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**Thrintoft Grange Farm  
Thrintoft  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief  
Phases 1 & 2 Interim Report**

**February 1999**

**MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd**

**Thrintoft Grange Farm  
Thrintoft  
North Yorkshire  
PHASES 1 & 2  
Interim Statement**

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**Thrintoft Grange Farm**  
**Thrintoft**  
**North Yorkshire**  
**PHASES 1 & 2**  
**Interim Statement**

**Introduction**

The development site at Grange Farm, Thrintoft, North Yorkshire, is located c. 5km west of Northallerton (Application No. 2/97/161/0026F : SE 3190 9298 : Fig. 1). The residential development consists of five houses with garages, and the restoration and conversion of the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene by Pilcher Developments Ltd. The development is on the site of a former grange with a surviving chapel which was the property of Jervaulx Abbey, a Cistercian house located 14km to the west. The chapel building has been used as a barn, and has been modified for agricultural usage, and is now in a dilapidated state.

The chapel has been surveyed and trial excavations have been previously conducted by Cleveland County Archaeology Section.

Thrintoft Grange Farm stands on soils of the Wick 1 Soil Association (541r), 'deep well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally over gravel'. The underlying solid geology is glaciofluvial drift or river terrace.

**Results Summary**

**Phase 1**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd during the excavation of the access road for the development (Fig. 1). Under a thin layer of topsoil were deposits of brick rubble and concrete of varying depth. In places these deposits sealed a thin layer of black silty material again with modern inclusions of brick and tile fragments. This deposit lay directly on to the natural sands and small patches of compact clay (Pls. 1 & 2).

The stratigraphy exposed in this phase of works was mirrored in a small engineering testpit excavated between Plots 2 and 3.

It would appear that a fairly large portion of the site with street frontage has been cleared in the past to facilitate the construction of hard standing areas and possibly floors for agricultural buildings.

**Phase 2**

A further phase of observation was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd during the excavation of the house and garage footprint for Plots 2, 3 & 8 and limited drainage works.

Removal of the overburden and subsoil from Plots 2 and 3 produced a small amount of evidence for the earlier arrangement of the farm buildings.

#### Plot 2

Excavation located an area of cobbling (Pl. 3), which may be part of an earlier road into the farm and a linear feature possibly representing the western boundary of the farm range.

#### Plot 3

An area of compacted rubble may represent an area of hard standing associated with the farm buildings which were demolished as part of the initial site works. Over the remainder of the plot overburden was seen to be directly above the natural sands (Pl. 4).

Pottery of post medieval date was recovered from the surface of the cobbles and within the fill of the linear feature.

Drainage work was confined to the outer edge of the footprint excavation and no additional features were observed.

#### Plot 8

Deposits of modern overburden were less substantial in the northern area of this plot (Pl. 5). The only features observed were pits of recent date containing the skeletal remains of cattle (Pl. 6), three such pits were observed all containing articulated and disarticulated remains. Ceramic finds were restricted to a single residual sherd of Brandsby type ware pottery found in the fill of one of the pits.

#### **Conclusion**

All of the work to date at the site has suggested an intensive period of clearance which has effectively removed all traces of any earlier activity.

Further Watching Briefs will be undertaken on the remaining house plots 4 and 5 as development work on site commences.

