



**LS** Archaeology

## 18 Fenwick's Lane, Fulford, York Archaeological Watching Brief Report



**December 2017**

Site	18 Fenwick's Lane, Fulford, York, YO10 4PL
Site Codes	19FLY17
County	North Yorkshire
NGR	SE 7102654940
Planning Application No	DC/17/00640/PLF
Development	Two storey side and single storey side and rear extensions.
Date of Issue	08/12/2017
Site Dates	21-22/11/2017
Project by	lsarchaeology@gmail.com www.lsarchaeology.co.uk  LS Archaeology
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Client	Ms Sara Starr
<p>Summary</p> <p>LS Archaeology was commissioned in November 2017, by Mr Phill Bixby on behalf of Ms Sara Starr to undertake a watching brief at 18 Fenwick's Lane, York, North Yorkshire. This was due to the erection of a new two storey side and single story side and rear extension to the old property. The archaeological observation of below - ground works associated with the new development, revealed a natural silty clay deposit beneath a modern concrete flooring, and rubble deposit and garden soil.</p> <p>No archaeological features other than a modern well and associated drains were encountered.</p>	

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The following archaeological watching brief report has been prepared for Ms. Starr and complies with the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists 2014).

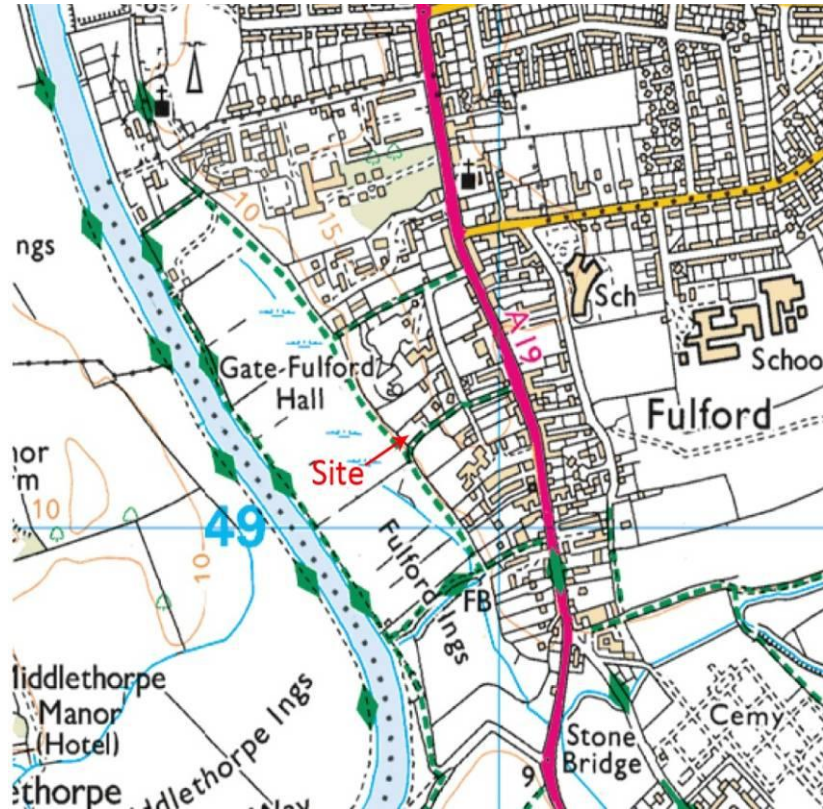


Figure 1: Image from Street Map, showing the location of 63 Low Catton

The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures of archaeological interest encountered during the ground works related with the construction of the new extension. This included the monitoring of the ground reduction and excavation of the foundation trenches.

## SITE LOCATION

The property is located to the southwest end of Fenwick's Lane. To the northeast the site bounds with the garden of property No. 16, to the northwest bounds with the gardens of property No.10, to the southwest bounds with Fulford Ings and to the southeast there is an unmade track (Medd's Lane), which joins with Fenwick's Lane and leads to the Fulford Ings. The grade II listed building of Delwood Croft occupies the plot on the southeast beyond the lane (Figure 1).

The development is topographically low lying and located within the Fulford Conservation Area. The broad type comprises of an area of modern development bounded to the south with Fulford Ings flood plains and elite residences to the north and southeast. To the east lies the original linear village of Fulford.

