

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



Archaeological Observation
Investigation and Recording
at

Store rear of Neptune Inn,
60 High Street
Rawcliffe
East Riding of Yorkshire

Planning Reference: DC/05/00020/PLF/WESTWW/TC1

National Grid Reference: SE 6847 2305

SMR Reference: SMR/PA/CONS/11785

Site Code: WB2006.063

Museum Reference: ERYMS2006/19

for

Lewis Design & Sales Ltd.

Watching Brief Report Number: 841

April 2006

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Summary

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the conversion of existing barns into 2 dwellings and erection of 2 new dwellings (revised scheme of 04/06513/PLF) at the store rear of Neptune Inn, 60 High Street, Rawcliffe in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Monitoring of the foundation trenches for the 2 new dwellings revealed evidence of post-medieval and Victorian dumps, modern levelling and a 17th century brick wall. Artefacts recovered consisted of materials dating between the 14th and 20th centuries.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology, on behalf of Lewis Design & Sales Ltd., during groundwork associated with the conversion of existing barns into 2 dwellings and erection of 2 new dwellings (revised scheme of 04/06513/PLF) at the store rear of Neptune Inn, 60 High Street, Rawcliffe in the East Riding of Yorkshire (*Figure 1, Plate 1*).

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The development site is located in the village of Rawcliffe. The site is bounded to the east and south by buildings fronting onto High Street, to the west by Chapel Lane.

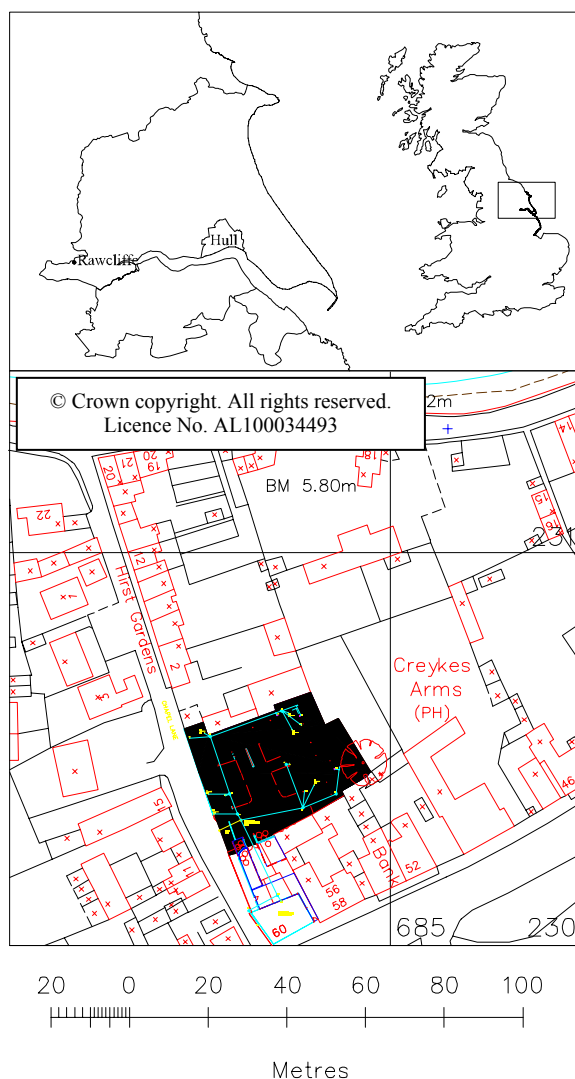


Figure 1 Site location plan.

