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CNY	1440
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THE PLOUGH INN CAR PARK, SAXTON.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.
OSA REPORT No: OSA02WB14.

MARCH 2002.

OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY

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Report Summary

NYC 1440

NYE 790
NYS 6943**REPORT NO:** OSA02WB14.**SITE NAME:** The Plough Inn Car Park, Saxton.**COUNTY:** North Yorkshire.**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 4760 3660.**PLANNING APPLICATION No:** 8/67/43F/PA.**ON BEHALF OF:** Mr A. Turtle
AT Design & Drawing
Sandwath Lane
Church Fenton
Tadcaster
LS24 9QT.**TEXT:** Faye Palmer**FIELDWORK:** Faye Palmer**TIMING:** Fieldwork
5th & 6th March 2002.
Post excavation & report preparation
8th March 2002.**ENQUIRIES TO:** Nick Pearson
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YO10 3EP*tel* (01904) 411673*fax* (01904) 414522*mobile* (07767) 385766*e-mail* mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk**PERIODS REPRESENTED:** Modern.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT THE FORMER PLOUGH INN CAR PARK, SAXTON, NORTH YORKS.

1.0 Introduction.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by On-Site Archaeology on the site of the former Plough Inn car park on Headwell Lane, Saxton, North Yorkshire. Two semi-detached houses were to be built on the site by D.J. Poulter builders.

The watching brief comprised the observation of the stripping of the car park surface and topsoil from the entire site and the digging of foundation and drainage trenches. The work was carried out between the 5th and 6th March 2002.

2.0 Site Location.

The site is situated at NGR SE 4760 3660, in the small village of Saxton, near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. It is bounded to the north, west and east by roads and to the south by residential land. A stone wall of unknown date surrounds the site along the road sides. The site has been used as a car park in recent years, but its previous use is unknown.

3.0 Archaeological Background.

The site of the proposed development lies within the core of Saxton village. It is close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Saxton Castle, which was a medieval motte and bailey castle with later medieval manor house and field system. The castle site can be seen to the north of the car park behind the former inn building, which has been converted into a house. There is also a church in the village which could be of a similar date to the manor house. There is therefore potential for remains of medieval and later dates to be encountered during the watching brief.

4.0 Methodology.

The car park surface was stripped by a back acting machine with a 1.2m wide bucket to a depth of approx. 0.2m, and the garden soil in the south west corner of the site stripped to a depth of 0.3m. The foundation and drainage trenches were then dug by the same machine, using a 0.6m wide bucket for the outside foundations and drainage trenches and a 0.4m bucket for the inside foundations. The foundation trenches were 0.8 – 1.2m deep and the drainage trenches 0.3 – 0.6m deep.

5.0 Results.

There was a 0.2m – 0.4m deep layer of tarmac and gravel [1000] covering most of the site, except for a small garden area in the south west corner. Below this was a layer [1001] 0.2 – 0.5m deep, consisting of soft dark yellowish brown clay silt with frequent small – medium stones and occasional modern pot and glass sherds. One clay pipe fragment was seen in this layer. Below this was a patchy layer of light yellow sand with frequent stone fragments and

occasional brick fragments [1002], 0.3m deep where it occurred in large patches throughout the site. Below this was a layer of natural mid grey plastic clay with no inclusions [1003], then a layer of natural dark red firm clay with frequent boulders [1004]. Towards the northern end of the site, layer [1001] was at its deepest, and [1004] contained very large boulders (up to 0.5m in diameter). No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered. All excavated material on the site seemed to be of 20th century date or natural.

