

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



Archaeological Observation
Investigation and Recording

at

24-28 Gowthorpe

Selby

North Yorkshire

Site Code: WB2013.027

National Grid Reference: SE 6131 3236

Planning Reference: 2010/0866/FUL

for

Gowthorpe Development Ltd

Watching Brief Report Number: 1425
December 2014

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D. Jobling (BA Hons)

Summary

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology at 24-28 Gowthorpe, Selby, North Yorkshire.

Monitoring of the groundwork at the development site demonstrated that a series of early modern demolition- or levelling-based horizons were present overlying the natural clay. Most of these layers contained varying types of brick rubble, indicating either a build up of land in the burgage plots extending to the north, or arising from remodelling of previous off-shots (it was noted that existing off-shots prior to the current development had been foreshortened previously).

Brick samples were retained from the rear boundary wall of the site and demonstrated that at least two types of bricks were used in its construction; one of which clearly showed signs of re-use and that example may date from the late medieval period.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA), on behalf of Gowthorpe Development Ltd during groundwork associated with the conversion of the existing building and the construction of extensions at 24 -28 Gowthorpe, Selby, North Yorkshire (Fig 1, Plate 1).

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The site is located in the town of Selby, North Yorkshire. The redevelopment plot is bounded to the south by Gowthorpe to the east and west by standing buildings and to the north by car parking associated with a variety of retail and supermarket shop units.

2. Planning Background

The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology, in accordance with the a site-specific project design (Atkinson 2013) and with reference to the Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008 Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief in response to a condition placed upon the planning application.

The application for this development, reference 2010/0866/FUL was submitted to Selby District Council on 16th August 2010. Permission was subsequently granted on 15th December 2010 and was issued on the 10th January 2011 subject to conditions upon advice given by North Yorkshire Council Historic Environment Team (NYCHET). Condition 11 stated:

‘No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.’

‘Reason: The site is of archaeological interest and to ensure compliance with Policy ENV28 of the Selby District Local Plan.’

3. Archaeological Background

The following extract is from a letter from NYCHET to the planning authority (ref. 8019 LH CNY10303):

‘The site lies within the historic core of the town. The properties on Gowthorpe are believed to have been laid out following the

establishment of the Abbey, probably in the 12th or 13th century. It is probably that the current property is built directly on top of remains of earlier properties that occupied the site during the medieval and early post-medieval periods. It is likely, therefore, that the proposed works, both inside and to the rear of the current property, will encounter archaeological remains of medieval and later date.'

There is further information regarding additional details of the Grade II listed buildings at 24-28 Gowthorpe, along with additional details on a descriptive version of map progression in a Heritage Statement (anon.), which can be accessed via the Selby District Council Planning Access Portal. This statement has been read by HFA in conjunction with the historical background provided by NYCHET.

4. Methodology

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of a trench at the rear of the development to allow planning permission to continue on 20th November 2013. The site at the rear was then stripped and stoned up with hardcore material unfortunately without HFA being notified of the works just prior to the end of September 2014. On 22nd October monitoring of the trenches associated with the piled foundations was undertaken and two monitoring visits were made in December 2014 to monitor the excavations of the new service trenches. In total, there were five visits made to the site between the 20th November 2013 and 5th December 2014.

Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. The excavated dimensions of the stripped area and 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. Artefacts recovered from structures, features or deposits were returned to HFA for specialist, in-house analysis.

5. Results

PLANNING CONTINUATION TRENCH

Fig 2, Plates 2 and 3

The trench was located 4m to the north of the rear wall of the original yard for 24-28 Gowthorpe and ran WNW-ESE. It was 7.30m long, 0.60m wide and 0.60m deep (4.38m² over a perimeter of 15.8m). No features of archaeological significance were observed during the monitoring and no finds were collected.

Throughout the base of the trench there was a layer at least 0.25m thick of dark grey brown to charcoal grey sandy clay silt that contained frequent demolition debris that consisted primarily of ceramic building material, including some 2" (50mm) thick brick that were presumably of the 18th or early 19th centuries (1005). At the east end

of the trench this was topped by a 0.25m thick layer of clean limestone hardcore (1004), above which there was 0.10m of dark grey brown topsoil (1003). At the west end of the trench the base layer (1005) was topped by a 0.25m thick layer of near charcoal grey silt clay that contained small stones and ceramic building material fragments (1002). Above that there was a 0.10m thick layer consisting of patches of limestone hardcore and topsoil (1001).

