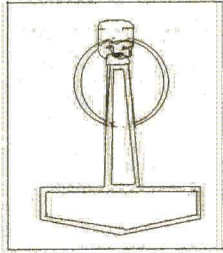


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ENY	6278
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Parish	2158
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

ROMAN WAY,

THORNTON-LE-STREET

SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT NO. NY472

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ROMAN WAY,
THORNTON-LE-STREET, THIRSK, NORTH YORKSHIRE
SCHEDULED MONUMENT COUNTY NUMBER NY472, NGR: SE41258641**

INTRODUCTION

Mr Harvey, owner of Roman Way, Thornton-le-Street, proposed to build an extension on the south side of his bungalow. The property is built on land scheduled as an Ancient Monument (County No. NY472), and as such is of archaeological significance. The site is part of a deserted medieval village, and extant earthworks survive in the fields to the north and east of the house. These include trackways and crofts and tofts.

Permission was sought for the work from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Buildings, Monuments and Sites Division), and this was granted on condition that work was supervised by an archaeologist.

The relevant ground disturbance work was carried out on 18th and 19th May 1998.

THE WATCHING BRIEF

The proposed extension involved the hand excavation of three trenches in the garden on the south side of the bungalow (see plan 2). The ground was mainly level, with a rise to the south-west where there was a heather and conifer bed. The trenches were 60cm. wide and 90cm. deep. The east and west trenches were 4 metres long, and the south trench was 4.3 metres long.

WEST TRENCH

For 1.1 metres from the side of the bungalow was a concrete path 10cm. thick, beneath which was a disturbed fill of brown loamy clay with brick rubble. At a depth of 33cm the concrete foundations of the bungalow were encountered, extending for approximately 50cm from the wall and 30cm deep. Beneath and beyond these disturbances was a reddish brown clay interleaved with blue and yellow mottled clay containing large and small pebbles and cobbles. To the south of the path where the trench ran through the heather bed this clay was overlaid by gravel and topsoil to a depth of 15cm, then a loose brown loamy clay to a depth of 30cm. In the southern corner, where the ground rose to the south-west, was a layer of brownish-yellow silty sand between the topsoil and the clay, reaching a depth of 60cm from the surface at its highest point.

SOUTH TRENCH

The western end of the south trench contained the layer of sand noted in the west trench, gradually narrowing and disappearing by 2 metres from the end. East of this, the reddish brown clay with cobbles was overlaid at 55cm below the surface by a brown loamy clay with occasional pebbles and some root disturbance. This in turn was overlaid by brown loam with root mat and turf on the surface. None of the interfaces was clear, each layer merging with the next. Some of the stones in the clay were very large, reaching up to 60cm. in length, and were of irregular shape.

EAST TRENCH

The eastern trench continued the same soils as the southern trench, up to the point where the concrete path crossed the trench against the side of the house. Here brick rubble underlaid the path to a depth of 35cm, coming down directly onto red clay with cobbles. The foundations of the bungalow were encountered as in the west trench.

