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Interpretation, Design & Display

**Land at North Road
Ripon
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. Y048/12

 01274 864245

 01274 878494

 yorkshire@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Unit 22
Moorlands Business Centre
Balme Road
Cleckheaton
BD19 4EZ

Tel: 01274 864 245

Fax 01274 878494

email: Yorks@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Phil Moore BA
Illustrator	Leanne Whitelaw BSc MifA
Editor	Martin Lightfoot BA MA MifA
Commissioned by	Prospect Archaeology
Date issued	March 2012
Version	0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-
Planning Application No.	
Grid Ref	SE 315 718

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard procedures.

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd in January 2012. The archaeological evaluation excavated 10 trenches. The evaluation was able to record the remains of a basement in Trench 1 and the remains of a brick structure, possibly a base or plinth, in Trench 3. These were both probably 20th century in date.

The evaluation uncovered a series of regular, straight-sided, flat-bottomed pits in Trench 4. Excavation of one of the pits suggested these were probably modern in origin. The remains of a truncated brick culvert was recorded in Trench 5.

The evaluation encountered a series of made ground deposits which became progressively deeper to the south of the site. These deposits included an unusually large amount of pantile fragments. It is probable that these deposits were used to infill depressions caused by previous disturbance, possibly mining or mineral extraction within the site. The steep cut and mixed fills recorded in Trench 10 can probably be attributed to this activity.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on behalf of Prospect Archaeology between 23 and 25 January 2012. The CFA code and number for the project is RIPA/2049.

A Desk-Based Assessment was issued by Prospect Archaeology (Rosenberg 2011) which recommended the site be evaluated for its archaeological potential. The work was undertaken to comply with a condition on planning approval.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The proposed development site is located to the north of the town of Ripon in an area known as Little Studley. The proposed development site is an irregular piece of land which covers c. 2.7ha. It is bound to the north by North Road. To the east and south the site is bound by residential developments. To the west the site is bound by overgrown gardens and a shallow water course. The topography slopes gently from the north and then undulates slightly within the site. A marked slope is present to the east and south-east of the development site which can be very steep in places, particularly to the east. In the south-east the slope crests and levels out towards the edge of the development boundary. The underlying solid geology of the area is a mixture of Zechstein group dolomitised limestone and undifferentiated Permian rock comprising mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. The superficial geology is Diamicton Till.

1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

A Cultural Heritage Assessment was prepared by Prospect Archaeology to support the planning application on behalf of their client Ben Bailey Homes (Rosenberg 2011).

The report concluded that there was no known archaeology present on site, but that the potential for unknown archaeological features existed.

At the time of the archaeological works, the site was occupied by the abandoned and derelict buildings of the former Livestock Auction Mart and an area of hard standing. The northern part of the site lies within the Ripon Conservation Area: Character Area D: the Victorian Suburbs. The Station Hotel is located within the development area to the north and is of late 19th century origin. In brief, the Cultural Heritage Assessment concluded that there was little evidence for any activity for any period other than that stated above. However, it also assessed the location of the site had potential for medieval, Anglo-Saxon and Bronze Age periods. This potential is due to the location of the development site, which overlooks a river crossing that may have been a primary route in the medieval period. The advantageous position may also have been a preferential location for Saxon and Prehistoric funerary monuments.

1.4 Previous Archaeological work

Aside from the Cultural Heritage Assessment no intrusive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area targeted by this phase of works.

1.5 Objectives

The general objectives of the project were to:

- determine the form and function of any archaeological features encountered;
- determine the spatial arrangement of any archaeological features encountered;
- as far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and;
- establish the sequence of any archaeological remains present on the site.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

All work was undertaken according to the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1996, 2001), and CFA's standard procedures and the WSI.

2.2 Evaluation

All machining was undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. In the absence of archaeological remains the trenches were excavated to the top of natural geological deposits.

The evaluation trench locations were advised by Prospect Archaeology. Some of the trench positions were moved during fieldwork to avoid buried services and areas of access or hard standing.

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment and all trenches were backfilled on completion of the fieldwork.

2.3 Standards and Guidance

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant IfA Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1996, 2001), English Heritage guidance (EH 2005, 2006, 2008a, 2008b and 2008c), and CFA's standard methodology.

2.4 Monitoring

The trial trenching was monitored by Nansi Rosenberg of Prospect Archaeology on behalf of their client, Ben Bailey Homes.

