 19th century, when the first Ordnance Survey edition depicts the site





Location map

Scale 1:500



Figure 1

as part of a linear toft possibly planted with trees. The site then appears to have remained open throughout the 19th century; in 1895 two east-west buildings are depicted on the same location as those forming Sunnyside, with open land to the rear. This situation continues on the cartographic sources into the latter part of the 20th century.

2.0 FIELDWORK PROCEDURE

The excavation of all foundation trenches was undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 0.60m toothless ditching bucket. The foundation trenches measured 0.60m wide and were excavated to a depth of between 0.90m to 1.20m below current ground level. The foundations measured a maximum c.13m x c.11m (Figure 2).

Written, drawn and photographic records were made of all archaeological deposits. The excavation and recording system employed during fieldwork is based on a set of principles known as *Field Research Procedure* (Carver 1999), the standard operating system employed by FAS. A single index was created for contexts, starting at C1000, and for features, starting at F1. All plans and sections were drawn to a scale of 1:10. A full photographic record was compiled, consisting of 35mm colour photography.

3.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The deposits visible across the site were seen to be consistent and revealed no evidence of archaeological remains. Subsoil was encountered at a depth of c.0.80m below ground level, and consisted of a yellowish-brown sand (C1002). This was overlain by an homogenous overburden measuring c.0.50m in depth, comprising a clean, greyish-brown sandy silt (C1001). This lay directly beneath the modern topsoil, which reached 0.30m in depth, and consisted of a clean, humic, greyish-brown sandy silt (C1000)(Plate 2).

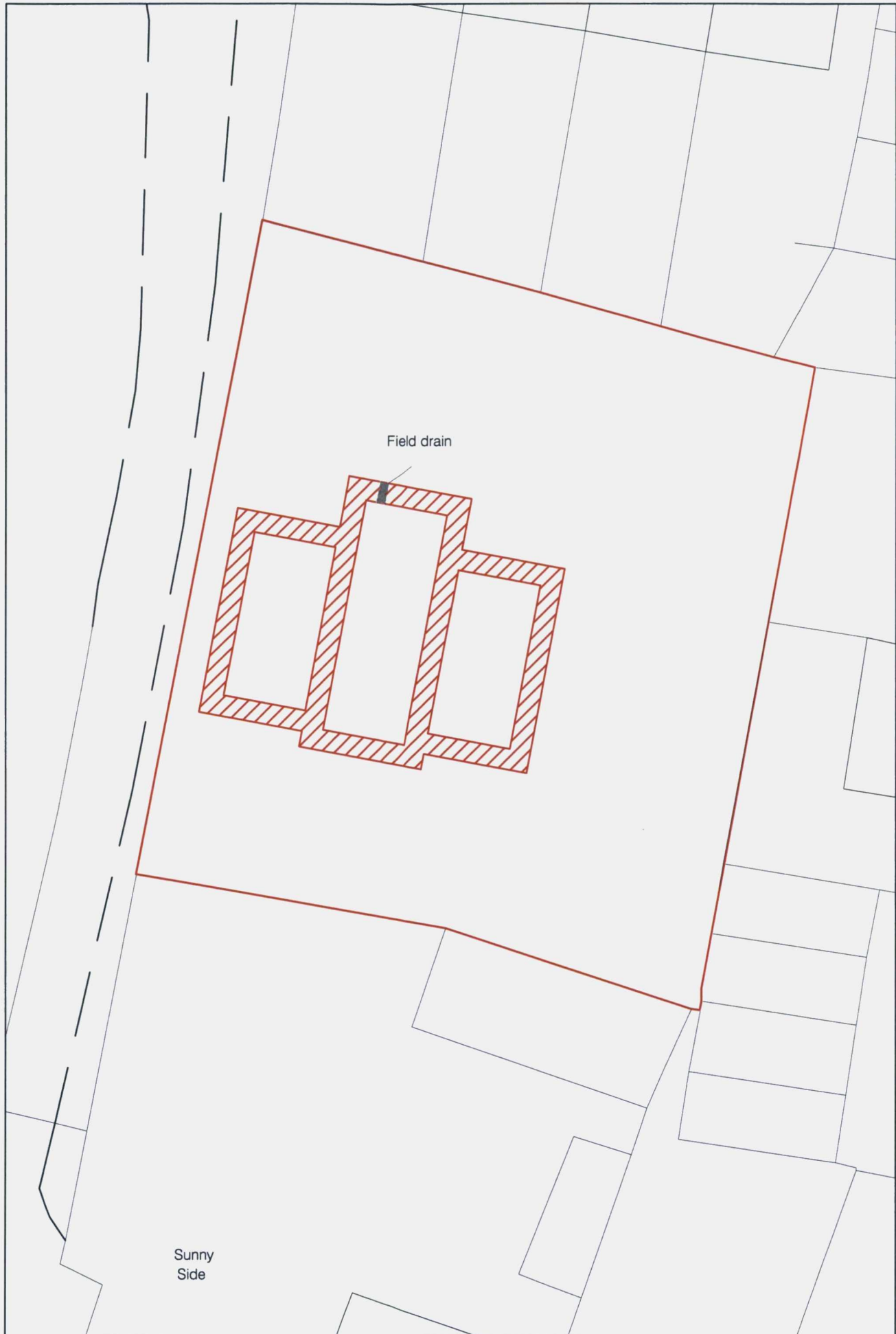
A single modern field drain was encountered at the northern end of the site, running on a north-south direction across the excavated foundation trench (F1 C1003).



Plate 2 Foundation trench

4.0 DISCUSSION

The consistency of the layers across the site, and the lack of features other than a single drain, suggest that this site is likely to have been horticultural or agricultural land for some time. This would support the cartographic sources which suggest that the site formed part of open land to the rear of a linear property fronting onto the main street.



Location of monitored groundworks

Scale 1:200



Figure 2

5.0 ARCHIVE

No finds were recovered during the watching brief. A paper copy of this report will be deposited with NYCC, and details of the project will be made available online via the OASIS website.

References

Cartographic sources

Ordnance Survey 1852 Scale 1:10560

Ordnance Survey 1910 Scale 1:10560

Ordnance Survey 1952 Scale 1:10560

Secondary sources

Carver, M O H 1999 'Field Archaeology', pp 128-181, in G Barker (ed) *Companion Encyclopaedia of Archaeology* (London)

Page, W 1923 *Victoria History of the County of York North Riding, Volume 2* (London)