

NYCC HER	
SNY	19100
ENY	6340
CNY	
Parish	3042
Rec'd	?1994

Desk-top Evaluation

**Quarry Hill,
Foston,
North Yorkshire.**

Paula Ware.

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1. Introduction

In order to process a planning application for a site to the south of Belmont, Quarry Hill, at Foston, North Yorkshire SE 6950 6404 (Fig. 1), an archaeological desktop evaluation was required. MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. were approached by Peter Rayment Design Ltd, on behalf of their client to undertake the work.

The evaluation was undertaken to examine what historical and cartographic sources revealed about the site and whether it was likely any archaeological remains survived in situ due to the close proximity of the moated site, Scheduled Ancient Monument number 235 (Fig.5).

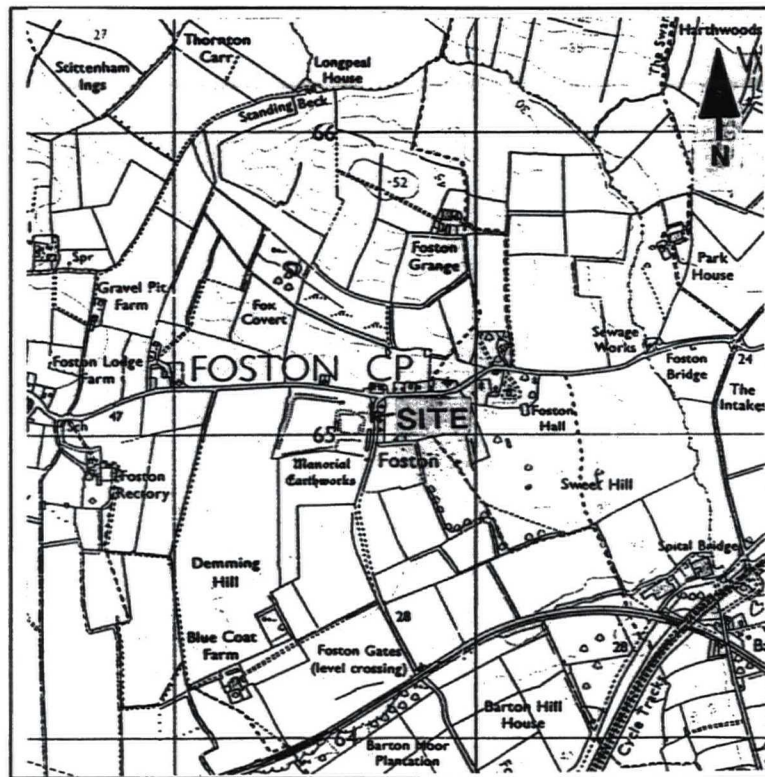


Figure 1.
Site Location Plan. Scale 1:25000

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2. Archaeological and Historical Background

The moated site is located within the village of Foston (Fig. 1). The geology of the site is Paleozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shale overlain by Dunkeswick till (711p). The road from Thornton-le-Clay bounds the site to the north and a road to the A64 bounds the site to the east. The site was levelled by the farmer in 1984, after which excavation took place (pl.6). No archaeological excavation records are published from the excavations of 1984 or 1985. Extracts from a survey undertaken by RCHM (York) in 1979 are included as they are the only known survey of the moated site. Le Patourel (1973) states that the site is an A2(b) moat with a fishpond, originally the Grange of St. Mary's Abbey, York, with an internal bank on the south enclosure and a stone revetted moat (pl.1).

The present form of Foston derived in the following; Forentum and Fostun (11th century); Fostern, Fosseton, Foston by Kirkham (14th century), Foston-le-clay (19th century).

The manor with 8 carucates formerly belonged to Mercia held by Count Alan in 1086, and was given by Count Stephen (c. of Albemarle) to the Abbey of St. Mary's of York. In 1167/8 payment made by the abbot from Foston formed part of Liberty of St. Mary's and continued to the beginning of 14th century. The fee of the wapentake always belonged to the crown.

In the 14th century inhabitants of Foston, Thornton and Barton and others. petitioned the King against inclusion of their territory in the Forest of Galtres from which they were formerly disafforested.