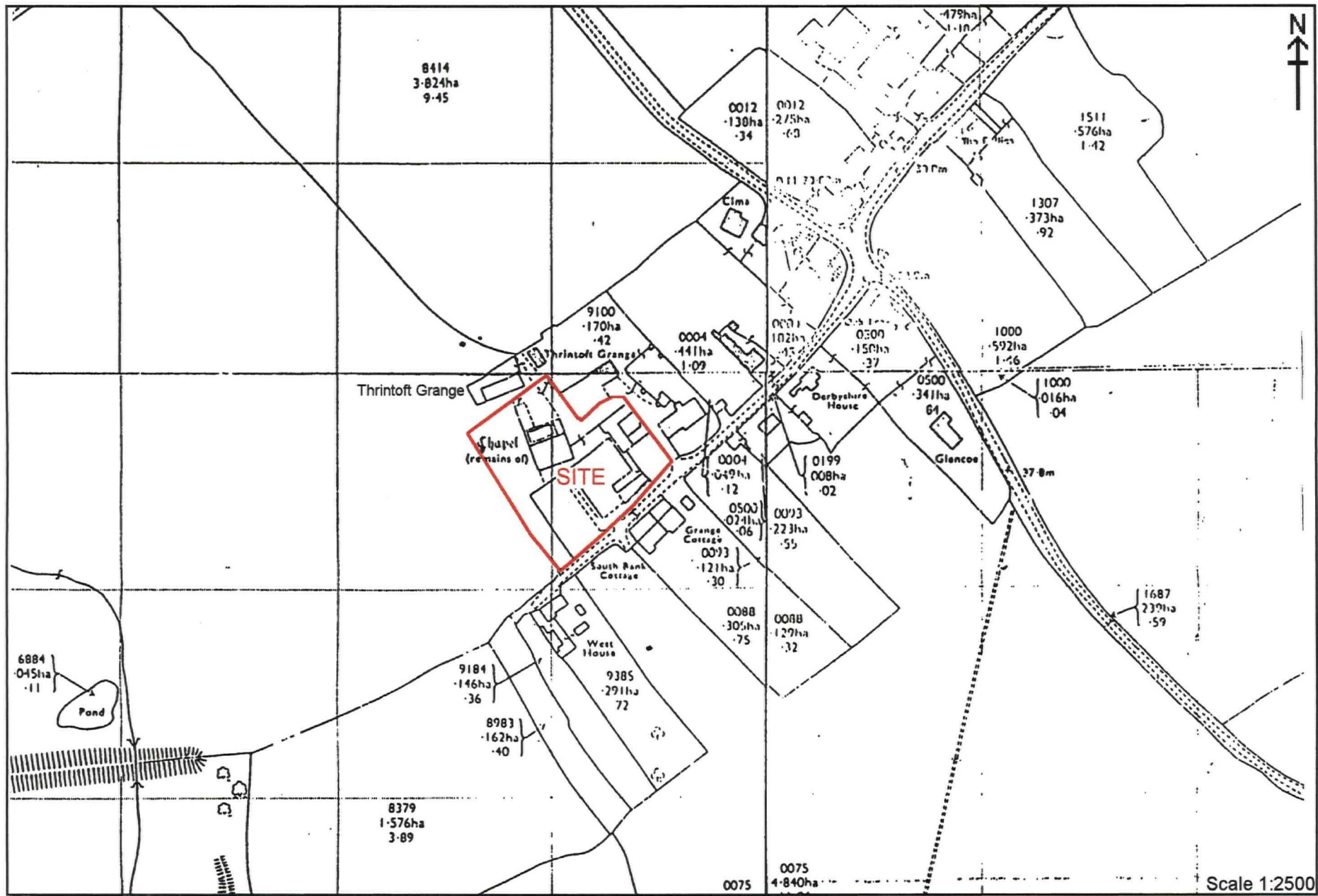


Figure 1. Site Location.

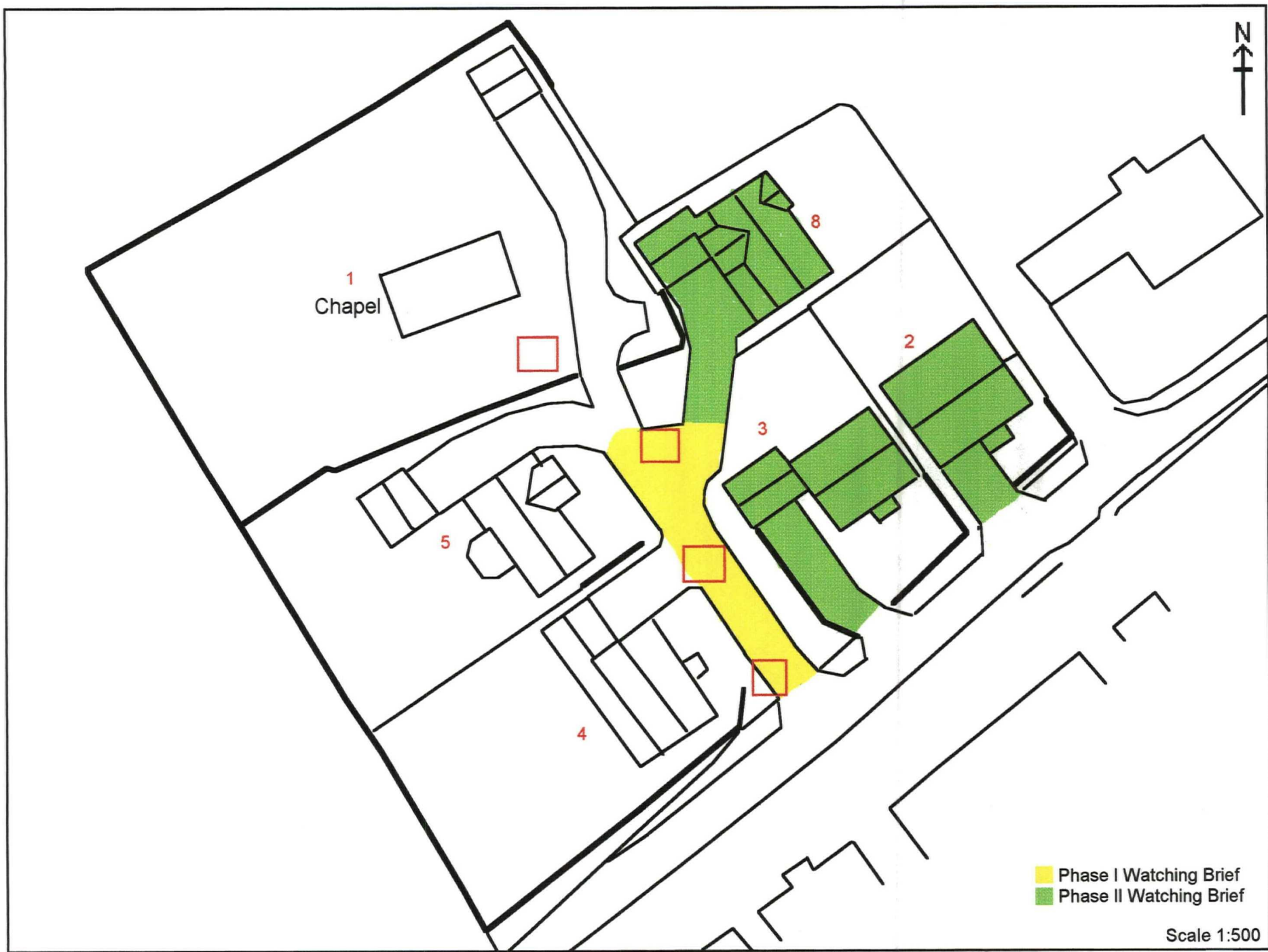


Figure 2. Location of Archaeological Works.



Plate 1. View of access road, after stripping. Facing north.



Plate 2. View of access road, after stripping. Facing south.





Plate 3. Plot 2. Cobbled surface. Facing north-east.



Plate 4. General view of Plot 3. Facing east.



Plate 5. General view of Plot 8. Facing north.



Plate 6. Plot 8. Cattle burial. Facing north.