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CNY

Parish 4053

Rec'd 1997

SCARBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETYWATCHING BRIEF. MANOR FARM. OSGODBY. SCARBOROUGH. MAYby DANIEL FERGUSON B.A.Site code MF97. National Grid reference TA 053846 (At trench 2).

The site lies at around 70M above O.D. rising from close to 69M O.D. near trench 1 to 70.5M at trench 2. The land rises further to about 75M O.D. at Manor Farm itself, to about 80M O.D. at Hall Farm (The Barn P.H.) and to just over 100M O.D. at the reservoir on Park Hill to the north.

A watch was kept from the 7th May by the writer and Josephine Warburton on behalf of the Society, though excavation did not start until 12th. The brief consisted of overseeing the excavation by machine of the foundation trench for a garage at the grid reference above, behind the easternmost house (number 291) in Overdale, Eastfield, being the closest to the area field-walked by members of the Society in 1990, (Interim Report 12 1991) and of a pipe trench from close to this, and cut across a landscaped play area, to link into an existing waste system, in a paddock behind the westernmost house (number 28) in Priory Place, some 70m to the SE.

TRENCH 1

The box trench behind Priory Place, dug to locate the existing drain at the point where the new sewer was to be joined to it was designated as our Trench 1. It s west side is 4M from the paddock fence. This trench was measured at 3m E-W, by 2m N-S, and was about 2m deep. The site was rough grass. The soil was red-brown clayey loam, with pieces of sandstone and other rocks, some coal/charcoal, and grey clay silt where the earlier pipeline had been laid down. The west side of the trench maximum depth was 1.7M.

Top-soil (MF100) dark rich loam 20cm deep.

Compact cinder/ash c 8cm (MF101). This contains much metallic, mostly iron slag, as if from a forge. It continues to the north some 4M, and right round the opened area quite level and compact, and also across the garden and under the house extention (house-holders comment). Pieces of similar material are visible in the garden soil surface, and some iron objects seen in keeping of owner, a horse-shoe, a tanged tool, file or similar, and part of the closing mechanism from a gate. These all seem quite recent, as does the cinder spread itself, which may represent a laid hard surface, possibly of a yard or other working area.

Light silty subsoil (MF102) c 20cm. Field drains c 12cm red ceramic (MF103), in cut [MF104] cross trench in this layer, (modern).

Red clay (MF109) c 70cm below surface (natural).

These cut through N-S by large pipe trench [MF106] 70cm wide, in which sewer line top (MF108) lies at c 1.6M depth.

These layers visible in east, west and north sections, not so clear in south side where more disturbed by pipe trench etc.

TRENCH 2

This consisted of 4 narrow slots, delineating the rectangle forming the base of a garage, cut in the field behind Overdale, holding a growing cereal crop. It measured 5.8m N-S by 6m E-W. The S/W corner is 6M from the fence, while the S/E corner is only some 4.6M N of the same line. The S/W corner lies at 7.6M N, and 2.5M E of the existing garage.

This was cut into the topsoil (MF200), a red-brown clayey loam and underlying red clay subsoil (MF201), to a maximum depth, in the NW corner, of 90cm, and only some 40/45cm in the SE corner, as the ground fell away in this direction.

The friable topsoil was some 20/30cm deep, and contained some pieces of stone and fragments of red pantiles, of the type still covering the roofs of the nearby buildings of Manor Farm. A small sherd of coarse pottery was recovered from the subsoil (MF202). The fabric is grey and gritty, with outer surfaces cream/buff with inclusions protruding.

A change to a deeper red, probably natural clay (MF203) was observed in the deepest part of the trench.

No discernable archaeological features were noted in this shallow trench.

TRENCH 3

This consisted of a pipe trench, some 78M long by 60cm wide, and up 1.8M deep, lying between the other two trenches, across the grassed play area. The diagonal length from trench 1 to the north fence is some 64M, with a further 4M to the turn to an E/W line. This is 9.5M long and lies 3M N of the boundary fence, and 13M from S/E corner of trench 2.

Trench 3 is some 1.5M deep at the S/E end, the marker pole visible in some photographs stands at 35M from the S end, in the play area.

At some 10M from trench 1 towards the N/W, extending to 12M there is an area of stone (MF304), with some brick, 20-30cm below the present surface, and 10-20cm deep. The maximum depth of the cut here is 1.7M, into red clay. There is 10cm of dark top-soil (MF300). Below this is a white stoney layer (MF312) 10cm thick which extends across area of the path, so is an earlier surface of this. Under this is a Dark soil (MF313) 15cm deep.

