

NYCC HER	
SNY	18986
ENY	6222
CNY	
Parish	3103
Rec'd	



ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
WYAS

**Land at Brecks Lane, Pockley  
North Yorkshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*February 1997*

CLIENT

**Nawton Tower Estate  
c/o Carter Jonas**

© Archaeological Services WYAS

Archaeological Services WYAS  
14 St John's North, Wakefield WF1 3QA

WYAS R426, 11 February 1997

**Land at Brecks Lane, Pockley**  
**North Yorkshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

**Contents**

1. Summary
  2. Introduction
  3. Archaeological Background
  4. Methodology
  5. Results
  6. The Finds
  7. Conclusion
- Bibliography
- Appendices

**Land at Brecks Lane, Pockley**  
**North Yorkshire**  
**(SE 6380 8595)**

**1. Summary**

***Client***

Nawton Tower Estate  
c/o Carter Jonas  
13 - 15 Albert Street  
Harrogate  
HG1 1JX

***Objectives***

To determine the presence/absence, location, extent and nature of any possible archaeological features on this site, as suggested by preliminary cartographic appraisal and geophysical survey.

***Results and Conclusions***

Evidence was found of the remains of a possible structure, along with a probable field boundary wall and ditch. Medieval pottery associated with these features suggests occupation dating between the 13th and 15th centuries.

## 2. Introduction (Fig. 1)

The West Yorkshire Archaeology Service was commissioned by Carter Jonas, Chartered Surveyors and Property Consultants on behalf of the Nawton Tower Estate to undertake archaeological trial trenching at Brecks Lane, Pockley (Fig. 1).

Application for the renewal of outline planning permission is being sought on the plot where it is proposed to build a single house. The excavations were required in order to establish the nature and extent of any archaeological deposits that may be present.

