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YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

THE GRANARY
 CASTLE LANE
 DRAX
 SELBY
 NORTH YORKSHIRE

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A Report on an
 Archaeological
 Watching Brief

by Isabel Mason

**THE GRANARY, CASTLE HILL LANE,
DRAAX, SELBY,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**REPORT ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

by

Isabel Mason

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by York Archaeological Trust at The Granary, Castle Hill Lane, Drax, Selby (NGR SE 675265) on 9 and 12 July 2004. This entailed the observation and archaeological recording of any deposits encountered during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the farm building and the construction of a double garage. The north-eastern foundation trench for the garage revealed waterlogged deposits that suggests that the area may have been part of the moat, the southern foundation trench for the extension only encountered modern deposits.

1. INTRODUCTION

On the 9 and 12 July 2004 York Archaeological Trust (YAT) conducted an archaeological watching brief at The Granary, Castle Hill Lane, Drax, Selby (NGR SE 675265). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs F. Carroll, to the specification supplied by North Yorkshire County Council, and were carried out in accordance with Scheduled Monument legislation. The aim of the watching brief was to assess the depth and character of the surviving archaeological remains in the area and record any such remains encountered during the works. The Castle Hill moated site, of which The Granary is a part, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.



Fig 1: Site location plan

2. METHOD STATEMENT

Foundation trenches, 0.63m wide, were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m in the north-eastern corner of the site prior to the construction of a double garage (Fig.2). Further foundation trenches were excavated for an extension to the southern end of the grange. These trenches followed the footprint of the new buildings and were 1m wide with a maximum depth of 2.10m.