Beneath this lies a layer of friable red clay (MF314) with stone layer (MF315) 20cm. Beneath lies a compact red clay (MF316) at 50-60cm below surface, which has been cut into by up to 1M.

Several field drains (10 cm) cut across, at intervals of about 4M E/W, include a larger example (20cm) along the E side of the footpath. These lie at a depth of c 1M and indicate that the whole area has been disturbed to this level by pipe laying and subsequent ploughing and landscaping.

At some 20M from trench 1, at 1M depth a bright yellow clay, with number of pebbles/cobbles may represent earlier activity, unless merely a natural feature within the general red clay. At some 30M N/W of trench 1, the topsoil is some 30cm thick, while the red clay plough-soil extends to a depth of 1M, below this lies the natural stiff clay. More N-S running field drains cross the cut here. At the crossing of the present path in the N, more evidence of earlier forms of this were seen, a concrete and brick layer (MF301), unless this is the remnant of a building, as somewhat too substantial at 4 courses and 40cm thick, for mere paving, and it is associated with much coal/coke (MF302/303) as if a bunker?. This lies some 20cm below the present surface.

At the change of direction trench 3 becomes a box some 2M square, and about 2M deep. This lies at 2M N of the E/W boundary fence and footpath. In this area a similar series of field drains (MF306/307) cross the trench, but run E-W rather than N-S, indicating that the present play area belonged in a different field, and that the boundary continues from that period. Also indicative of the age of the E-W boundary are the remains of a buried stone wall (MF305), below a distinct hump lying along the line, on the crest of which runs the present fence. This consists of a layer of heavy stones, laid in courses, of which 3 to 4 survive, some 40-50cm thick, and some 50cm below the present surface, and beneath the field drains. It is also beneath the brick feature, separated from it by a band of mid-brown sandy soil 3cm thick (MF304), and elsewhere by a layer of clay up to 30cm thick (MF308). This stone feature extends from about 2M N of the fence, some 1.5-2M to N, and a further spread of a single layer of stones (MF309) extends beyond the limit of the trench, so represents probable spill from the wall, as it dips to N like the present surface. This spread lies at 1M below surface at N limit of trench box, but at only some 70cm at the S where lies beside the coursed wall stones. Below these stone layers is one of 40-50cm, of mottled grey and yellow clay (MF310), with few stones, and much iron panning, upon the natural red clay (MF311). This trench box is c 1.8M deep at S/W to 1.5M at N/W corners, with the BOTTOM level, so the present surface, and earlier stone spread, dip to the N by this much, this slope represents the burial of the old field wall, and the spilling of some of it's stones in an earlier stage of the bank makeup. At the W end of the pipe trench this again has been expanded into a box of some 2M in each direction. However this displays far less stone than the other, being mostly red clay, plough soil on natural. The difference may be because the line of the new cut is not the same as the previous field boundary, and so has missed these features further W.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion it may be said that little of archaeological value was noted in the current excavations. The area is crossed by numerous field drains at depths between 60cm to 1M, and much of it has been ploughed to 50cm plus. Only in the area of rough pasture, in the paddock behind Priory Place, do any earthworks or other medieval remains have a chance of useful survival, but even here some drains occur. The old surface of cinder and metal slag indicate the better state of the archaeology here compared to the fields to the north and west. Along the southern boundary of the northern field an old drystone wall has become buried in upcast from ploughing, along with a spread of stones, probably originally part of that wall. Old surfaces of the paths bordering the fields were extant beneath the present topsoil.

Further fragments of pottery and other evidences might occur in future developments, but it seems unlikely that major features remain to be found.

