

8/053 auk 11 11 96

NYE 1294

NYS 7828

NYCC HER	
SNY	7828
ENY	1294
CNY	
Parish	8053
Rec'd	11/11/1996

**Roall Manor Farm,  
Eggborough, North Yorkshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*October 1996*



**West Yorkshire  
Archaeology Service**

© WYAS 1996

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service  
14 St John's North, Wakefield WF1 3QA

WYAS R400 31 October 1996

# Roall Manor Farm, Eggborough, North Yorkshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*

### Contents

- 1 Summary
- 2 Introduction
- 3 Archaeological Background
- 4 Methodology
- 5 Results
- 6 Conclusion

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

*Appendix*

# 1 Summary

## *Client*

Yorkshire Country Ltd  
Roall Manor Farm,  
Roall Lane,  
Kellington,  
North Yorkshire

## *Objectives*

To determine whether known archaeological features associated with a Roman fort in the field immediately to the north continue southwards into the area of a proposed workshop at Roall Manor Farm, on behalf of Yorkshire Country Ltd

## **Geology and Topography**

The site was located within an infilled palaeochannel of the River Aire filled with fluvial sands silts and clays. The ground rose gradually to the north and south onto sandstone.

## **Method**

Three trenches were machine excavated in order to test for the presence of archaeological features. The trenches had been requested by the North Yorkshire County Archaeologist.

## **Conclusion**

The whole of the area affected by the development was shown to be covered by successive flood deposits consisting of water-laid silty sands and silty clays to a depth of over 1m. No archaeological features were identified.

## **2 Introduction**

2.1 Yorkshire Country Ltd commissioned West Yorkshire Archaeology Service to undertake the evaluation of the site at Roall Manor Farm North Yorkshire. The evaluation of 3 trial trenches took place on 23/10/96 with 2 archaeologists on site.

2.2 The site of the proposed development is located immediately to the northwest of the existing workshop at the west side of Roall Manor Cottages (Fig 1). The site is located at SE 565249.

## **3 Archaeological Background**

3.1 The site of the Roman fort at Roall was first identified from crop marks in July 1991 by the Air Photography Unit of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (Bewley & Macleod 1993). Subsequently during 1991 and 1992 a programme of geophysical survey (Fig 1) and fieldwalking was carried out by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (Yarwood & Marriot 1992). This provided further detail of the fort and its immediate surroundings and also produced finds dating from the Mesolithic period onwards suggesting the possible presence of prehistoric sites within the vicinity.

3.2 The location of the three trenches described in this report lies 50m to the south of the area covered by the 1992 geophysical survey in an area identified as having been prone to frequent flooding in the past.

## **4 Methodology**

4.1 Three trial trenches were positioned along the external wall lines of the proposed development where disturbance to underlying deposits was likely to be greatest during construction. Trench 1 was positioned at the southern end of the western wall. Trench 2 was positioned near the western end of the northern wall. Trench 3 was positioned at the northern end of the eastern wall (Fig 1).

4.2 The three trenches were machine stripped by a JCB using a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket down to a depth of c. 1m. The trench sides were cleaned manually and examined for the presence of archaeological features. One long section was recorded in each trench in accordance with the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service Site Recording Manual (Boucher 1995).

## **5 Results**

### **5.1 Trench 1 (Fig 2)**

Trench 1 measured 4.7m by 1.5m and was orientated north-south at the southern end of the western wall line. It was machined to a depth of 1.2m. Turf and topsoil 101 overlay a thin layer of a slightly leached lower topsoil 102 which sealed homogeneous brown silty sand over more lensed sands. No archaeological features were observed.

