

---

---

MANOR FARM , LEPPINGTON.

---

---

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.  
OSA REPORT No: OSA07EV10.

MAY 2007.

**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](mailto:mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk)

© *On-Site Archaeology*, 2007.



---

**Report Summary.**

---

**REPORT NO:** OSA07EV10

**SITE NAME:** Manor Farm, Leppington

**COUNTY:** North Yorkshire

**PARISH:** Scrayingham

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 7637 6115

**ON BEHALF OF:** Mr S Wood  
Manor Farm  
Leppington  
North Yorkshire

**TEXT:** James Stanley

**GRAPHICS:** Marie-Claire Ferguson

**FIELDWORK:** Dave Pinnock  
James Stanley

**TIMING:** Fieldwork  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007  
Post excavation & report preparation  
May 2007

**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:** Post-Medieval

---

## Table of Contents.

---

1.0	Abstract .....	3
2.0	Site Location, Topography and Land Use.....	5
3.0	Archaeological Background.....	6
4.0	Methodology.....	7
5.0	Results.....	8
5.1	Trench 1.....	8
5.2	Trench 2.....	8
6.0	Discussion and Conclusions.....	10
7.0	Bibliography.....	10
8.0	Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.....	11
9.0	Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.....	12
10.0	Appendix 3 ~ Finds Assessment Report.....	13
11.0	Appendix 4 ~ The Plates.....	15

---

## List of Figures.

---

Figure 1.	Site Location (NGR SE 7637 6115).....	4
Figure 2.	Trench location plan.....	5
Figure 3.	Plan of Trench 2.....	9
Figure 4.	South facing section of Trench 2.....	9

---

## List of Plates.

---

Plate 1.	Trench 1 looking southeast. (Scale of 1m).....	15
Plate 2.	Trench 2 looking east. (Scale of 2 x 1m).....	15
Plate 3.	Trench 2 looking north. (Scale of 1m).....	16

## 1.0 Abstract.

---

On-Site Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mr S Wood in May 2007 in advance on residential development.

Evaluation trenches failed to reveal any evidence associated with the Medieval Village or relating to the Schedule Monument Earthworks directly east of the proposed development. One of the trenches encountered foundations related to the previous, possibly 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Manor House demolished in 1981 prior to the construction of the existing farmhouse.

There is no evidence to indicate any remaining archaeology of sufficient importance to hinder development of the site although it is possible that any planning permission may require archaeological mitigation in the form of a Watching Brief dependent upon the scale of the foundations and other ground work.