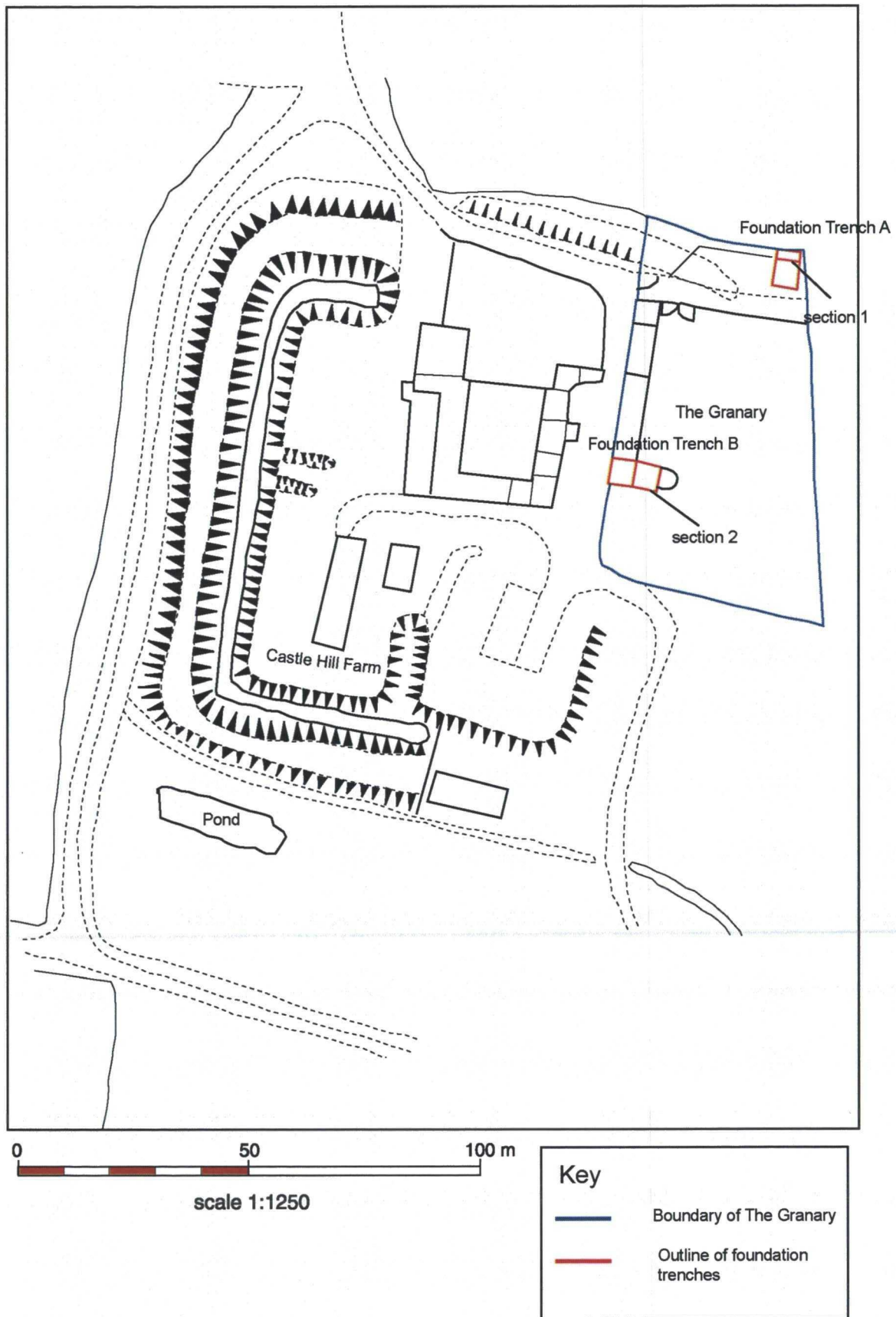


Fig. 2: Trench location plan

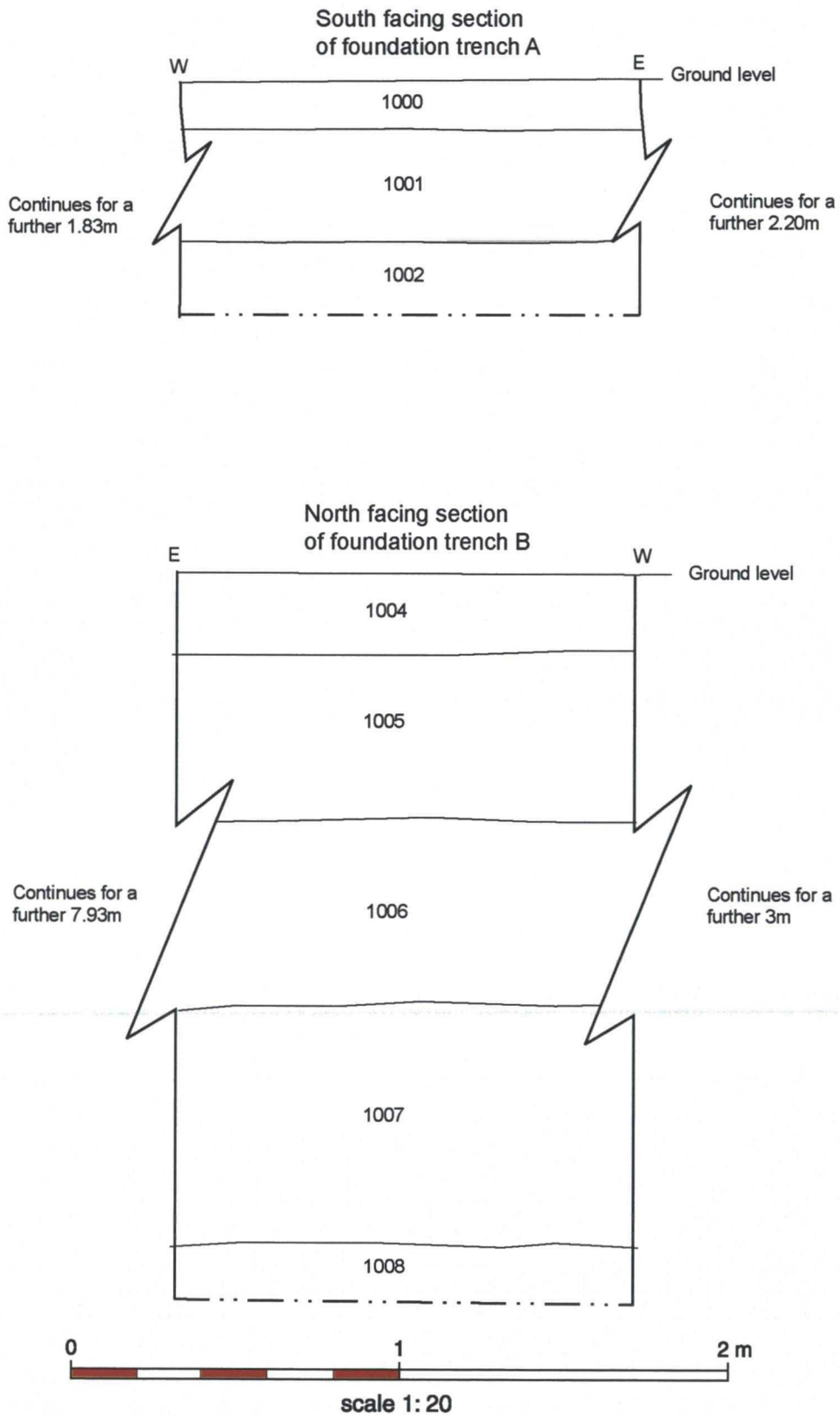


Fig. 3 Representative samples of Section 1 and 2

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The medieval moated site of Castle Hill is now occupied by Castle Hill Farm. The site is situated approximately 350m south of St Peter and St Paul's Church, Drax and is reputed to be that of Talleville castle built after 1139 by Philip de Colville. The castle was destroyed by Stephen in 1154 and little is known of the site during the following centuries. There is documentary reference from 1278 to a garden on the site of the manor, however by 1405 it was recorded as being worthless due to flooding (Le Patourel 1973, 124).

4. RESULTS

4.1 FOUNDATION TRENCH A

The deposits excavated were consistent throughout the full extent of the trench. In the trench section (Fig. 3) there was 0.22m of moist dark brown flecked, mid grey, medium-grained sand clay (1002) which was overlain by 0.34m of stiff brown sandy clay flecked with pale grey sandy clay containing occasional very small limestone/sandstone flecks (1001). This was found beneath 0.14m of compact mid grey subsoil, a sandy clay with very occasional charcoal flecks and patches/streaks of friable mid brown sandy silt (1000).

The character of the deposits at the base of the trench would suggest that this area of the site may, at one point in time, have been within the castle moat, although no dating evidence was found.

4.2 FOUNDATION TRENCH B

The deposits in this trench were also consistent throughout the full extent of the trench and a section (Fig. 3) was recorded at its deepest point, 2.10m below modern level. The section reveals that the earliest deposit was plastic pale pinkish grey micaceous clay (1008), 80mm thick. This deposit was found beneath 0.75m of dark grey black humic clay silt with occasional inclusions of brick rubble, wood and frogged bricks (1007). This in turn was overlain by 0.56m of coarse crushed brick and coarse gravel containing plastic, painted wood and scrap metal (1006) and 0.50m of brick rubble, sections of standing brick walling, plastic cables, slate and scrap metal (1005). The most recent deposit within in trench consisted of 0.24m of loose pale brown sand and turf (1004).

Foundation trench B revealed mostly modern deposits suggesting that any deposits of archaeological interest lie more than 2m below ground level in this area of the site.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Le Patourel, H.E.J., 1973. *The Moated Sites of Yorkshire*, The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series: No. 5 (London)

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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