The possessions of the Abbey in Foston came to the crown in 1539. They were twice leased, in 1546 to Sir Ralph Bagnal and 1577 to Richard Stalham. In 1591 the manor was sold to Thomas Bamburgh of Howsham for £993 4s. 6d. to be held for 1/20 of a Knight's fee. The manor followed the descent of Crambe until 1643 when it came to Thomas Norcliffe with the partition of the Bamburgh Estates. Francis daughter of Thomas Norcliffe held Foston with her husband Nicholas Richards from 1698 to 1704. In 1890 Sir Edmund Lechmere was Lord of Manor, since this time manorial rights seem to have lapsed.

The Court Leet and View of Frankpledge were ^{appurtenances} apertures of this manor.

The common fields were enclosed in 1639/40, when Sir John Hotham was Lord by right or his wife Katherine Bamburgh. In 1657 Tristram Otby was involved in a suit to recover tithes and stated how he resisted inclosure and only consented when Sir John added 60 acres from the moor of Foston and 30 in Thornton to the rectory lands.

The present Foston Hall was built on the old Manor House in 1823 by Reverend Francis Simpson and was designed by Sydney Smith Rector of the parish, 1806-1829. The ancient parish church with a few cottages stands on the opposite side of the road and one mile from the small school house.

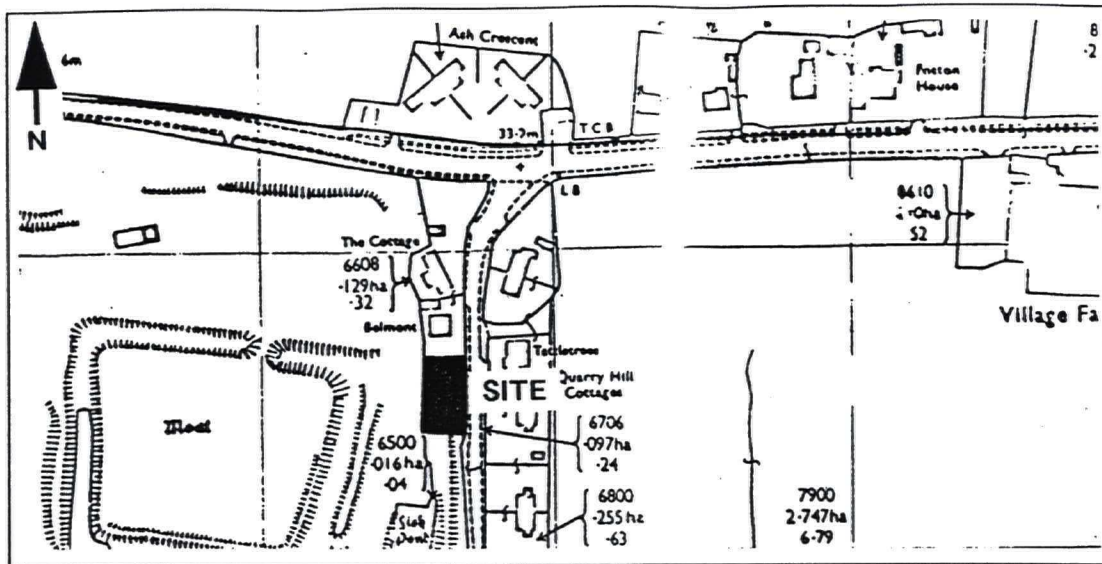


Figure 2.
Site Location Plan, Scale 1:2500.

