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HALL GARTH FARM, MAIN STREET, BIRKIN.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.
OSA REPORT No: OSA02WB39.

JANUARY 2003.

OSA

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Report Summary.

MS 8553

REPORT NO: OSA02WB39.**SITE NAME:** Hall Garth Farm, Main Street, Birkin.**COUNTY:** North Yorkshire.**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 5312 2650.**PLANNING APPLICATION No:** 8/51/14D/PA.**ON BEHALF OF:** Mr M.Nunns
Hall Garth Farm,
Main Street,
Birkin.**TEXT:** Dave Cudlip.**FIELDWORK:** Dave Cudlip.**TIMING:** Fieldwork
29th November 2002.
Post excavation & report preparation
2nd December 2002.**ENQUIRIES TO:** Nick Pearson
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1.0 Introduction.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the 29th of November 2002 by *On-Site Archaeology* on the site of the erection of a cattle and sheep building on land at hall Garth Farm, Main Street, Birkin, North Yorkshire on behalf of Mr M Nunns. This work was required to fulfil the archaeological condition attached to the planning application (reference number 8/51/14d/PA).

The watching brief comprised the observation of the excavation of twelve foundation pits for the proposed building. No archaeological features or deposits were found in the course of the investigation.

2.0 Site Location & Archaeological Background.

The site is situated at NGR SE 5312 2650, towards the south end of the village of Birkin. The site lies immediately to the east of St Mary's Church. It lies close to an area of archaeological interest known as Hall Garth, a medieval moated site. The watching brief condition was imposed due to the potential for buried medieval features, associated with the moated site, to be threatened by the development.

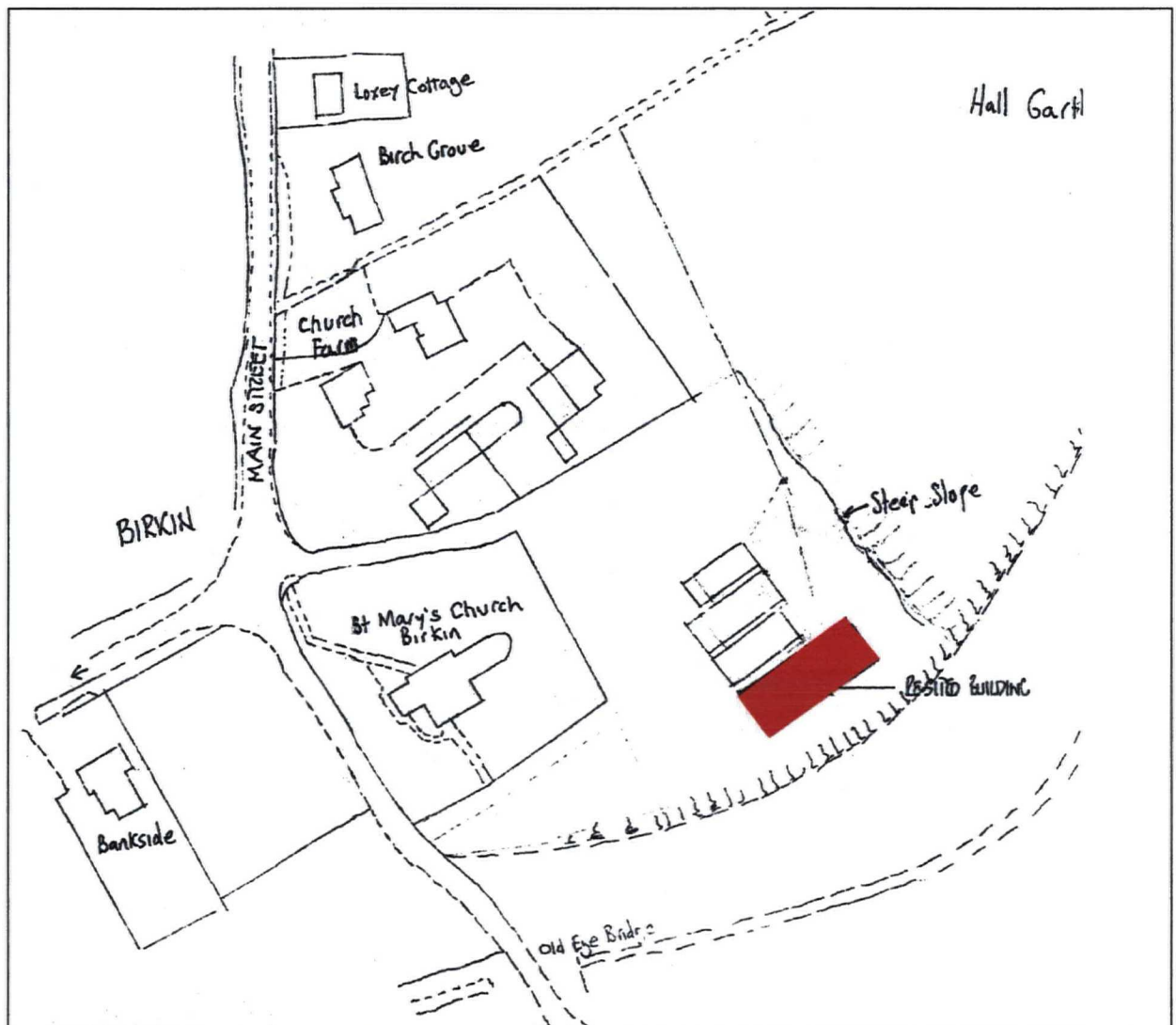


Figure 1. Location plan, area of watching brief shown in red. (Not to scale).

3.0 Methodology.

All of the foundation holes were excavated by JCB using a 0.7m wide toothed bucket. This excavation was monitored by the attending archaeologist. Trench sides and bases were examined for archaeological features.

A record of the site was made consisting of a standard *On-Site Archaeology* watching brief record sheet and photographs taken with a digital camera.

4.0 Results.

A total of twelve foundation pits were excavated, each being approximately 1m x 1m in plan and 1m deep. These all contained a similar sequence of modern made ground, comprising dark grey clay silt, with fragments of modern brick, chalk and sandstone rubble. No earlier archaeological features or residual finds were observed.

5.0 Conclusions.

The area of the new cattle and sheep building has clearly been subjected to substantial topographical alteration in the recent past. The construction of the new building has therefore had no impact upon archaeological remains. From this limited investigation it was not obvious whether the substantial depth of modern dumping may be sealing potential archaeological deposits, or if the modern landscaping had removed any such remains within the effected area.



Plate 1. Example of an excavated foundation trench. (scale of 0.50m).