Context	Description
101	Turf and topsoil 0.26m thick Dark greyish brown friable sandy silt with occasional small rounded pebbles <15mm and small post medieval tile fragments
102	Lower topsoil 0.10m thick Dark brown firm silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles <15mm
103	0.30m thick Mid to dark brown friable silty sand Fairly homogeneous
104	More than 0.54m thick Lensed light grey light brown mid brown and orange brown sands and silty sands

### 5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Trench 2 measured 6.1m by 1.5m and was orientated north-south at the northern end of the eastern wall line. It was machined to a depth of 1.0m. A convex sequence of layers was observed towards the base of the trench sloping down to the north and south. The lowest deposit was an orange sand 207 overlain by a band of grey clay 206 above which was further sand 205 and clay 204. The southern end of the trench was levelled above 204 by further sand layers 203 and 202. Overlying all of these deposits was a horizontal sand layer 200 containing modern rubble. This was cut by a modern probable posthole 201 filled with leached topsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

Context	Description
200	Up to 0.44m thick Mid brown coarse sand containing modern building rubble
201	Modern possible posthole Only observed in section C 0.8m wide and 0.5m deep with a U-shaped profile Filled with dark brown silty sand
202	Up to 0.44m thick Only observed at southern end of trench Mixed orange and pale brown firm sand No inclusions
203	More than 0.3m thick Only observed in base of southern end of trench Brown firm sand No inclusions
204	Up to 0.25m thick Rather convex profile Pale greyish brown firm slightly plastic silty clay
205	Up to 0.12m thick Rather convex profile Orange firm silty sand No inclusions
206	0.1m thick Rather convex profile Pale grey plastic silty clay No inclusions
207	More than 0.3m thick Orange mid pale brown fairly firm sandy silt with occasional black flecks of manganese or coal

### 5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

Trench 3 measured 5.4m by 1.5m and was orientated east-west at the western end of the northern wall line. It was machined to a depth of 1.25m. The area of this trench was covered in a recent layer of loose rubble c. 0.25m thick. This sealed c. 0.5m of mixed lenses of brown and orange silty sands 305 above a sequence of very layered sands silty sands and clayey sands 302 showing numerous possible turf-development horizons. Below this was a layer of grey clay 303 similar to

that observed in Trench 2 (206) above further brown sands 304. Two possible modern features 301 and 306 cut the top of the sequence. No archaeological features were identified. There was slight groundwater seepage at the base of this trench.

Context	Description
301	Modern feature only partially observed in section. More than 1.5m wide and more than 0.54m deep with a gently sloping western side. Filled with a dark brown slightly sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal <5mm.
302	0.3m thick. Very layered, mostly light brown coarse sand with lenses of light grey slightly clayey sand, mid brown silty sand and mid brown clayey sand. Lenses of dark greyish brown silty sand possibly represented buried vegetational development horizons.
303	Up to 0.15m thick. Mid grey sticky slightly silty clay. Had a fairly continuous possibly organic dark grey thin horizon along its upper surface.
304	More than 0.15m thick. Mid brown coarse sand with lenses of dark grey possibly organic silt and orange brown sand.
305	0.5m thick. Mixed lenses of dark brown, mid brown and orange brown slightly silty sand. Not horizontally banded like underlying layer 302.
306	Probable modern posthole only observed in section. 0.3m wide with 1.0m wide erosion at top. 0.5m deep. Flat based U profile. Similar fill to 301.

## 6 Conclusion

The trial trenches each showed a sequence of alluvial sand, silt and clay deposits consistent with repeated flooding events, with some evidence for vegetational recovery between each event. The location of the development lies within an infilled palaeochannel of the River Aire, with slightly higher ground to the north and south. Seepage into Trench 3 showed how close the water table is to the modern ground level, even after a relatively dry summer, and the area will have been wetter before modern drainage.

No archaeological features were identified, all cut features noted being cut from immediately below the topsoil and filled with deposits similar to the lower topsoil identified in Trench 1, and apparently modern in date. This result was consistent with the notion of Roman occupation of the site being restricted to the higher and drier ground immediately to the north.