2. Archaeological Background

The site of the development lies within the historic core of the medieval settlement of Rawcliffe, which is mentioned in documents from the 11th century onwards. Rawcliffe is mentioned in Domesday, as a member of the socage of Snaith in the wapentake of Osgoldcross. There were 3 carucates of land paying tax, which 2 ploughs can plough; two halls were mentioned. By 1775, Rawcliffe had become quite a sizeable settlement, and historic map evidence from that year shows buildings lining the southern frontage of Riverside. Flood banks along the River Aire have been in existence since at least the Middle Ages. Improvements to these banks are mentioned in the medieval documents from the 13th century onwards, and some of the early flood defences may have begun as a monastic initiative in the 12th and 13th centuries. It is likely, therefore, that any ground works in this area, particularly close to the Riverside frontage, will encounter archaeological deposits of the medieval and later periods, whilst there is also the potential for earlier deposits to be present.

A site-specific desk-based assessment of the area (Snowden, 2005) did not reveal any literary references for previous occupation of the site prior to the 19th century.

3. Methodology

The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology, in accordance with the archaeological specification produced by The Humber Sites & Monuments Record Office, Date: 11 July 2005, SMR Reference: SMR/PA/CONS.11785 in response to a condition placed upon the planning application. The condition stated:

‘No development shall take place on the site until the application, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. (PPG 16, para. 30; Circular 11/95, Model Clause 55)’

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of the foundation trenches for 2 dwellings and garages. Two visits were made to the site on the 23rd and 26th August 2005 during which time it was possible to monitor the excavation of the ground works specified. Subsequent check-up visits demonstrated that no visible ground works were undertaken post-house foundations up to April 2006. Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits.

The excavated dimensions of the foundation trenches were recorded, as were the depth sequences of any exposed stratigraphy. Where archaeological deposits/features were identified, context numbers were assigned and detailed descriptions were made, plans and sections were drawn and a photographic record was maintained.

Archaeological artefacts found during the fieldwork were bagged according to their context, and returned to Humber Field Archaeology for further specialist analysis.

4. Results

The foundations for the proposed 2 new dwelling on the application site were excavated and open for inspection during the initial visit to the site. The trenches were 0.60m wide and varied in depth between 0.50m deep in the south-western area down to a maximum of 1.40m in the south-eastern corner of the foundation. The majority of the time, the trenches' depths averaged 0.50m to 0.70m deep.

The natural ground was exposed in certain areas of the foundation trenches. This layer, (1002), consisted of mid to light brown yellow medium grain sands. It was generally viewed up to 0.20m thick, but was visible up to 0.50m thick in a deeper section of the trenches in the south-eastern corner of the foundations.

Sealing this layer throughout the trench system, was (1004), mid grey brown sandy silts, up to 0.50m thick and was seen throughout the entirety of the foundations – it contained pottery sherds datable between the 14th and 16th centuries. Covering this was a further layer, (1003), which consisted of very dark charcoal grey sandy silts with artefact inclusions dating between the late 18th and early 20th centuries.

Sealing all the deposits within the foundation trenches was the modern hardcore surface (1001), viewed up to 0.40m thick, but generally 0.20m thick.

A single archaeological feature, which was also structural in nature, was encountered within the trenches in the central to western areas. The remains of a wall, (1005/6), and its associated construction cut (1007), were discovered cutting through the layer (1004). The wall was orientated along a south-west to north-east alignment, viewed running over a distance of 10.40m within the foundation structure. The wall appeared to continue to the north-east of the foundation trenches outside the area of excavation, although no evidence was uncovered to the south to suggest that it continued that way, but it may be possible that it did so. Layer (1003) butted up against the southern side of the wall, suggesting that that was the exterior, as the material on the other side of the wall (1008) consisted of a slightly lighter material, and the natural ground (1002) was at a much higher level here, suggesting that it may be on the (relatively untouched) interior part of a structure.

In two areas of the trench, the wall was exposed particularly clearly; in the central area, a section facing the wall was encountered, in the north-eastern area, a section of the wall was cut through, exposing its profile.

The exposed areas of the wall demonstrated that it survived to a height of 0.50m, at least 6 courses high (in many places, a thick layer of mortar/plaster covered the face of the structure), with a further underlying foundation course of brick-on-edge below. Brick samples obtained from the wall show that it is of a likely 17th century origin, and that the deposits banked up against it (i.e. (1003)) are later as the artefact evidence suggests.