2.5 Archiving

The site archive currently consists of a single folder of recording forms along with digital photographs and AutoCAD files. The site archive will be ordered and stored according to national guidelines at Harrogate Museums (Brown 2007, Ferguson and Murry 1997, IfA 2001, MGC 1994, SMA 1995 and UKIC 1990). A summary of the results of archaeological works will be submitted for inclusion in OASIS.

3. RESULTS

3.1 General

Ten trenches were excavated; the location of each trench is shown on Fig. 1. Of the ten trenches excavated, five trenches contained no archaeological features: these were Trenches 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 and 10 all contained archaeological features, which are discussed in further detail below. A summary of contexts forms Appendix 1.

3.2 Trench Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated roughly north to south and was located close to the northern boundary of the proposed development site (Fig. 1). The evaluation uncovered the remains of a sub-surface structure, probably a basement or cellar (Fig. 16). Map regression shows this part of the site was built upon in the early 20th century, with structures surviving in this area until the 1960s.

The remains comprised a surface of tightly jointed red ceramic tile (021) laid on a 0.05m thick bed of cinder and ash which overlay the natural substrate. The surface butted, but had been clearly laid to fit, a pre-existing wall (020) (Fig. 3). The wall survived to a maximum height of 1.10m and had a width of 0.11m. The wall was built directly against the natural (000) to the south, which had been cut for this purpose. The north-facing elevation of the wall was stretcher bonded with a hard grey mortar.

A section of the wall had slumped to the south, probably during the demolition process, although in general the preservation was good. The remains are 20th century in origin. The infill of the basement/cellar was a mixed deposit of demolition material c. 1.4m in depth (022).

To the south of wall 020, the excavation removed 0.15m of overburden onto the natural substrate, which comprised pinkish-red to orange, compact, sandy-clay with stone and cobble fragment inclusions.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated east to west and to the rear of the Station Hotel, in what was a car park area (Fig. 1). Excavation removed 0.15m of modern tarmac and hard standing onto made ground deposits into which salt-glazed drains had been cut (Fig. 20). In order to avoid these services, deeper excavation was only possible to the east of the trench. The excavation removed deposits of made ground and demolition material to a depth of 1.2m below the ground surface before excavation was discontinued. No archaeological remains were encountered.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated north-east to south-west and was excavated on level ground to the east of the proposed development site (Fig. 1). The excavation removed up to 0.3m of overburden (001) along the length of the trench. In the southern end of the trench, the remains of a brick structure (023) were recorded (Fig. 2, 13, 14).

The structure (023) was 1.24m across and largely comprised a single course of mortared, machine pressed red bricks. The remains of further coursing had partially survived to the south. Further evidence of this additional coursing could be seen from mortar scarring on the upper brick surfaces. The remains of a slab of grey worked slate (024) butted the structure to the west and continued into the west-facing section of the Trench (Fig. 5,13).

Fig. 5 shows the west-facing section of Trench 3. The slate slab was overlain by a single course of disturbed brick (017). Mortar deposits on the upper surfaces of the brick suggested further coursing, which had probably been removed by demolition cut 014. The demolition cut was c 0.82m in width by 0.4m in depth and cut through deposits 012, 013, 015 and 016, all of which were interpreted as made ground. It was filled by 028, dark-grey, mixed sandy-clay with mortar and brick fragments. The precise purpose of structure 023 and its associated contexts is not known, although its square nature suggests a base or plinth. The activity is probably related to structures known to have been in the development site during the early 20th century.

The remains of a 1.6m wide soak-away were also uncovered but not excavated. The feature was clearly still functioning and comprised small to medium rounded and sub-rounded cobbles (Fig. 14).

Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated north-east to south-west and was situated at the base of a steep bank to the east of the site (Fig. 1). Approximately 0.2m of compacted made ground was removed before natural was reached. The natural comprised thin bands of well sorted alluvial clays and sands. Throughout the base of the trench, a series of defined square and occasionally trapezoidal features were noted in plan (Fig. 18). One of the features was excavated and was c. 0.93m in depth by 1.6m wide (max). The pit had near vertical sides and a flat base. A single mixed fill of sandy-clay (019) contained 19th century bottle glass and clay pipe stem. The precise purpose of the feature is unknown, but the regular shape and characteristics of the cut would suggest a modern origin (Fig. 6, 19).