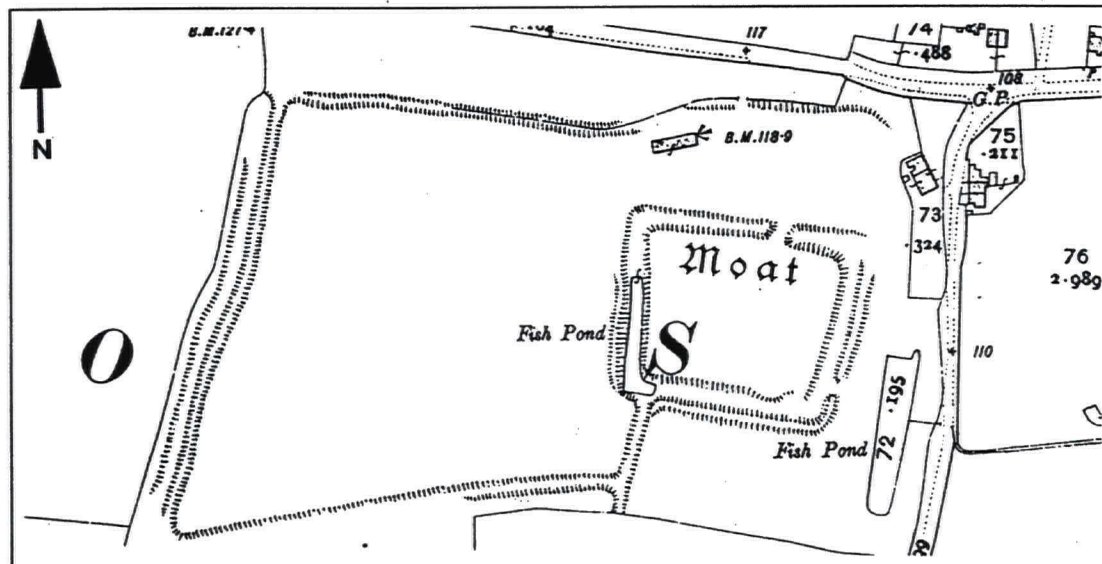


Figure 3.
Moated Site on 1911 Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