No further archaeological deposits were encountered in this section of the works. In addition, all the deposits encountered over such a large percentage of the site are generally post-medieval in date or later. As such, it was thought that medieval archaeological remains were highly unlikely to be present on the site. Potentially, if

there had been any, much of it had been removed from post-medieval or later activity. At this point, the watching brief was concluded, any further ground works would be unnecessary to view.

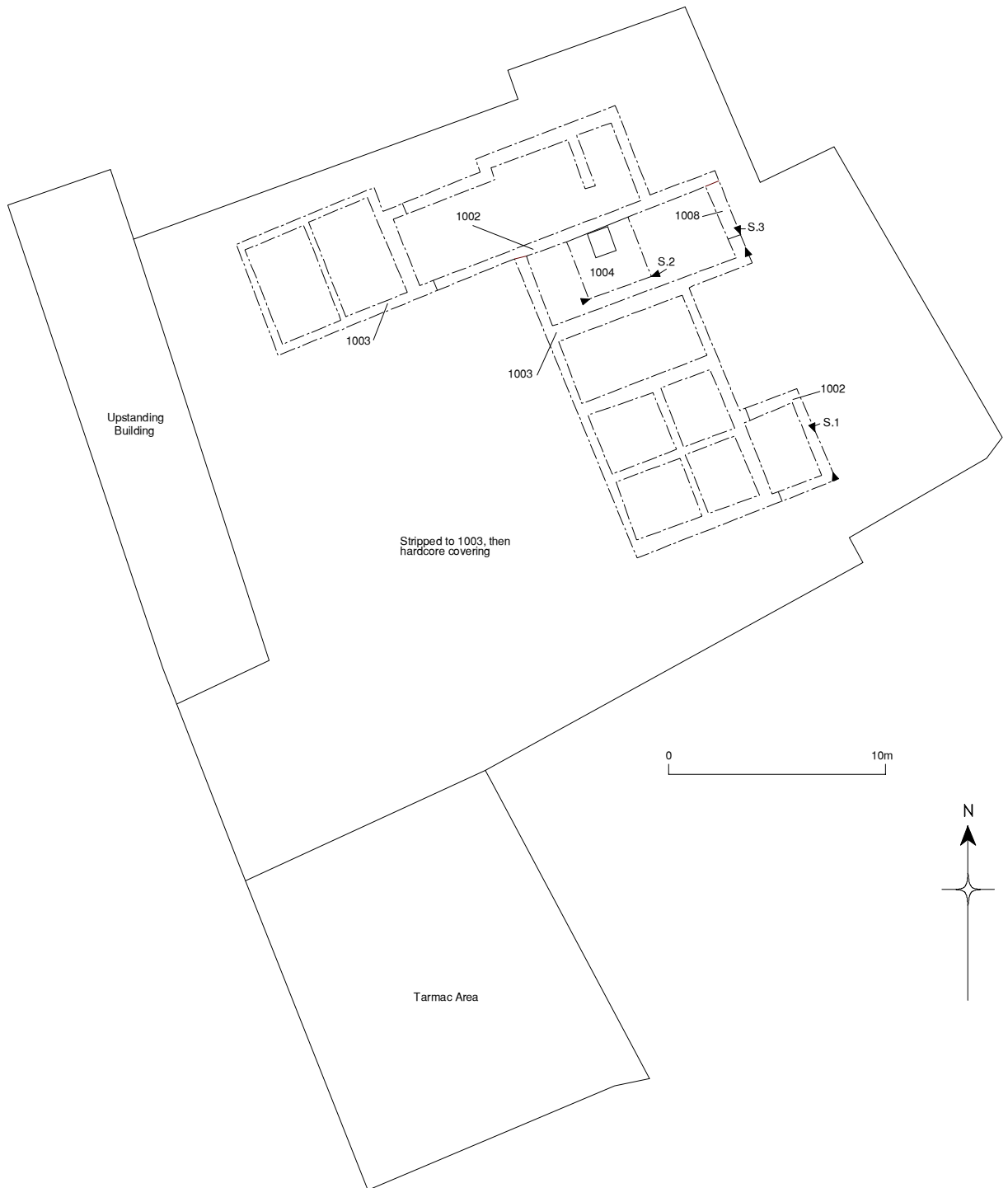


Figure 2 Plan showing the location of the archaeological features in relation to the foundation trenches within the development.

