
FOXTON LODGE, THE GREEN, GATEFORTH,
NORTH YORKSHIRE.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

OSA REPORT No: OSA11WB26

June 2012



OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA11WB26
SITE NAME: Foxton Lodge, Gateforth
COUNTY: North Yorkshire
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 5619 2855
PLANNING REFERENCE NUMBER: 2011/0467/HPA
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1.0 Abstract.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out Foxton Lodge, The Green, Gateforth, North Yorkshire during the construction of an extension including a new swimming pool. A single medieval ditch, containing pottery dated to the mid 11th to 13th century, was recorded. This is likely to have defined the boundary between medieval property fronting onto The Green and the open fields to the rear, although it may also be related to a moated site, which lies to the southwest of the site. The ditch suggests that the settlement of Gateforth was subject to some degree of topographical organisation at an early date during the medieval period. No other archaeological features or deposits were disturbed during the development.

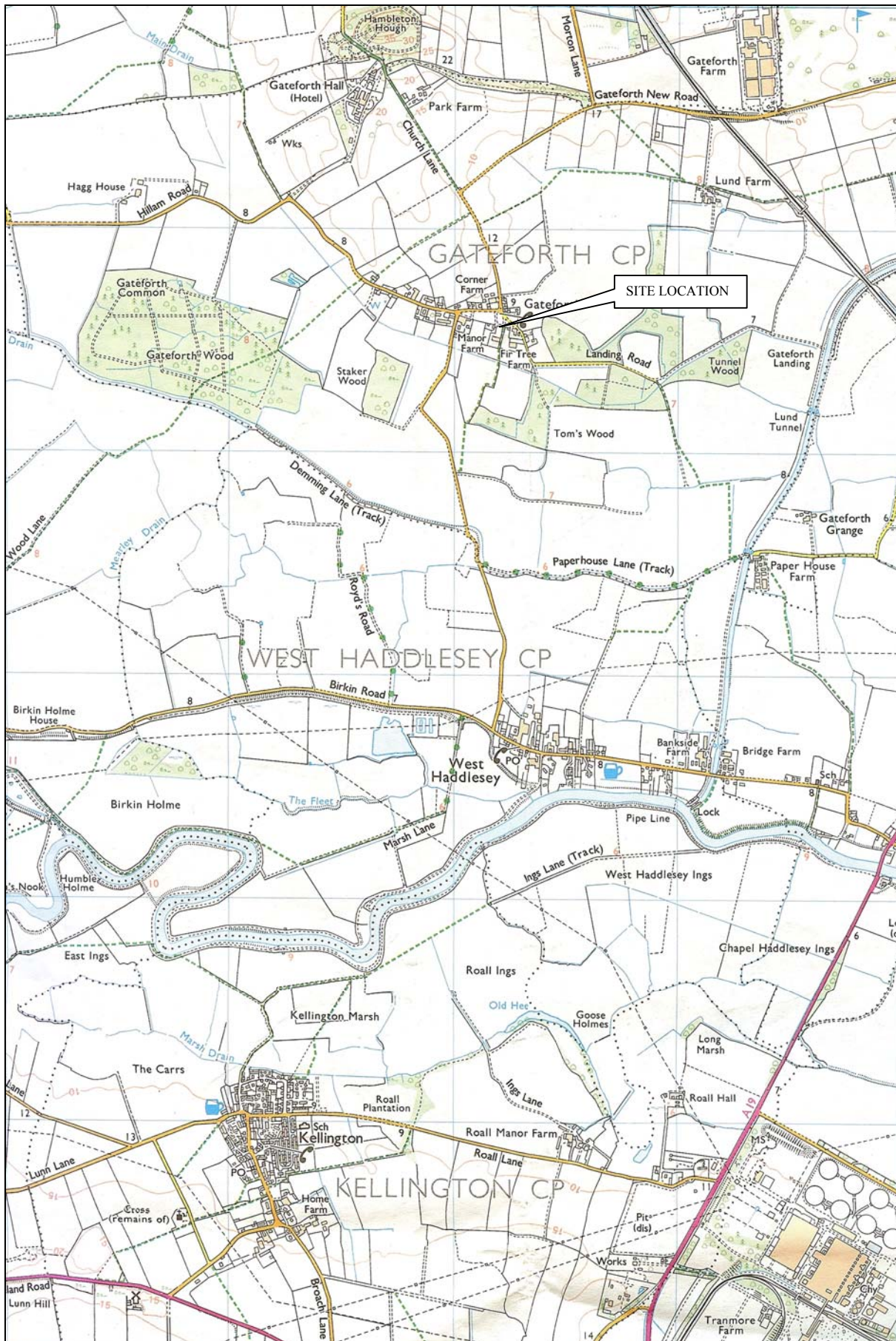


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 5619 2855).

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2.0 Site Location and Land Use.

Gateforth is situated 7km to the southwest of the town of Selby and 3km to the north of the River Aire. Foxton Lodge lies to the southeast of The Green, bounded by Ashford Grange to the west and Firtree Farm to the east. The new swimming pool and extension are to be placed to the south and east of the existing house, within its associated garden. The site is located at National Grid Reference SE 5619 2855.

