

03/00503/FULL

Rec 16/6/15

3043 parish

NYCC HER	
SNY	9694
ENY	2658
CNY	2943/3687
Parish	3043
Rec'd	16/06/2005

**Land Adjacent to Manor Farm
Foxholes
North Yorkshire
TA 0130 7330**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Authorised by *NA* 

Date: *18/5/05*

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May 2005

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Contents	Page
Figure List	1
Plate List	1
Non Technical Summary	2
1. Introduction	2
2. Site Description	2
3. Geology	3
4. Historical and Archaeological Background	3
5. Methodology	5
6. Results	5
7. Conclusions	5
8. References	6
 Figure List	
1. Site Location. Scale 1:25,000	7
2. Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1911. Scale 1:2500	8
 Plate List	
1. View of site. Facing south-west	9
2. View of site. Facing north	9
3. General View of Site. Facing north.	10
4. View of Foundation Trenches. Facing east.	10

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at land adjacent to Manor Farm, Foxholes, North Yorkshire, on the 23rd February and the 10th March 2005. The work involved monitoring groundworks associated with the erection of a residential building. No archaeological features were observed or finds recovered.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of Hartley Developments, in accordance with a Standard Written Scheme of Investigation for Limited Archaeological Recording (Watching Brief) prepared by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd to satisfy a condition attached to a Planning Application Consent (No. 03/00503/FUL).
- 1.2 The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken during February and March 2005 and involved monitoring groundworks associated with the erection of a residential property.
- 1.3 All work has been funded by Mr Donkin.
- 1.4 All maps were produced with kind permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Reference No AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The development site was situated at the northern end of the village. It was bounded to the west and south by Manor Farm (Pl. 1 & 2), to the north by a recent residential development to the east by High Street. Prior to development

the site had been used as garden, although a 1911 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2) shows a row of houses fronting on to the High Street.

3. Geology

- 3.1 The site stands at an elevation of 65m AOD on soils of the Andover 1 soil Association . These are shallow well-drained calcareous silty soils (on slopes and crests), or deep calcareous and non-calcareous fine silty soils (in valley bottoms) that overlie a solid geology of chalk (Mackney 1983).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Foxholes lies on the valley floor of the Great Wold Valley (Fig. 1), which is a wide linear valley that runs from east to west, bisecting the fertile upland region known as the Yorkshire Wolds.
- 4.2 The Wolds are characterised by the archaeological remains of settlement and occupation from all periods, with substantial remains existing in the form of earthworks dating from the Roman, post-Roman and medieval periods. In places, Prehistoric remains still survive above ground in the form of burial monuments and other features, particularly in the area around Rudston.
- 4.3 A wealth of prehistoric remains are situated within a three kilometre radius of the village of Foxholes. These include dense concentrations of Iron Age settlements that include a barrow cemetery to the west and what appears to be a series of enclosures based around Boythorpe cottage. Additionally, just to the south of the village, are further unidentified sub rectangular enclosures clustered around the course of the Gypsy Race. Further south, situated high on the ridge overlooking the valley floor, is the site of Paddock Hill, a notable circular defended Iron Age enclosure.
- 4.4 Foxholes means '*Fox-earths*' (Smith, 1937 115).
- 4.5 Foxholes is recorded in the Domesday Survey as *Foxele*, or *Foxohole*. There were two estates in Foxholes of two and five carucates belonging to the king. The smaller was soke to the Bridlington Manor, whilst the larger estate was given to Robert de Brus soon after 1086, the overlordship descending through the Brus, Thwing and Lumley families.

- 4.6 There is some evidence of early enclosure in the parish, dating to 1376 when, John Middleton had enough enclosed land at Foxholes to provide pasture for six horses, twelve cows, twelve swine and two hundred sheep.
- 4.7 Foxholes church was mentioned in *circa* 1100, when it was given by Geoffrey Bainhard to St. Mary's Abbey. It was described as a small ancient building, consisting of nave and chancel, separated by a fine Norman arch. It had a west door and a small bell turret. The church was restored in 1785 and completely rebuilt in 1866.
- 4.8 A mill is first recorded in Foxholes in 1302 and there was a windmill in 1614, Mill Hill is mentioned in 1716.
- 4.9 The wold slopes were largely occupied by open field land in the middle ages. The regular field pattern throughout the parish reflects the various enclosures of the 18th and 19th centuries. Most of the land was under arable cultivation in 1970, although there was some pasture in the valley, and the landscape presents a typically open appearance, broken by a few small plantations in Butterwick.
- 4.10 In 1935, the three townships of Foxholes, Butterwick and Boythorpe were combined to form Foxholes Civil parish, an area which runs for three miles along the floor of the Wold Valley. Foxholes and Butterwick were probably Anglian settlements, whilst Boythorpe may have been a subsidiary Scandinavian village (VCH 1976).
- 4.11 Foxholes consists of houses and cottages that date from the 18th to the 20th centuries, the most impressive of which is the former rectory now called Foxholes Manor (VCH 1976).
- 4.12 An extensive Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Foxholes between May 2002 and March 2003. During the excavation of the foundation trenches, ditches, pits and walls were observed. Dating of these features showed the main period of activity at the site was in the 12th to 14th centuries A.D. However, a background scatter of Roman material was recovered and a number of undated features may be of Prehistoric date (MAP 2003).