Scale 1:2500.

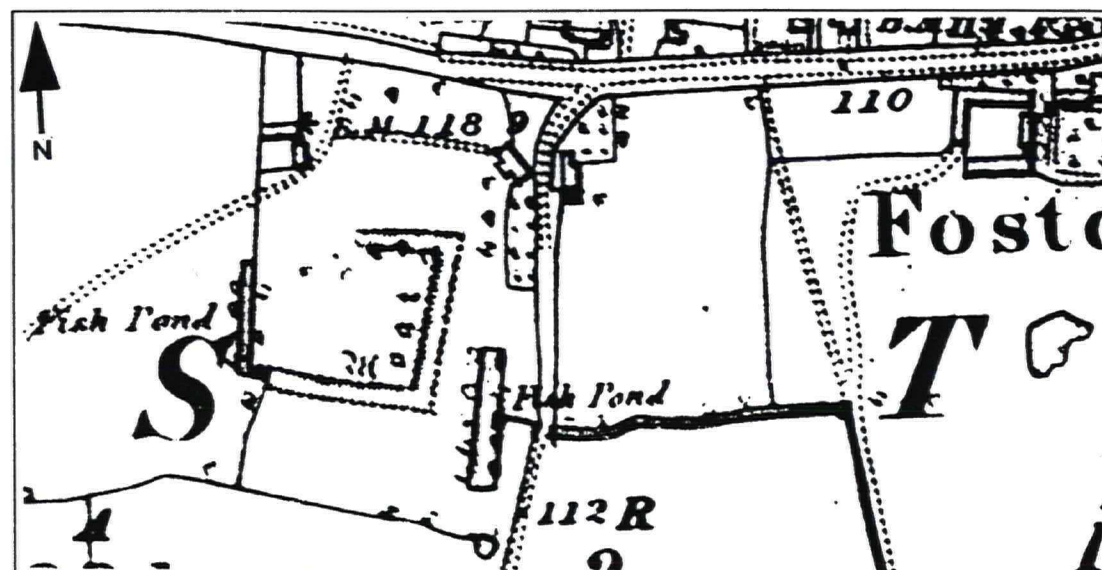
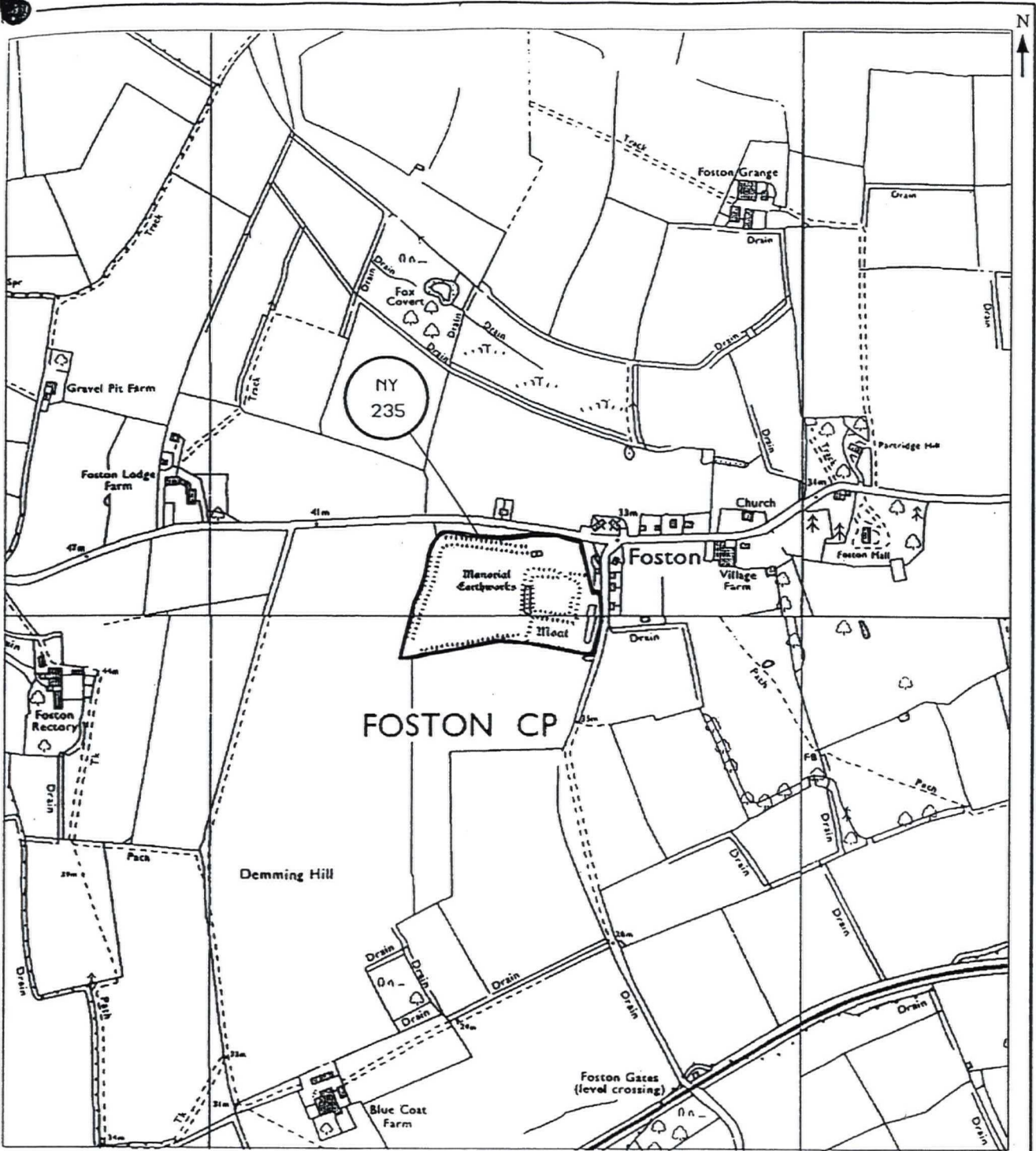