The site is located approximately 1 mile from York.

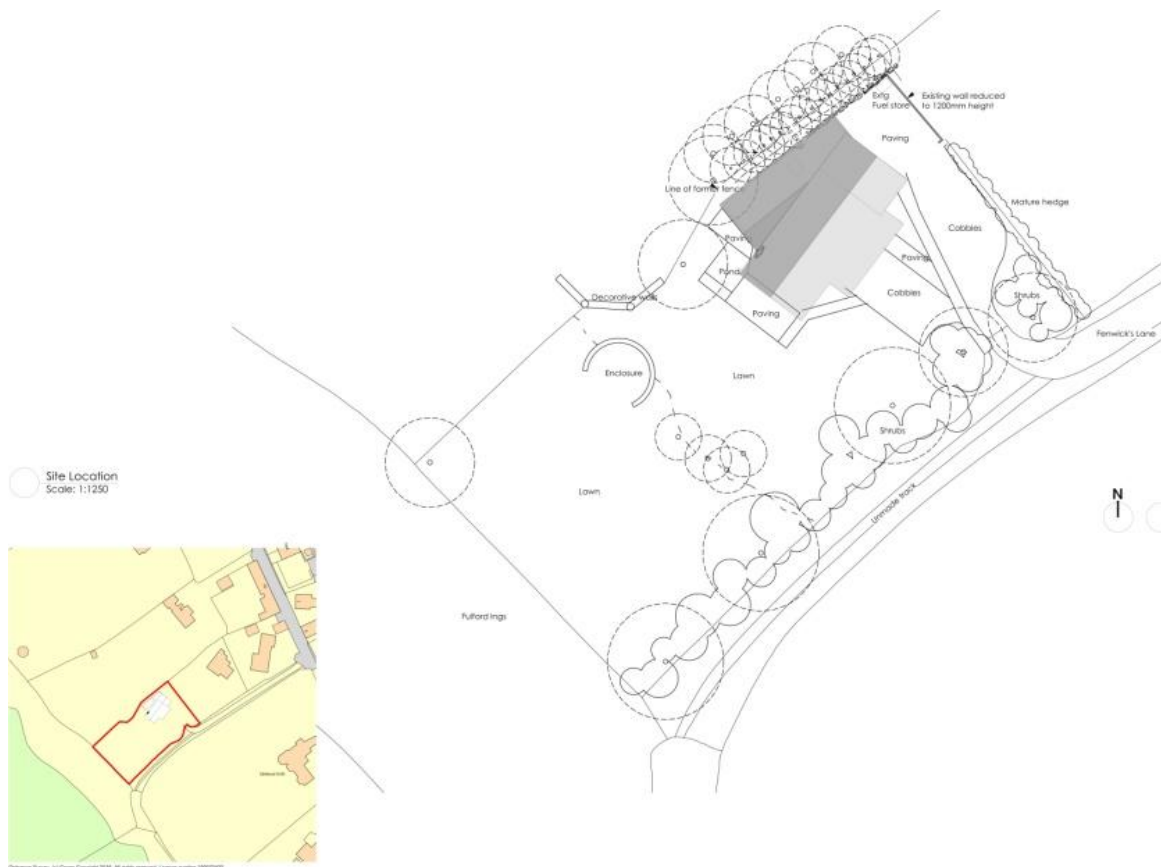


Figure 2: Plan of new development in relation to existing buildings (provided by Constructive Individuals)

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The York Characterisation Project Statement for Archaeological Significance in Fulford suggests:

*The current evidence from archaeological investigation strongly suggests the presence of Roman and possibly prehistoric settlement in Fulford, presumably on the higher ground occupied by the medieval and modern village. The presence of a 12th century or earlier church on lower lying*



ground by the River Ouse is curious. This has led to suggestions that an earlier medieval, possibly Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian settlement may have been located in this vicinity. If Fulford Road does prove to be of Roman origin, then there may well be more than one focus of early settlement in Fulford. The exact location of the 11th century Battle of Fulford continues to elude researchers but is a significant historic event. (Claire MacRae 2013).

