

NYCC HER	
SNY	9042
ENY	2569
CNY	2923
Parish	1080
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Alison Clarke M.A., A.I.F.A.
Archaeological Consultant

15, Winton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1QQ
Tel/Fax : 01609 776501 Mobile: 07751 194866
e-mail: alison@maryclarke.fsnet.co.uk

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT THE GROVE,
MIDDLEHAM, NORTH YORKSHIRE
FOR
RODGER MURRAY
BY
ALISON CLARKE**

JULY 2004

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT THE GROVE, MIDDLEHAM

INTRODUCTION

The development of a small holiday cottage in the grounds of The Grove, Middleham, necessitated the excavation of an area of ground roughly circular in plan and up to 1.2 metres deep in an enclosed area bounded by stone walls (plan 1). The site sloped down slightly to the east. Because of its proximity to the extant buildings and its position within the historic town of Middleham, an archaeological watching brief was required. The excavation took place on 3rd July 2004.

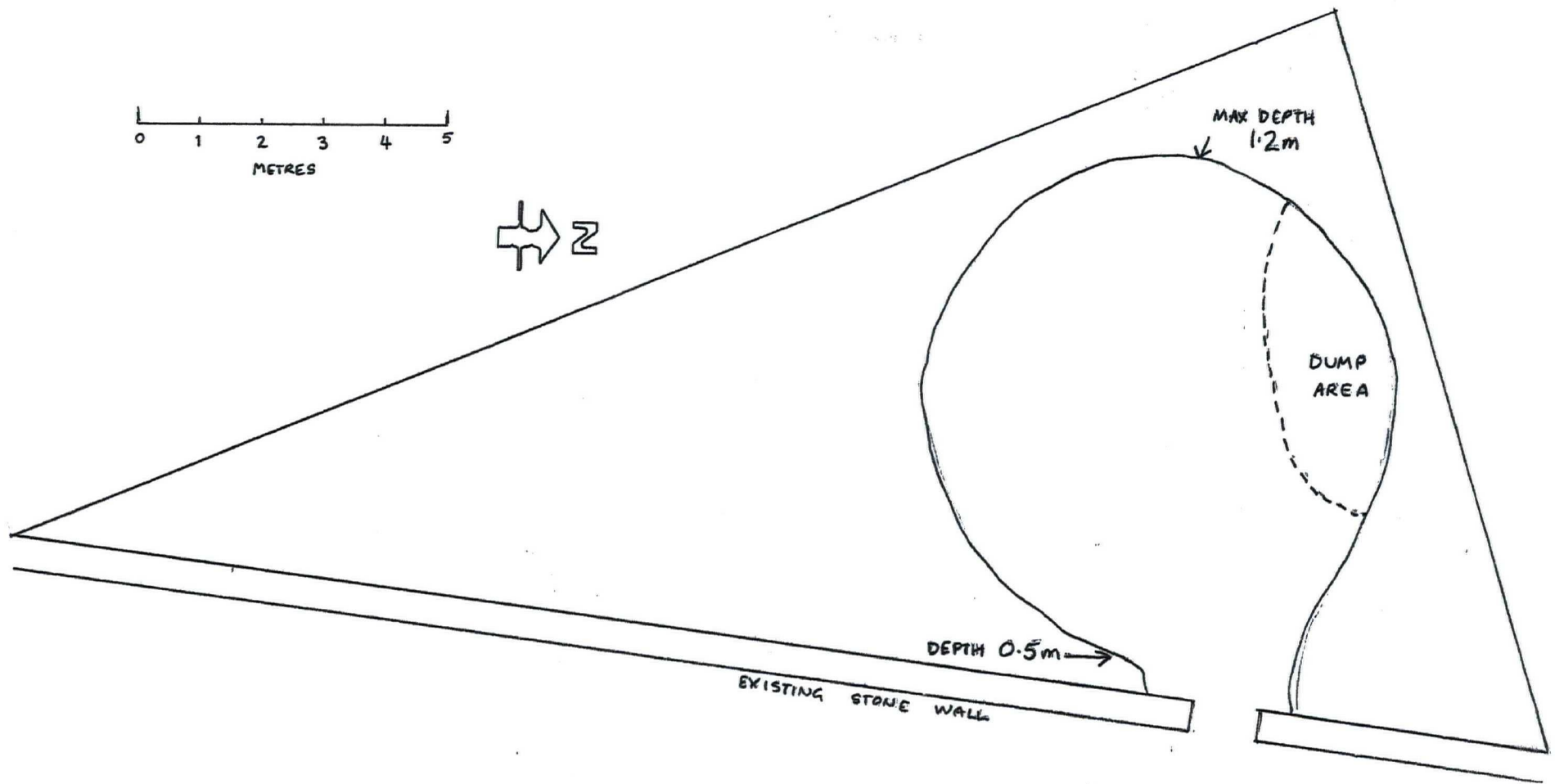
THE ARCHAEOLOGY

The excavation work was not observed in progress, but the resultant excavated area and the spoil produced were examined. The excavated area measured approximately 7.5 metres in diameter, opening out from an existing entrance in the high stone wall on the eastern side of the site. Soil was removed to a maximum depth of 1.2 metres, at the western side, diminishing to .5 metres adjacent to the entrance. Dark brown loamy topsoil to a depth of between .3 and .5 metres overlaid the natural boulder clay which was apparent at the base of the excavation over most of its area. The topsoil was deeper to the eastern side of the area. On the northern side was a disturbed area of dark brown loam containing numerous fragments of pottery, glass etc, of 19/20th century date, extending to below the base of the excavation. The soil was otherwise indistinguishable from the topsoil elsewhere, and no traces of structure were visible.