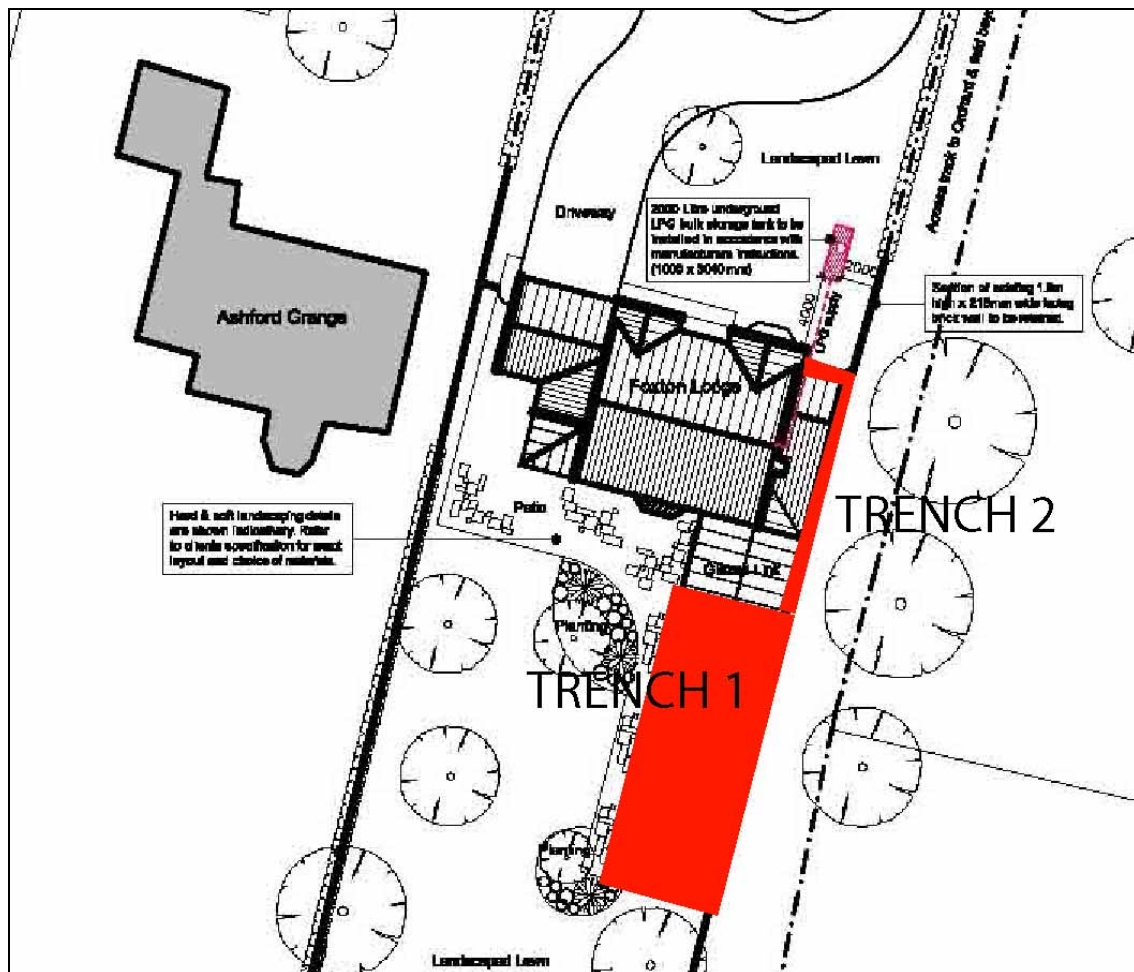


Figure 2. Trench location highlighted in solid red

3.0 Methodology.

A method statement was prepared by *On-Site Archaeology Ltd*, following consultations with North Yorkshire County Council, to detail the mitigation programme to be employed.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* techniques were followed throughout the watching brief investigation. This involved the completion of a context sheet for each deposit or cut encountered, along with plans and/or sections drawn to scale. A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained. A full list of detailed context description of all

deposits recorded is provided within Appendix 1 and details of the archive are listed in Appendix 2.

All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the methodologies set out in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*, and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* prepared by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), the IFA *Code of Conduct*, as well as with additional methodologies agreed with the county archaeologist.

The watching brief entailed recording in two areas. Trench 1 comprised the footprint for the new swimming pool, including its surrounding wall foundations. This trench was excavated by 8.5 tonne tracked excavator, fitted with a wide toothless ditching bucket in successive spits down to the surface of the underlying natural deposits, or to the maximum formation level required for the development. An opportunity was then made available to archaeologically excavate by hand features exposed and undertake all necessary recording. Trench 2 comprised an L-shaped foundation trench excavated on the east side of the existing house, for the proposed extension. It had originally been intended that a third area, for the installation of a below ground LPG tank, would be excavated at the front of the existing house. Due to a change in the development this area was not required.

