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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST

**EASINGWOLD MANOR,
MILLFIELD LANE,
EASINGWOLD,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-TOP STUDY**

**1998 FIELD REPORT
NUMBER 33**



**EASINGWOLD MANOR
MILLFIELDS RECREATION AREA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-TOP STUDY**

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1. Introduction

In July 1998 an archaeological desk-top study was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of Hambleton District Council, on land adjacent to Millfield Lane, Easingwold, North Yorkshire. The study was undertaken as a condition of planning consent by North Yorkshire County Council for a new recreation area on the site. The historical and archaeological significance of the study area was analysed with a view to accurately locate the original position of Easingwold Manor and its fishponds, using a variety of techniques including cartographic evidence and archaeological and historical publications.

2. Methodology

The first area of evidence that was analysed was the cartographic material held by the Forest of Galtres Society and at the County Records Office in Northallerton. The Sites and Monuments Record Office (SMR), also in Northallerton, was consulted for additional information as well as York Central Library for previous archaeological and historical publications. Finally the site was visited and a brief walk-over survey undertaken to assess the current state of the development area.

Site Research notes are currently stored with York Archaeological Trust under the York Archaeological Trust accession code YORAT:1998.8

3. Geology and Topography

The development site, which is situated on the northern side of Easingwold village, lies on Keuper Marl solid geology (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) Sheet 62 1967), close to the Hambleton Hills, on the eastern side of the vale of York. The drift geology of the area takes the form of clay laid down in the middle Lias. Both solid and drift deposits, therefore, are linked to geological formation processes of the Triassic period, 225 million years ago (Warrington, 1974), rather than glacial activity from the last glacial inundation's, extensively seen within the vale of York. The land appears to be relatively flat within the study area, situated at c. 40m Above Ordnance Datum (A.O.D.), with only slight undulations in the ground surface. To the north and north-east the land rises steeply towards Mallison and Claypenny Hill. The development area is bordered to the south by the new surgery, to the west by Millfield Lane, and to the north and east by open agricultural and scrub land.

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

The development area is situated on the north side of Easingwold village and at the western end of the former independent village of Uppleby. Both villages are thought to pre-date the Norman conquest, and have Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian origins.