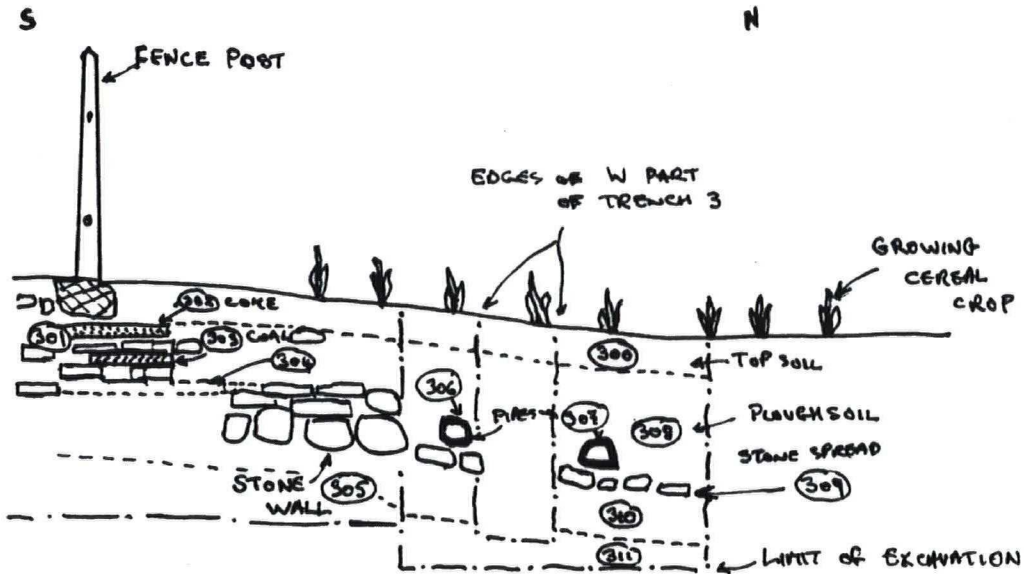
MANOR FARM. OSGODBY. SCARBOROUGH. WATCHING BRIEF 1997.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD.

TRANSPARENCIES FILM 6 5/97 H. 13th-19th MAY 1997.

- 02 Tr 2. E side from S-N, R-pole in NE corner.
- 04 Tr 2. Overview from spoil-heap SE_NW.
- 05 Site overview from spoil-heap to SE and Tr 1.
- 06 Site overview from SE by Tr 1 to NW.
- 07 Tr 1 N side section from SW-NE.
- 08 Tr1/Tr3 junction from E to W.
- 09 Tr1/Tr3 junction from SE-NW.
- 11 Tr 3 excavation through hedgerow SE-NW.
- 12 Tr 3 near Tr 1, cinder spread (MF101), to W.
- 13 Tr 3 near Tr 1, cut through path, to NW.
- 14 Tr 3 near Tr 1, cut through path, to SE.
- 15 Tr 3 across bedding and play area, to SE.
- 16 Tr 3 across bedding and play area, to SE.
- 17 Site overview from Tr 3 N, to NE, Manor Farm and Hall Farm.
- 18 Tr 3 middle part, to NW.
- 19 Tr 3 middle part, to NW.
- 20 Tr 3 middle part, to NW.
- 21 Tr 3 section to E.
- 22 Tr 3 middle part, to SE.
- 24 Tr 3 section to W.
- 26 Tr 3 middle part, from above, to SE.
- 27 Tr 3 mid-point, SE-NW.
- 28 Tr 3 mid- point, from above, to SE.
- 29 Tr 3 N end by fence to NW.
- 31 Tr 3 N end box, to SE.
- 32 Tr 3 N end by fence, to NW.
- 33 Tr 3 N-end by fence, to NW.
- 34 Tr 3 N-end, along trench to W.
- 36 Tr 3 N-end box, to N.
- 37 Tr 3 N-end box, corner with wall (MF305) to SW.
- 38 Tr 3 NW end box, to W.

SECTION W SIDE OF BOX AT N END OF TRENCH 3.