4.0 Archaeological Background.

The site lies close to a possible medieval moated site that has been identified from aerial photographs. Little detail is known of the extent or layout of medieval settlement at Gateforth. A list of the names of tenants of Selby Abbey dated 1247 includes a John Mallynson of Gaitford (John Napper Worsford, 1894, “A History of Haddlesey: its past and present.” p.43). Thomas Jeffrey’s map of Yorkshire, published in 1775, clearly shows the post-medieval settlement of Gateforth. The basic form of the village is recognisable, with the various approach roads linking into the elongated east west aligned green.

Unless otherwise acknowledged the above information is derived from information provided by the NYCC Historic Environment Team.

5.0 Results.

Trench 1.

Natural deposits, comprising yellow to red sand and sandy gravel (103) were reached at a depth of 0.65m below the modern ground level. In addition to a clearly modern service trench leading to a soakaway pit, the natural was cut by a single archaeological feature. This comprised a shallow ditch [105], aligned approximately east to west through the full width of the trench. The ditch was a maximum of 0.60m wide, with a concave base at a maximum depth of 0.10m. It contained a single fill (104) of mid yellow brown silty sand containing occasional small pebbles and flecks of charcoal, together with several sherds of medieval pottery, dated to the mid 11th to 13th century. The natural and ditch were sealed by a 0.30m thick layer of mid yellow brown silty sand (102), which also contained fragments of mid 11th to 13th century pottery. This layer is likely to represent a medieval agricultural soil horizon. The trench was finally sealed by mixed rubble and sand deposit (101) believed to be builders debris, deposited in the 1990's during previous construction work, and the modern garden topsoil (100).

Trench 2.