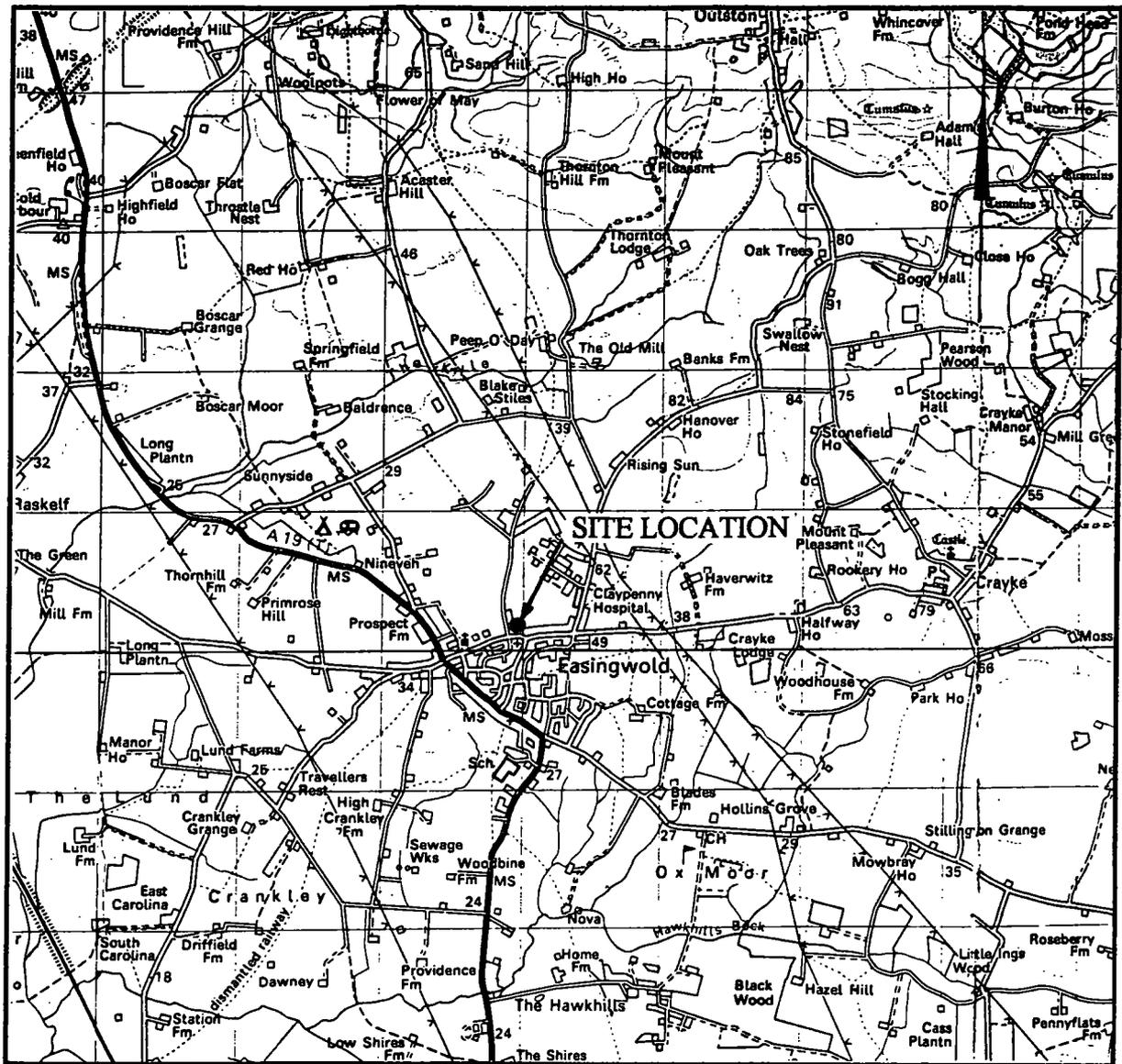
Evidence for prehistoric and Roman occupation and exploitation of the resources of the area have been located within the surrounding area. These include the courses of several

Roman roads which have been postulated to run close to the site. The first was thought to run from Stamford Bridge, through Easingwold, en route to Thirsk and Northallerton (Margery, road 80a (1973); the second, a ridge way, located to the north across the crest of the Hambleton Hills, possibly of prehistoric origins, from Malton to Aldborough (Margery, road 815); and a third minor road postulated to run along the A19 and linking York with Aldborough and possibly the Stamford Bridge to Thirsk road, west of Easingwold (Whyman, pers comm; and Margery, road 801). To date no prehistoric or Roman occupation evidence has been found within the immediate vicinity of the site, but an extensive area of iron age settlement was located during the construction of the Easingwold by-pass to the west of the village (Whyman, 1993). A Roman villa was also located on Oulston Moor in the 19th century, but its exact position close to Burton House Farm, has now been lost (Whyman, pers comm). A further Roman site was also located at Spring Howe Moor, to the west of the Easingwold by-pass, in 1976 (Hayes, 1988)

Easingwold is first mentioned in documentary sources in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it is known as *Eisicewald*, or *Eisincewald*. This name has Old English (Anglian) origins, from the personal name *Esa*, and the noun *weald* meaning 'the high land of Esa and his followers' (Cowling, 1967; Smith, 1969). Uppleby has not received similar academic study, but has Anglo-Scandinavian origins (Kirk, pers comm), 'by' meaning a clearing within a wood, in Old Norse. At Domesday, Easingwold contained a manor held by the Crown, which was situated within the bounds of the Royal forest of Galtres. This had previously been owned by the Earls of Northumbria, prior to the Norman conquest in 1066.

