

acknowledged 24/4/95
MSL

NYCC HER	
SNY	19101
ENY	6341
CNY	
Parish	3042
Rec'd	1995

Archaeological Evaluation

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

Quarry Hill, Foston, North Yorkshire Archaeological Evaluation

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Quarry Hill, Foston, North Yorkshire Archaeological Evaluation

Introduction

In order to process a planning application for a site to the south of Belmont, Quarry Hill, Foston, North Yorkshire (SE 6950 6404: Figs. 1 and 2), an archaeological evaluation by trial excavation was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the nature, extent and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. All work and plant has been funded by Mr Watson.

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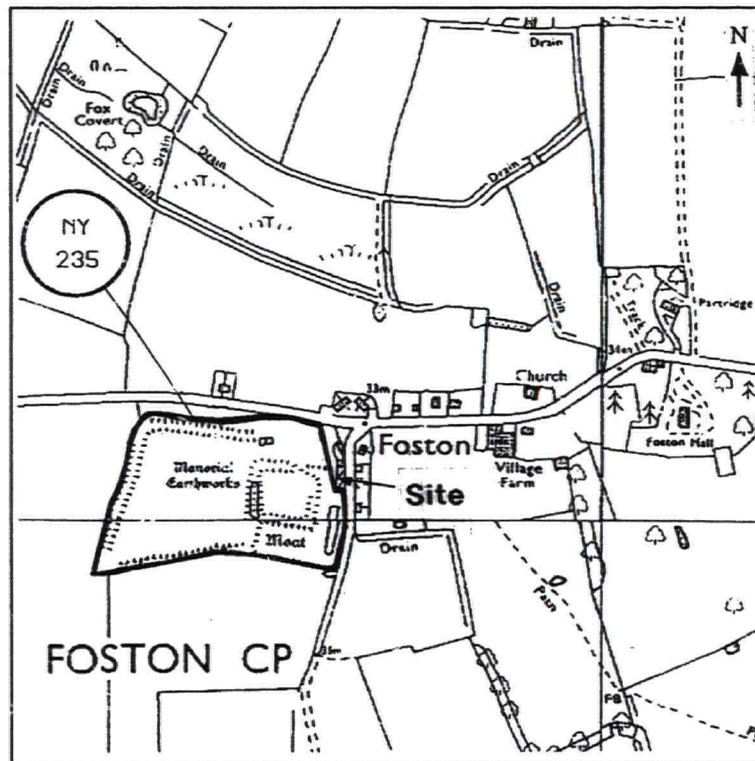


Figure 1.

Site Location Plan. Scale 1:10000.

The site lies approximately 20m to the north-east of a moated site, Scheduled Ancient Monument County Number NY 235 (Fig. 1). The earthworks were removed in 1984 but two scarps associated with the fish pond (situated 20m south of the site.) run northwards before stopping abruptly at the site's southern boundary.

The geology of the site is Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shale overlain by Dunkeswick till 711p (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