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks undertaken during the watching brief included the observation of topsoil stripping, the excavation of foundation trenches and the cutting of a terrace into the western boundary of the building plot.
- 5.2 All excavations were undertaken by a back-acting mechanical excavator, operating under full archaeological supervision.

6. Results

- 6.1 The initial part of the groundworks consisted of a topsoil strip followed by the excavation of a 15m² terrace into the prevailing east-west slope of the site to create a level building platform (Pl. 3). Excavations revealed a 0.20 to 0.30m deep deposit of dark, loamy topsoil and turf. This sealed a naturally-formed subsoil deposit that consisted of chalky rubble within a mid-brown silty clay matrix. A 1.0m deep section through the subsoil was exposed at the southern face of the terrace cut. No finds were recovered during the terracing operations and no archaeological features were identified either in plan or section during this part of the Watching Brief.
- 6.2 Following the creation of the terrace, a series of strip-trench foundations were excavated. Each foundation trench was 0.60m wide and 0.90m deep, and the complex of foundation trenches covered an area of approximately 10m x 10m (Pl.4).
- 6.3 The foundation excavations revealed a continuation of the chalky subsoil. Natural chalk bedrock was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.70m (approximately 1.0m below the existing street level). No finds were recovered and no archaeological features or deposits were identified during the foundation trench excavations.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 No archaeological features were identified during the Watching Brief. No evidence was seen of earlier building activity on the site and , given that a building is shown on the 1911 map, it is likely that the site was cleared and landscaped at the time that this building was demolished.

8. References

- | | | |
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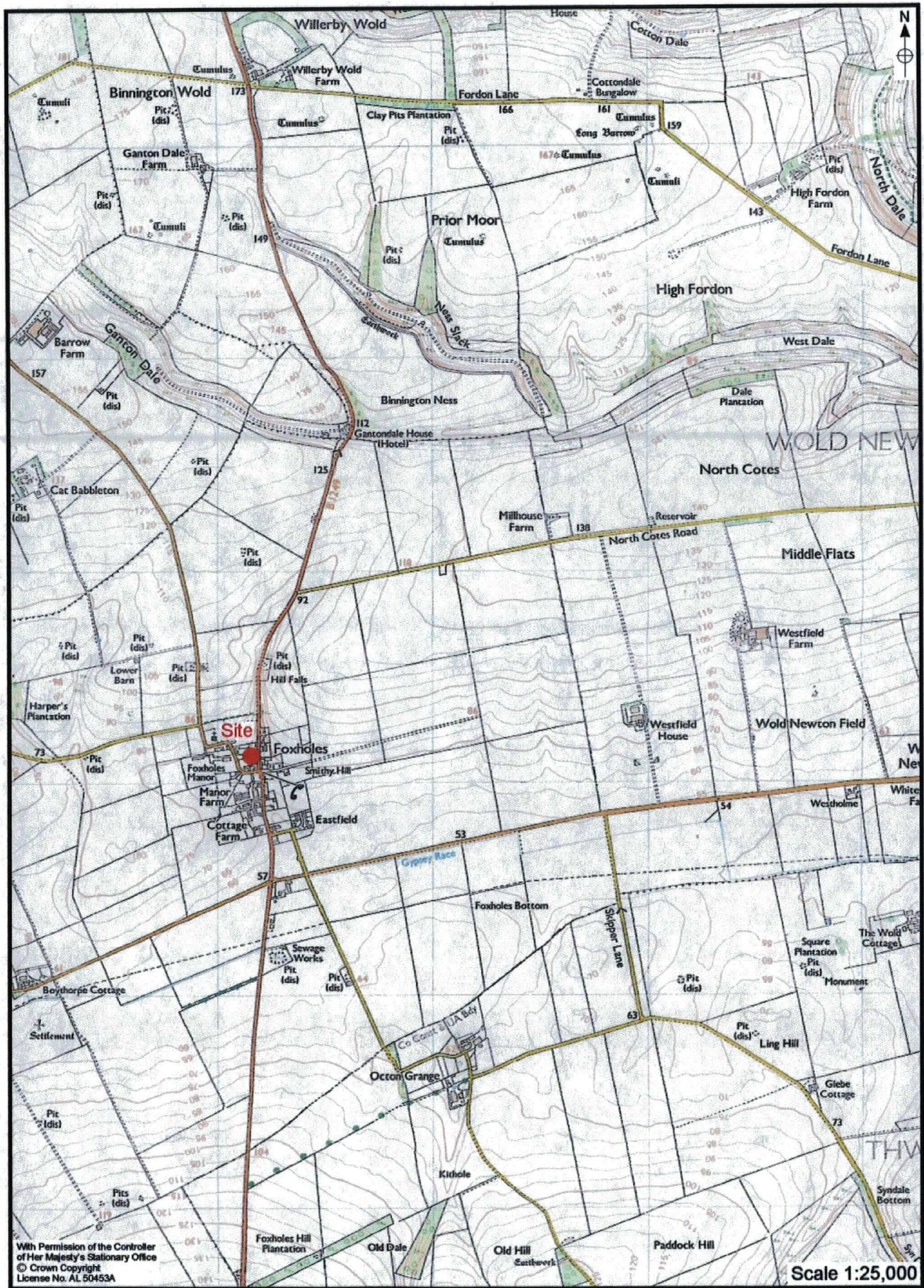