Recent excavations at Connaught Court, Fulford revealed deposits associated with Roman activity. Roman activity relating to the use of The River Ouse may be a possibility. That would be dependent upon there being a need to disembark in this hinterland.

Anglo Scandinavian sculpture associated with St Oswald's Old Church may infer the presence of an early medieval community. St Oswald's Old Church may be positioned over the foundations of an earlier structure associated with this period. If so, this structure would be an integral part of any community acting as a nucleus (Watts and Rahtz 1981). It is possible to encounter deposits relating to this period as the development site lies 610 meters due southeast of the church.

Deposits associated with the 11th century Battle of Fulford are unlikely although, given the location of said battle is yet unconfirmed, possible.

The 1845 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of the area shows that the development site is at that time under open fields dotted with trees. Medd's Lane bounds the south of the site.



Figure 3: 1854 Ordnance Survey Map

The presence of a lane heading towards Fulford Ings and the flood plains suggests there was a relatively important reason for movement, back and forth in this direction. Medd's (Medd's being a common Yorkshire surname -earliest origins 1550) lane bisects Fenwick's lanes heading towards Fulford Main Street. The western part of Medd's lane is now known as Fenwick's Lane.

This lane that links the core part of the village to the river may be important in as much as it allowed boatmen to easily reach the pub from the River Ouse (as stated in Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Society). The historic origins of this trackway are as of yet unknown (during this search).