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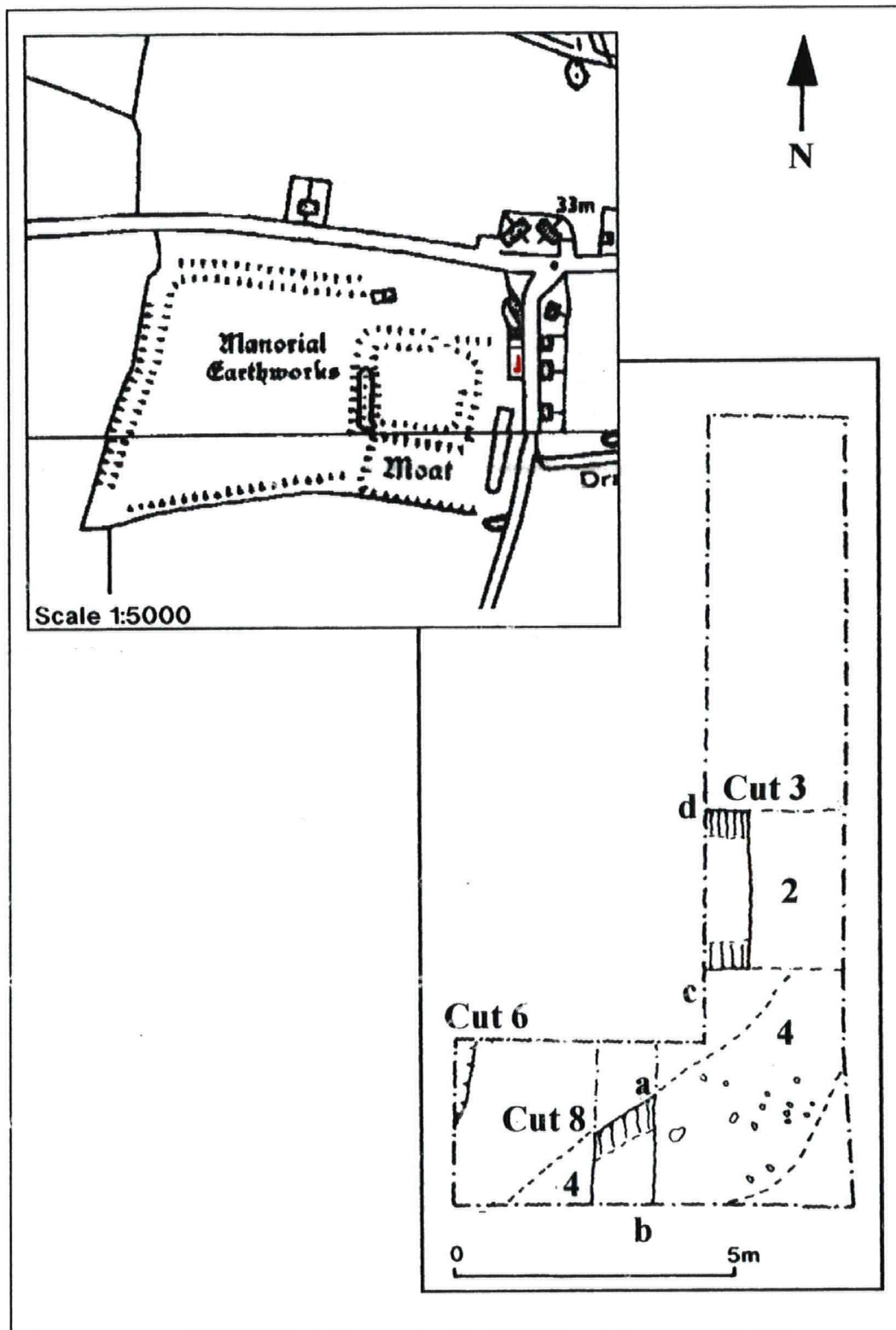


Figure 2.
Trench location plan.

Excavation method

A single L-shaped trench 13m by 2m was excavated (Fig. 2). The top soil was removed by machine using a toothless bucket. The trench was cleaned by hand and recorded for paper and photographic archive (Figs. 2-4: Appendices 1-3).

Excavation Results

A total of three features, cuts 3, 6 and 8, were uncovered after the removal of the topsoil, context 1.