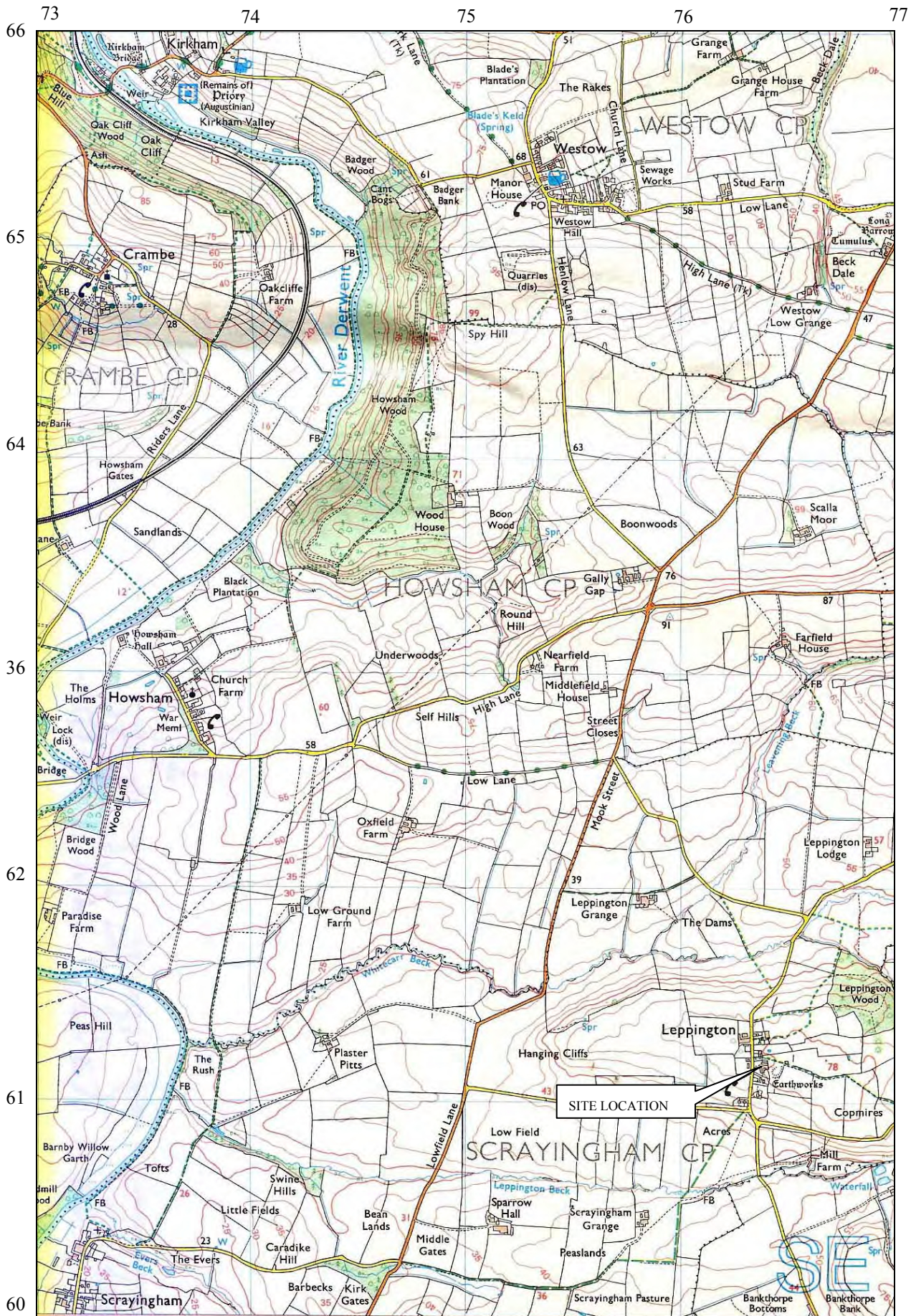


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 7637 6115)

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

## 2.0 Site Location, Topography and Land Use.

The area of proposed development is located within the village of Leppington, which is situated on the western edge of the Wolds, approximately 10km to the south of Malton. The site lies on the east side of Main Street, centred at NGR SE 7637 6115, at approximately 74mAOD.

The application site comprises a working dairy farm, with several functioning buildings, a pond and adjacent areas of garden and yards.