Trench 5

Trench 5 was orientated roughly east to west and excavated on undulating ground to the south of the proposed development area (Fig. 1). At the west end of the trench, the evaluation uncovered the remains of a probable truncated culvert (025) of red brick construction (Fig. 15). The feature was c. 2.7m in length and 0.11m wide and curved slightly to the south-west. Only the base of the culvert remained under a 0.4m thick layer of firm, light-mid grey sandy-clay at c. 0.75m below the current ground level.

In the eastern end of Trench 5, the natural substrate (000) sloped downwards to 1.2m below the current ground level. The section showed that the ground level had been raised to the present level by the deposition of large quantities of pantile fragments (Fig. 17).

Trench 6

Trench 6 was on the west-facing slope of elevated ground to the east of the development site (Fig. 1). At the east end of the trench 0.25m of topsoil and 0.2m of subsoil was present. At the west end of the trench the natural substrate was 1.1m below the ground level. The ground level had been raised to its present level by the deposition of 0.9m of made ground. The made ground comprised brick and tile fragments in a sandy-clay matrix (Fig. 9). There were no archaeological remains.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was located on higher ground to the east of the development site (Fig. 1, 10). The excavated depth of the trench varied, but was 1.2m to 0.6m in depth north-west to south-east respectively. The natural substrate comprised successive bands of water worn pebbles and cobbles and finer, well sorted bands of sand and gravel. No archaeological features or artefacts were recovered.

Trench 8

The excavated depth of Trench 8 varied from 0.6m in the south-east to 0.8m in the north-west. Excavation removed 0.4m of silty-clay subsoil throughout the trench. There was a merging horizon with the subsoil and the natural substrate. Undisturbed

natural comprised well sorted, fluviially deposited bands of sand and gravel (Fig. 11). No archaeological features or artefacts were recovered.

Trench 9

This trench was located on the crest of a west-facing slope (Fig. 1). Excavation removed made ground, which comprised brownish to dark-grey silty-clay with frequent inclusions of brick and tile. The deposit was deepest to the north-west where it continued below the limit of excavation (Fig. 12). No archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was located on undulating, higher ground to the south-east of the development site (Fig. 1). In the north-east of the trench was 0.8m of made ground, which comprised mid-brown sandy-clay and frequent brick and tile fragments to a depth of c. 1m (Fig. 8). In the south-west of the trench, a cut in the subsoil (003) was recorded. The cut was c. 0.9m in depth and continued below the level of excavation. The cut was filled by a sequence of mixed deposits (004-011) which comprised made ground containing re-deposited building materials, including pantile, brick and crushed mortar which had been rapidly deposited (Fig. 4, 7). The purpose of the cut is unknown, although the preferred interpretation is that this activity is the result of mineral extraction, possibly gypsum mining in this area.

4. CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation excavated 10 trenches. The evaluation was able to record the remains of a basement in Trench 1 and the remains of a brick structure, possibly a base or plinth, in Trench 3. These were both probably 20th century in date.

The evaluation uncovered a series of regular, straight-sided, flat-bottomed pits in Trench 4. Excavation of one of the pits suggested these were probably modern in origin. The remains of a truncated brick culvert was recorded in Trench 5.

The evaluation encountered a series of made ground deposits which became progressively deeper to the south of the site. These deposits included an unusually large amount of pantile fragments. It is probable that these deposits were used to infill depressions caused by previous disturbance, possibly mining or mineral extraction within the site. The steep cut and mixed fills recorded in Trench 10 can probably be attributed to this activity.