SCALE 1:50

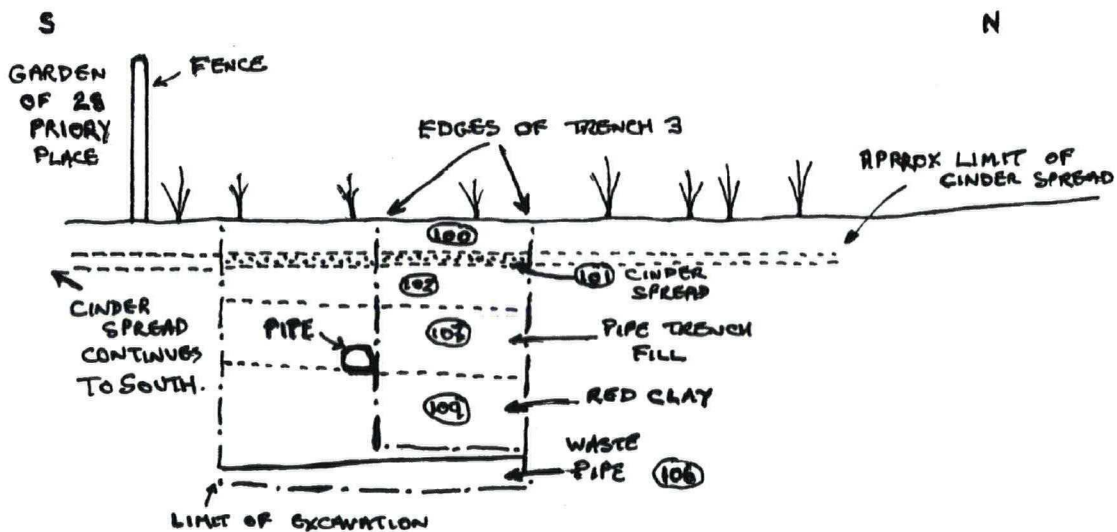


DRAWING MF 97/04

DANIEL FERGUSON

SECTION W SIDE OF TRENCH 1 AT S END OF TRENCH 3.

16.5.97.



SCALE 1:50

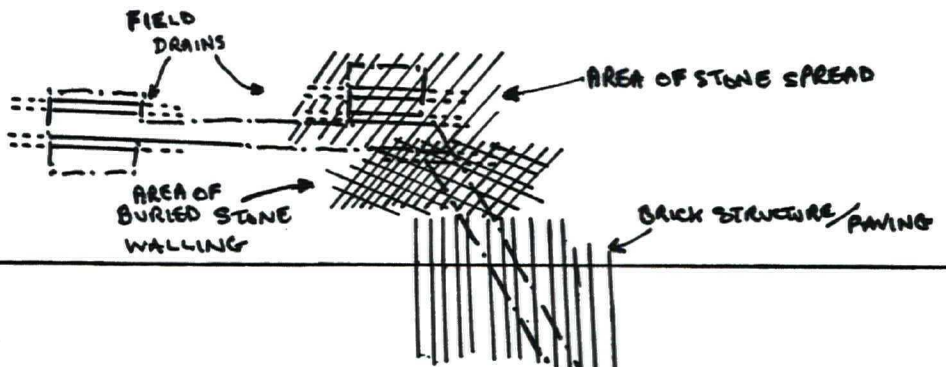
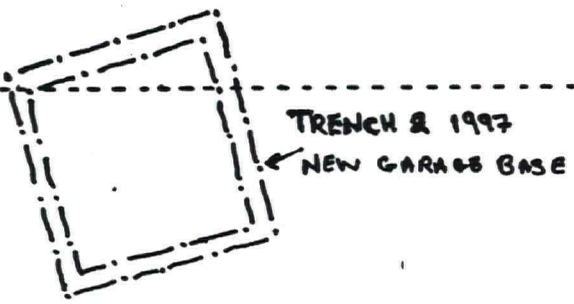