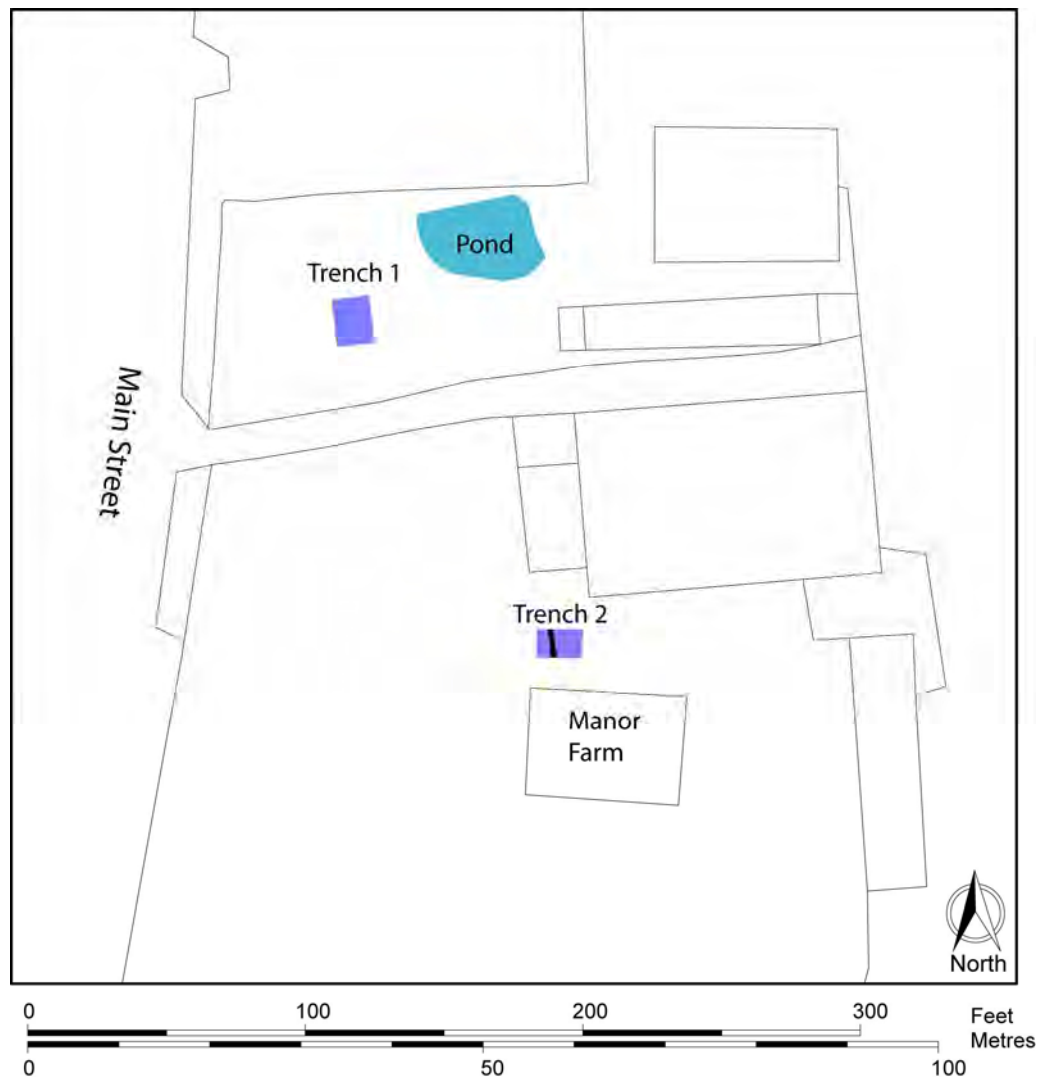


Figure 2. Trench location plan.

---

### 3.0 Archaeological Background.

---

The proposed development site is situated in the historic village of Leppington, an area of archaeological importance.

Aerial photographs and archaeological investigations have identified later prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological evidence. A ring ditch and round barrow are situated less than 1km to the southeast of the site, at SE 7670 6096. Approximately 3 km to the east are the remains of linear boundaries and round barrows and less than 2km to the north are a series of linked rectangular enclosures. It is also thought that a ‘hoard’ of Bronze Age axes was recovered from the locality.

The origins of the village are thought to date back to the pre-Conquest period and it is referred to as Lepinton in the Domesday Book. Earthworks immediately to the east of the proposed development are designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No, 20542). These have been described as a castle (of motte and bailey form) but may be the platform of a moated site (MNY 2034).

Archaeological investigations in 2006, to the south of the development area, revealed a series of ditches and substantial quantities of pottery dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, together with animal bone, possible kitchen waste produced by the moated manor site. Ditches, containing pottery of 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date were uncovered during a further Watching Brief on land at Havelock House.



---

## 4.0 Methodology.

---

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to gather sufficient information through trial trenching to establish the presence, nature, depth, extent and quality of survival of any archaeological deposits to be effected by the development proposals.

Two trial trenches were excavated, the locations and dimensions of which were agreed in advance in discussions between On-Site Archaeology, North Yorkshire County Council and the current Landowner.

The trench dimensions and locations are as follows:

- Trench 1: A machine-excavated trench measuring 5 metres by 3 metres located towards the northwest corner of the development site, west of the pond in an area currently under grass.
- Trench 2: A machine-excavated trench measuring 5 metres by 3 metres located immediately to the south of the larger southernmost barn and north of the current Farmhouse.

Topsoil and recent overburden within the trenches was removed by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under direct archaeological supervision down to the first archaeological horizon or natural subsoil. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand in order to detect any archaeological features revealed through textural or colour changes in deposits. Any features, deposits and finds of archaeological significance were hand excavated, sampled and recorded.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the excavation. These involved the completion of a context sheet 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). This 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 in the northwest corner of the proposed development in an area of open garden/pasture approximately 17 metres east of the road. The trench measured 5 metres by 3 metres and was orientated north-south.