In the reign of King Stephen (1135-54), the King gave to the church at Easingwold, 12 acres of land enclosed from the forest, and presented an incumbent to the 'King's Chaplain'. This has been suggested to have been the origins of the second manor known to have existed at Easingwold (Cowling, 1967), and thought to have been situated within the study area, which later passed to the Archdeacons of Richmond. The exact date of the latter event is not known but in 1247 Master John Romain, Archdeacon of Richmond, received 10 oaks from the Forest of Galtres for repairing the chancel of his church at Easingwold and in 1269 he received permission to let his rectory here for three years from the Archbishop. This points to at least a mid 13th century date for the establishment of the second manor within Easingwold, although the siting of the manor at the western end of the village of Uppleby may well hint at an earlier origin, perhaps even pre-conquest. In 1282 this second Archdeaconry Manor was said to be in a good condition but by 1317 it had fallen into disrepair.

The next significant date in the history of this manor was in 1541, when Henry VIII founded the see of Chester and transferred to it the property, rights and jurisdiction of the Archdeaconry of Richmond (Cowling, 1967). Thus the manor became part of the property owned by the diocese of Chester. The land was subsequently leased out to various local land owners. In 1620-45, William Driffield was Lord of the Manor, and was in possession of the lease and within a manor court roll dated to 1625 a terrier



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Figure 1. Site location plan

Scale 1:50,000

contains details of the property of the manor. The manor house is described as 'An ancient manse or rectory house with two bams, a dovecote, and an oxhouse with a yard' (Cowling, 1967).

The manor lease remained in the possession of the Driffield family until the Commonwealth (1645-60), when the manor was conveyed to Christopher Driffield and George Potts by the Parliamentary Commissioners for the sale of church lands. In 1660, however, it reverted back to the See of Chester which retained ownership of the land until 1860 when it was vested in the Ecclesiastical (now church) Commissioners (Cowling, 1967).

The Driffield family continued to lease the property from 1660 until 1688 when it was assigned to Thomas Raines (Lord Mayor of York), who sub-let the manor house to his niece Anne and her husband William Salvin. The lease subsequently passed into the hands of the Salvin family and then through marriage to Mr. Peter Bell Esq., who sub-let it to Sir William Vavasour in 1773. In 1791, Wilham Lodge Roccliffe, George Clarke and Sir John Lawson Bart. owned the lease but by 1796 the estate had changed hands again, it then being owned by Sir John Webb Bart. Wilham Lockwood, an attorney based in Easingwold, drew the only known representation of the manor house on one of his plans (dated 1797) of land ownership and estates in Easingwold. His father, and himself both acted as Stewards to Sir John Webb's estate agent who lived in Easingwold (Kirk, 1996). The drawing shows a Georgian style manor house, with five windows on the first floor and four on the ground floor, two each of the latter being positioned on either side of a large door or pillared porch. Three possible attic windows also appear on the drawing as well as two chimneys flanking both ends of the roof. The Georgian style suggests that the Manor house was rebuilt in the 18th century and at this time may have been built of stone or brick. To the north of the manor, in the area where the fishponds were situated, William Lockwood wrote the following brief description (Kirk, 1996):

'Malt Kiln & part of Fish pond Garth'

This suggests that there was a malt kiln within the fish pond area in the late 18th century, but does not precisely pinpoint its position or give any indication of its size or shape.

Thomas Gill, writing in 1852, in his book *Vallis Eboracensis*, gives the following descriptive account of the Old Manor prior to its demolition:

'Nothing now indicates its ancient dignity but the garden walls, the fish pond, and a few Weymouth pines.....the approach towards it being through a long serpentine avenue. On the principal gateway were two lions couchant. The court or inner area appears to have been on the south-east, and the plot of ground, now built upon, extending to what was lately the site of the bathing house, comprised the gardens or pleasure grounds, enclosed by a moat or ditch communicating with the upper part of the fish pond, and were called "the Paradise".'

The house itself was an irregular structure, with several wings supported by buttresses, and surrounded by a parapet. Front door to an entrance hall, the walls and ceiling of which, were ornamented with various devices. The dining room was lofty and spacious, it occupied the whole of the south-wing. The walls were richly empanelled with black oak, on the interior squares of which were beautiful paintings....