DRAWING MF 97/01 PLAN, NORTHERN PART OF SITE

TRANSECT 8

LIMIT OF 1990 FIELDWALK

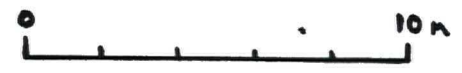
TRANSECT 7



PATH

EXISTING BOUNDARY FENCES

EXISTING GARAGE AT NO 291 OVERDALE



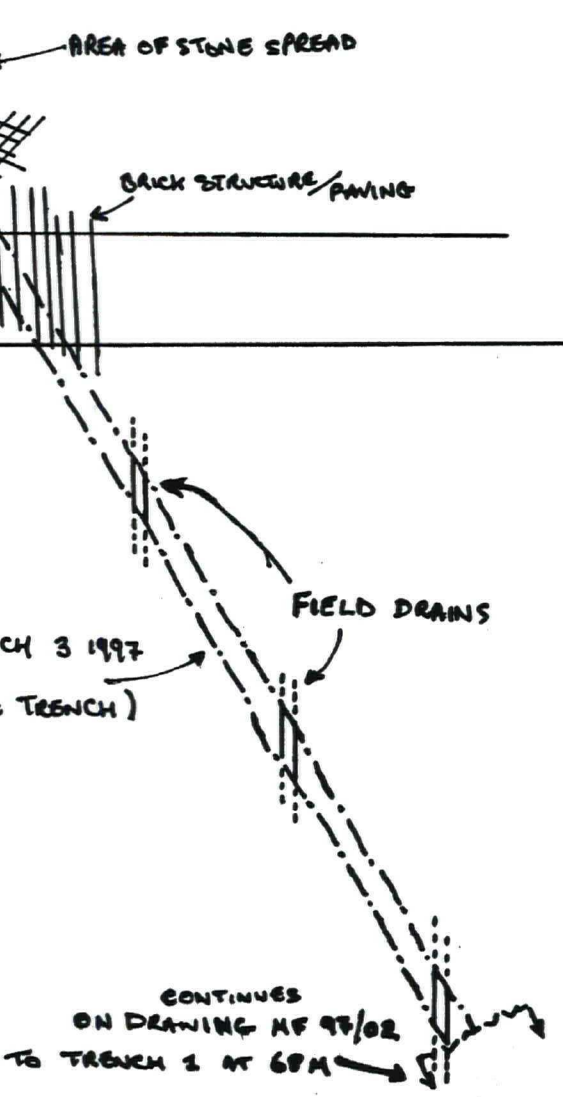
SCALE 1:200

PLAY AREA.

TRENCH 3 1997 (PIPE TRENCH)

FIELD DRAINS

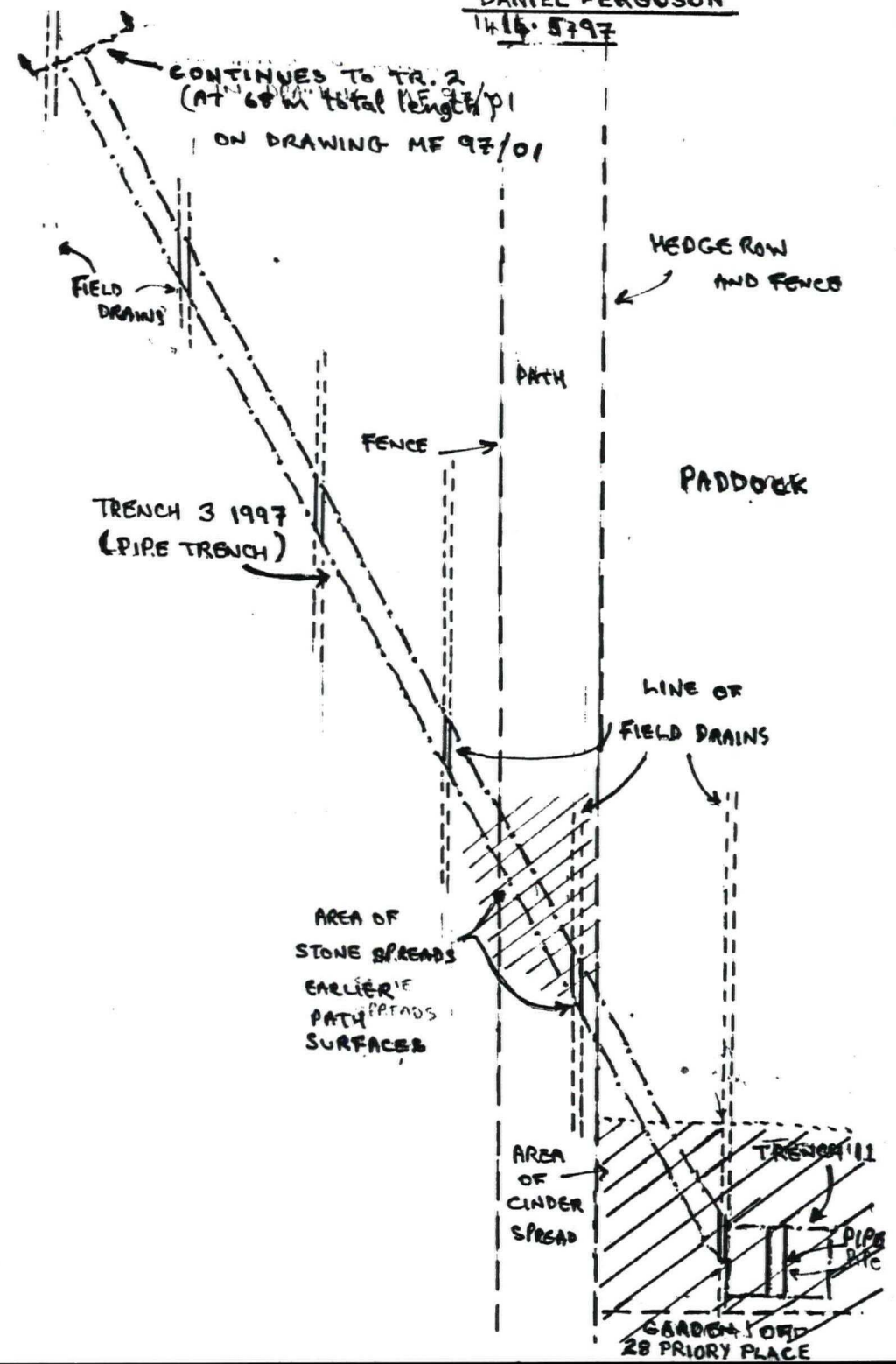
CONTINUES ON DRAWING MF 97/02 TO TRENCH 1 AT 60M