The earliest layer encountered was a grey brown silty clay and chalk gravel natural (102) found at a maximum height of 74.37 metres AOD, 0.36 metres below the ground surface. This was sealed by a yellowish brown, sandy clay subsoil (101) approximately 0.16 metres in depth and the topsoil (100) (see Plate 1).

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed by excavation in this area of the development site.

### 5.2 *Trench 2.*

This trench was positioned in the lawn area between the large farm building and the modern farmhouse. The trench measured 5 metres by 3 metres orientated east-west approximately 3.5 metres directly north of the farmhouse.

The earliest layer encountered was the yellowish brown clay and chalk gravel natural (205) found at a maximum height of 75.49 metres AOD, this was overlain by a yellowish brown, clay subsoil/overburden (201) measuring 0.3 metres in depth. The above deposits were cut by a single north-south orientated wall foundation [204], which continued beyond the limits of the trench excavation (see Plate 2). The foundation cut [204] measured approximately 0.9 metres in width and 0.3 metres in depth with a foundation consisting of a roughly constructed wall (202) of unbonded, large (averaging 400 mm x 300 mm x 120 mm) unworked sandstone blocks. A small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from within the wall foundation. The foundation trench was backfilled by yellowish brown, silty clay (203) containing small sandstone fragments, CBM flecks and again medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds. The trench was sealed by approximately 0.15 metres of topsoil containing small fragments of CBM and recent demolition rubble.

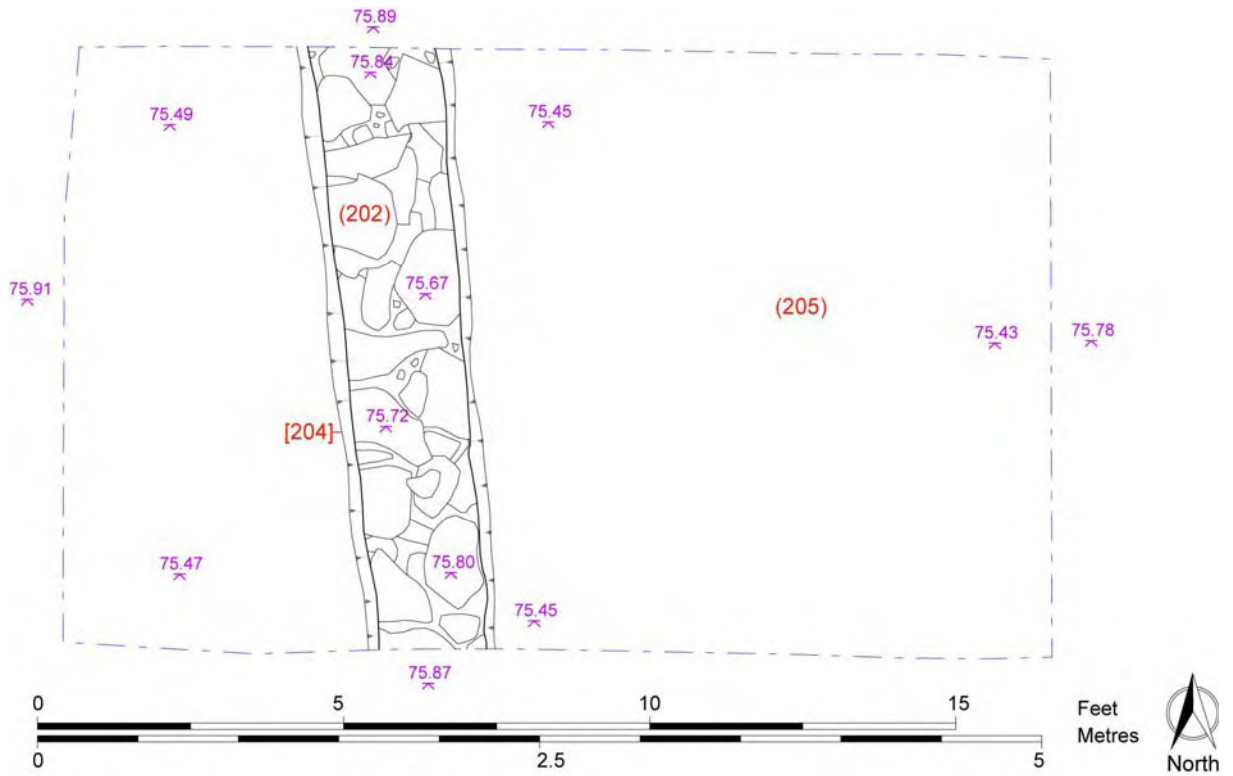


Figure 3. Plan of Trench 2.