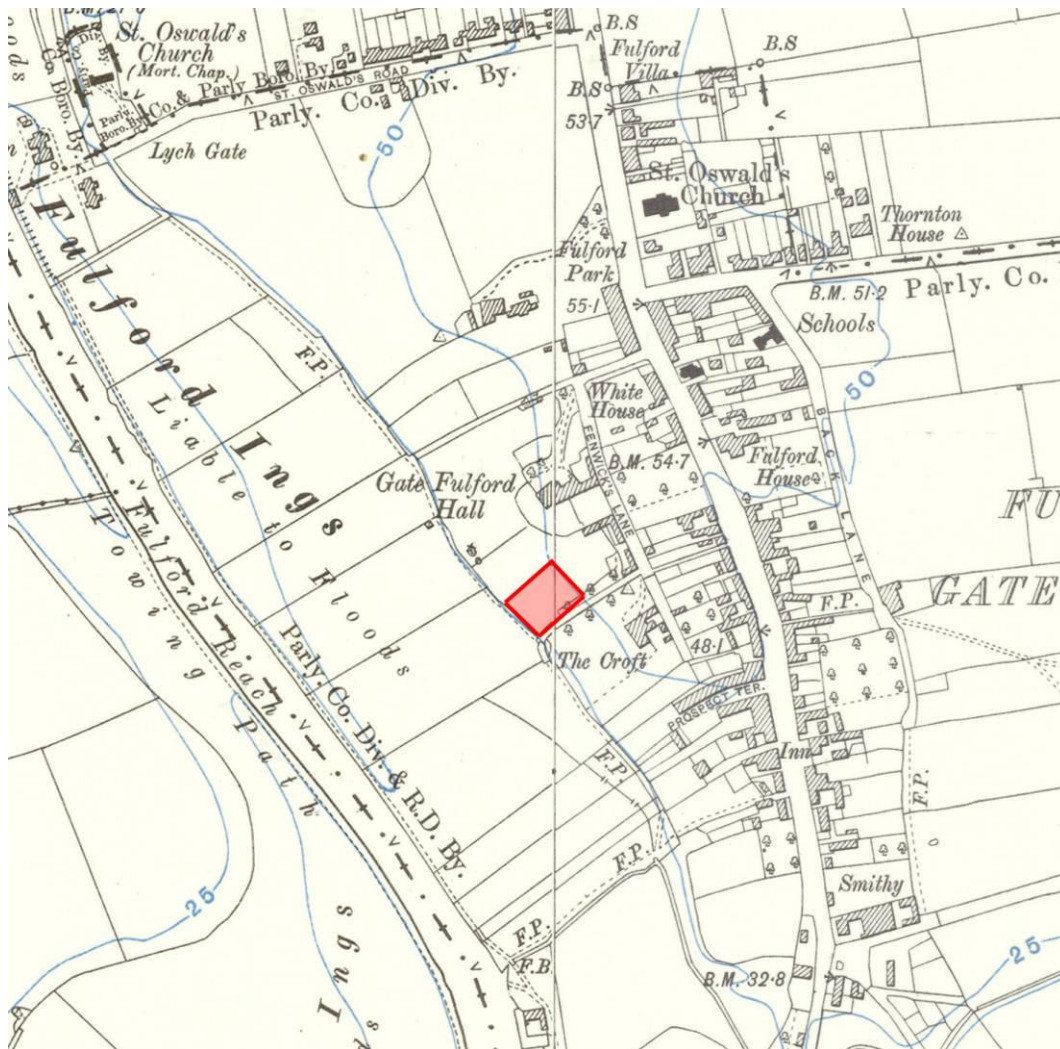


Figure 4: 1910 Ordnance Survey Map

## POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS

Prior archaeological activity within Fulford has mostly occurred along the main linear stretch of the village or to the east around Germany Beck. Excavation within close proximity to the flood plains is not common therefore, other potentially comparable sites have been used to try to help gauge potential deposit depths.

Archaeological data was extracted from two sources:

- Steve Timms of MGA Associates regarding the unpublished data from Connaught Court, Fulford
- Adams (2017) White House Main Street, Fulford.

Archaeological investigations at these locations revealed the following:

- Natural was encountered at 0.60m at the part of the site closest to the River Ouse. This site yielded some Roman activity (Connaught Court).
- Medieval and Post medieval deposits were encountered underneath topsoil at a depth of 0.30m (Adams, 2017)

It would seem that archaeological deposits may be present at depths of 0.3m. Natural may range from 0.60-0.10m.

## METHODOLOGY

As no archaeological features were encountered, the recording took the form of written notes and measured sketches supplemented by colour digital photographs.

The archaeological watching brief consisted of monitoring the ground reduction of circa 0.3m in depth.

All archaeological deposits and features were to be planned at a scale of 1:20 on drafting film (permatrace). All sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10, including heights above Ordnance Datum. Due to the lack of archaeology, a system of notes and sketches was instead used.

A back-acting mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket was used at all times for all excavations, to assist the identification of archaeology.

A standard single context recording system was adopted to keep a record of all archaeology encountered.



The mitigation strategy and methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation, was adhered to throughout the whole project.

## 2. RESULTS

The groundworks consisted of **initial ground reduction** across the site by 0.30m, removal of all the concrete floor, followed by hand cleaning of **the area impacted by the new development**.

### INITIAL GROUND REDUCTION

The ground was reduced by 0.30m as was required for the construction of the new extension. After removal of the concrete floor and make up ground, along the southwest corner, garden soil was still visible.



Photograph 1: Remains of the concrete ground floor. Facing northeast

Some structures were encountered during the ground levelling: two small rectangular concrete pads, which functioned as the footings for larger concrete garden statues, and a rectangular soak away brick feature and related drains all located towards the southwest end of the site (structures 4, 5 and 6) .



Photograph 2: View of the site after removal of the concrete ground surface, facing southwest



Photograph 3: Remains of the soak away trench and concrete pad for the former garden concrete statues

## CONTEXT DATA AND SITE PLAN

Context Number	Context Type	Identified As	Description
1	Deposit	Concrete floor	Ground concrete floor, consists of a mixture of light grey mortar and small gravel (0.15m deep).
2	Deposit	Former garden soil	Dark brown clay silt mixed with 5% small gravel 0.02m depth.
3	Structure	Sub soil	Brown silty clay material mixed with 5% small gravel, mortar fragments and charcoal flakes. Not excavated.
4	Structure	Soak away	Small square pad constructed of 20th century red bricks and mortar. Associated with the house, functioned as a soak away (0.30m deep)
5	Structure	Statue's concrete footing	Very dark brown silty clay mixed with 30% of cobbles, fragmented CBM and mortar, 20th century made up ground for the footings of a garden statue (0.30m deep)
6	Structure	Statue's concrete footing	20th century concrete square pad, identified as the footing for a large garden statue.
7	structure	Former concrete foundations	Former house foundation trenches. Concrete footings. Only exposed not excavated.
8	Deposit	Made up ground	Sand and rubble 20th century made up ground for the former house ground concrete floor.