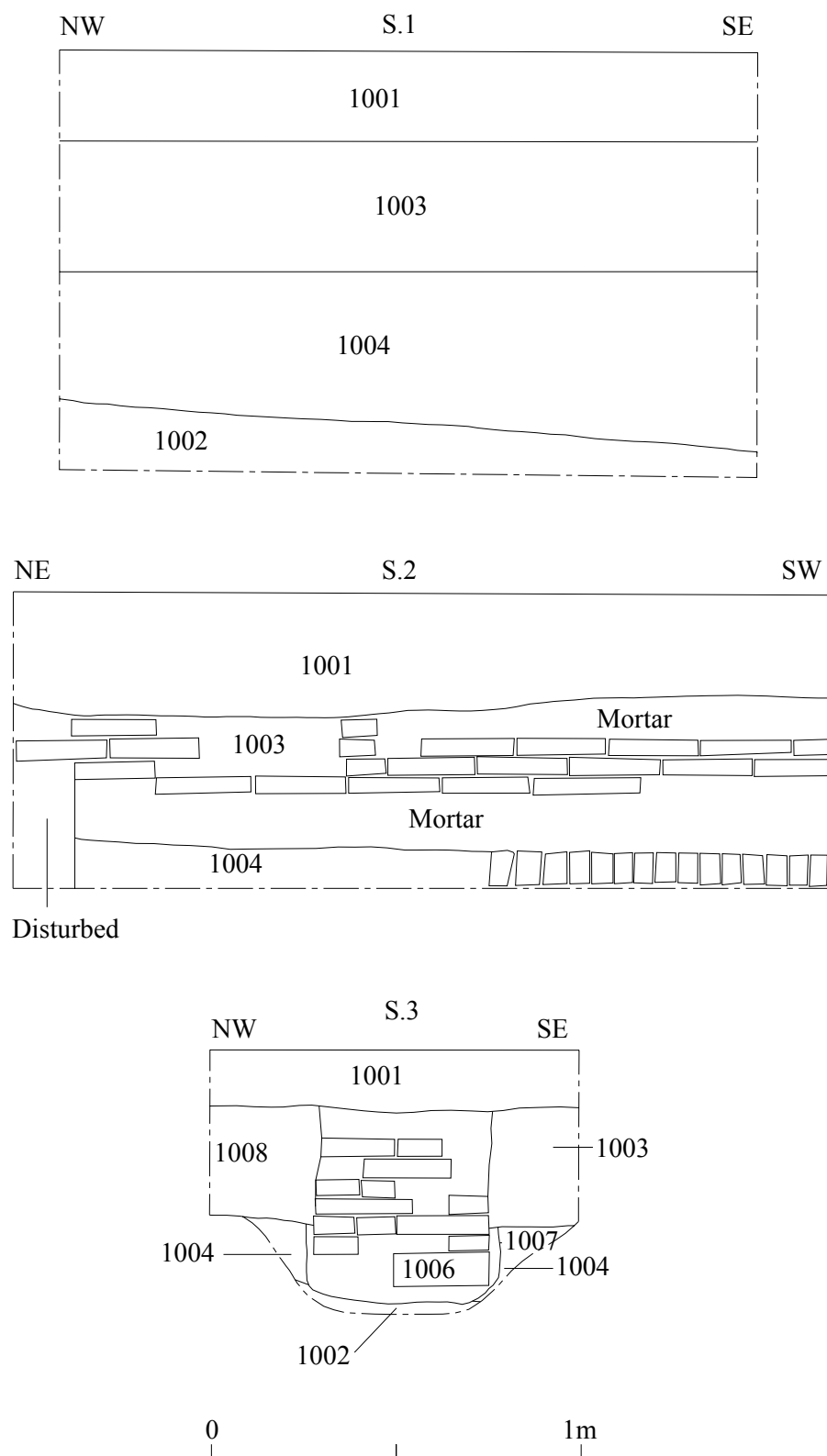


Figure 3 Recorded features in section.