It was concluded that the base layer 1005 comprised a spread of demolition debris of material that was principally of 18th and 19th-century date.

NEW BUILD EXTENSION FOUNDATIONS

Fig 2, Plates 4 to 7

These excavations followed the stripping of the year of the yard following demolition of the rear boundary wall (1010), samples of which were taken for analysis (see **Find**s below). The stripping was unfortunately undertaken without HFA being present during a weekend towards the end of September 2014, and a layer of modern chalk-based hardcore (1006) had been laid across the area in preparation for the installation of piled foundations. The stripped area covered 213.05m² over a perimeter of 62.37m.

Following the piling, beam slot foundations were excavated in-between the piles.

These foundations had widths ranging between 0.5m and 0.8m (averaging 0.6m) and depths ranging between 0.5m in the reduced ground level area up to 1m along the northern boundary where the ground level had not been stripped. The foundations covered a maximum area of 26.70m NNE-SSW and 14.40m WNW-ESE (81.07m² [foundations only] over a perimeter of 145.51m).

In the southern part of the excavations, the base of the trench showed the presence of natural brown orange clay sand (1009). Above this was a layer of grey brown silty sandy clay up to 0.20 thick (1008), which was present in plan in the central third of the excavations. In the northern area of the excavations, where the modern ground level is still intact the layer above 1008 could be related to (1005), an almost black gritty clay sandy silt frequent ceramic building material debris up to 0.50m thick (1007).

Above 1007 and 1008, to the east and west sides, levelling layers can be seen relating to the access and paths from the neighbouring properties (1011), sealed in general by the new levelling layer of hardcore surfacing 1006.

DRAINAGE

Fig 2, Plate 8

Selected elements of the associated drainage scheme at the development site were also observed; these were located mostly in the lesser disturbed area on the eastern side of the site. Up to 26m length of drainage was observed, with the trenches being up to 0.50m wide and 0.60m deep. The same sequence of deposits which were observed in

the foundation trenches were also seen in these excavations with no apparent deviation.

At this point the programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was concluded.

6. The Finds

The Ceramic Building Materials

Lisa M. Wastling

A small assemblage of ceramic building materials was recovered from the watching brief. This consisted of two complete bricks, both recovered from the boundary wall (1010).

Both are likely to have been manufactured locally. The smaller brick has seen re-use in the later 18th or 19th century. This brick was probably derived from earlier buildings on or in the near vicinity of the site, being re-used within the boundary wall. The second brick bears the same mortar as that on the first, though this brick was probably in primary usage and contemporary in date with the wall.

Handmade brick. Darker orange in colour. Uneven underside, mould-made. Remainder evenly made. Bears two types of mortar, the first is a buff coloured lime mortar bearing crushed chalk aggregate. Overlying this is a light grey mortar bearing sand aggregate and black grains. Black bulking agents were not commonly added to mortar until the late 18th century (Locock 2010, 37). Date: From the later medieval period to the earlier 18th century, re-used in the late 18th century or later.

Dimensions: $9\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ inches (242 x 116 x 52mm)

Handmade brick. Orange in colour. Uneven sanded underside, mould-made. Bears light grey mortar with sand aggregate and black shiny grains. Of later 18th to mid 19th century date.

Dimensions: $8\frac{7}{8} \times 4\frac{7}{8} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ inches (226 x 113 x 68mm)

Recommendations

The ceramic building material assemblage from this watching brief is recommended for discard. No further work is required.

7. 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).

It is unfortunate that HFA were unable to oversee the stripping of the site in preparation of the laying of the piling mat. This work appears to have been undertaken at a weekend towards the end of September 2014.

The excavation of the planning continuation trench provided an initial insight into the general conditions of the deposits in the northern area of the development. The deposits exposed show a series of layers relating to the occupation of the site from probably the late 18th (most likely 19th) century through to the mid 20th century.

The beam slot foundations formed the principal period of archaeological monitoring at the site. The excavations here demonstrated, in general, the same principal deposits as exposed in the earlier, single trench, with the addition of exposing natural clays in the southern third of the works.