This trench revealed the same sequence of deposits as revealed in Trench 1, with natural sand overlain by a probable medieval ploughsoil, followed by recent construction deposits up to the modern surface. Several recent services were present, but no archaeological features were recorded.

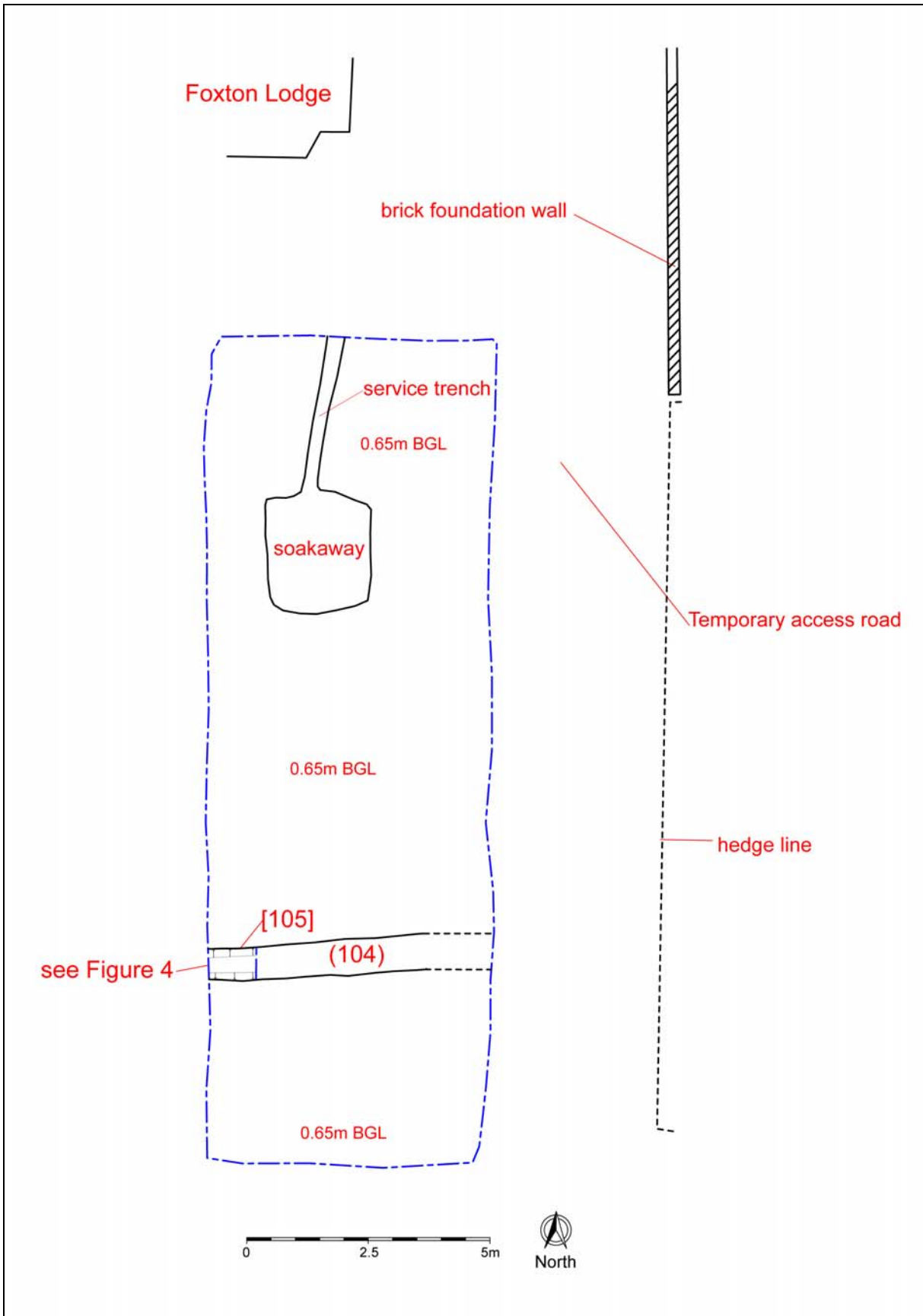


Figure 3. Plan of Trench 1.