5. The Finds

A small quantity of artefacts consisting of pottery, roof tile and clay pipe fragments was recovered during the monitoring and two brick samples were taken from wall (1005/6) for identification. The bricks were examined by J. Tibbles (*pers. comm.*) and P. Didsbury (*pers.comm.*)

A total of twelve sherds of pottery were recovered from two contexts. The two sherds recovered from (1004) grey sandy silt consisted of 2 Late Medieval/Early Post-Medieval sherds which resemble Sandy Humberwares. These have a possible late 14th to 16th century date range. The pottery recovered from the overlying (1003) consisted of 2 sherds of Post-Medieval Brown Glazed Coarseware, 2 sherds of 19th century Blackware, 2 sherds of 19th century Brown Stoneware, 2 sherds of Unglazed Red Earthenware (19th) and 2 sherds of Factory Produced White Earthenware which are late 19th to early 20th century in date.

Also recovered from (1003) were six fragments of clay tobacco pipe which were 19th century in date. Also a pipe bowl was recovered which depicts on one side a Set square and compasses, with flanking rods, the other side of the bowl being very worn where the images cannot be made out. The bowl is not a known Hull or Lincoln design, and its likely date is between 1790 and 1850 (late Georgian to early Victorian). It is recommended by P. Didsbury, that the clay tobacco pipe bowl be retained in the local typology series to enable further comparisons.

The two bricks both measure 9½ x 4¾ x 2¼ and appear to have been manufactured in the 17th century. Three non-diagnostic fragments of flat roof tile were also recovered.

6. Discussion

The following is solely the opinion of Humber Field Archaeology, and may not reflect that of Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office, archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

The deposits encountered in the foundations for the new dwellings on the site appear to conform to activity from the post-medieval period onwards. The natural ground was reached in many places, and no medieval archaeological deposits were noted. The evidence revealed so far suggests that the majority of the occupation on the site which has left tangible evidence comes from the 17th century or later, however, there were two sherds of medieval date which were recovered from the lowest deposit encountered.

It is likely that the archaeological deposits/structures identified during this programme of work extend outside the current area and into adjacent ones. It is therefore our recommendation that should any further development take place in these areas then a suitable scheme of archaeological work should be implemented.

7. Acknowledgements

Thanks are accorded to Lewis Design and Sales Ltd. for help and co-operation during the course of this project.

The work was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office. The report text and illustrations were edited by D. Atkinson. The artefacts were spot-dated by J. Tibbles and P. Didsbury (*M. Phil*) on a *pers. comm.* basis.

8. References

Guidelines for Finds Work The Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group First Draft, 1991.

Humber SMR. Brief for a programme of archaeological observation investigation and recording. Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office July 2005.

Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), English Heritage, 1991.

Snowden, A., Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the Land to the rear of the Neptune Inn, 60 High Street, Rawcliffe, East Riding of Yorkshire, 2005.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1

Context list

- (1000) U/S, Unstratified.
- (1001) Modern hardcore surfacing.
- (1002) Natural ground.
- (1003) 19th century layer.
- (1004) Late medieval layer.
- (1005) 17th century wall.
- (1006) 17th century wall (same as (1005)).
- (1007) 17th century wall cut.
- (1008) Post-medieval layer.

Appendix 2

Archive

Project Details: A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at store rear of Neptune Inn, 60 High Street, Rawcliffe, East Riding of Yorkshire.