CONCLUSIONS

The disturbed area to the north appeared to be an area of dumping of domestic rubbish. Elsewhere, there had been terracing of the naturally sloping ground, with a build-up of soil behind (to the west of) the boundary wall. The ground to the east of the wall has also been terraced to form a vegetable garden, and further to the north to form a ha-ha at the edge of the lawn behind The Grove. It seems probable that this area has formed part of the gardens throughout its life.

Alison Clarke



1. THE GROVE MIDDLEHAM - SITE PLAN

ORDNANCE SURVEY

RICHMONDSHIRE DISTRICT

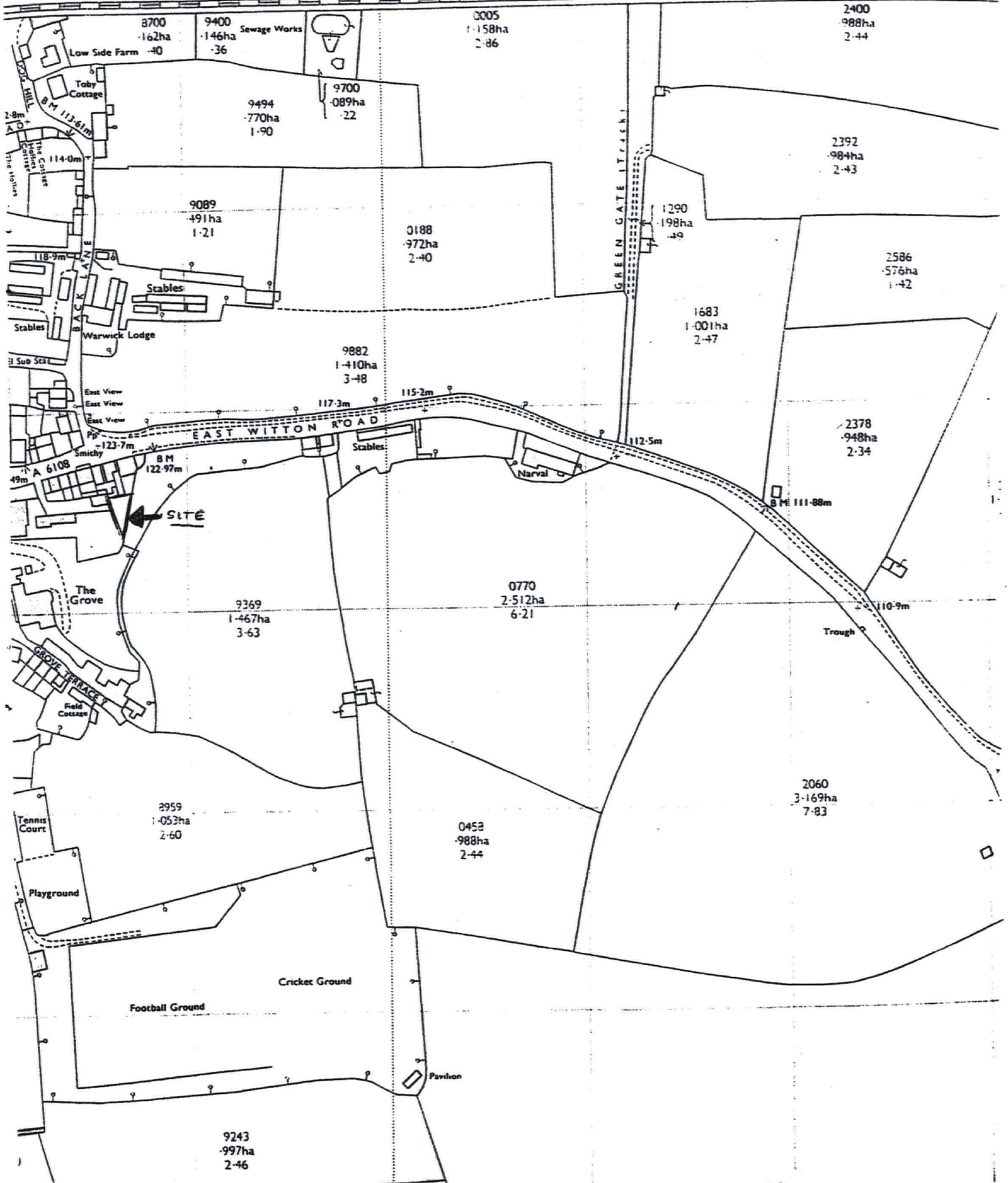
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2. THE GROVE MIDDLEHAM



1. SOUTH-WEST SIDE OF EXCAVATION SHOWING NATURAL BELOW TOPSOIL



2 NORTH-WEST SIDE OF EXCAVATION SHOWING C19 DUMP AREA