No other features or artefacts of archaeological significance were encountered during the archaeological works.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context no.	Trench/Area	Fill of	Type	Description
000	Site	-	Deposit	Natural substrate. Varied from firm pinkish-red, orangey mottled boulder clay, to fluvial deposits of well sorted clays and fine sand and bands of rounded cobbles and worn gravels
001	Site	-	Deposit	Topsoil. Generally confined to the south of the site. Mid-dark grey silty-clay.
002	Site	-	Deposit	Subsoil. Mixed deposit. Mid-grey, with merging horizon to natural. Varying amounts of red tile fragments within the matrix. Presumed to be made, or previously disturbed ground.
003	Trench 10	-	Cut	Near vertical cut in Trench 10. 0.9m in depth. Presumed to originate from mining activity or mineral extraction.
004	Trench 10	003	Deposit	Very mixed deposit comprising bands of red brick, tile fragments, coal fleck in a silty-clay matrix.
005	Trench 10	003	Deposit	A band of crushed mortar. One of several rapid fills of cut 003.
006	Trench 10	003	Deposit	Small slumped deposit of re-deposited silty-clay. 0.1m in depth.
007	Trench 10	003	Deposit	Tip of material from the north comprising coal fragments, brick and tile fragments.
008	Trench 10	003	Deposit	Dump of material in cut 003. Pantile and mortar fragments, and occasional brick fragments.
009	Trench 10	003	Deposit	Thin band of crushed mortar. Pronounced tip from the south. c. 0.08m in depth.
010	Trench 10	003	Deposit	Tip of infilling material in cut 003. Largely comprised crushed brick fragments, c. 0.12m in depth.
011	Trench 10	003	Deposit	Dump of material in cut 003, medium sized fragments of brick, small fragments of tile within a crushed mortar matrix, c. 0.4m in depth.
012	Trench 3	-	Deposit	Made ground. Light-grey deposit of sandy-clay with common fragments of shattered stone. 0.13m in depth.
013	Trench 3	-	Deposit	Made ground. Similar to 012. c. 0.2m in depth max.
014	Trench 3	-	Cut	Demolition cut. Near vertical sides which appear to taper to truncated brickwork 017, which forms a flat base. 0.4m in depth.
015	Trench 3	-	Deposit	Largely comprising re-deposited natural materials. Cut by 014. reddish-pink, sandy-clay with stone cobble inclusions, merges with natural. 0.4m in depth.
016	Trench 3	-	Deposit	Common fragments of stone in light-grey, sandy-clay. c. 0.33m in depth
017	Trench 3	-	Deposit	Layers of brick in Trench 3 (east-facing section). Truncated upper surface. Deposited on slab of slate (024). 0.67m wide by 0.09m in height (1 course).
018	Trench 4	-	Cut	Cut of pit: vertical sides and flat base 0.93m in depth by 1.6m wide.

Context no.	Trench/Area	Fill of	Type	Description
019	Trench 4	018	Deposit	Mixed fill of pit 018. Comprised orangey-greys and yellow grey clays. Clay pipe and bottle glass fragments.
020	Trench 1	-	Masonry	Linear north-facing section of brick wall. Survives > 1.7m east-west by 0.11m in width by 1.1m in height. Built against the natural (000) in Trench 1. Probable basement or cellar.
021	Trench 1	-	Deposit	Deposit of red ceramic tiles forming surface of probable basement/cellar. Cut tiles abut wall 020. Tiles 0.23msq by 0.05m in height.
022	Trench 1	-	Deposit	Coarse, mixed deposit of demolition material. Comprised whole bricks and sections of wall, mortar, tile and 20th century detritus. Infill of basement in Trench 1. c. 1.4m in depth.
023	Trench 3	-	Masonry	Deposit of hard grey, lime mortar bonded bricks. c. 1.24msq. Truncated upper surface suggests further coursing. Unknown purpose, possible plinth/base.
024	Trench 3	-	Deposit	Slab of worked slate. >0.4m east-west by 0.7m in width. Purpose unknown.
025	Trench 5		Deposit	Base of truncated brick culvert. c. 2.7m in length and 0.11m wide and curved slightly to the south-west. Handmade bricks.
026	Trench 1	-	Deposit	Bedding deposit of cinder and ash for surface 021. deposited onto natural (000).
027	Trench 1	-	Cut	Cut in natural (000) for the construction of basement/cellar. Natural was cut c. 1.4m to accommodate wall 020, which abuts it.
028	Trench 3	-	014	Mixed sandy-clay, dark-grey with mortar and brick fragments.

Appendix 2: Digital Photographic Register

Digi No	Contexts/description	Taken from	Conditions
1	Post-excavation shot of Trench 10 c/w feature 003 in foreground.	South-west	Clear
2-3	Shot of cut 003 and associated contexts in south-east-facing section of Trench 10	South-east	Clear
4	Post-excavation shot of Trench 10	North-east	Clear
5	Working shot of Trench 10 recording	South	Clear
6	Oblique shot of south-east-facing section of Trench 10	South	Clear
7-20	General shots of site	-	Various
21	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6	East	Overcast
22	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6	South	Overcast
23	Shot of made ground / subsoil 002 in south-facing section of Trench 6	South	Overcast
24	Post-excavation shot of Trench 8	North-west	Overcast
25	Post-excavation shot of Trench 7	West	Overcast
26	Shot of made ground / subsoil 002 in south-facing section of Trench 8	South	Overcast
27	Post-excavation shot of Trench 8	East	Overcast
28	Shot of natural substrate in Trench 8	-	Overcast
29	Oblique shot of natural substrate in Trench 8	North-east	Overcast
30	Post-excavation shot of Trench 8	North-west	Overcast