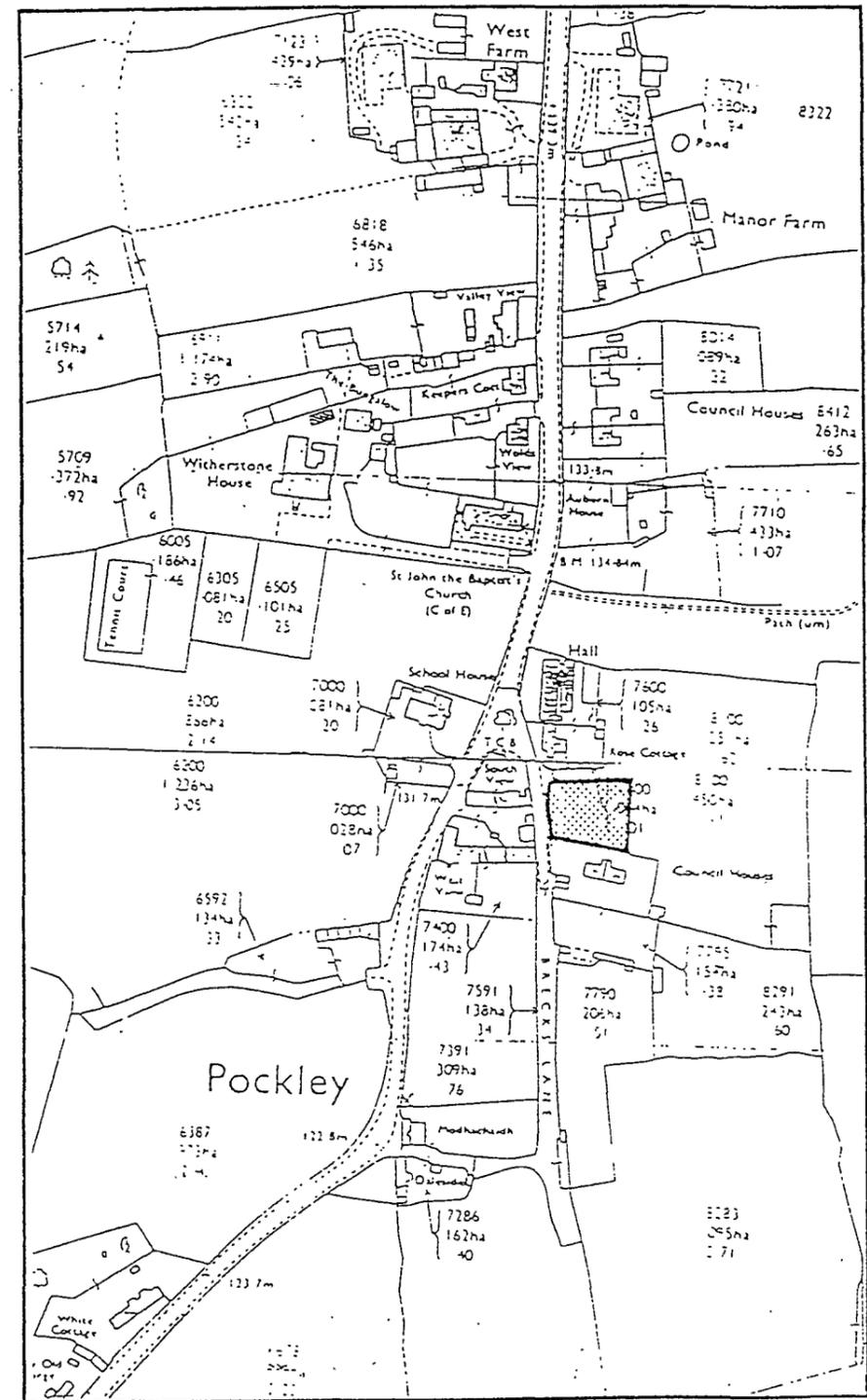
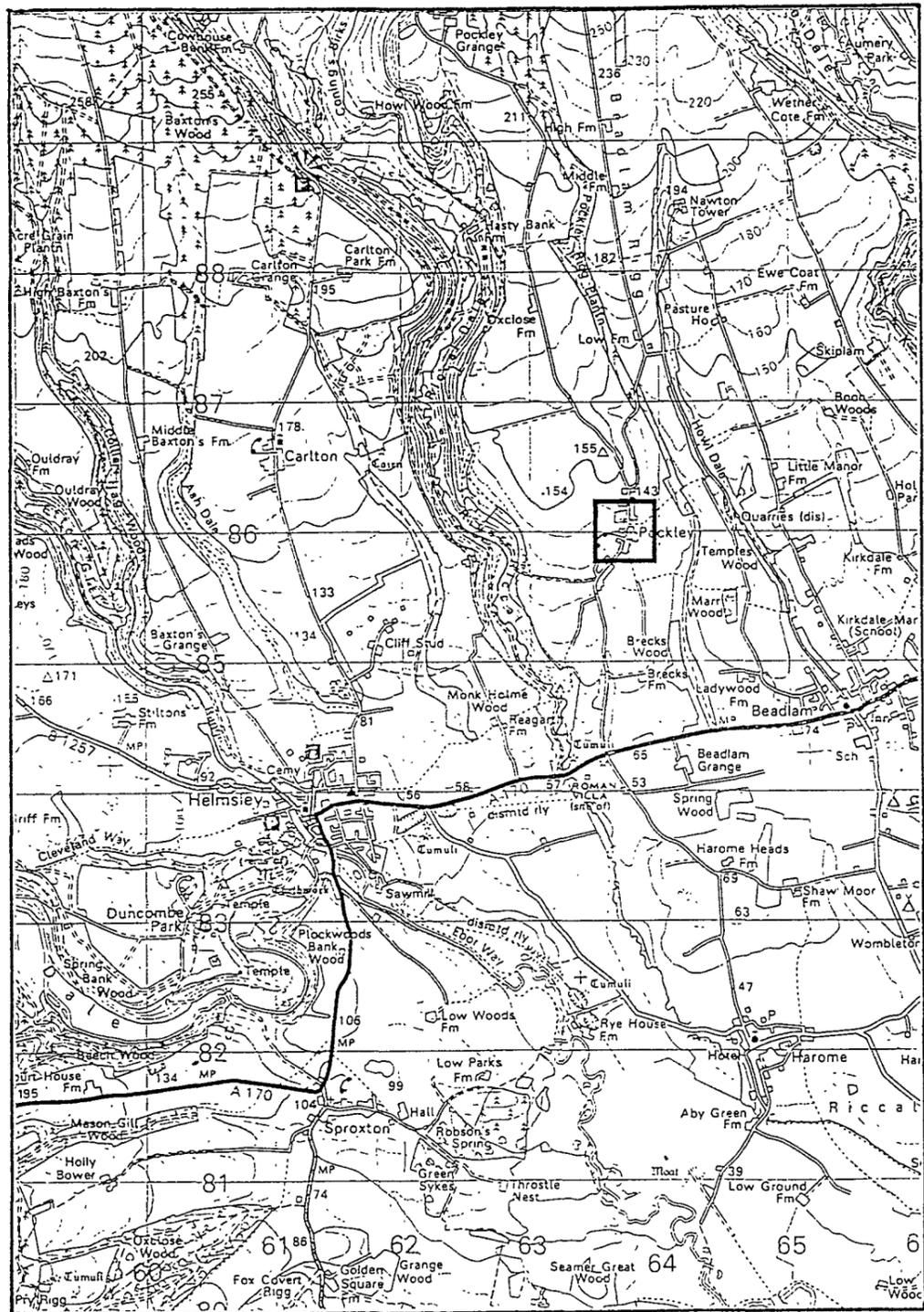
The site was a roughly rectangular plot measuring 32m by 23m at its greatest extent, and short grass covered the area before trial trenching on 29th and 30th of January, 1997.