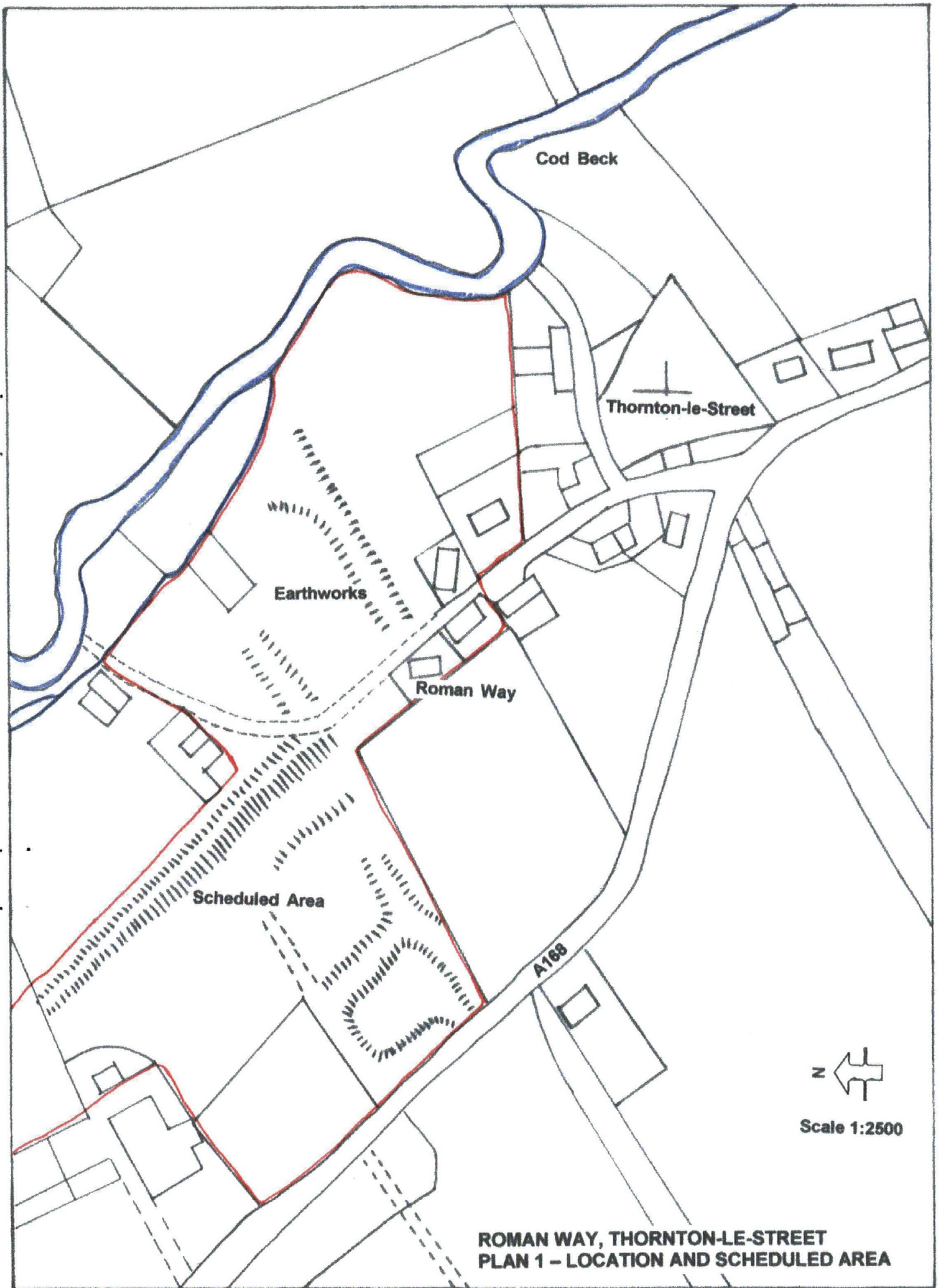
ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

No features of archaeological interest were observed. The reddish brown and blue mottled clays were clearly glacial boulder clays and represented undisturbed natural. The sandy layer seemed to represent a deliberate build up of the ground to form a raised bed.