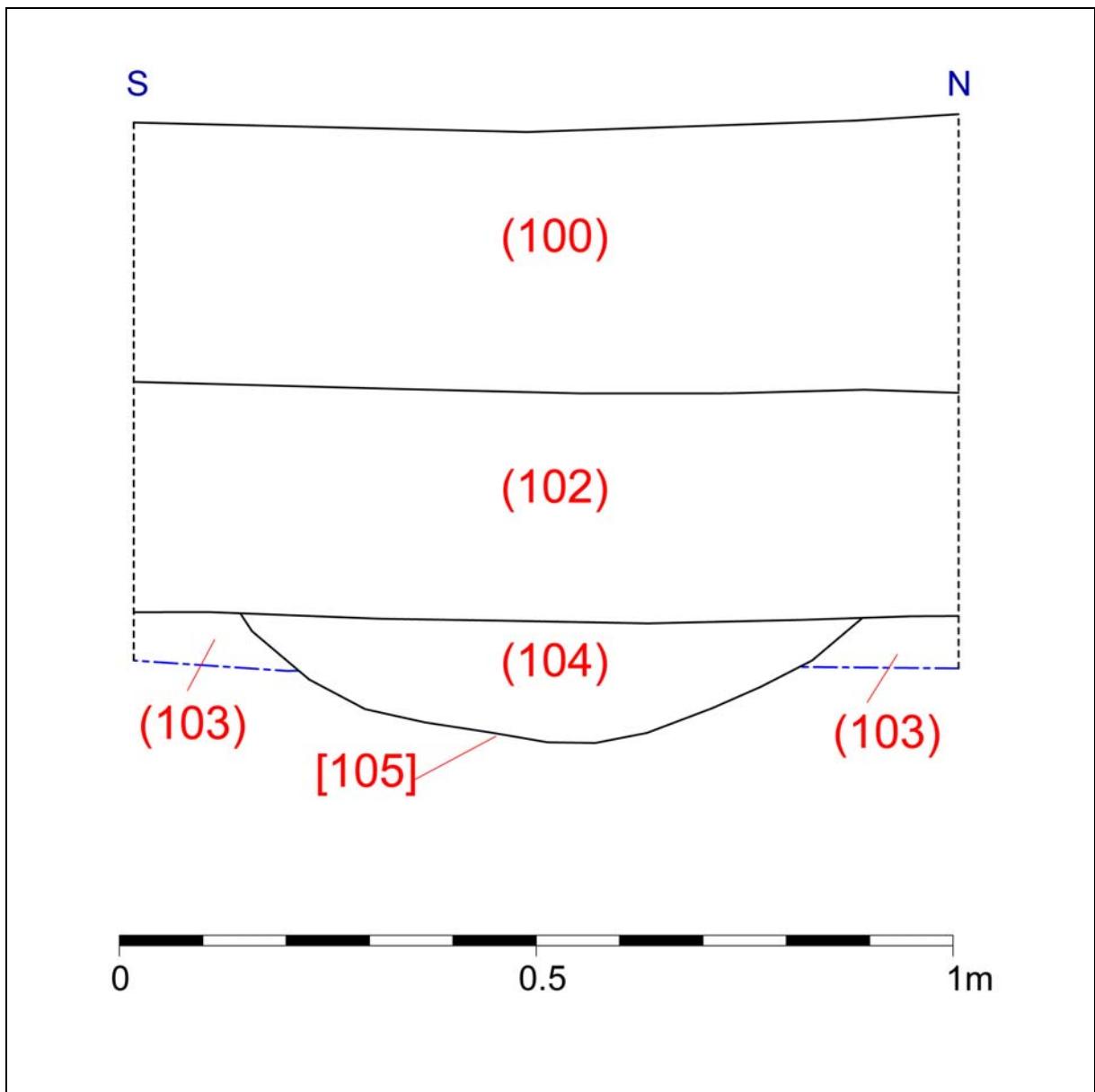


Figure 4. West facing section of Trench 1, including ditch [105].

