



Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 2840 7405)

Reproduced from the ??? Ordnance Survey 1:??? maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
 © Crown copyright. OSA Licence No: AL 52132A0001



---

## 2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use.

---

Sutton Grange is located around two and a half miles northwest of Ripon. The local geology consists of boulder clay over outcrops of magnesian limestone (Geological Survey of England and Wales, 1959) with the topography comprising the gently undulating relief immediately to the east of the more dramatic scenery of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Land use in the area appears to be a mixture of pasture and arable.

---

## 3.0 Archaeological Background.

---

Documents dated to 1146 list Sutton as one of the granges of Fountains Abbey (Coppack 1993, 81), the abbey lying some three miles to the south. In 1318, many of the Fountains estates were overrun by the Scots and their buildings burned (*ibid*, 88). Upon the dissolution, Sutton Grange passed into secular possession. Though a consideration of the standing buildings and their archaeology was beyond the remit of this watching brief, the aisled barn (see Figure 2) may possibly date to the immediate post-dissolution period, i.e. the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that subsurface investigation might uncover medieval fabric and evidence of destructive episodes.

---

## 4.0 Methodology.

---

The service trenches and other holes were excavated with a back actor fitted with a narrow toothed bucket. As the trenches were excavated, close archaeological supervision was maintained in order to identify any surviving archaeological deposits.

The exposed sides of the trenches were, where necessary, cleaned by hand in order to detect any archaeological features revealed through textural or colour changes in the deposits.

Written records were made consisting of *pro forma* sheets, and 35mm photography undertaken using colour and archivally stable black and white film.

#### 5.4 *Sewer trench.*

A sewer trench was excavated to the north of the un-metalled road running through North Sutton Farm (see Figure 2). The trench ran in a southwest-northeast direction for over 30m and was 0.60m wide and no more than 1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of a 0.40m deep layer of topsoil, (2000) over (in the northeast end of the trench) a 0.05-0.10m deep layer of limestone rubble fragments, (2001). Beneath both (2000) and (2001) was a mid orange-brown sandy silty clay, with occasional pebbles and cobbles, that comprised the natural (2003).

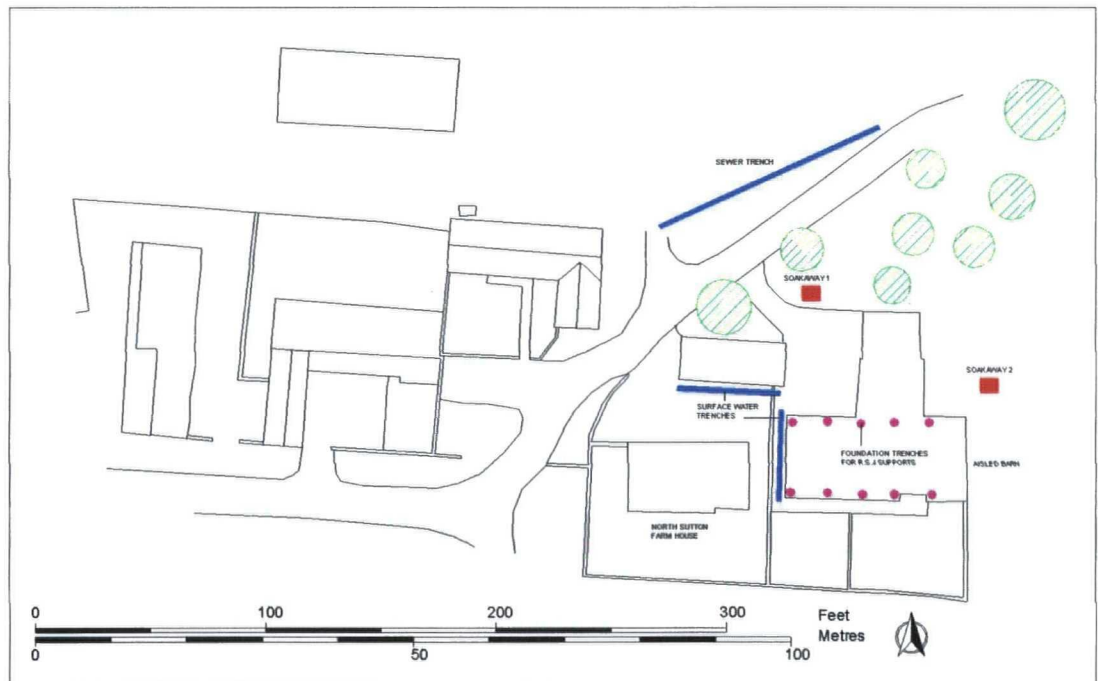


Figure 2. Plan showing location of interventions monitored. (Scale 1:1000).

---

## 6.0 Conclusions.

---

Little of archaeological interest was encountered during this watching brief. Excavation in the immediate vicinity of the aisled barn was perhaps too shallow to disturb possible medieval contexts. The one feature of interest was the crushed chalk/mortar layer, remnants of which still survive within the aisled barn, and which may represent a mortar surface within the building.

---

## 7.0 Bibliography.

---

Coppack, G (1993) *Fountains Abbey*, Batsford (London)

## 8.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context	Description	Extent	Depth
1000	Stone flags of dimension 0.40m x 0.33m x 0.09m.	2m x 1m area	0.09m
1001	Crushed chalk/mortar layer. Former floor surface	Over barn?	0.14m
1002	Cobbles in a mid-brown silty clay. Foundation for chalk floor	Over barn?	0.12m
1003	Mid-brown silty clay. Natural.	Over barn	0.15m+
2000	Dark blackish brown loamy soil with occasional pebbles and limestone fragments. Topsoil	Over trench	0.40m
2001	Layer of limestone rubble fragments beneath topsoil. Average size of fragments 0.05m x 0.05m 0.05m.	Only in septic tank (east) end of trench	0.05m – 0.10m
2002	Mid-orange brown sandy silty clay. Occasional well-rounded and sub-angular pebbles together with cobbles. Natural.	Over trench	0.30m+