Figure 1. Site Location

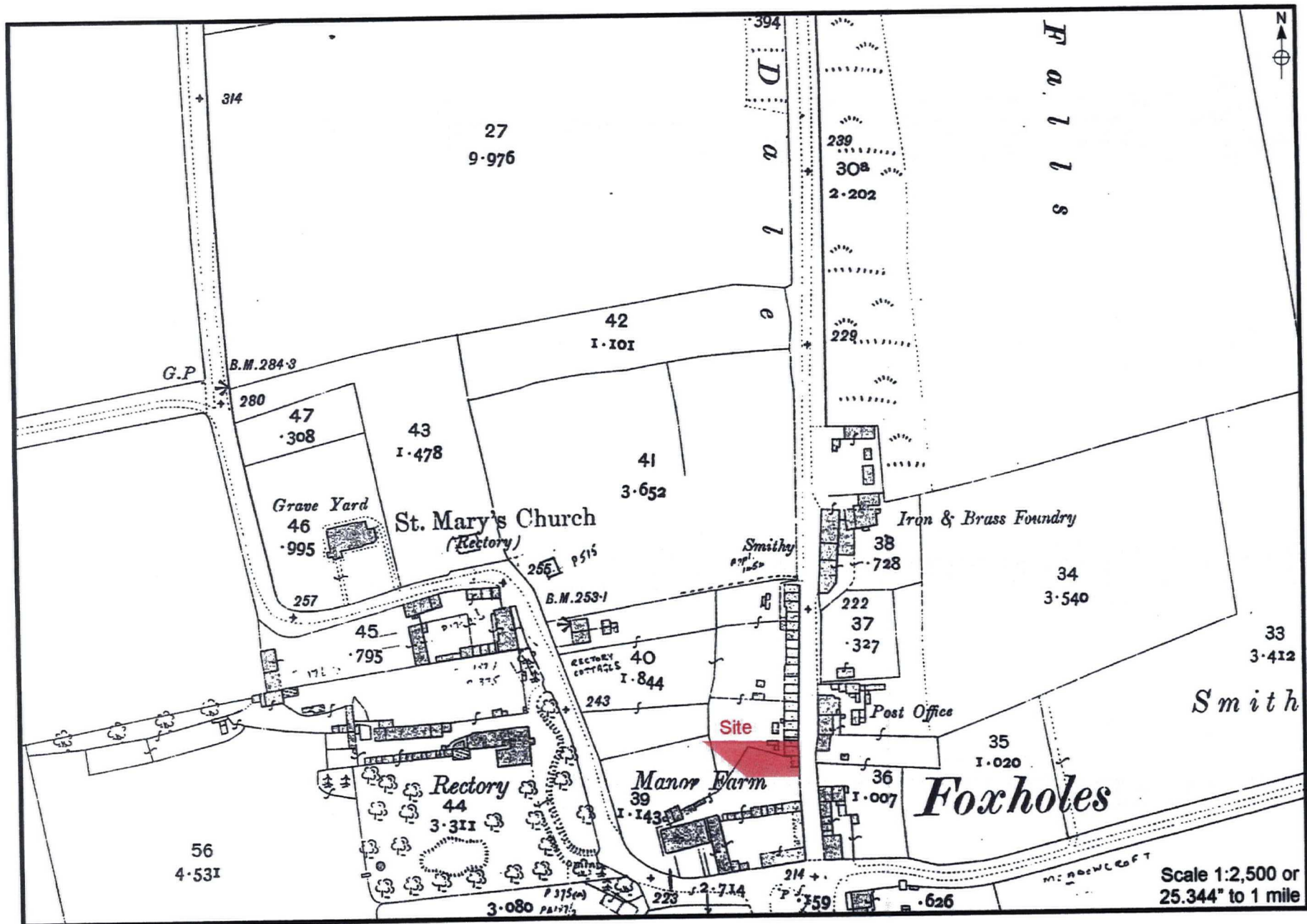


Figure 2. Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, 1911



Plate 1. View of Site. Facing South West



Plate 2. View of Site. Facing North



Plate 3. General View of Site. Facing North



Plate 4. View of Footings. Facing East