## Acknowledgements

Project management	I Roberts BSc MIFA
Report	G Speed
Fieldwork	C Morris BA G Speed
Illustrations	H Boyd

## Bibliography

Bewley R H & Macleod D 1993 The Discovery of a Roman Fort at Roall Manor Farm  
North Yorkshire *Brittania Vol XXIV*

Boucher A ed 1995 West Yorkshire Archaeology Service Site Recording Manual

Yarwood B & Marriott J 1992 Roall Roman Fort Geophysical Survey and Fieldwalking  
Results Lower Aire Calder Valley Survey Interim Report No 2 WYAS Report



## *Appendix*

Inventory of primary archive

3 trench section drawings at a scale of 1 20

2 films monochrome film number 4035 colour film number 4036

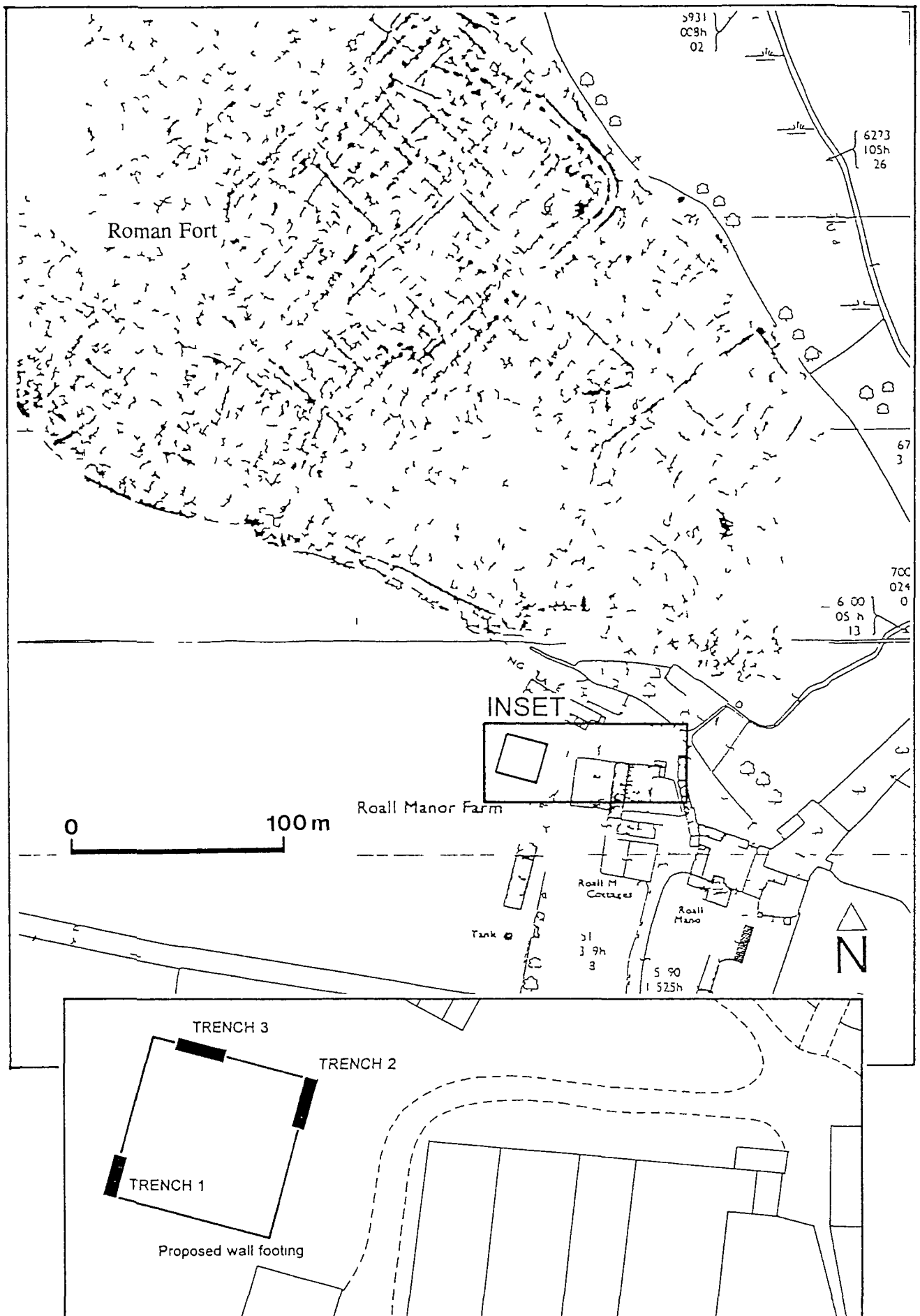
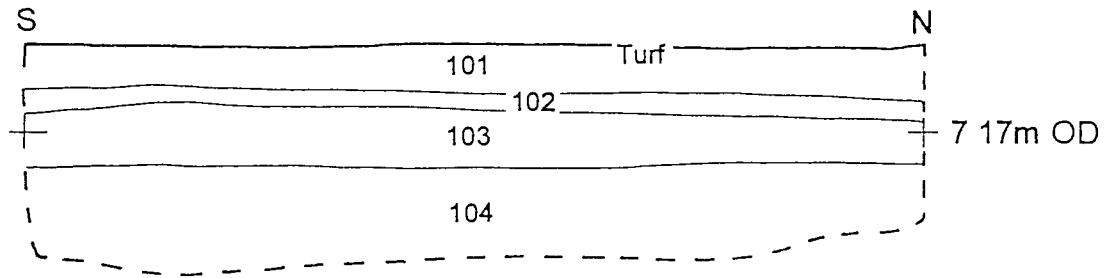
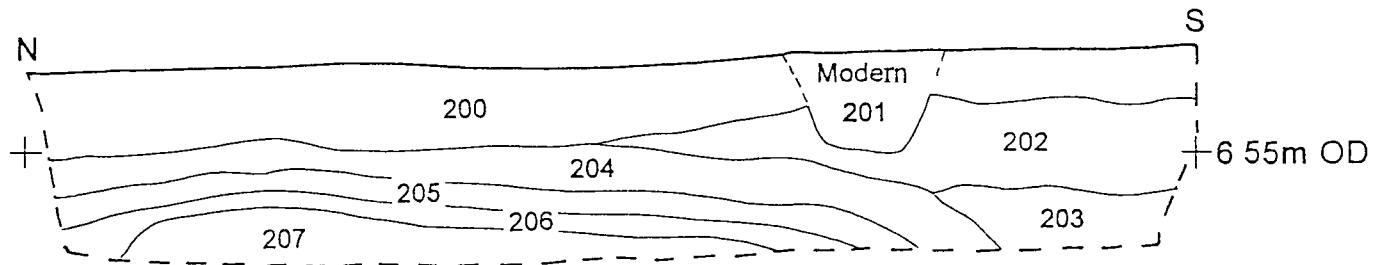