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SMR Casework Reference: SMR/PA/CONS/11785

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Museum Reference or Accession Number: ERYMS2006/19

Author DJ Jobling **Date of fieldwork**

Report Number. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 841

Quantity

4 x clear plastic wallets contain the paper archive.

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12. Final Report: A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at store rear of Neptune Inn, 60 High Street, Rawcliffe, East Riding of Yorkshire. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 841.



Plate 1 The plot foundations in the southern area of the site, looking south.



Plate 2 The plots foundation in the northern area of the site, looking north.

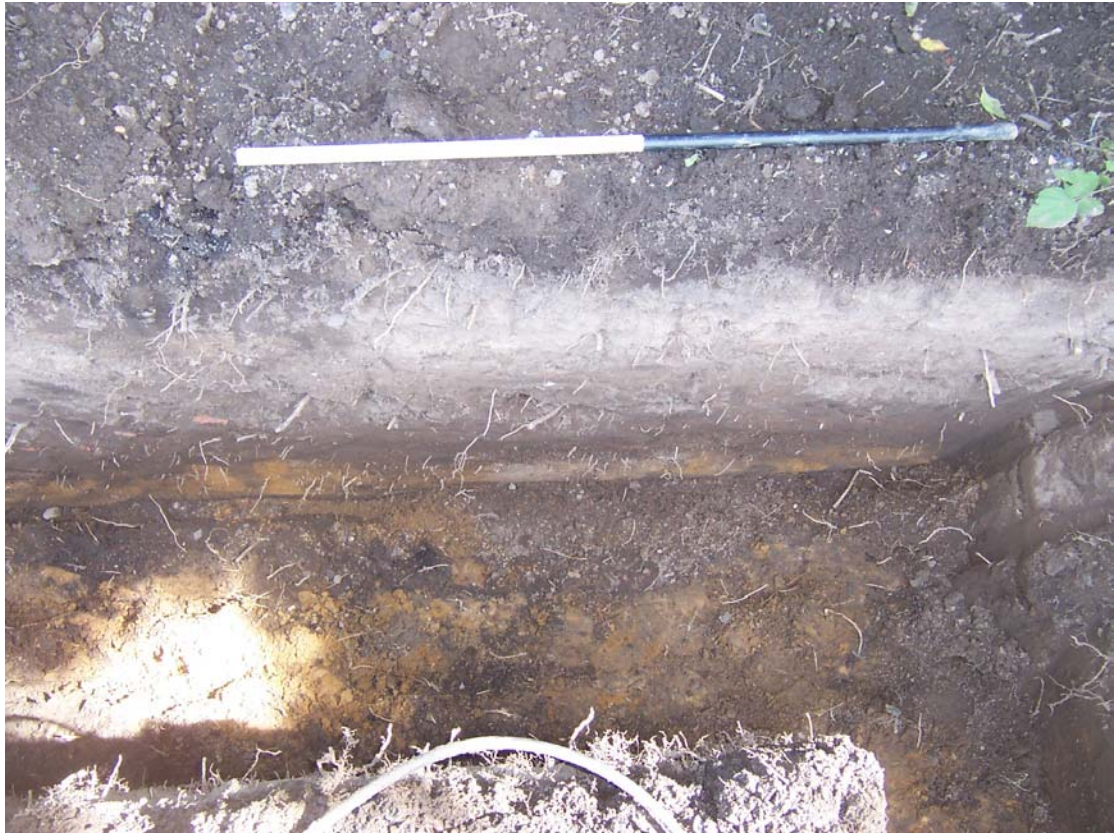


Plate 3 Section 1, showing natural ground (1002), looking north-east.



Plate 4 17th Century Wall (1005/6), late medieval deposits (1004) underneath, looking south-east.



Plate 5 17th Century Wall (1005/6) looking north-east.

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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Excavation Watching Briefs
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Humber Field Archaeology is an independently-funded part of the Humber Archaeology Partnership, a partnership serving The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council