6.0 Discussion and Conclusions.

The watching brief encountered a single archaeological feature, an east-west ditch, within the footprint of the new swimming pool. The location and alignment of the ditch suggests that it may be marking the rear boundary of properties fronting The Green and separating them from open agricultural land to the south. It is possible that this also relates to the moated site, which lies to the southwest of the site and includes ditches on a similar alignment. Due to the methodology employed and the co-operation of the main contractor, it was possible to undertake sample hand excavation of this ditch. This enabled the collection of a well stratified pottery assemblage from the feature. All of the pottery collected, from both the ditch and the overlying soil horizon, is dated to the mid 11th to 13th century. This suggests that formal organisation of the layout of the settlement was being undertaken by this relatively early medieval date. No other archaeological features or deposits were disturbed during the development.

7.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context no.	Description	Thickness	Extent
100	Dark grey brown clay sand silt topsoil	0.15m	Tr
101	Mixed red sand, rubble, plastic, drain fragments	0.35m	Tr
102	mid yellow brown silty sand	0.30m	Tr
103	Yellow to red sand and sandy gravel natural	-	Tr
104	mid yellow brown silty sand	0.10m	4m x 0.60m
105	East west aligned concave ditch	0.10m	4m x 0.60m

8.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

8.1 Drawing Register.

Dwg No	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
1	Trench 1 plan	1:100	210212	GB
2	Trench 1, west facing section with [105]	1:10	210212	GB

8.2 Photographic Register.

Frame	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
<i>Film digital 21/02/12</i>				
1 – 5	General views of site pre-excavation	-	210212	GB
6-12	Tr 1, north part	1m	210212	GB
13-15	Tr 1, section at north end	1m	210212	GB
16-19	Tr 1, service trench and soakaway	1m	210212	GB
20-25	Tr 1, typical section	1m	210212	GB
26-36	Tr 1, working shots	-	210212	GB
37-42	Tr 1, typical section	1m	210212	GB
43-51	Tr 1, working shots	-	210212	GB
52-60	Tr 1, south part	1m	210212	GB
61-65	Tr 1, ditch [105] excavated section	1m	210212	GB
66-89	Tr 2 working shots and typical views	1m	210212	GB

9.0 Appendix 3 ~ Pottery Assessment

by *Berny McCluskey*

A small assemblage of pottery finds was recovered by *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* during an archaeological watching brief at Foxton Lodge, Gateforth, North Yorkshire. This report details the identification and assessment of these finds from this investigation.

Mid-11th to 13th century

The assemblage comprised of six Gritty ware pottery sherds of a mid-11th to 13th century date (Table 1). Three sherds were recovered from ditch fill (104) and another three from a subsoil (102). Some sherds had sooted exteriors and most likely represent cooking vessels typical of this pottery type.

Retention

All finds from stratified deposits should all be retained for potential future study.

Bibliography

Jennings, Sarah (1992) *Medieval Pottery in the Yorkshire Museum*. York, The Yorkshire Museum

Monaghan, Jason (1997) *Roman Pottery from York*. The Archaeology of York 16/8 York, Council for British Archaeology

J.R. Perrin, (1990), *Roman Pottery from the Colonia: 2*, The Archaeology of York, The Pottery 16/4

Table 1

Context no.	Trench no.	Type	Common name	No. sherds/fragments	No. vessels	Comments	Date range – centuries/period
102	1	Pottery	Gritty ware	3	3	Slightly abraded	Mid-11 th – 13 th
104	1	Pottery	Gritty ware	3	3	Sooted exteriors	Mid-11 th – 13 th

10.0 Appendix 4 ~ The Plates.



Plate 1. Typical view of southern end of Trench 1.



Plate 2. Trench 1, section, including ditch [105].