Figure 4.
Moated Site on First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1856).

Scheduled Monument



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For identification purposes only

Site Name: Foston Moated Site

County: Yorkshire, North

District: Ryedale

Parish: Foston

Notes:

Key: Monument No. Location/extent of site



Scale: 1:10000

Derived from: 1:10000

Centred on NGR:

SE69506505

Extract from OS sheet:

SE66NE

Date: 26.5.94

Monument No: NY235

Figure 5.

Location Of Scheduled Ancient monument (No. 235), Scale 1:10000.

There was a church in Foston 1086 in the fee of Count Alan, however most of the outer walls of All Saints Church date from the first half of the 12th century. Extensive building work took place in the late 13th century, when the west window was inserted.

Extract from RCHM (York) Earthwork survey 1979 (pls 2,3,4, and 5).

"A rectangular moat 70m E-W by 60m is defined by ditches and 0.5m high on the E and S and an external bank 8m wide and 0.5m wide in the E, S and W. Much of the north side has been filled and obscured in recent years. The interior has a mound at the NE corner, a rectangular platform 25m E-W by 15m in the centre and a similar sized but more rounded platform 0.6m high aligned N-S adjoining the south side. A modern drainage channel runs E-W across the north third. Part of the west side is water filled.

The moat lies within a trapezoidal enclosure 280m E-W by 170m defined on the east by a scoop 1.5m high down to the road which runs immediately outside it, on the south by a ditch and internal bank, on the west by two ditches both with internal banks, of which the outer is probably a hollow-way outside the original ditch, and on the north partly by the ditch and partly by the scarp.

Subdivisions within the outer enclosure may all be later but the most prominent is a rectangular enclosure 30-40m wide and 60m N-S attached to the west side of the moat with a staggered entrance on the west. The ditch now formed on the east side, south of the moat, appears to be late, cutting the south side. To the west of this enclosure is a mound, diameter 6m and 0.6m high, flat topped, perhaps for a dovecote.

A rectangular fishpond, south-east of the moat, is a prominent feature. It is 73m N-S by 20m and 3m deep to the water level. Some slight banks and mounds to the west and two scarps, 0.3m high, forming a terrace to the north may be old.

In the north-east angle of the outer enclosure between the north ditch of the moat and the north facing scoop is an area of ridge and furrow running north-south. Nine ridges up to 11m wide can be distinguished. To the west of these is a hollow-way running from the gate into the field which appears to be recent. A footpath shown on the 1st Edition O.S. 6 inch map lay to the west of this. A pile of bricks marks the site of a building shown by that and later maps as standing within a small enclosure. It had a limestone east wall and was otherwise of brick but collapsed in 1978-9.

The road from Thornton-le-Clay to Foston bounds the field on the north, beside it are the the south part of seven rectangular or rounded platforms 1m high, 10m N-S and varying from 40m to 8m E-W. These may be connected with a hollow-way running NW and forming the road opposite the north corner of the field, which looks like the predecessor of the present road. The platforms do not look like buildings and could be a scarp broken by ditches or furrows, probably ends of tofts.



Plate 1.
Aerial View of Foston (1973), Facing North.

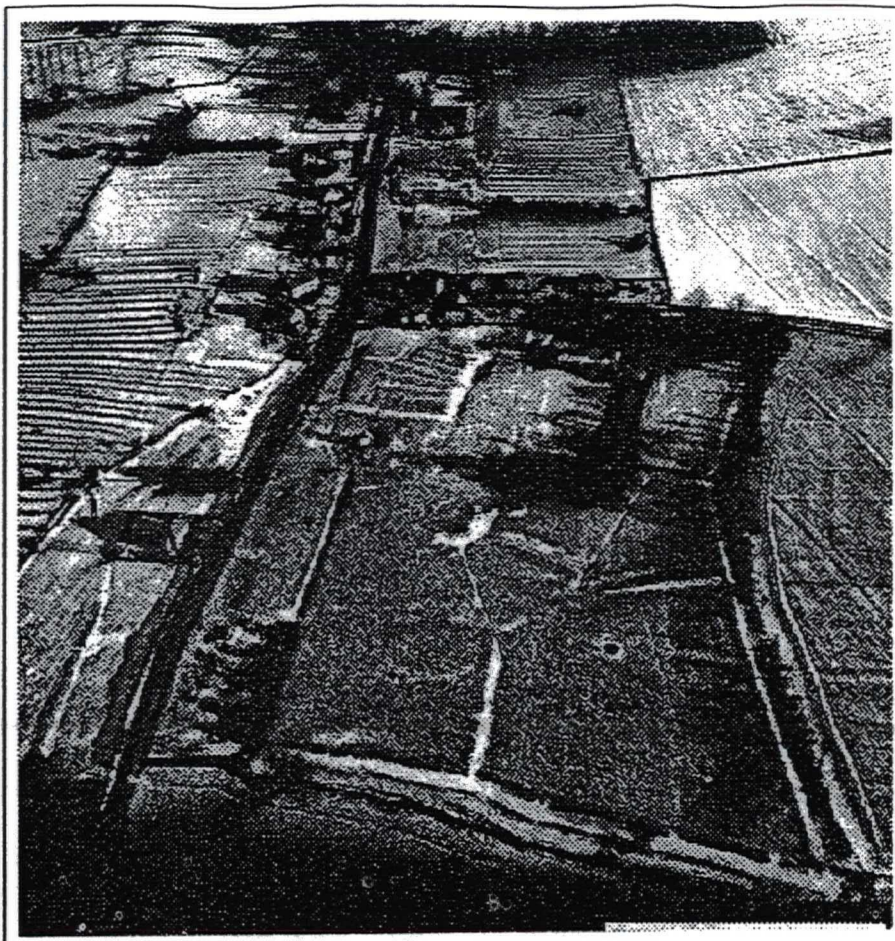


Plate 2.
Aerial View of Moated Site (1979), Facing East.

