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**OLD MANOR HOUSE,
KELFIELD,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
ON FOUNDATIONS FOR
AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS**

**1998 FIELD REPORT
NUMBER 15**



THE OLD MANOR HOUSE, KELFIELD,

NORTH YORKSHIRE

REPORT ON AN

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1 Introduction

On 15th and 16th June 1998 York Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to the Old Manor House, Kelfield, North Yorkshire, (NGR SE 5950 3860), (Figures 1 and 2) The archaeological work was prompted by the construction of a new farm building on pasture land some 25m north of the medieval moat within which the present farmhouse stands The work was commissioned by Mr F W Benson in compliance with a planning condition placed on the development by North Yorkshire County Council

The drift geology of the area is of sand (including blown sand) which overlies a solid geology of Bunter Sandstone, (Geol Surv Solid & Drift, sheet 71, 1973)

The moated site is roughly circular in shape and is believed to be of 13th century origin A partially filled fishpond is located immediately to the west of the moat and is also thought to be of medieval date The only upstanding building within the moat at the present time is the 19th century farmhouse, (E H Inspectors report, Nat Mon 30112)

The archaeological work involved the observation of topsoil stripping and the cutting of a number of stanchion bases for the new building

2 Results

The new building covers an area of some 646 square metres and forms an irregular square sided "S" The levelling of the ground within this area involved the mechanical removal of approximately 0.15m of topsoil on the south-south-west of the area, reducing to approximately 0.02m on the north-north-east side As a consequence of the limited machining the topsoil was nowhere removed in its entirety during the levelling process The topsoil was comprised of a brown, fine silty sand that was noted to contain the very occasional small fragment of brick/tile The brick/tile fragments were of such a size as to be undiagnostic in terms of date Three sherds of pottery were recovered from the topsoil, two of these were of 19th or 20th century date, the third was of 20th century origin

A total of 30 trenches measuring 1.30m x 0.80m x 0.75m deep were machine cut to take the stanchion bases to support the building These were generally spaced at intervals of approximately 4.40m along the outer perimeter of the new building On the south-south-west and west-north-west sides 13 of these trenches were archaeologically observed, (Figure 3) The sequence recorded in these trenches was of a topsoil up to 0.30m deep overlying a pale sandy subsoil of around 0.15m in depth Deposits of clean pale coloured natural sand of the drift underlay the subsoil The only feature visible in any of these trenches was a land drain of later 19th or 20th century origin