## 3. Archaeological Background

Pockley, recorded as *Pochelaf* in the Domesday Book of 1086, records that *Ulf* had one manor here and one carucate of land was taxable (Faull & Stinson 1986). The name of Pockley is possibly derived from the personal element of *Poca* and *leah* meaning Poca's forest clearing (Smith 1928).

Documents reveal that there were eighteen taxpayers by 1300 (Brown 1897) and evidence of medieval activity is depicted on air photographs in the form of old field systems. These are situated all around the village. Indeed, on the eastern side of Brecks Lane the earthworks and current land boundaries seem to indicate that there might have been platforms along the current lane with a back lane to the east, and medieval fields running off beyond this. Listed buildings in the village date from the 17th to the 19th century, although it is possible that the 17th century houses are of earlier origin, some having cruck frames (Keith & Webb 1996).

The cartographic appraisal suggested there may be building foundations in the north-west corner of the site, and also suggests visible earthworks may be the remains of medieval field boundaries. Geophysical survey revealed a high resistance linear anomaly running E-W along the northern edge of the site, very close to the modern field boundary.



Reproduced from the 1969 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's stationary office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. West Yorkshire Archaeology Service: licence 076406, 1995.

Fig. 1 General and Detailed Site Location

Fig.1

#### **4. Methodology**

Four trial trenches were located across the plot, determined by the results of geophysical survey and visible earthworks. Using the grid first laid out during this survey, the areas of excavation were measured out using 30m tapes and then clearly demarcated. These areas, known as Trenches 1 - 4, were then excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.8m toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. Any archaeological deposits encountered were excavated where possible to determine their extent and nature, and recorded using the WYAS standard method (Boucher 1995). An inventory of the resulting primary archive is presented in Appendix I.

#### **5. Results (Fig. 2)**

These excavations revealed a number of archaeological features in three of the four trenches (Fig. 2). Trench 1 contained a linear feature running approximately N - S, and known as F104 (Plate I). A 1.2m section through this feature revealed it to have a width of 0.60m and a roughly U-shaped profile cut into the bedrock to a depth of about 0.40m. It contained 24 sherds of pottery, which appear to be medieval in date. This feature, most probably a ditch, may have been cut by a later feature, F106, at some point. Unfortunately, constraints of time and the apparent modernity of this subsequent feature resulted in its recording in plan only.