....The fishponds are at present altogether neglected....The pond is fed by a spring about one hundred yards distant, in the ascent of the adjoining field.... On the island in the centre stood an ornamented dove-cote and round the exterior were two rows of large pines.'

He also hints at it containing a kitchen and a cellar, the latter presumably for the storage of food and drink.

This information is valuable in giving us a description of the manor and its surroundings in the late 18th and early 19th century. It stood probably where the new surgery was built, and was approached by a long curved drive, the entrance of which was just to the south of the current surgery entrance. It was Georgian in character (from Wilham Lockwood's drawing) with several wings, one of which contained the dining room and was probably heavily

embellished with Georgian style interior ornaments, decorations and also painted oak panelling. On the south-east side of the manor there was a courtyard enclosed by a moat or ditch attached to the top of the fishponds (hinting at the existence of a medieval moated manor) which extended to a bathing house. This area included the gardens or pleasure grounds called "the Paradise" sections of which were probably enclosed by walls.

A microfihned sketch drawing, held at the County Record Office (MIC 1497/175), not dated, but probably drawn in the early 19th century, shows the closes and property of Wailes and Webb. This also includes rough sketches of the manor buildings and the fishpond, the interpretation of wldch can only be very conjectural. The fishpond was U-shaped in plan, both south and north arms of which were shown as being of the same length and thickness; the Manor house consisted of one long thin rectangular building (perhaps the wings described by Gill had been demolished by this stage); an enclosed area (courtyard?) to the south of the Manor but attached to it was also represented, this may define the "Paradise"; two buildings to the west of the main manor were also shown the western most of which flanked Millfield Lane and possibly represented a gatehouse, the other building was positioned just to the west of the main Manor building and can possibly be interpreted as an outbuilding or stable; finally another building to the south of the manor courtyard, possibly the bathing house, was enclosed (possibly walled) within its own area defined by the east side of Millfield Lane and the north side of Church Hill.

The Old Hall was demolished in 1826 (Cowling, 1967) and a new farm house and associated buildings were erected directly on its site in 1835 (Gill, 1852).

The 1841 Tithe Map for Easingwold, drawn by Henry Scott from Oulston, shows the extent of the new farm buildings and the fishpond at the time. The buildings form an L shape with a slight extension or porch to the north. The fishpond appears to form a U-shape, with the southern arm not extending as far east as the northern arm. Two slight indentations in the south-west corner may indicate where a moat or perhaps even a double moat may have joined with the fishpond. The latter may have flanked the western side of the "Paradise" defined by Gill (1852) above.

The numbered land plots within the development area are described on the Tithe Map as follows:

- 268 - Stackyard
- 269 - Stackyard
- 275 - Paddock
- 276 - Foldyard and stable
- 277 - Foldyard and Stable
- 278 - Fishpond close
- 279 - Housegarden
- 387 - Fishpond field
- 388 - Fishpond field