Fig 1 Site and trench locations with respect to the geophysical representation of Roman Fort, adapted from Yarwood and Marriot 1992

TRENCH 1



TRENCH 2



TRENCH 3

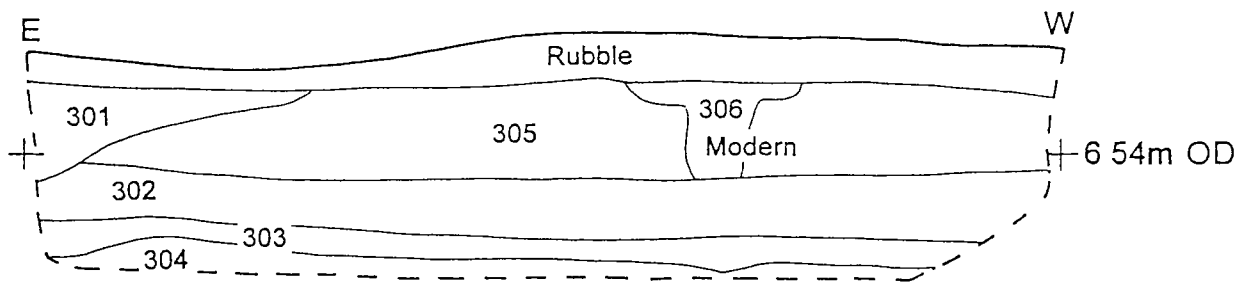


Fig 2 Stratigraphic details of the trench sections