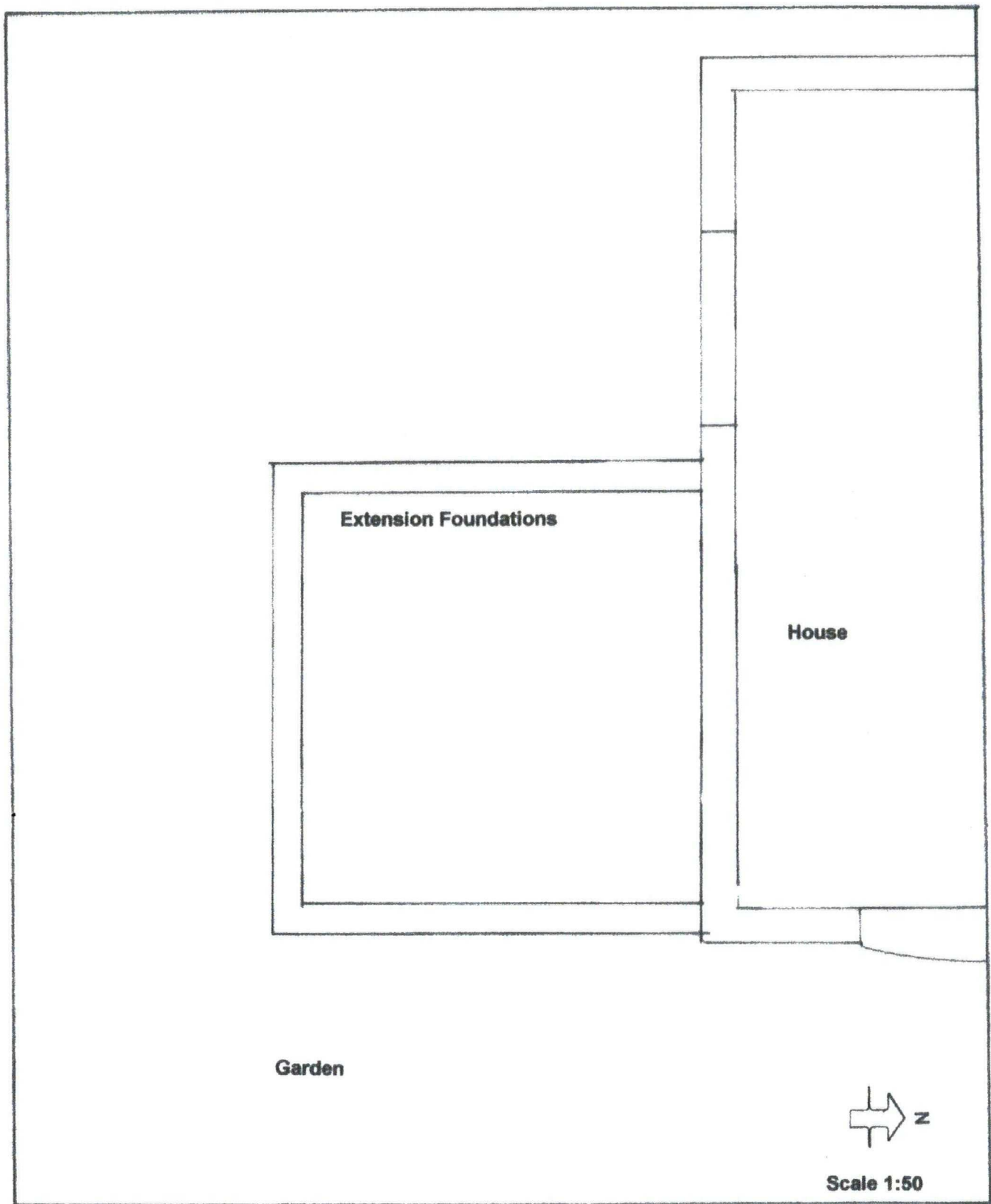
In the brown loamy clay above the boulder clay, between 30 and 40 cm below the surface, a few fragments of animal bone were recovered. Identifiable fragments were all sheep. Three fragments of medieval pottery were also found in the same layer. One body sherd has grey fabric and a dark green glaze which has partly flaked off, and is probably Hambleton Ware. The other two, a plain rim and part of a small strap handle with a very worn pale green glaze, are probably Humber Ware. All probably date to the fourteenth century.

CONCLUSIONS

The lack of archaeological features could be a result of the small area observed, or could reflect a clearing of the site when the original bungalow was built. Alternatively, it could be that this was not an area of intensive occupation. The presence of small amounts of bone and pottery indicates the survival of some evidence of activity, but is not sufficient in itself to prove occupation on this part of the medieval village.



**ROMAN WAY, THORNTON-LE-STREET
PLAN 1 - LOCATION AND SCHEDULED AREA**



**ROMAN WAY, THORNTON-LE-STREET
PLAN 2 - SITE**