Digi No	Contexts/description	Taken from	Conditions
31	Post-excavation shot of Trench 9	South-east	Overcast
32	Shot of subsoil (002) in south-west-facing section of Trench 9	South-west	Overcast
33	Working shot of Trench 9 excavation including the removal of dumped pantiles	South-east	Overcast
34	Post-excavation shot of Trench 9	North-west	Overcast
35-36	Shot of made ground / subsoil (002) in south-west-facing section of Trench 9	South-west	Overcast
37	Oblique shot of made ground / subsoil (002) in south-west-facing section of Trench 9	West	Overcast
38	Shot of brickwork structure, plinth/base (023)	North-east	Overcast
39	Shot of brickwork structure, plinth/base (023)	North-west	Overcast
40	Shot of brickwork structure, plinth/base (023)	North-east	Overcast
41-43	Shot of structure 023 and north-west-facing section of Trench 3	North-west	Overcast
44	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3 and soak away	South-west	Overcast
45	Oblique shot of soak away in Trench 3	East	Overcast
46	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	North-east	Overcast
47	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5 and truncated brick culvert 025	West	Bright
48	Detailed shot of truncated brick culvert 025	West	Bright
49	Shot of truncated brick culvert 025 in Trench 5	South	Bright
50-51	Reconstruction of probable brick culvert within Trench 5	-	Bright
52	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5 and truncated brick culvert 025	East	Bright
53-54	Shot of Trench 4 location prior to relocation due to field drainage	-	Bright
55-57	Post-excavation shot of wall 020 and tile surface 021	North	Clear
58	Shot of surface 021 in Trench 1	South	Clear
59	Shot of north-facing elevation of wall 020 in Trench 1	North	Clear
60	Shot of service in Trench 1	West	Clear
61	Oblique shot of service in Trench 1	North-west	Clear
62	Shot of wall 020 and surface 021 after the lifting of selected tiles	North	Clear
63	Shot of West-facing section of Trench 1 and demolition deposit 022	West	Clear
64	Shot of south-facing section of Trench 5 and made ground / subsoil (002)	South	Overcast
65	Oblique post-excavation shot of Trench 5 and made ground / subsoil (002)	South-east	Overcast
66	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4 and regular shaped pits in plan	South-west	Overcast
67	Shot of regular shaped pit in plan: Trench 4	South-west	Overcast
68	Shot of gable end/ wall stub of former building near Trench 3	West	Overcast
69	Part-excavation shot of pit 018 in Trench 4: North-west facing section	North-west	Overcast
70	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2: Trench terminated, services in foreground	East	Overcast
71	Shot of uncovered services in plan in Trench 2	North	Overcast
72	Shot of south-facing sondage section in Trench 2: made ground	South	Overcast

Appendix 3: Drawing Register

Dwg No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	1	1:10	Section	South-east-facing section of Trench 10 and cut 003.
2	1	1:10	Section	East-facing-section of Trench 3: Brickwork 014 and demolition cut 014.
3	2	1:20	Plan	Scale plan of Trench 3 and brick structure 023.
4	2	1:20	Plan	Scale plan of Trench 5 and truncated brick culvert 025.
5	2	1:20	Plan	Scale plan of Trench 1 and wall 020 and surface 021. Cellar/basement feature.
6	3	1:10	Section	South-east-facing section of Trench 4 and pit 018.



Key:

- Trench
- Archaeological Feature

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Unit 22
 Moorcroft Business Centre
 West Yorkshire, E0119 4E2
 T: 0174 864245
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Fig. No: 1 Revisiort: A