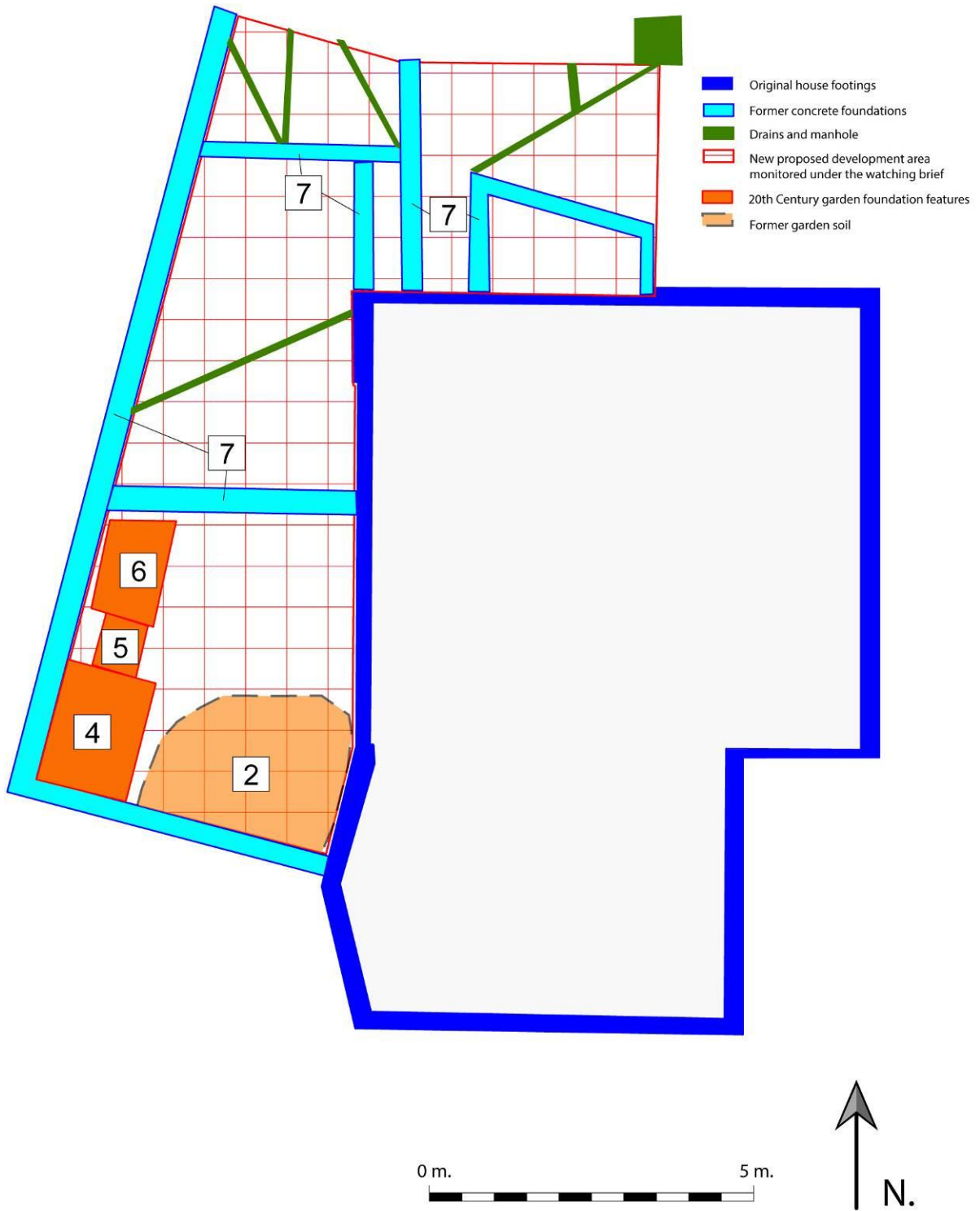


Figure 5: Site plan



### 3. CONCLUSION

No archaeological features related to possible early activity on the site were encountered during the groundwork's associated with the new extension at 18 Fenwick's Lane, Fulford, York. The only occupational evidence seen on site consisted of modern drains and a 20th century brick lined soak away and concrete pad foundations associated with the property.

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