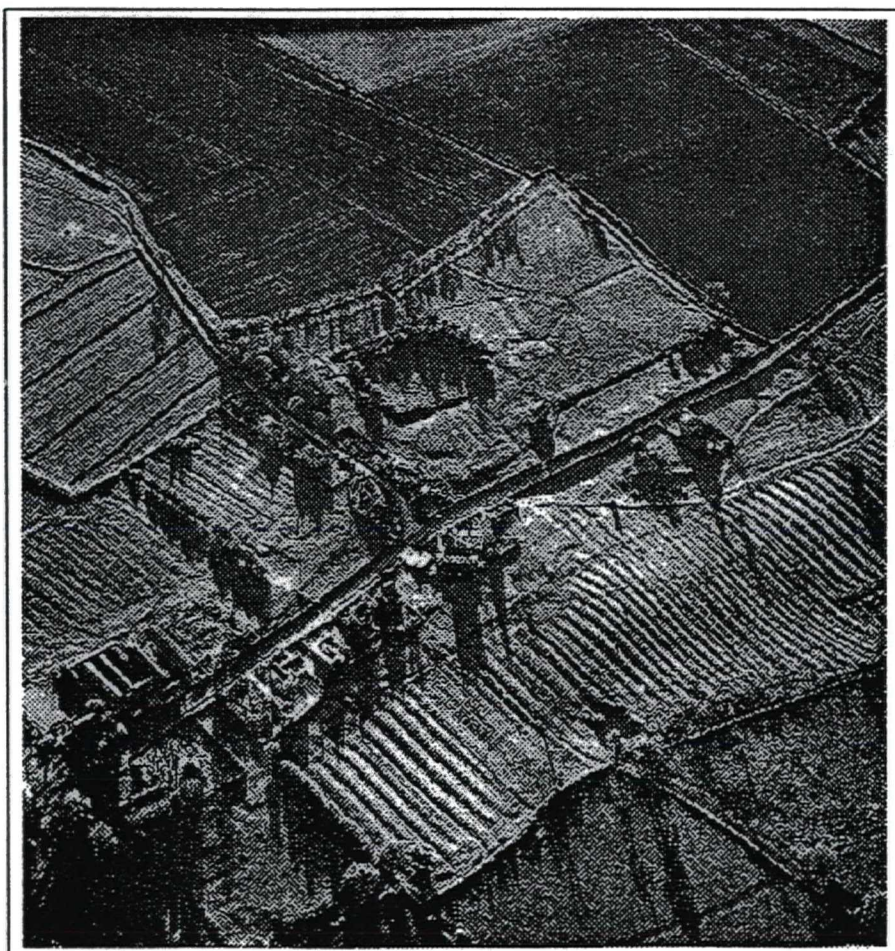


Plate 3.
Aerial View of Evaluation Site and Moated Site (1969), Facing South-west.

The farmer, Mr. Watson of Blue Coat Fram, did not know of any traditional name for the field but produced a drainage map of 1892, a copy of one of 1874 showing that Mr. Taylor the tenant of what was then called Foston Farm had put in drains along the ditches of the moat and outer enclosure and that some of the slighter E-W ditches probably originated as drains.

He intends to level some or all of the earthworks and use the field as arable."