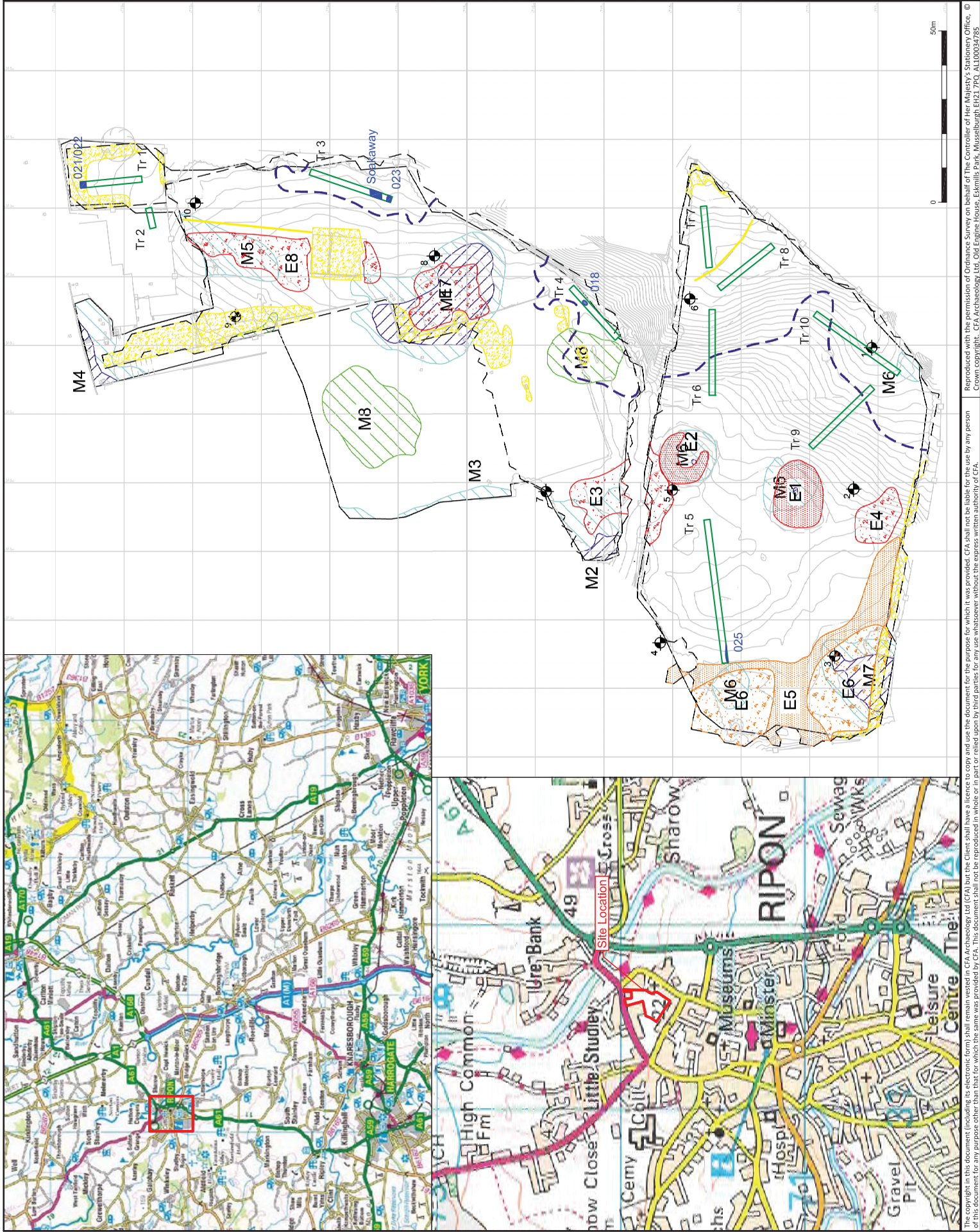
Title: Site location and overall trench plan

Project: Land at North Road, Ripon - Archaeological Evaluation

Client: Prospect Archaeology

Scale at A3: 1:1000

Drawn by: SW Checked: MJ Report No: Y048/12



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Keys:

