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NYE 2214(TT) NYS 8652

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND EXCAVATION AT THORPE LANE, CAWOOD, JULY 1987

1987.18

SMR No 9699.02.230.

NYCC HER

SNY	8652
ENY	2214
CNY	
Parish	8035
Rec'd	?1987

This work was undertaken to investigate possible structures relating to the Archbishops of York's residence in a small open plot of land immediately east of the residence and south of Thorpe Lane.

CHRONOLOGICAL DEPOSIT SEQUENCE

The earliest deposit is a coarse orange sand (probably fluvio-glacial) at 6.2m +O.D., sloping slightly down to the east to 6.10m in Trench C, and at least 300mm thick (at which point the water table was reached.) Above this is 700mm of mid brown sand, probably alluvium (2010; 3004). At the north end of Trench B, this deposit had been cut by a feature at least 600mm deep, running parallel to Thorpe Lane (2009). This feature had been filled in by at least two separate deposits containing building material fragments (2007; 2008).

A general deposit overlying alluvium and feature fills at 7.0m +O.D. is regarded as build up (1018; 2006; 3003). This is in turn overlain by a dump of demolition debris at 7.20m + O.D. This has a distinct northern limit in Trench B, which appears to continue to the west according to the geophysical survey. It must also have a fairly abrupt south edge, since it was not observed in Trench C. Taken as a whole, the evidence suggests that the dump is a linear deposit, oriented west to east, and may have had a secondary function as a road surface (1006, 1008, 1013, 1014, 1017; 2005). This deposit is cut by a post-medieval field drain in Trench A (1007, 1009, 1010, 1011).

Following another general build-up deposit (1004, 1005; 2004; 3002) is more demolition material (this time very patchy). This occurs only in Trenches A and B, suggesting that this material is derived

from demolition activity to the west, that is in the vicinity of Cawood Castle (1003; 2003).

STRUCTURES

No conclusive evidence of structural activity relating to the Archbishops of York's residence, or even of post-Medieval date was found. Trenches A and D were placed over what the geophysical survey indicated may have been a masonry-built structure. A clay and mortar spread was found, but no walls or foundation trenches on the east side at least (1006, 1008, 1013, 1014, 1017). The mortar could have been a surface within a timber-built structure which was not noted, but if so it has been badly disturbed; also as it merged gradually into a stone surface to the east in Trench D (2005), it more probably was part of the dump/road surface mentioned above.

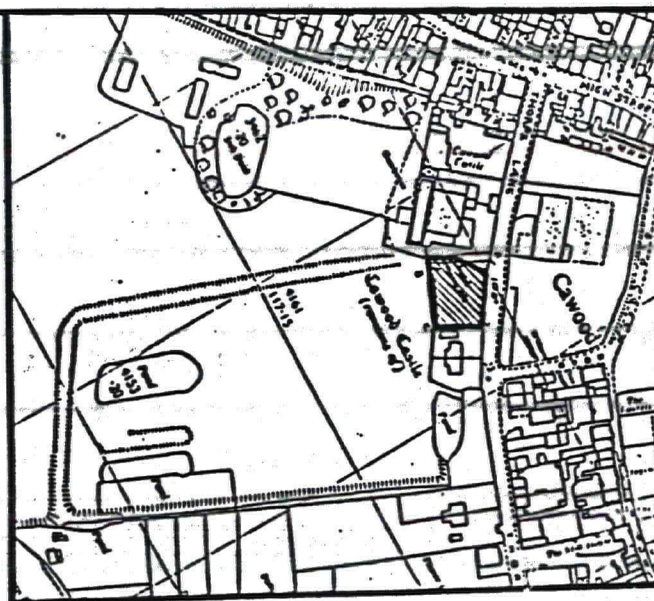
OTHER FEATURES

The feature at the north end of Trench B (2009) could be the south edge of a cut running north-west to south-east. It is unlikely that any substantial water courses/~~moats~~ relating to the Archbishop's residence exist in the plot of land to the south of this feature.