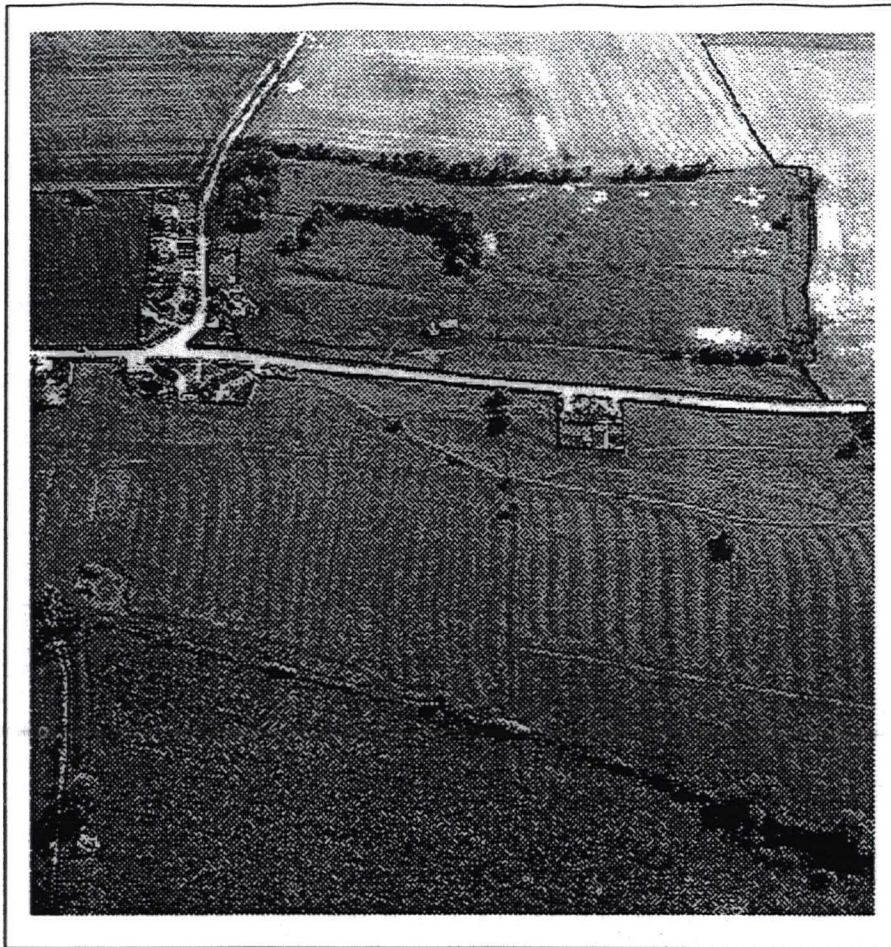


Plate 4.
Aerial View of Moated Site (1977), Facing South.

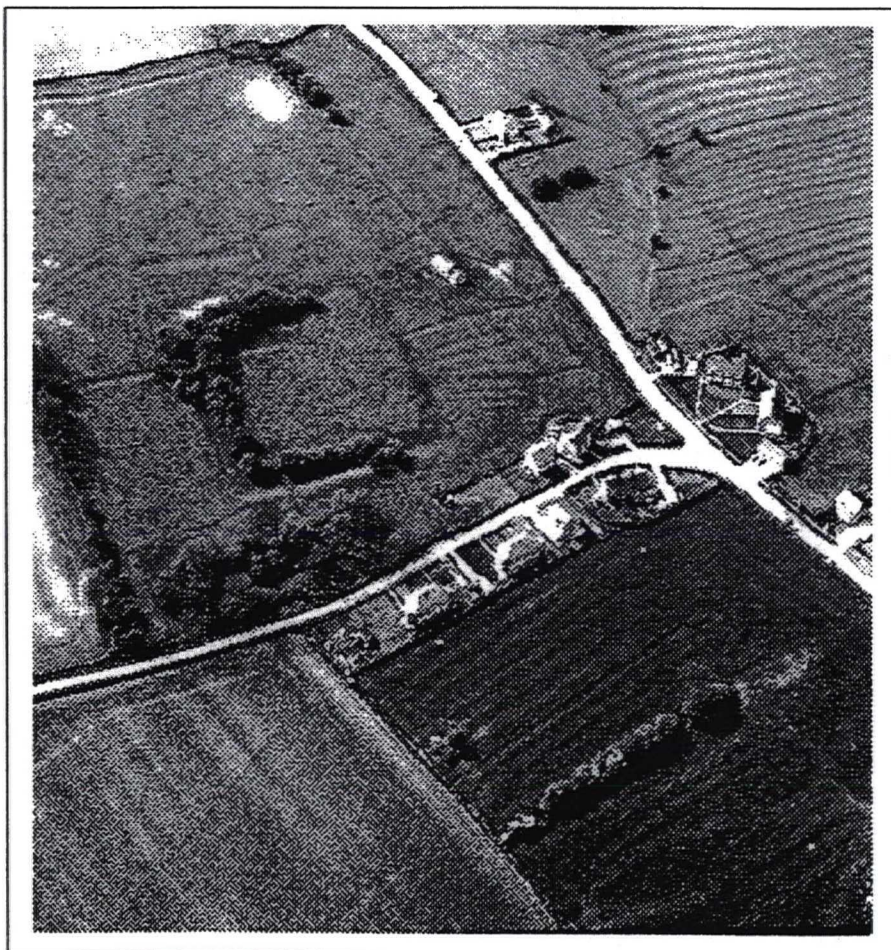


Plate 5.
Aerial View of Evaluation Site and Moated Site (1977), Facing West.