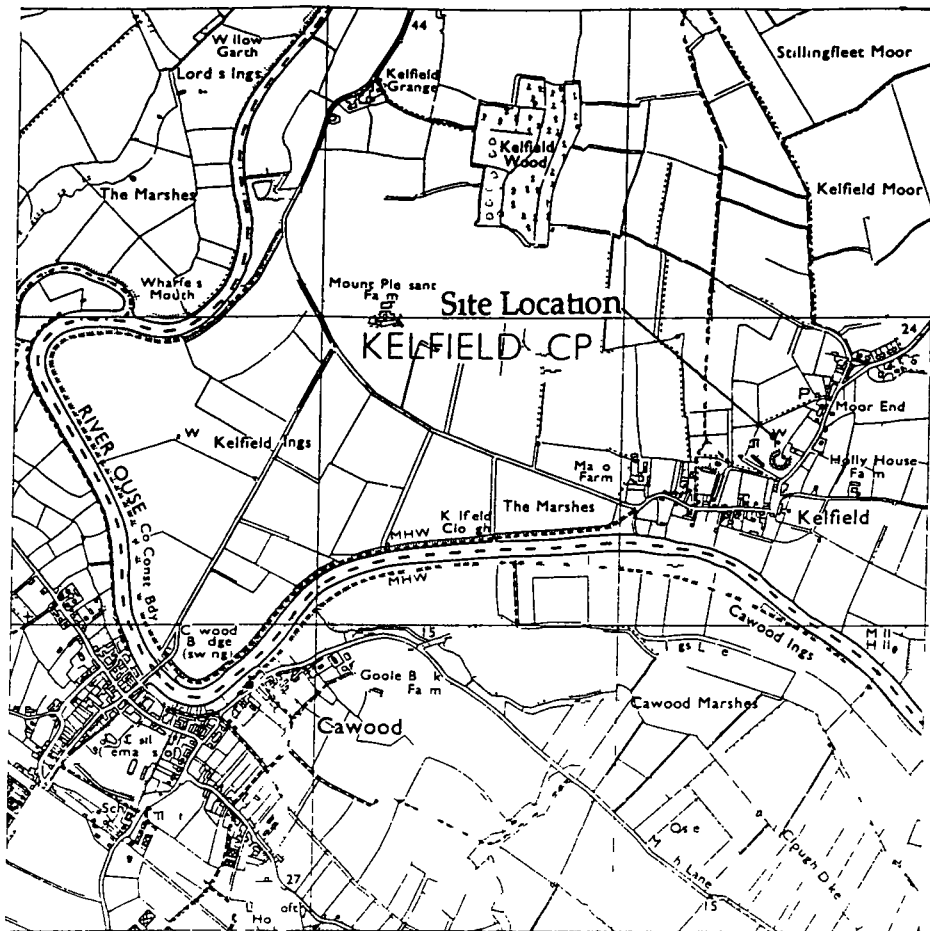


Fig 1 Site Location Plan

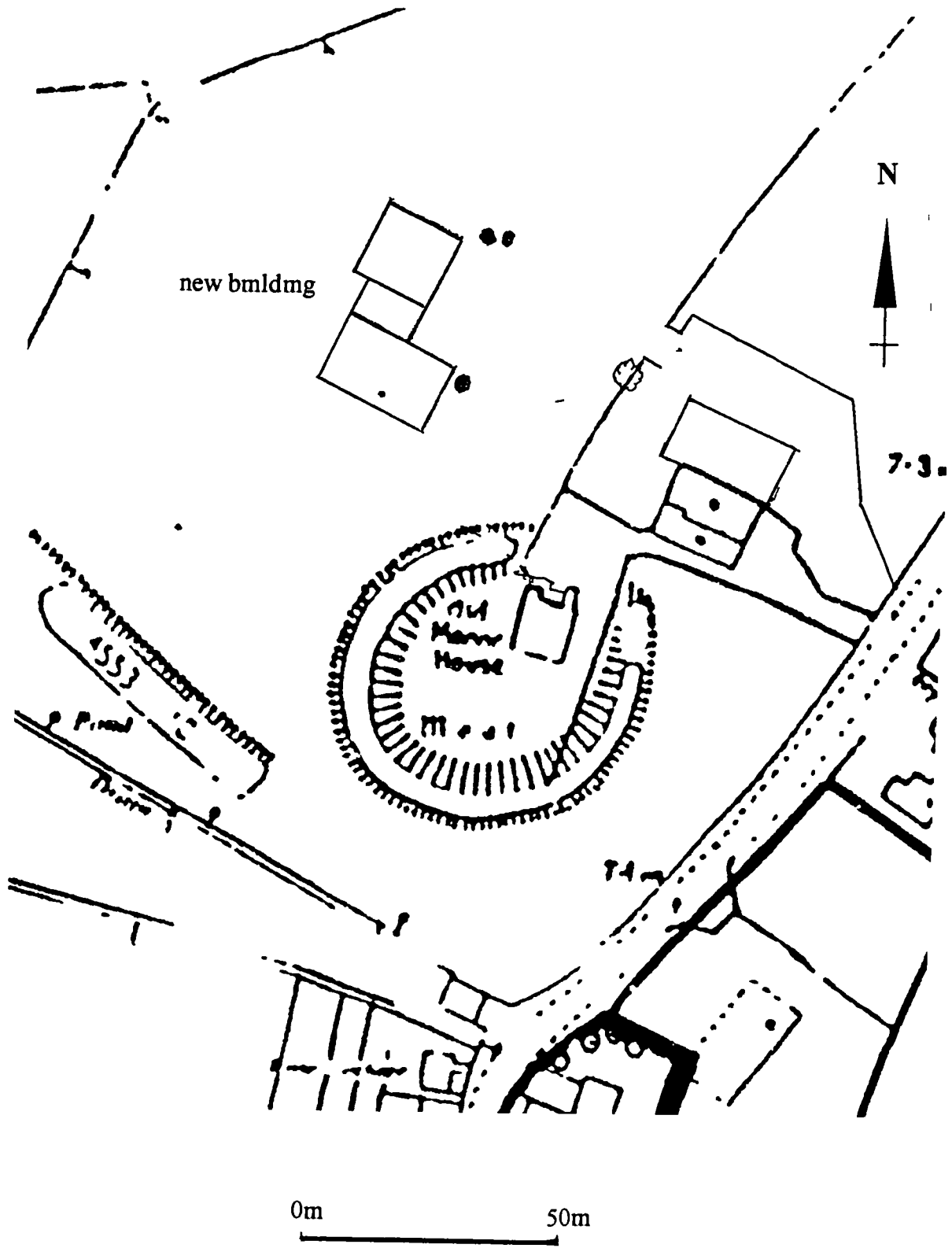


Fig 2 Works Location Plan

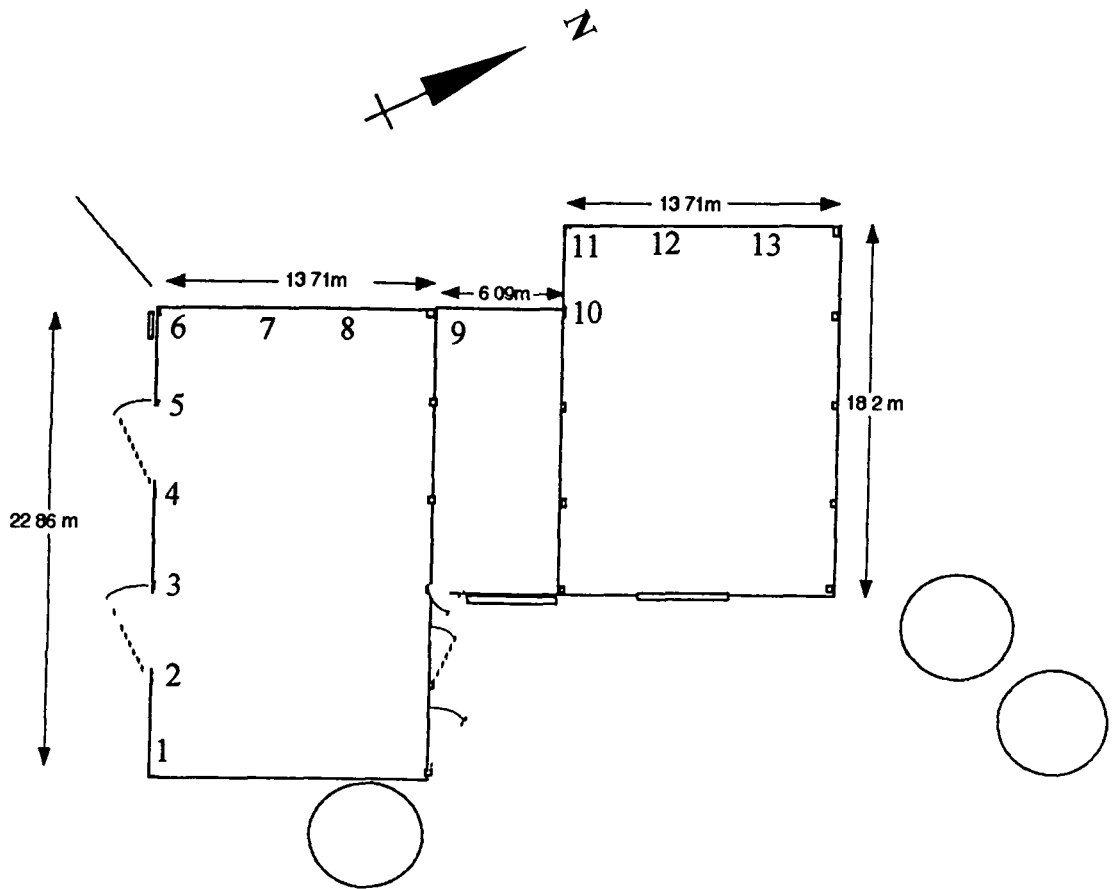


Fig 3 Trench Location Plan (trench numbers indicated)

3 Summary

The watching brief failed to reveal archaeological finds or deposits save for those of recent to modern date

4 List of Contributors

Watching Brief and report

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Editor

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YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

York Archaeological Trust undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. It can manage projects, provide professional advice, and monitor archaeological works to ensure high quality, cost-effective archaeology. Its staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience, and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. Based in York its services are available throughout Britain and beyond.

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