Trench 2, twice the size of the other trenches, was by far the most rich in archaeological deposits. Firstly, it was found to contain a wall, F204, running E - W across the northern end of the trench (Plate II). This rough coursed dry-stone wall was found to be standing seven courses high, despite its partial destruction (Plate III). It measured around 0.80m high, was 0.70m wide and ran for 2m through the trench. The wall was constructed using apparently local limestone rocks, and there was no evidence of any bonding agent being used in its construction.

Secondly, the remains of a possible structure, F206, also built of stone, were identified in the trench (Plate IV). These lay underneath large amounts of what appeared to be building rubble, and consisted of a linear arrangement of stonework 4.5m by 0.5m, with a possible further 'wall' at 90° to this. The construction was very different to that of F204, with larger, flatter limestone blocks employed and a sand-based mortar between layers. Two courses of this stonework were seen to have survived, but as this feature was not fully excavated, and recorded only in plan, it is impossible to suggest how much of

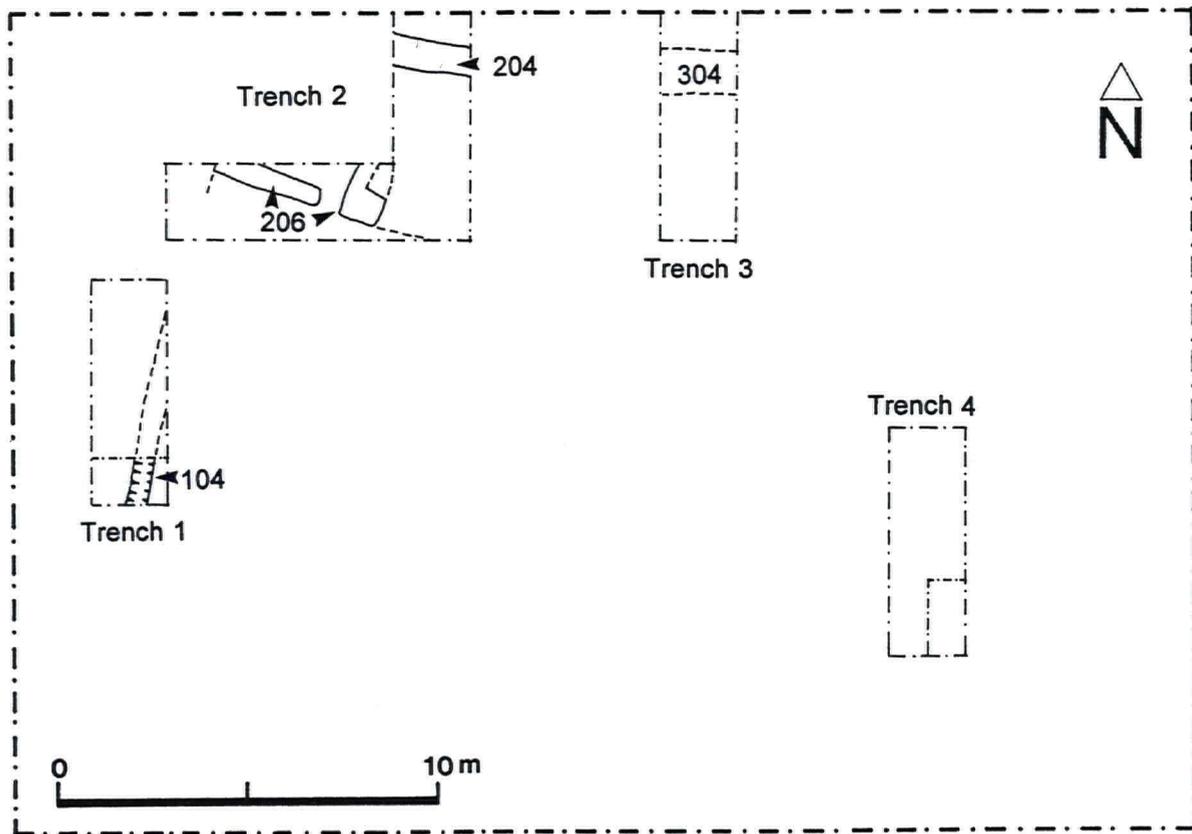
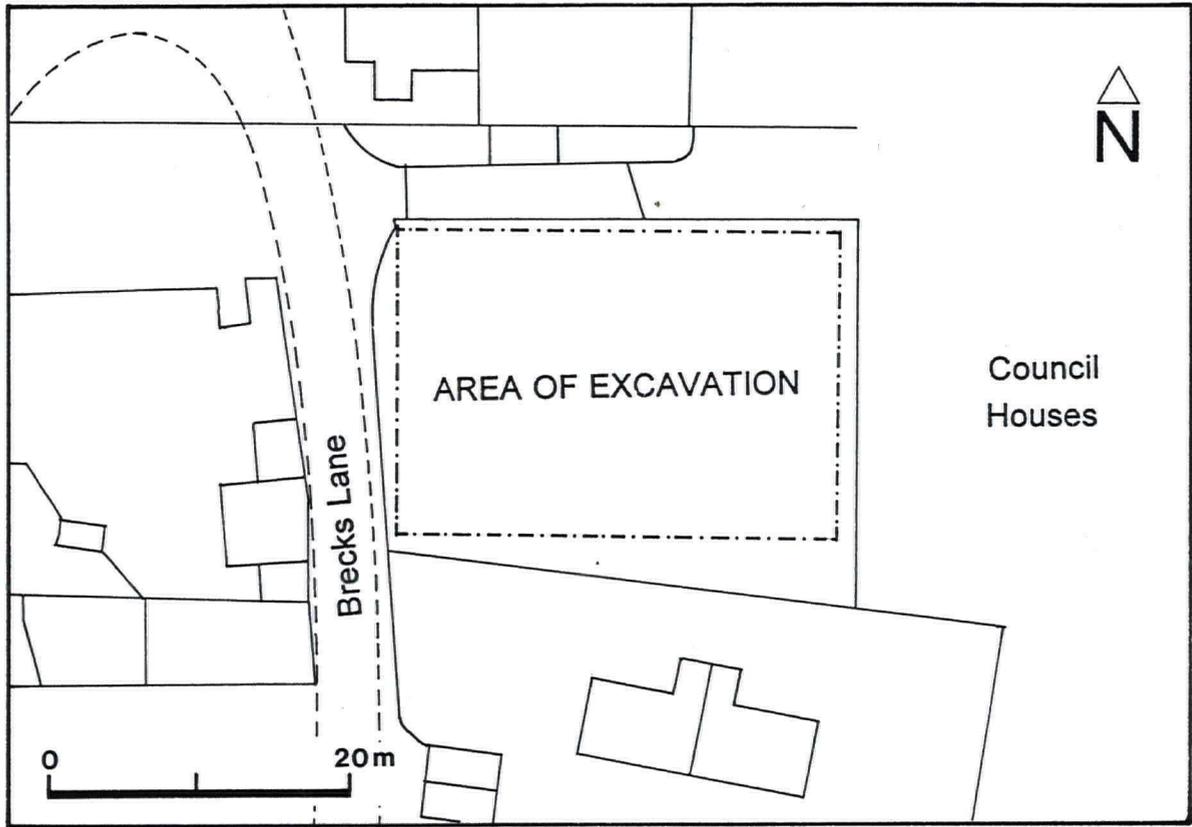