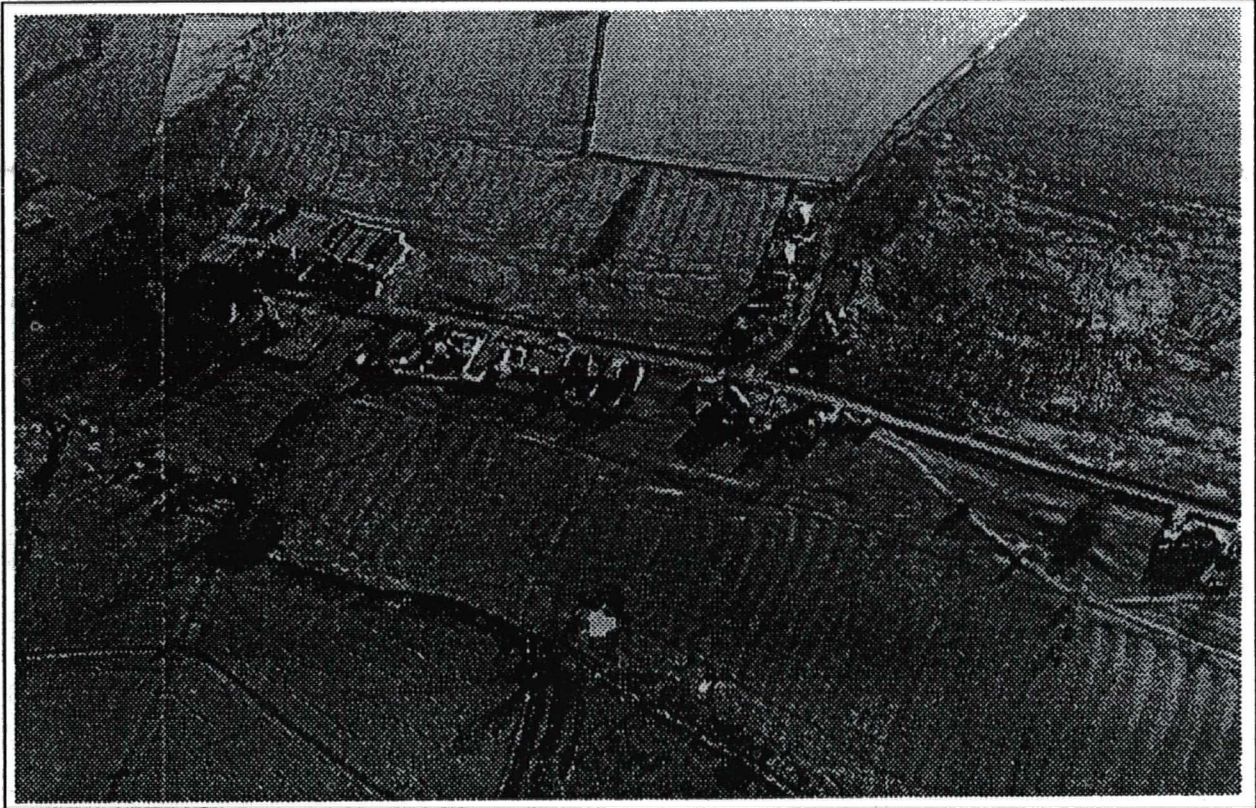


Plate 6.
Aerial View of Moated Site (1984), Facing South.

3. CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

The site does not appear to have been developed in modern times and is shown on all O.S map editions as a garden plot (Figs. 2,3 and 4). The close proximity to the moated site and the undefined edges of the moat in the north -eastern corner suggest the possibility that archaeological remains could survive on the proposed development.

4. Recommendations

Due to the archaeological potential of the site, it is felt that this survey should be followed by limited trial trenching to see if the suspected archaeology survives. It is not felt that a geophysical survey in such a small area would be practical.

5. Bibliography

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