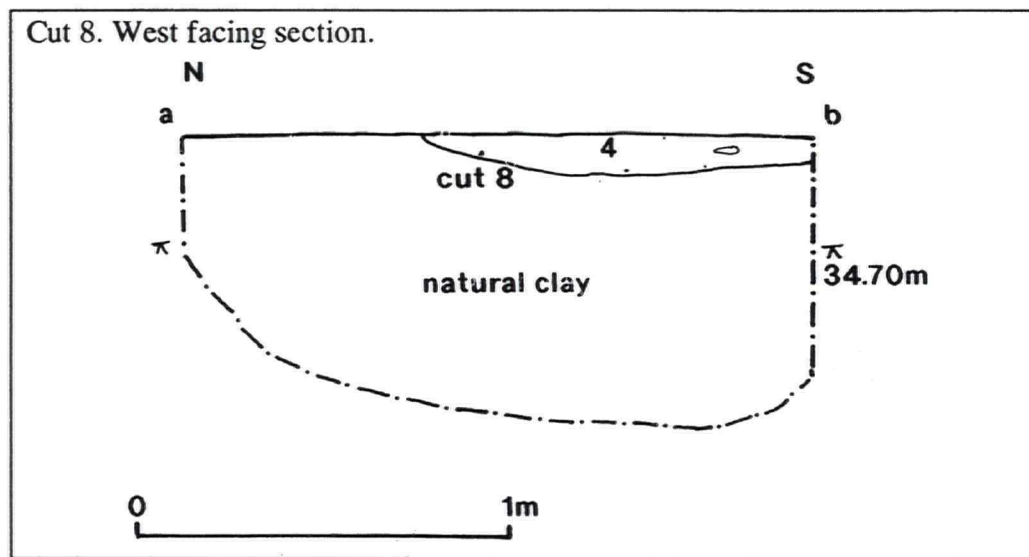


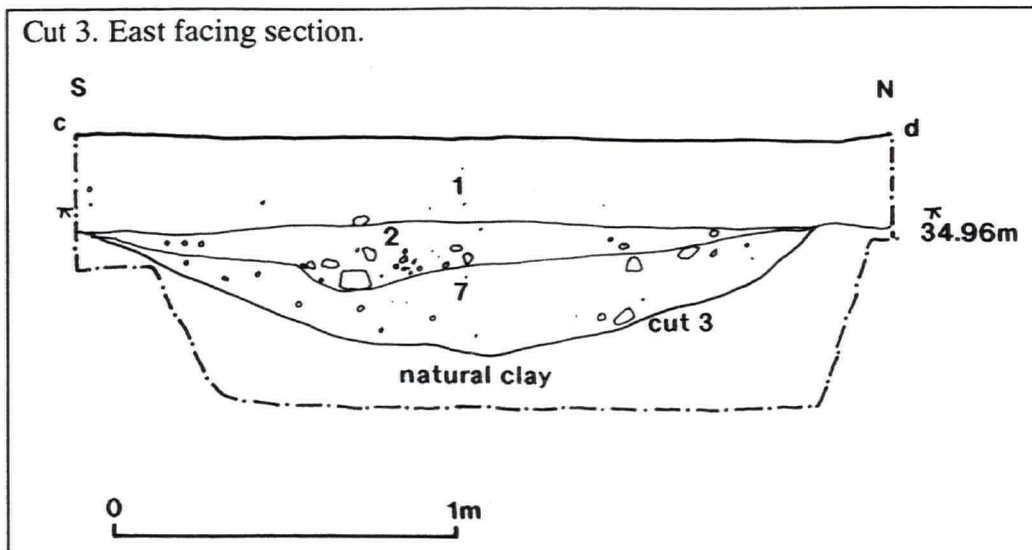
Figure 3.

Context 8 was the cut of a shallow feature, 6.7m long, 1.05m wide and 0.10m deep orientated south-west to north-east and was filled by context 4, a sandy clay (Figs. 2 and 3), which contained cobbles.

Six sherds of late medieval pottery and one piece of bone were recovered from context 4 (Appendix 4).

Context 3, the cut of a linear feature, measured 2.15m wide and 0.39m deep and was orientated east to west across the trench (Fig. 2). It contained two fills, contexts 2 and 7. Context 2, a loose sandy clay with fragments of limestone, brick and tile and occasional cobbles, survived to a depth of 0.17m. Context 7, a sticky clay, contained occasional fragments of limestone and cobbles (Fig. 4). This feature cut the north-eastern extent of cut 8.

In total five pieces of post-medieval pottery, one piece of medieval pottery, one bone fragment and a bronze buckle were recovered from context 2. A piece of clay pipe stem and a bone fragment were found in context 7.