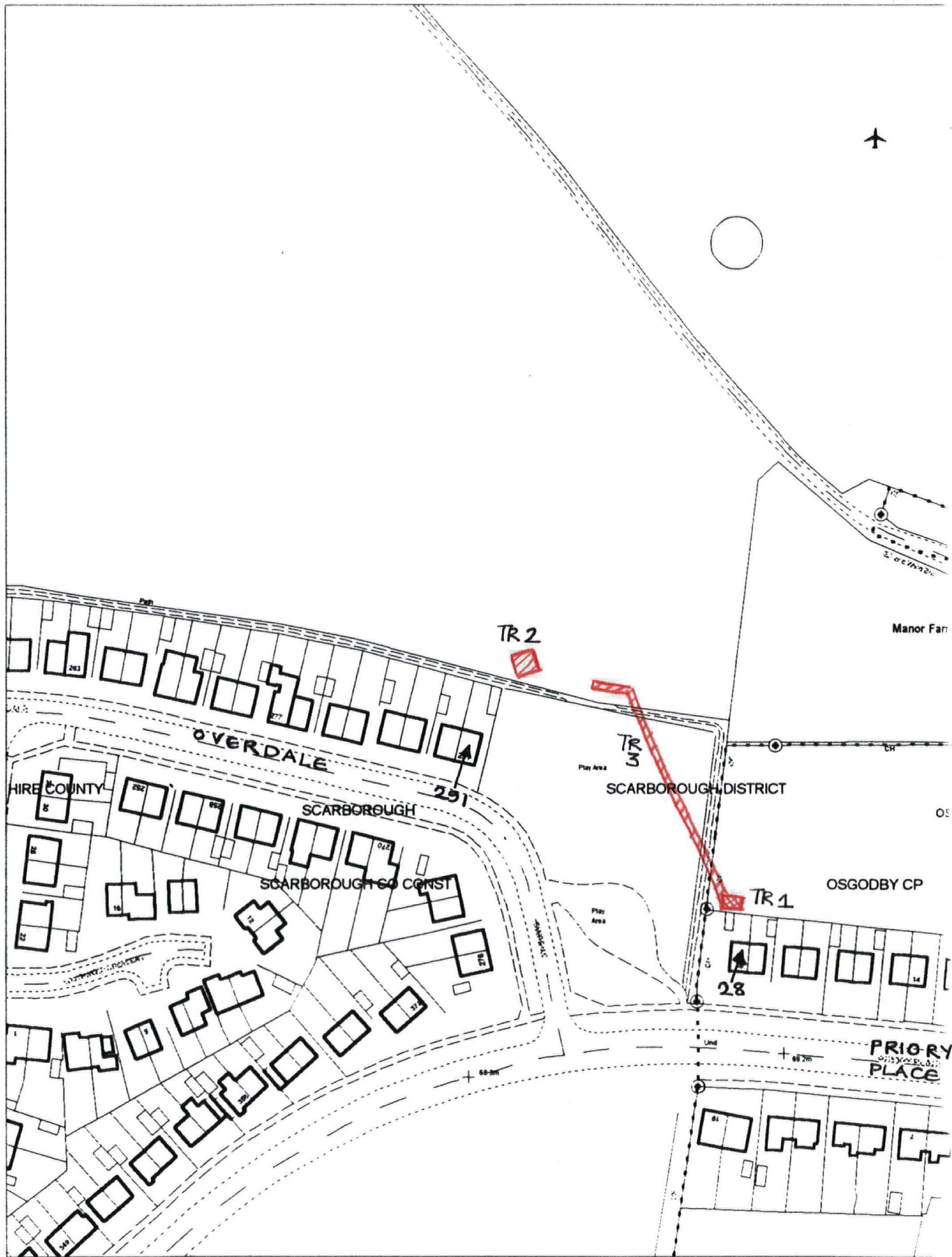
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PLAY AREA.