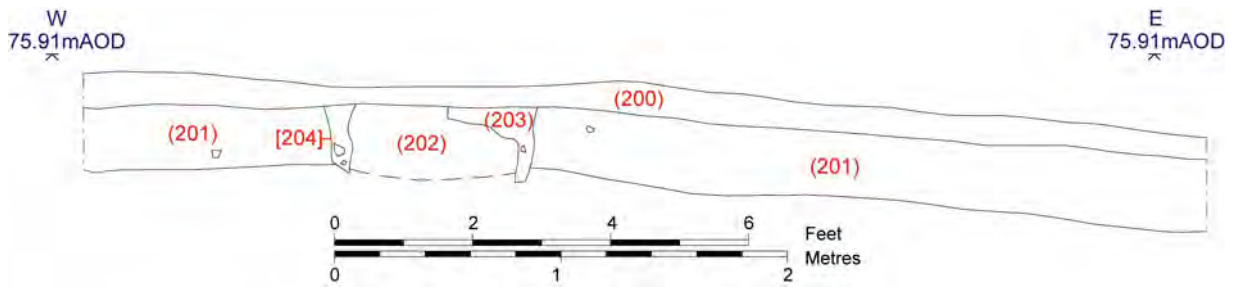


Figure 4. South facing section of Trench 2.

---

## 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions.

---

The archaeological investigations failed to uncover any evidence associated with the medieval village or the scheduled earthworks directly to the east of the proposed development, with the exception of a small quantity of medieval pottery. All of this material was residual, being collected from deposits that also contained post-medieval artefacts.

It is thought that the foundation wall encountered in Trench 2 relates to the previous Manor House, possibly constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, which was demolished prior to the building of the current Farmhouse in 1981. The pottery collected from within the wall foundation and from its associated construction backfill appears to confirm this dating. Parts of the previous Manor House appear to still exist, forming part of the front (west) elevation of the existing barn directly north of the foundation wall (see Plate 3).

There is no evidence to indicate any remaining archaeology of sufficient importance to hinder development of the site. The need for any archaeological mitigation as a response to the development will be dependent upon the scale of the foundations and other groundworks. It is possible that any planning permission may include a condition requiring a Watching Brief to be undertaken during the development. Any decision regarding the need for, and nature of, further archaeological mitigation, lies with North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit, and the local planning authority.

---

## 7.0 Bibliography.

---

On-Site Archaeology (March 2007). Manor Farm, Leppington. Method Statement, Terms and Condition and Safety Plan.

RCHME (1997). Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds.

---

## 8.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

---

Context no.	Description	Thickness	Extent
<i>Trench 1</i>			
100	Dark brown, clayey sand. Topsoil.	0.2 m	Trench
101	Yellowish brown, sandy clay, chalk inclusions. Subsoil.	0.18 m	Trench
102	Grey brown, silty clay, chalk gravel. Natural.	-	Trench
<i>Trench 2</i>			
200	Dark yellowish brown, sandy clay. Topsoil.	0.13 m	Trench
201	Yellowish brown, clay. Subsoil/overburden.	0.3 m	Trench
202	Sandstone. Foundation wall.	0.3 m	3 m x 0.65 m
203	Dark yellowish brown, silty clay. Foundation trench backfill	0.3 m	3 m x 0.9 m
204	Foundation trench cut.	0.3 m	3 m x 0.9 m
205	Yellowish brown, clay, chalk gravel. Natural.	-	Trench

## 9.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

### 9.1 Drawing Register.

Drawing no.	Description	Scale	Initials	Date
1	Plan Trench 2	1:20	JS	4 5 07
2	South facing section Trench 2	1:20	JS	4 5 07