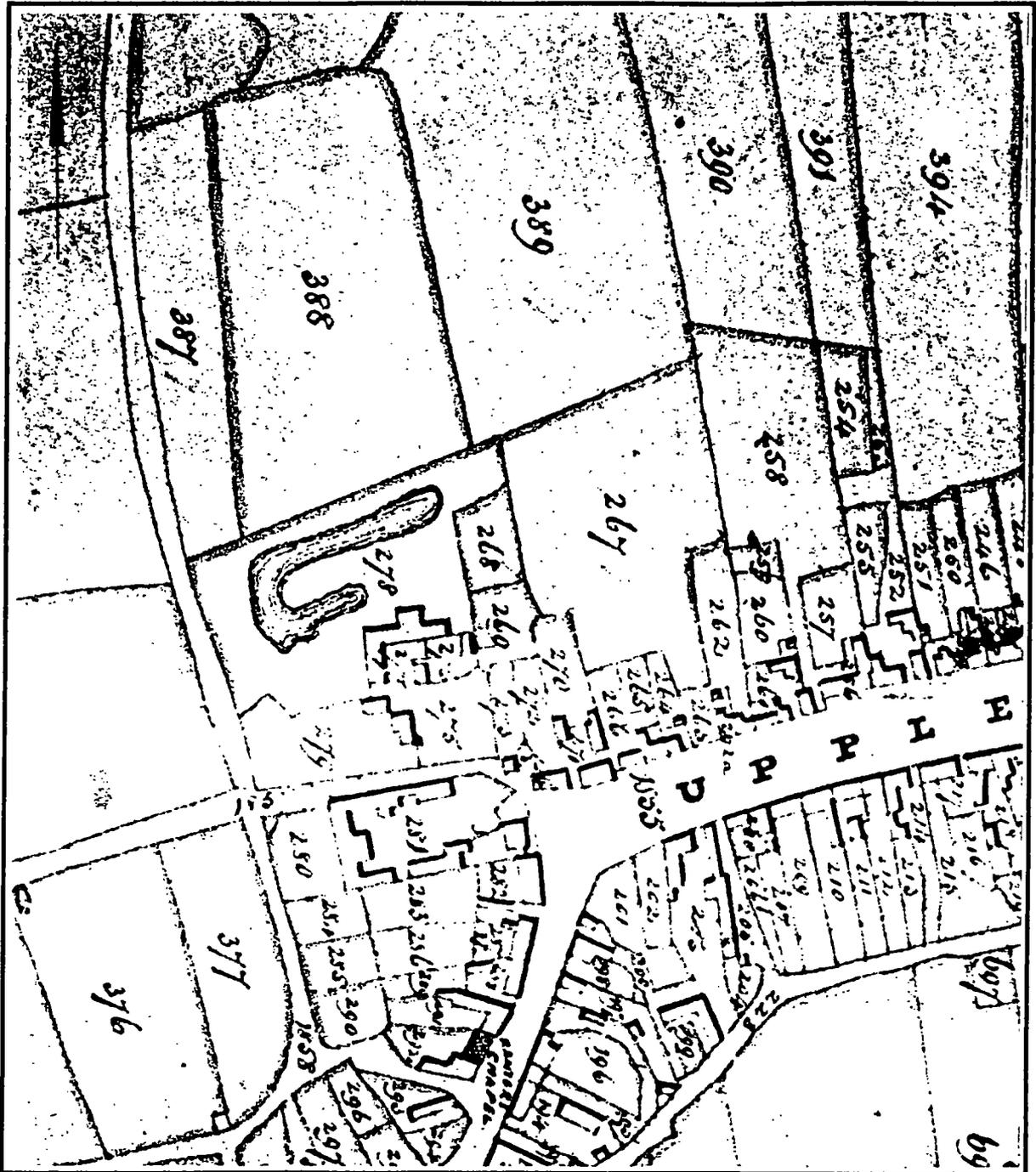


Figure 2. 1841 Tithe Map

The agricultural nature and the functions of the closes and fields surrounding the new farm buildings is self evident. Perhaps the only evidences for the former manor here are the fish pond (within field 278) and the walled housegarden (within area 279), part of the wall of which is still standing.

The 1911 first edition Ordnance Survey Map shows the farm buildings, somewhat extended to the south-east, and the northern extension or porch demolished. A small portion of the fish pond in the south-west corner appears to be extant and full of water the rest has been infilled appearing as earthworks which cover a similar (though slightly smaller) area as the 1841 Tithe Map. The remains of the fishpond continue to be shown on the 1938 25inch and also on the 1959 6inch OS maps.