KURT HUNTER-MANN

AUGUST 13th 1987

LOCATION OF EXCAVATIONS



A 

D 

B



THORPE LANE

THORPE LANE, CAWOOD

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TRENCH SECTIONS

KEY:-



Field Drain



Mortar



Demolition Material

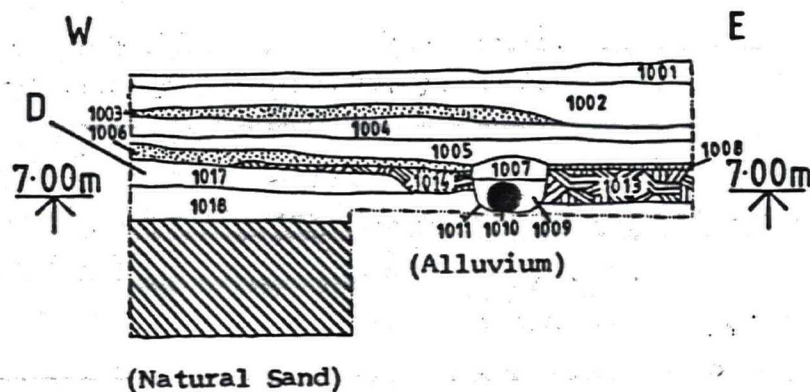


Clay

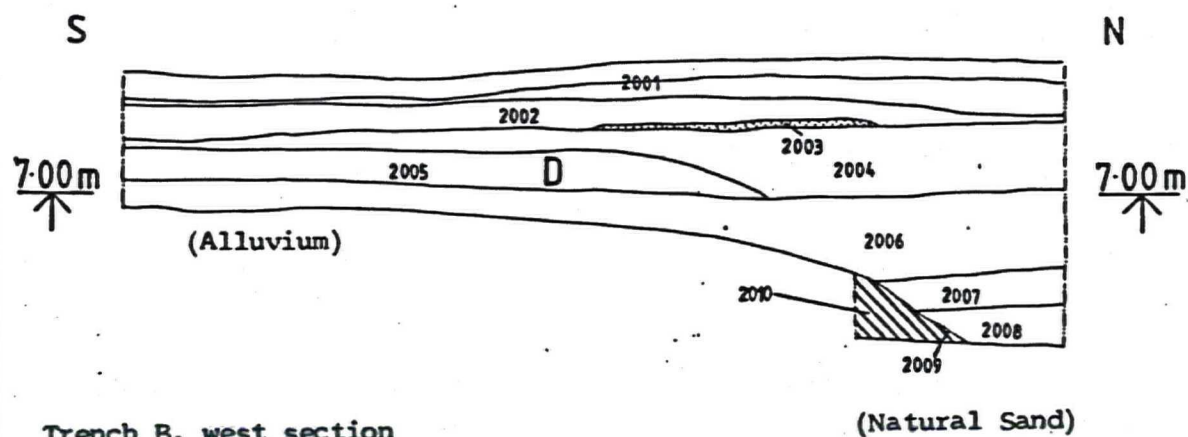


Alluvium

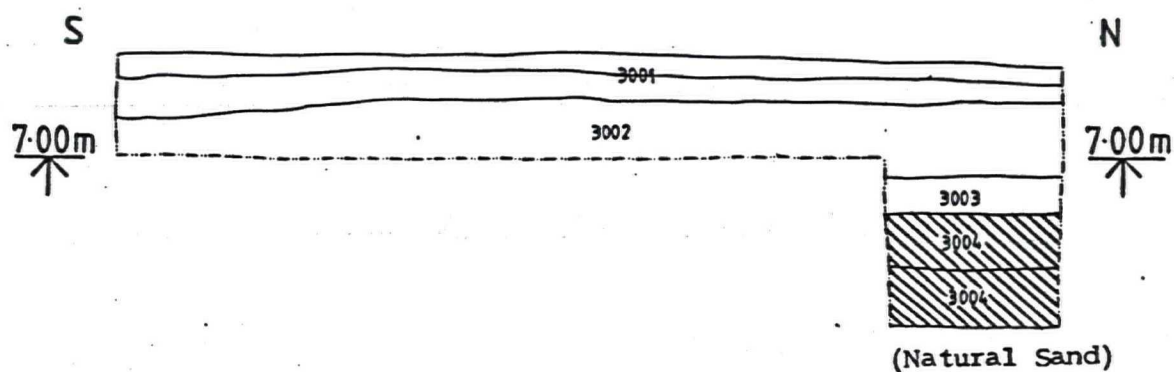
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Trench A, north section



Trench B, west section



Trench C, west section