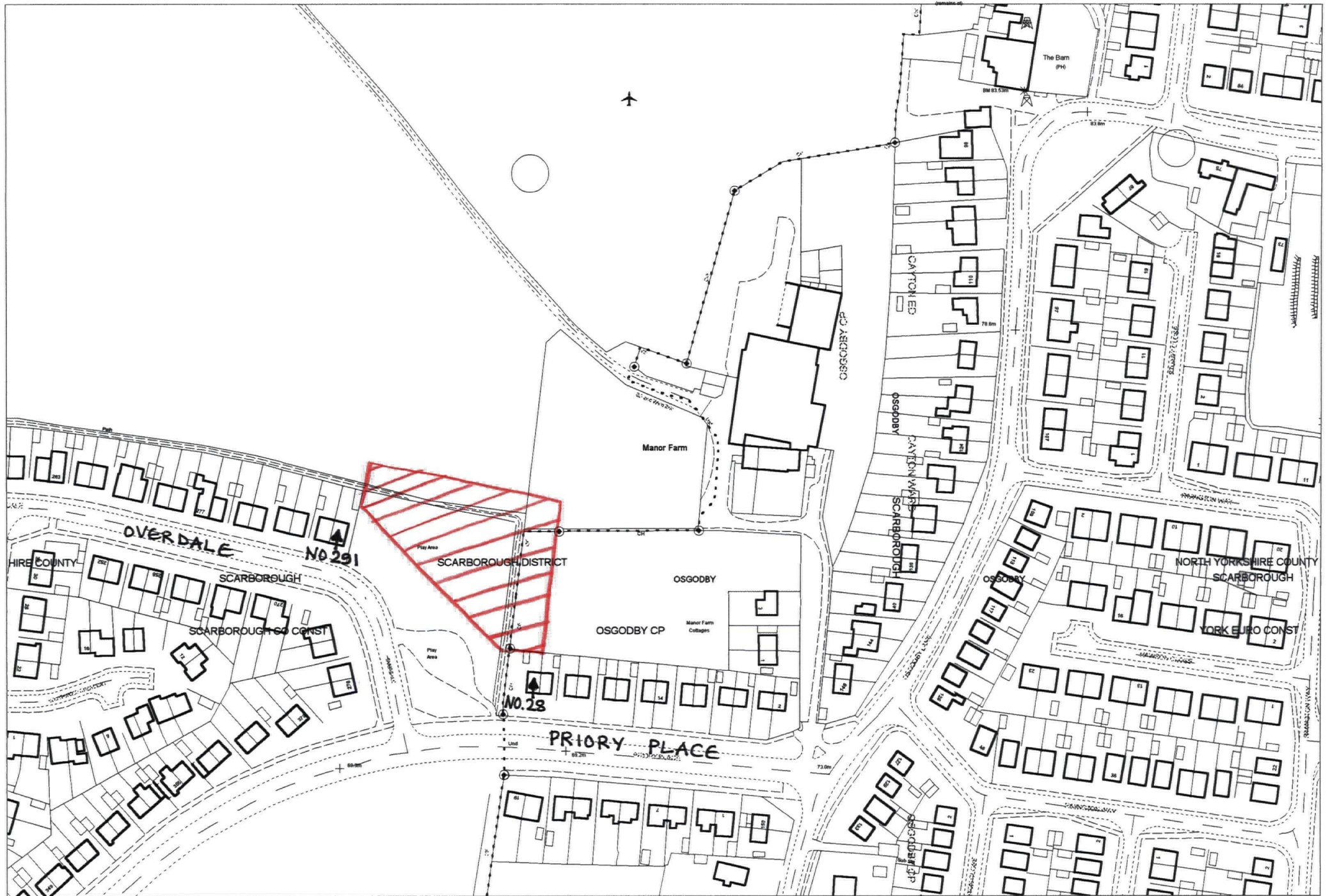


* Schematic: - Not to Scale.



OSGODBY, MANOR FARM
WATCHING BRIEF MAY 1997
SCARBOROUGH ARCH. SOC.

VJAF/N4CC/13.6.97



LOCATION OF WATCHING BRIEF - SCARBOROUGH ARCH. SOC., MAY 1997
 MANOR FARM OSGODBY