### 9.2 Photographic Register.

Frame no.	Description	View	Scale	Inits and date
<i>Camera No 9, Black and White slide 010507 8:05</i>				
24	I D Shot	-	-	
25	Trench 1	N	1m x 2m	JS, 4 5 07
26	Trench 1	N	1m x 2m	JS, 4 5 07
27	Trench 1	N	1m x 2m	JS, 4 5 07
28	Trench 1, Section	SE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
29	Trench 1, Section	SE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
30	Trench 1, Section	SE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
31	Trench 2	W	1m x 2m	JS, 4 5 07
32	Trench 2	W	1m x 2m	JS, 4 5 07
33	Trench 2	N	1m	JS, 4 5 07
34	Trench 2	N	1m	JS, 4 5 07
35	Trench 2	NE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
36	Trench 2	NE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
<i>Camera 180, Colour slide 010507 8:05</i>				
25	Trench 1	N	1m x 2m	JS, 4 5 07
26	Trench 1	N	1m x 2m	JS, 4 5 07
27	Trench 1	N	1m x 2m	JS, 4 5 07
28	Trench 1, Section	SE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
29	Trench 1, Section	SE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
30	Trench 1, Section	SE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
31	Trench 2	W	1m x 2m	JS, 4 5 07
32	Trench 2	W	1m x 2m	JS, 4 5 07
33	Trench 2	N	1m	JS, 4 5 07
34	Trench 2	N	1m	JS, 4 5 07
35	Trench 2	NE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
36	Trench 2	NE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
<i>Digital Camera</i>				
1	Trench 1	N	1m x 2	JS, 4 5 07
2	Trench 1	SE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
3	Trench 1 Section	E	1m	JS, 4 5 07
4	Trench 1	SE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
5	Trench 2	W	1m x 2	JS, 4 5 07
6	Trench 2, Foundation wall	N	1m	JS, 4 5 07
7	Trench 2, Foundation wall	NE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
8	Trench 2, Foundation wall	N	1m	JS, 4 5 07
9	Trench 2	S	1m	JS, 4 5 07
10	Trench 2	SE	1m	JS, 4 5 07
11	Large barn	NE	-	JS, 4 5 07
12	Large barn	E	-	JS, 4 5 07
13	Farmhouse	SE	-	JS, 4 5 07

---

## 10.0 Appendix 3 ~ Finds Assessment Report.

---

*Alan Vince and Kate Steane.*

### **10.1 Summary.**

A small collection of finds was recovered from an archaeological evaluation carried out at Leppington, North Yorkshire, by *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* (Site Code: OSA07 EV10).

The finds were submitted for identification and assessment and range in date from the later 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries to the post-medieval period (early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century).

### **10.2 Description.**

#### *10.2.1 Ceramic Building Material.*

A fragment of brick and a scrap of unidentified ceramic building material were recovered. The fabric was not examined and only a broad date of late medieval or, more likely, post-medieval can be assigned.

#### *10.2.2 Pottery.*

##### *Medieval.*

Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. Two of these are of types current in the later 12<sup>th</sup> and earlier part of the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (possibly slightly earlier and later as well). These are Staxton-type ware (STAXT) and a local coarseware (MEDLOC subfabric LEP3). Staxton-type ware was produced at a number of centres in eastern Yorkshire. The nearest of these to Leppington is Staxton and the neighbouring village of Potter Brompton, 23 miles to the east-northeast. The local ware is a wheelthrown coarse red earthenware containing iron-rich inclusions. Examples are known from sites in York and in the Vale of York to the northeast of York and the latter area is probably the source of the ware. The third sherd is of Humberware (Hayfield 1992), produced in the Vale of York and Humber estuary in the later 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Production sites are known at York, Holme-upon-Spalding Moor and West Cowick and inferred elsewhere (e.g. Beverley area and the Barton-upon-Humber areas in the Humber estuary).

##### *Post-medieval.*

Three sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. Two of these are only broadly datable, glazed red earthenware (GRE) and blackware (BL), both of which were produced from the later 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The third is a Staffordshire-type slipware, a press moulded combed slip dish (STCO), a type first produced at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and still current in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### 10.3 Assessment.

#### 10.3.1 Chronology.

The finds indicate activity on or near the site from at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and possibly before. The finds come from two contexts, 202 and 203, both of which contain a mixture of medieval and post-medieval finds.

#### 10.3.2 Further Work.

No further work is recommended.

#### 10.3.3 Retention.

The finds come from stratified deposits and so should be retained for potential future re-examination.