The excavations demonstrated that above the natural clay there was a series of demolition- or levelling-based horizons directly relating to the development of the plot with regard to the building and subsequent remodelling of the rear sections of the frontage plots. These all appear to have been contained within the truncated remains of the rear burgage plots associated with the street frontage buildings.

1008 may relate to the truncated remains of an original buried ground horizon; a remnant of the original ground level prior to the development of the site during the late 18th century. Above this were a series of deposits relating to later, site-related works. There was no particular evidence for the shortening of the building to the rear of the western side of the extended range; such foundations were likely removed during the excavation of the current beam slots which appear to sit directly above the line of the previous building foundations.

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 if necessary.

8. Acknowledgements

Thanks are accorded to Colin Fell and Gowthorpe Development Ltd and Andrew Jenkins and Fluid Associates LLP for their co-operation during the course of this project.

The work was carried out in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation (Atkinson 2013).

Project Management:	Dave Atkinson Ken Steedman
Fieldwork:	Pam Cartwright, Dave P. Rawson
Report/Illustration:	Doug Jobling
Finds:	Lisa M. Wastling
Administration:	Georgina Richardson

9. References

Bibliographic References:

Anonymous, 2010. Heritage Statement. Proposals for the conversion and re-use for retail & residential purposes, 24-28 Gowthorpe, Selby. R3323 – Heritage Statement (<http://public.selby.gov.uk/online-applications/>, search 2010/0866/FUL last accessed 18th November 2014)

Atkinson, D., 2013. 24-28 Gowthorpe, Selby, North Yorkshire: Written scheme of investigation for archaeological observation, investigation and recording. Humber Field Archaeology

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008. Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (October 1994, revised September 2001 and October 2008)

Locock, M. 2010 'Bricks and Mortar: post-medieval buildings archaeology in Wales' in *The Archaeologist* **75**, 37

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

10. Appendices

Appendix 1

Context list:

- (1001) Ground level horizon; turf over dark brown grey sandy silt with patches of limestone hardcore
- (1002) Layer; charcoal grey silt clay that contained small stones and ceramic building material fragments
- (1003) Layer; dark grey brown topsoil
- (1004) Layer; clean limestone hardcore
- (1005) Layer; dark grey brown to charcoal grey sandy clay silt that contained frequent demolition debris that consisted primarily of ceramic building material, including some 2" (50mm) thick brick that were presumably of the 18th or early 19th centuries
- (1006) Layer; modern hardcore surfacing
- (1007) Layer; black gritty clay sandy silt frequent ceramic building material debris
- (1008) Buried ground horizon; grey brown silty sandy clay
- (1009) Natural ground; brown orange clay sand
- (1010) Northerly boundary wall (demolished)
- (1011) Consolidated layers of access path-type material for adjoining passageways to the east and west of the development.

Appendix 2

Archive

Project Details: 24-28 Gowthorpe, Selby, North Yorkshire: Written scheme of investigation for archaeological observation investigation and recording

Site Code: WB2013.027

National Grid Reference: SE 6131 3236

Planning Reference: 2010/0866/FUL

Author: D. Jobling

Date of fieldwork: 20th November 2013 – 22nd October 2014.

Report Number. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number: 1425, December 2014

Quantity

5 x clear plastic A4 wallets contain the paper archive

A digital and physical copy of the report has been lodged with NYCHET but the physical archive remains with HFA

Summary of work

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology at 24-28 Gowthorpe, Selby, North Yorkshire.

Monitoring of the groundwork at the rear of the development site demonstrated that a series of early modern demolition- or levelling-based horizons were present overlying the natural clay. Most of these layers contained varying types of brick rubble, indicating either a build up of land in the burgage plots extending to the north, or arising from remodelling of previous off-shots (it was noted that existing off-shots prior to the current development had been foreshortened previously).