6.0 Context Index.

Context	Description	Interpretation	Maximum depth
1000	Tarmac and gravel layer	Car park surface	0.4m
1001	Soft dark yellowish brown clay silt with freq small – med stones , occ modern pot, clay pipe frag.	Modern garden soil / dump	0.5m
1002	Loose light yellow sand freq stones occ brick frags.	Dump layer/ levelling?	0.3m
1003	Plastic mid grey clay no incl.	Natural	Unknown
1004	Firm dark red clay freq boulders med-large.	Natural	Unknown

Saxton

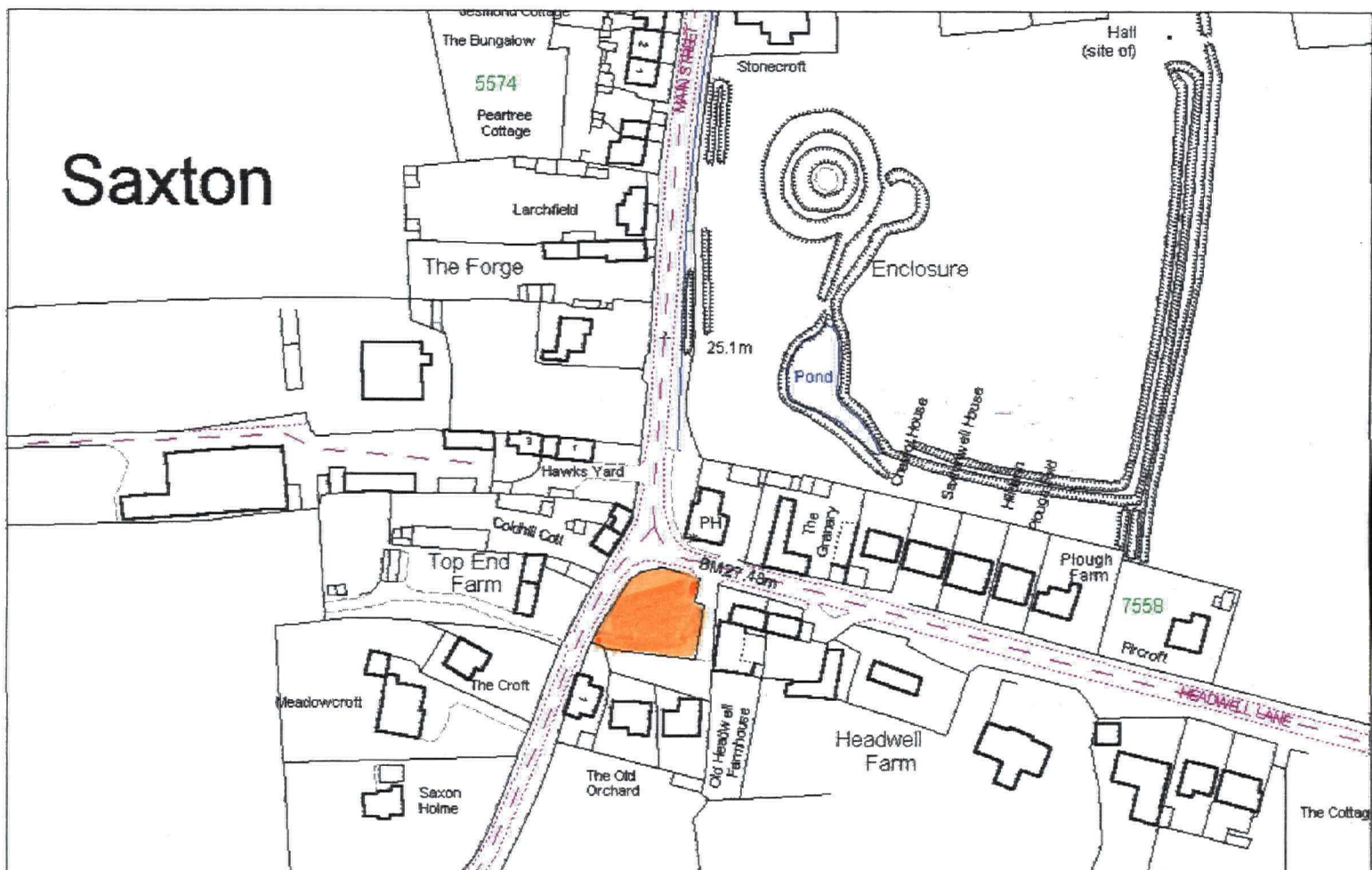




Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 4760 3660.)

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