### 10.4 Bibliography.

Hayfield, C. (1992) "Humberware: the development of a later medieval pottery tradition." in D. Gaimster and M. Redknapp, eds., *Everyday and Exotic Pottery from Europe: Studies in honour of John G. Hurst*, Oxbow Books, Oxford, 38-44

### 10.5 Appendix A.

class	Context	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use
CBM	203	PMED		BRICK	BS	2	2	40	
CBM	202	CBM		?	BS	3	3	6	
POTTERY	202	GRE		BOWL	BS	2	1	7	
POTTERY	202	STAXT		JAR	BS	1	1	12	SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT
POTTERY	203	MEDLOC	LEP3	JAR	B	1	1	9	SOOTED EXT
POTTERY	203	STCO		DISH	BS	1	1	13	
POTTERY	203	BL		JAR	BS	1	1	1	
POTTERY	203	HUM		JUG/JAR	BS	1	1	19	



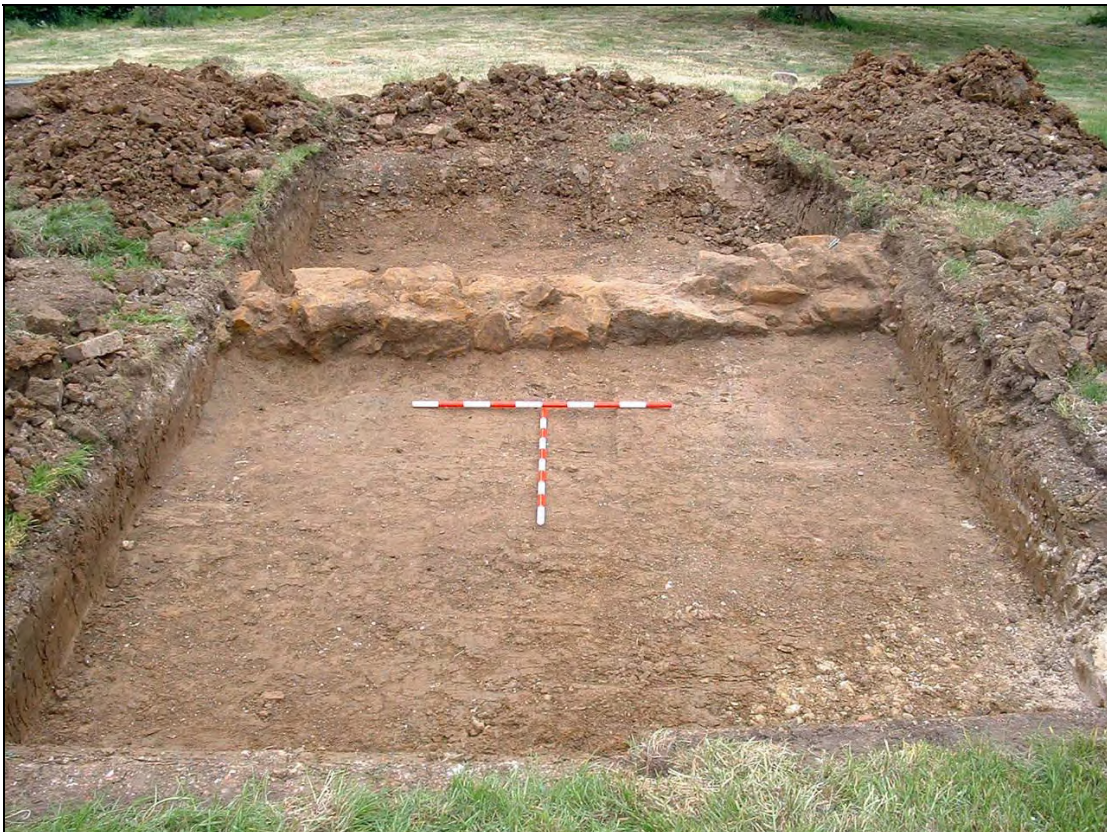
---

## 11.0 Appendix 4 ~ The Plates.

---



*Plate 1. Trench 1 looking southeast. (Scale of 1m).*



*Plate 2. Trench 2 looking east. (Scale of 2 x 1m).*



*Plate 3. Trench 2 looking north. (Scale of 1m).*