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1.2 Correspondence

2 Site Data:

2.1 Site notes

2.2 Staff site visit log

2.3 Site plans

3 The Photographic Record:

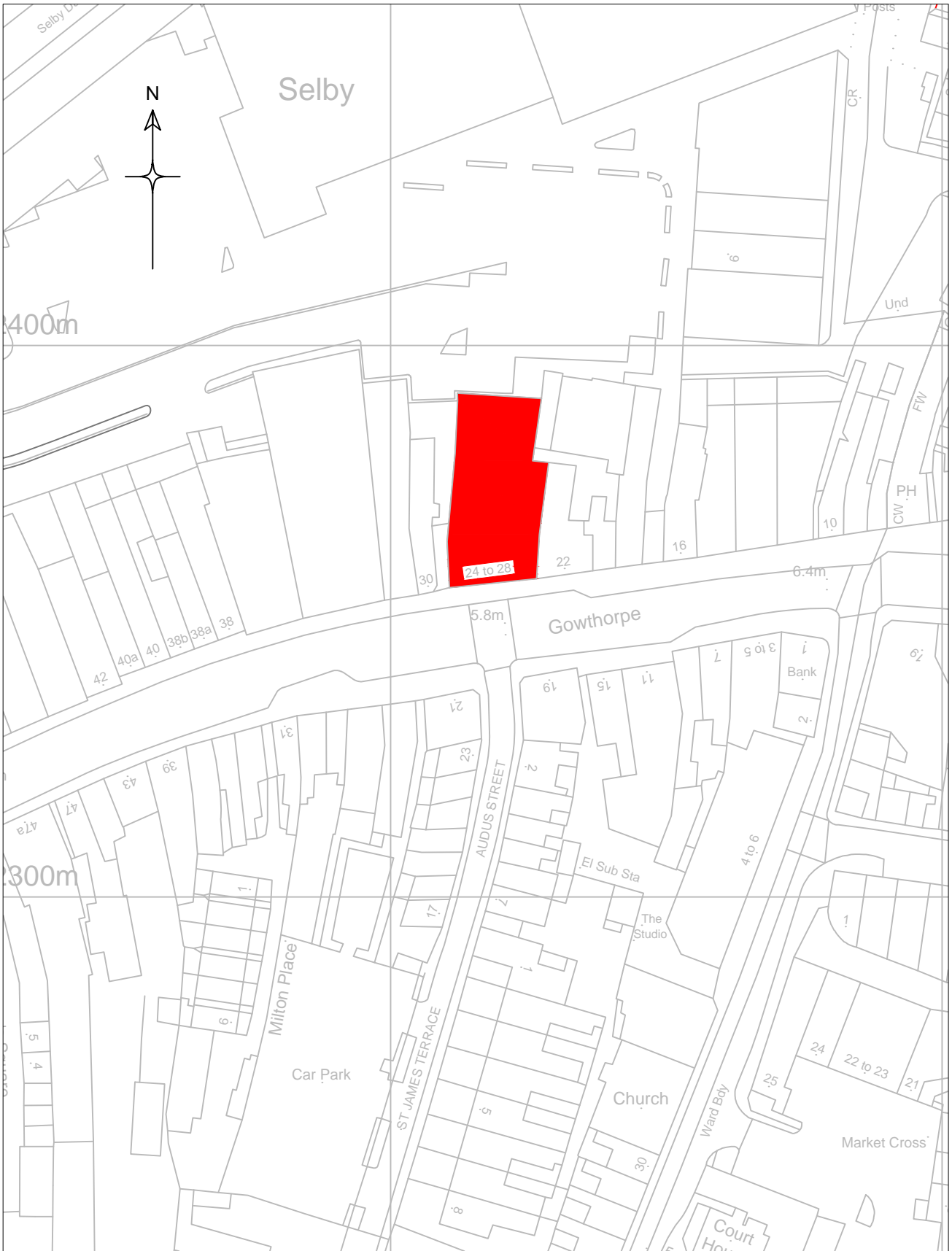
3.1 Photographic Catalogue

3.2 Contact Sheets

3.3 Reference Prints

4. Final Report:

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording at 24-28 Gowthorpe, Selby, North Yorkshire.
Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 1425, December 2014



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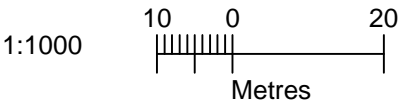


Figure 1 Site location (in red)