Fig.2



Plate I: South facing section through ditch cut F104 in Trench 1



Plate II: Wall F.204 looking west in Trench 2



Plate III: The south face of wall F204 in Trench 2

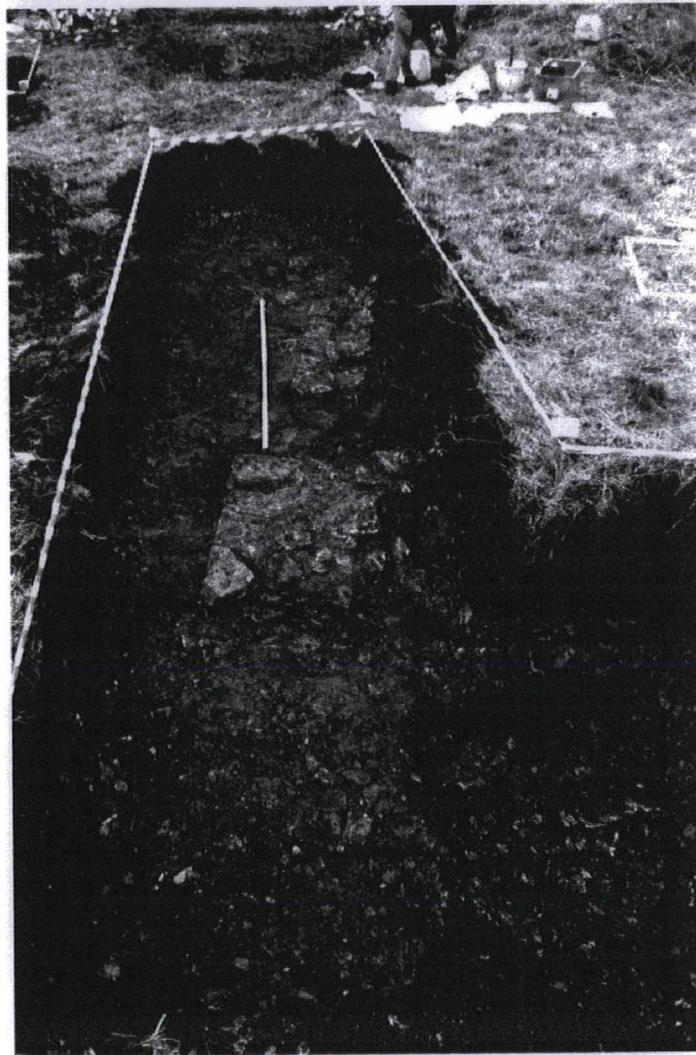


Plate IV: Foundations F206 looking west in Trench 2

this structure might be intact. A charcoal rich deposit found closely associated with this feature (207) may also provide evidence of domestic activity in the immediate area.

Overlying all these deposits was a thick layer of rubble, which appeared to mainly consist of the same materials used in F206, including the sandy mortar. It is from this context (205) that 47 pottery sherds were recovered. These also seem to date from the medieval period and so give a *terminus post quem* for the destruction of the structure.

13-14 C  
destruction

Trench 3 was found to contain what appeared to be a continuation of F204, and known in this trench as F304. It too was covered by a layer of rubble, similar to that in Trench 2. This section of the wall was not excavated fully, so its state of preservation was not determined.

Trench 4, positioned to investigate a geophysical anomaly, revealed this to be caused simply by the underlying geology, and no archaeological features were identified in this trench.

Copies of a selection of primary archive drawings from these trenches are provided as Appendix II.

## 6. The Finds

Eighty-nine fragments of pottery were recovered from the trial excavations. The majority of vessels represented date to the 13th and 14th centuries, although 15th century and later fragments were in evidence. Staxton and Brandsby type wares were present in the assemblage, as were a range of gritty and splashed glaze wares. The vast majority of the pottery was derived from deposits associated with the likely domestic structure encountered in Trench 2.

Small amounts of animal bone and some iron artefacts were also recovered. A full list of artefacts by context is provided as part of the archive inventory in Appendix I.

## 7. Conclusions

It is clear from these trial trenches that some of the earthworks and geophysical anomalies do indeed relate to the medieval village of Pockley. The best preserved feature, F204, may be the remains of a field boundary dating from this period. The orientation and proximity to the line of the medieval boundary makes this seem likely, although no absolute dating evidence was found from this context. The lack of any kind of bonding agent in the construction of this wall also suggests that it forms part of