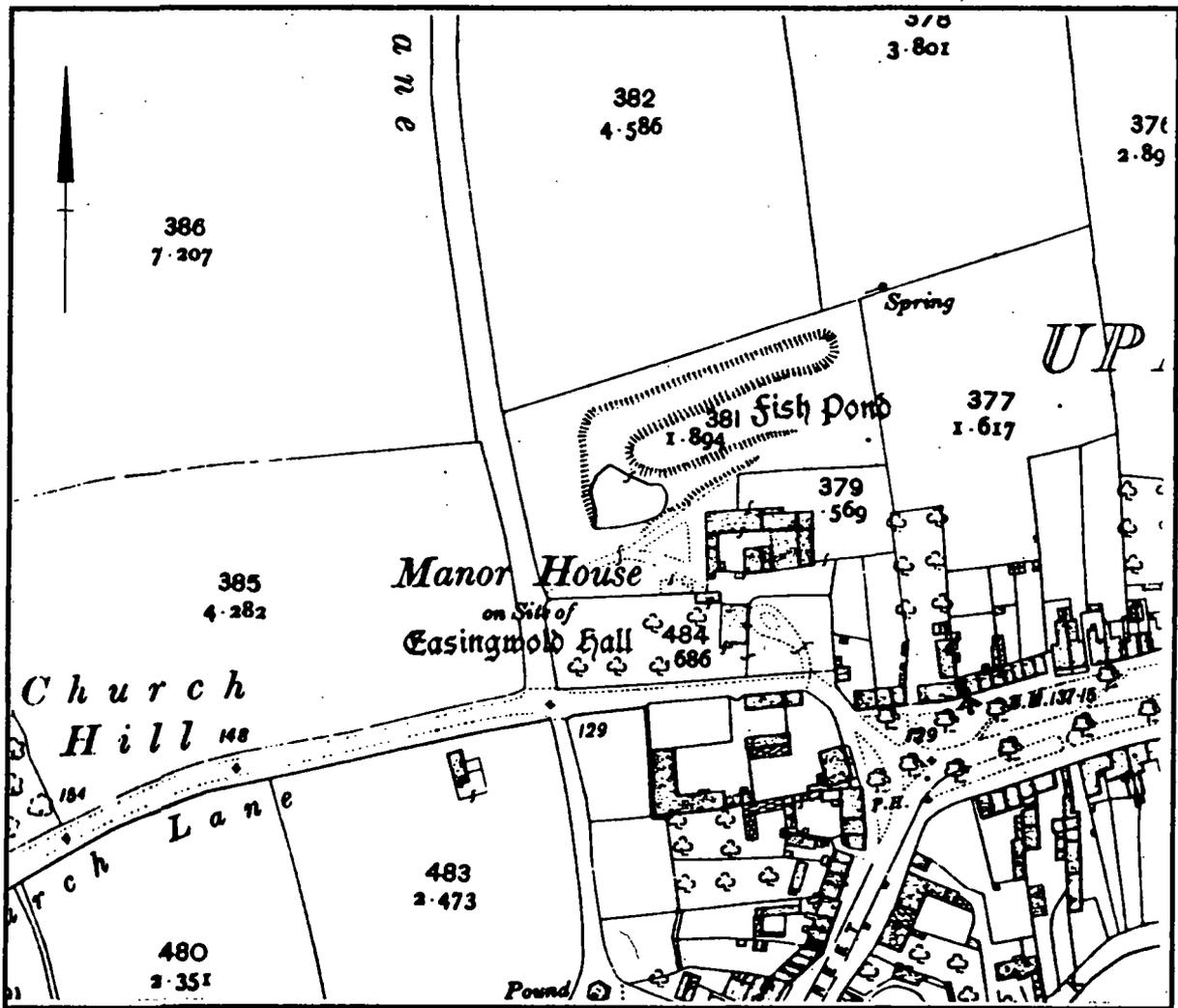


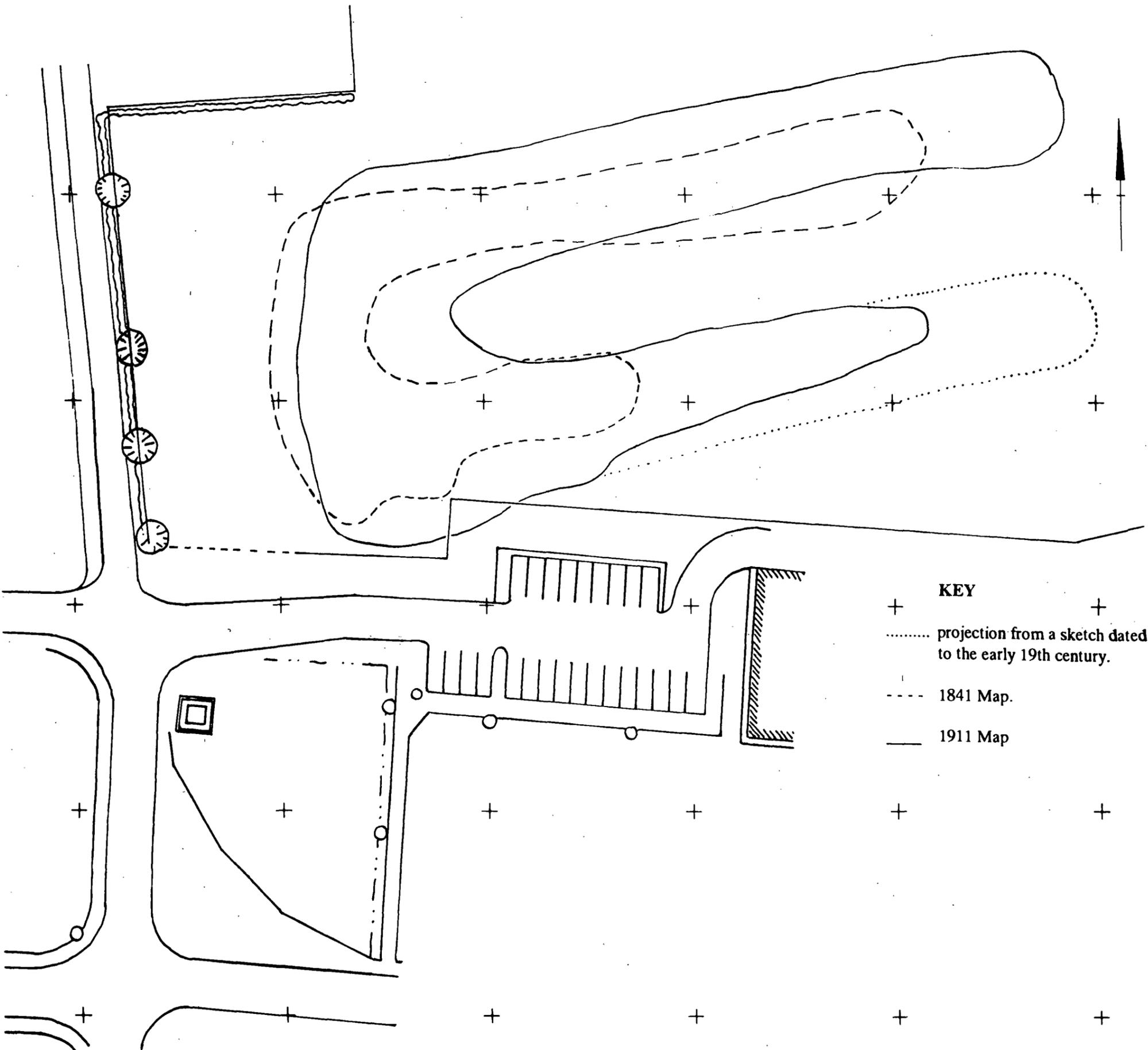
Figure 3. 1911 First Edition O.S. map

The fishpond was filled in in living memory (Kirk, pers comm), to prevent accidents.

Mill Field Lane was the original name of the road from the Archdeaconry Manor to the parish church. In 1852 the ruins of a windmill still stood just to the east of the church probably in the grounds of the present vicarage.