Modern Soakaway

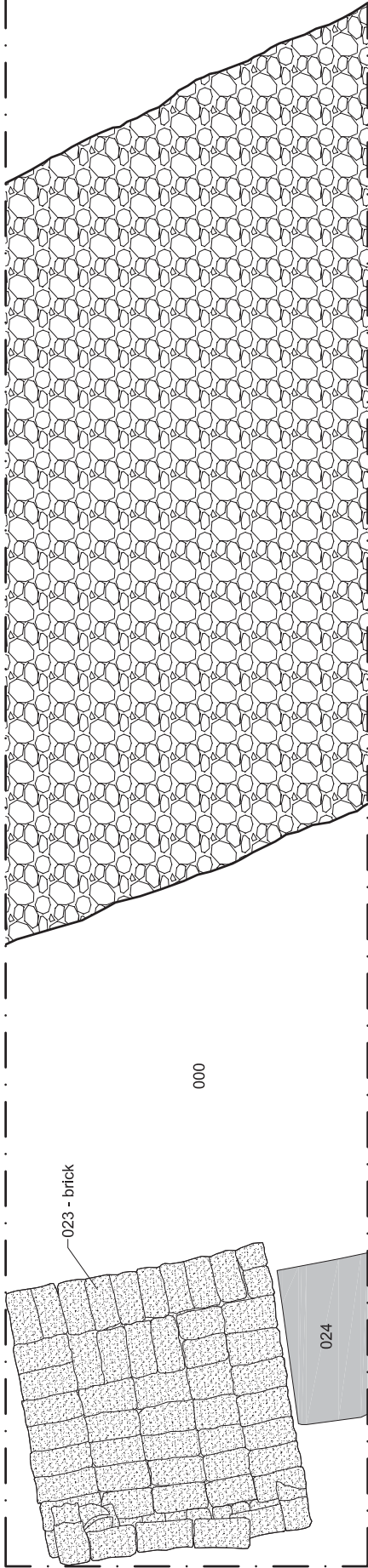


Fig 2 - 1:20 Scale plan of Trench 3 and Feature 023

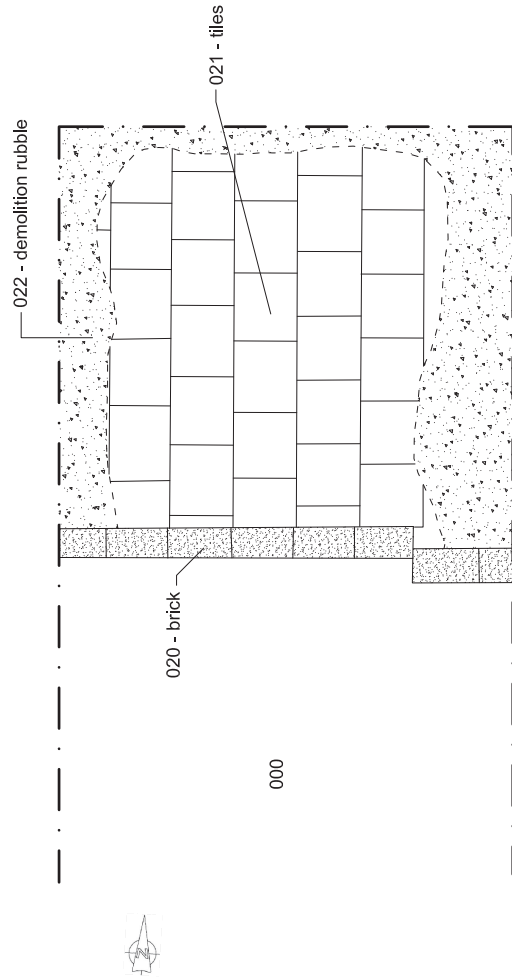


Fig 3 - 1:20 Scale plan of Trench 1 and Basement 020/021



Fig. No: 2-3 Revisions: A

Title: Scale plans of archaeological features in Trenches 1 and 3

Project: Land at North Road, Ripon - Archaeological Evaluation

Client: Prospect Archaeology

Scale at A3: 1:20

Drawn by: SW Checked: MJ Report No: Y048/12

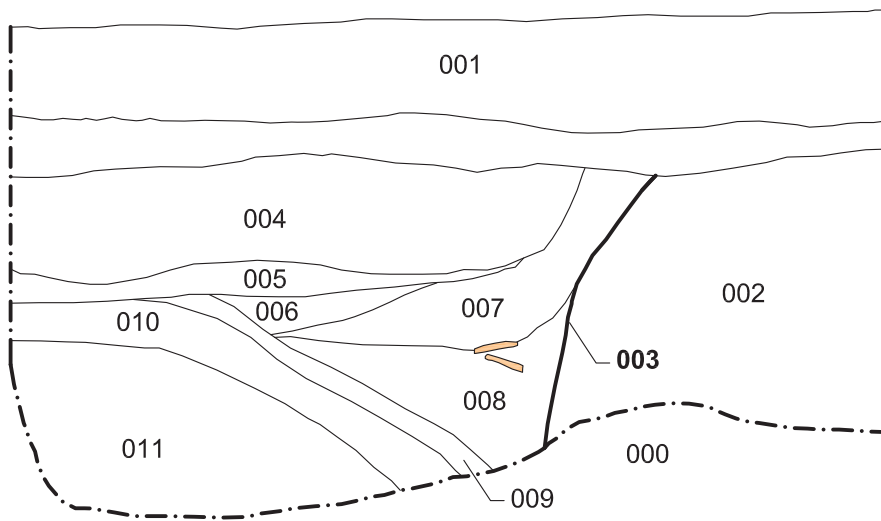


Fig 4 - 1:20 Scale drawing of south-east-facing section of Trench 10

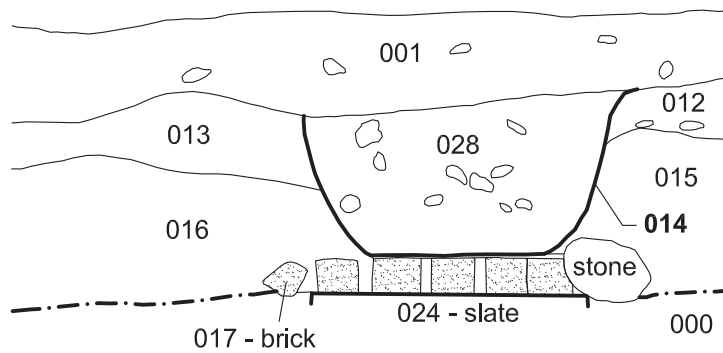


Fig 5 - 1:20 Scale drawing of east-facing section of Trench 3

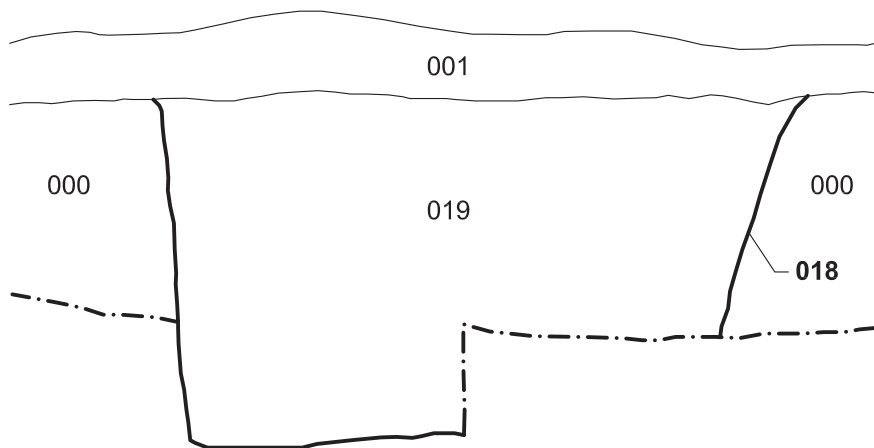


Fig 6 - 1:20 Scale drawing of south-east-facing section of Trench 4 and Pit 018

Key:
 Tile

Fig No: 4-6 Revision: 0 Client: Prospect Archaeology

Title:
 Drawn sections of features within
 Trenches 3, 4 and 10

Project:
 Land at North Road, Ripon - Archaeological
 Evaluation

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Unit 22
 Moorland's Business Centre
 Balme Road, Cleckheaton
 West Yorkshire, BD19 4EZ
 T: 01274 864245
 F: 01274 878494
 yorkshire@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Scale at A4:
 1:20

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Fig 7 - Shot of made ground in Trench 10



Fig 8 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 10



Fig 9 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 6



Fig 10 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 7


Key:	Fig. No:	7-10	Revision:	A	Client:	Prospect Archaeology
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Fig 11 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 8



Fig 12 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 9



Fig 13 - Shot of Brickwork 023 and east-facing section of Trench 3



Fig 14 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 3

Key:

Fig. No: 11-14 Revision: A Client: Prospect Archaeology

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Unit 22
Moorland's Business Centre
Balme Road, Cleckheaton
West Yorkshire, BD19 4EZ

T: 01274 864245
F: 01274 878494
yorkshire@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Scale at A4:

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Fig 15 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 5 and Truncated Culvert 025



Fig 16 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 and Basement 020 and 021



Fig 17 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 5



Fig 18 - Post-excavation shot of Trench 4


Key:	Fig. No:	15-18	Revision:	A	Client:	Prospect Archaeology
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Fig 19 - Shot of south-east-facing section of Pit 018 in Trench 4



Fig 20 - Post-excitation shot of Trench 2

Key:

Fig. No: 19-20 Revision: A Client: Prospect Archaeology

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Unit 22
Moorland's Business Centre
Balme Road, Cleckheaton
West Yorkshire, BD19 4EZ

T: 01274 864245
F: 01274 878494
yorkshire@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Scale at A4:

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