In the south-western corner of the excavation trench a shallow depression, context 6, measuring 1.20m by 0.41m, survived to a depth of 0.03m. The fill, context 5, was a loamy soil similar to the topsoil, context 1, and contained only a single piece of bone.

Summary

Of the features excavated, it would appear by stratigraphic and finds assemblage association that cut 8 is the earliest excavated feature. This feature may represent a medieval plough furrow. A later feature, context 3, may represent the remnants of a path. Context 6 is likely to be a modern intrusion.

Conclusions

The aerial photographic evidence (MAP 1994) suggested the possibility of archaeological features running north-west to south-east through the site. However, the two linear features encountered, contexts 3 and 8, do not correlate with this. The most prominent of these two features, context 3, is post medieval and context 8, while probably medieval, appears to be a shallow plough furrow.

None of the features observed could be related to the moated site to the west.

Recommendations

Based on the results of the evaluation trench it is suggested that no further archaeological work is required for the application area.

References

MAP Desk top evaluation Foston, 1994.

Soil Survey of England and Wales Soils of England and Wales, Sheet 1 Northern
England, Soil Survey of England and Wales
1983.

Appendix 1

Context Listing

Context	Description
1	Top soil; loam, 10YR 3/2
2	Fill of 3; sandy clay, 10YR 4/4
3	Cut of modern feature
4	Fill of 8; sandy clay, 10YR 3/4
5	Fill of 6; clay loam, 10YR 3/1
6	Cut of modern feature
7	Fill of 3; clay, 10YR 4/3
8	Cut of linear feature

Appendix 2

Archive Listing

1. Trench plan. Scale 1:50.
2. Cut 3. East facing section. Scale 1:10.
3. Cut 8. West facing section. Scale 1:10.

Appendix 3

Photographic Catalogue

Monochrome

1. View of site prior to excavation, facing north.
2. View of site prior to excavation, facing west.
3. View of trench, topsoil removed, facing south.
4. View of trench, topsoil removed, facing south.
5. View of trench, topsoil removed, facing south.
6. View of cut 3, prior to excavation, facing north-west.
7. View of cut 3, prior to excavation, facing north-west.
8. View of cut 8, prior to excavation, facing east.
9. View of cut 6, prior to excavation, facing north.
10. View of cut 3, east facing section, facing west.
11. View of cut 3, east facing section, facing west.
12. View of cut 8, west facing section, facing east.

Appendix 4

Finds Catalogue

Context	Description
1	Total pottery – 18 sherds. 0.15kg Medieval pottery 1 handle fragment Humberware Post Medieval pottery 1 body sherd Brandsby type 1 rim sherd Staffordshire type slip trailed ware 4 body sherds blue transfer ware 2 rim sherd blue transfer ware 1 base sherd yellow glazed Earthenware 1 body sherd yellow glazed Earthenware 1 rim sherd salt glazed stoneware 2 body sherd salt glazed stoneware 1 body sherd 18th. century courseware 1 rim sherd modern pottery 2 body sherds modern Total animal bone – 19 pieces. 0.24kg Total iron objects – 8. 0.28kg Total modern glass – 1 piece. 0.01kg Total clay pipe – 1 piece. 0.1kg 1 piece clay pipe stem Total brass objects – 1. 0.01kg 1 shotgun cartridge base Total brick and tile – 4 pieces. 0.28kg
2	Total pottery 6 sherds. 0.19kg Medieval pottery 1 Handle sherd Humberware Post-medieval pottery 1 rim sherd Ryedale type ware 1 body sherd blue and white transfer ware 1 rim sherd post-medieval course ware 2 body sherds post-medieval course ware Cu alloy object – 1 buckle
4	Total pottery – 6 sherds. 0.05kg Medieval pottery 1 base Staxton/Potter Brompton type ware 2 body sherds Late Humberware 3 body sherds Brandsby type Total animal bone – 1 piece. 0.01kg
5	Total animal bone – 1 piece. 0.01kg
7	Total clay pipe 1 piece. 0.01kg 1 piece clay pipe stem Total animal bone – 1 piece. 0.02kg