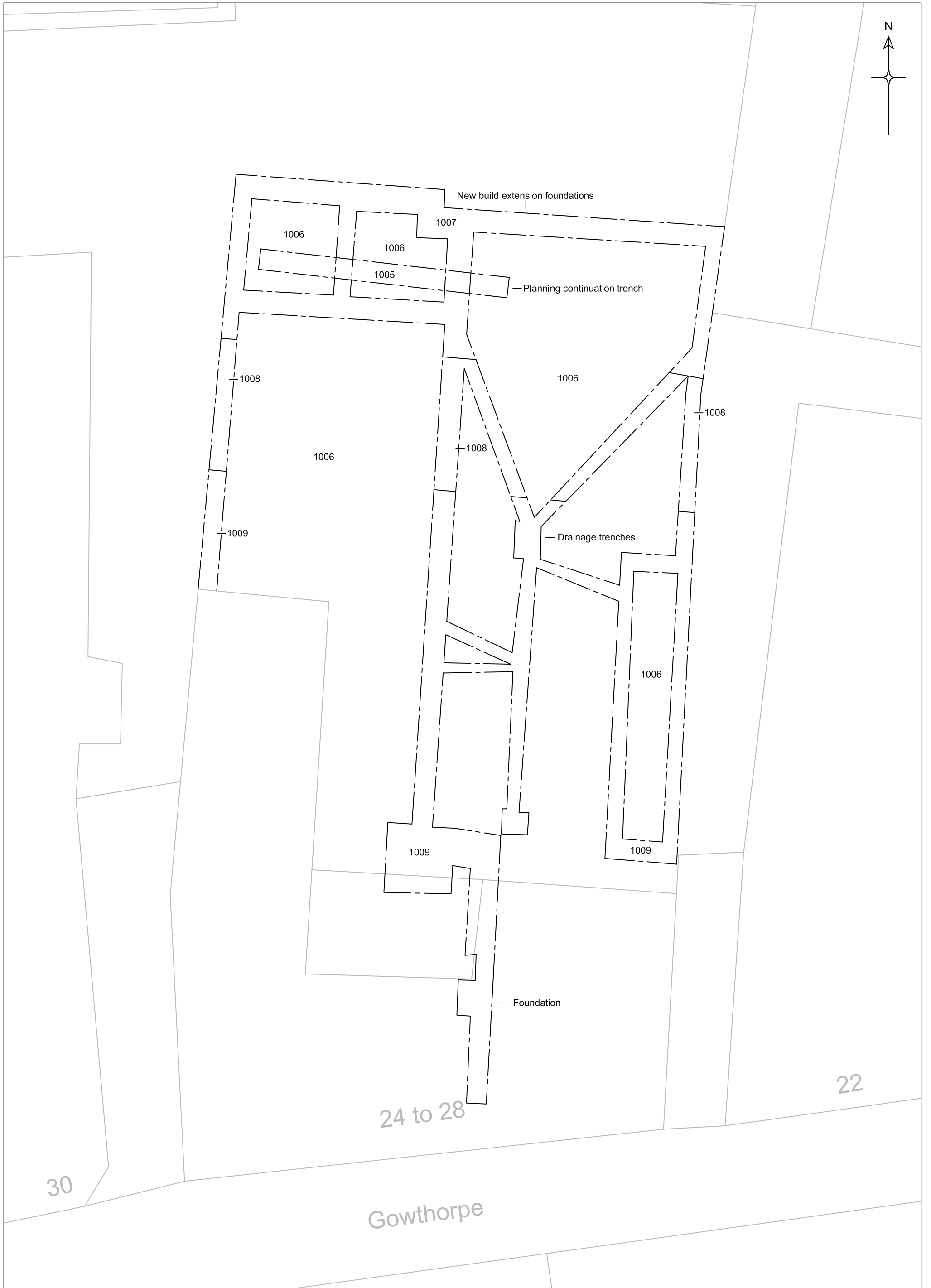


Figure 2 Plan showing the monitored groundworks and deposits exposed



Plate 1 The site of the development from the rear of the properties, looking south-west



Plate 2 Excavation of the planning continuation trench, viewed from the west



Plate 3 Deposits (1005), (1002) and (1001) at the western end of the planning continuation trench.
Looking north (1m scale)



Plate 4 The stripped and stoned (1006) reduced level following the site strip, looking south-west



Plate 5 The beam slot foundations on the western side of the site, looking south



Plate 6 The central N-S aligned beam slot trench, looking north



Plate 7 The eastern beam slot foundations with the stairwell to the rear of the image. Looking south



Plate 8 Drainage excavation in the eastern area of the site, looking south-west

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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Fieldwork • Finds Research
• Post-excavation Analysis • Inter-tidal Work

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