5. Walkover Survey

The study area was the subject of a rapid walkover survey to examine the current state of the area and to identify any areas of extant earthworks or other archaeological remains. Within the development site an L-shaped crop mark and slight depression was visible north of the surgery boundary and to the west of Millfield Lane. This was interpreted as the site of the former Fishponds. The southern arm of the fishpond appeared to have had a substantial bank of material dumped over it, probably to level and raise the ground surface. This was carried out prior to the demolition of the former farm buildings and the construction of the new surgery (Kirk, pers comm) but the exact date is not known. A low lying linear field bank and possible ditch to the north of the fishpond area may simply represent the former line of the field boundary shown on the 1911, O.S. map. A marked banking on the eastern side of Millfield Lane may be due to the demolition of the postulated post-medieval gate house, or landscaping of the area between Millfield Lane and the fishpond.



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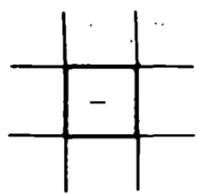
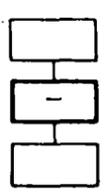
..... projection from a sketch dated to the early 19th century.

- - - 1841 Map.

— 1911 Map

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PLAN/SECTION NO 1			NOTES
DRAWN BY NFM			PLAN SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE FISHPOND.
CHECKED BY MRS			
DATE 29/7/98			
SCALE SCALE 1:500	YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST	SITE NAME EASINGWOLD MANOR	SITE CODE YORAT:1998.8

6. Discussion and Conclusions

The site of the fishponds and their extent were located on three historic maps. The first was a rough sketch dated to the early 19th century, the second was the 1841 Tithe Map and the third was the 1911 First edition O.S. map. The extent of the fishpond shown on these maps was plotted onto a new plan, which also shows the development area and the new surgery, its entrance and carpark (Fig. 4). This is the present state of knowledge on the position of the fishpond. It should however be born in mind that the fishponds may have been partially infilled by the time that the rough sketch was drawn in the 19th century and also that Gill (1852) hints at the existence of a moat or ditch enclosing the area to the south-east of the manor itself and attached to the upper end of the fishpond. This may indicate that a medieval moated manor existed on the site, although at present the evidence for this is purely conjectural. The position of the Manor itself is much more difficult to pinpoint exactly as the only plan of it was located on the rough sketch dated to the early 19th century. This, and the drawing of the estate lands by William Lockwood in 1797, suggests that it lay to the south-east of the fishponds and probably lies under were the new surgery, constructed in 1993 and outside the development area.

It is thought that if archaeological features survive within the development area, they will be of medieval and post-medieval date. These will probably relate to the fishpond itself, a moat or ditch, and a possible post-medieval gatehouse. Other structures which may have existed within the area include a possible dovecote on the raised island at the centre of the U-shaped fishpond, a post-medieval malt kiln and the drive-way to the manor itself

6. Archaeological Implications

The development is thought to be of low impact. The carpark could be easily moved further to the north-west and the cycle-path further to the south to avoid the fishpond. The cyclepath will also only cause the removal of 0.3m of material from the present ground surface and unless archaeological deposits are preserved at a very shallow depth below the ground surface it is difficult to see how this will adversely affect archaeology. A watching brief, with time and scope to record any structures or features that show up within the stripping activity, would be adequate to record any archaeological material that surfaces during the development. It should be noted however that the fishponds may contain suitable conditions to have preserved environmental material and if the development does impinge on this area and cause the removal of its deposits, funds should be made available to allow for this to be suitably archaeologically excavated, recorded and for environmental samples to be taken and processed.

7. List of Sources

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The 1841 Tithe Map, drawn by Henry Scott of Oulston. (County Record Office - MIC 1529/24-57).

Easingwold: Uppleby (No Date, but probably early 19th Century), no title. Rough sketches of closes, property of Wailes and Webb (County Record Office - MIC 1497/175).

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, surveyed in 1911.

9. List of Contributors

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York Archaeological Trust undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. It can manage projects, provide professional advice, and monitor archaeological works to ensure high quality, cost-effective archaeology. Its staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience, and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. Based in York its services are available throughout Britain and beyond.

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