

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: 'FLAXBY GREEN PARK', FLAXBY COVERT, NORTH YORKSHIRE



CS Archaeology

March 2017

On behalf of: Forward Investment LLP
Hollin Hall
Ripon
North Yorkshire
HG4 3AB

National Grid Reference (NGR): SE 40735 56942 (centre)

Report Number: 171

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Report by: Mr C Scurfield

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- 1 Project Design

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is in response to a request for further archaeological information at the pre planning application stage by Harrogate Borough Council in respect of this site's potential re-development.
- 1.2 This archaeological evaluation of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) was undertaken in order to inform the site's future archaeological management, and was achieved by the excavation of 12 archaeological trial trenches. These were targeted trenches based upon an earlier geo-physical survey by Allen Archaeology, and the trench locations and orientations had been agreed with NYCC and re-confirmed by North Yorkshire County Council (Mr. P. Rowe) in February/March 2017.
- 1.3 The trenches were laid out to sample the PDA and targeted one geo-physical anomaly (trench 3). Land drains were a common feature throughout all the trenches.
- 1.4 No further archaeological mitigation is recommended.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 *Site Name:* Land SW of the A59/A1 junction, Flaxby Covert, North Yorkshire
- 2.2 *Location:* Flaxby Covert, North Yorkshire
- 2.3 *Grid reference:* SE 40735 56942 (centre)
- 2.4 *PDA:* 17.02 hectares (**Figure 1: Plates 1 & 2**)
- 2.5 *Purpose of the Evaluation:* To record the nature and extent of archaeological deposits.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2 Little is known about the PDA during the historical and archaeological periods. There is a cropmark site to the south of the PDA which may demonstrate high archaeological potential (pers. comm. Mr P Rowe). There was a further cropmark within the PDA, identified previously, and targeted by trench 3 in this evaluation.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 To ensure that any buried archaeological remains, are investigated in order that an understanding of their nature, extent and significance is gained, and that the knowledge gained is then disseminated.
- 4.2 If archaeology is revealed every effort will be made to enable the deposits to be preserved in situ.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 This has been carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) issued by CS Archaeology (Appendix 1).
- 5.2 The site was recorded on small scale plans (Figures 3-4) and photographed with a digital camera. Anomalies and potential archaeology were recorded in number sequence [1-7] in the text and in **Figures 3-4**.
- 5.3 Mr. P. Rowe (NYCC) was kept fully informed of the progress of the work.

6. RESULTS

- 6.1 *Interpretation:* the evaluation has revealed no significant archaeological deposits. Previous geo-physical anomaly was found to be formed by a series of land drains.
- 6.2 Hand excavation of features [1-7] during the evaluation proved them to be a series of modern drainage features, two natural water channels (trenches 5 & 12), and one narrow undated ditch [5] in trench 5.
- 6.3 **Trench 1**, was cleaned and recorded and a group of three closely parallel linear features [1-3] identified towards the western end of the trench (**Plates 3 & 4**). Two of the three features were hand excavated (**Plate 5**) suggesting that these features were formed by a modern deep ploughing technique. This ploughing must have been localised since these features were a) not encountered in any other trench and b) not depicted on the geo-physical survey. Land drains A-C were arranged on a SW-NE alignment.
- 6.4 **Trench 2**, negative for any significant archaeology (**Plate 6**). Land drains D-G were arranged on a SW-NE alignment.
- 6.5 **Trench 3**, contained one small anomaly [4], but generally negative for any significant archaeology (**Plate 7**). Anomaly [4] was investigated and consisted of an undulation in the natural. The previously recognised cropmark was represented by a series of modern drainage features (H-K).
- 6.6 **Trench 4**, one linear anomaly [5] was revealed towards the west south-west end of the trench. It was marked by a distinct colour change between the fill and the above plough soil (**Plates 8 & 9**), and therefore represented a feature with some archaeological potential. Excavation of the single context fill revealed no dating evidence in the form of pottery, but the concave sides and rounded base did feature what were probably shovel marks, indicating a slightly earlier drain than any of the subsequent drains within the PDA.
- 6.7 **Trench 5**, featured a number of C20th drains, together with a relict stream channel, characterised by a wide (4.5m) channel. The channel was broadly aligned east-west and filled with large rounded stones in a peaty loam matrix (**Plate 10**), suggesting it had only gone out of use in the historically 'recently' past.
- 6.8 **Trench 6**, featured similar historic drains to the above trenches and also a circular feature [6] which ran into the baulk (**Plate 11**). Detailed excavations revealed a feature which had been truncated by a drain with drainage pipe in situ (**Plate 12**), was negative for any significant archaeology, and included a relict stream channel at the centre of the trench which was aligned. No artefacts were recovered, indicating that

feature [6] was either an undulating piece of ground or possibly an animal burrow which post dated the drain.

- 6.9 **Trenches 7-10** revealed no features other than historic land drains (**Plates 13-17**).
- 6.10 **Trenches 12**, featured a modern gravel filled land drain and one large anomaly [7] (**Plates 18 & 19**). A slot was put through this feature (**Plate 20**). This revealed a filled-in stream channel with a silty sand primary fill, and a peaty loam upper fill with rounded stone similar to the context in relict stream in Trench 5.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Throughout the evaluation trenches no residual artefacts were encountered. The absence of any anthropogenic evidence across the PDA suggests that the land use within the PDA was only historically recent, during the later 20th century.

8. MITIGATION

8.1 No further archaeological mitigation is recommended.

9. REFERENCES

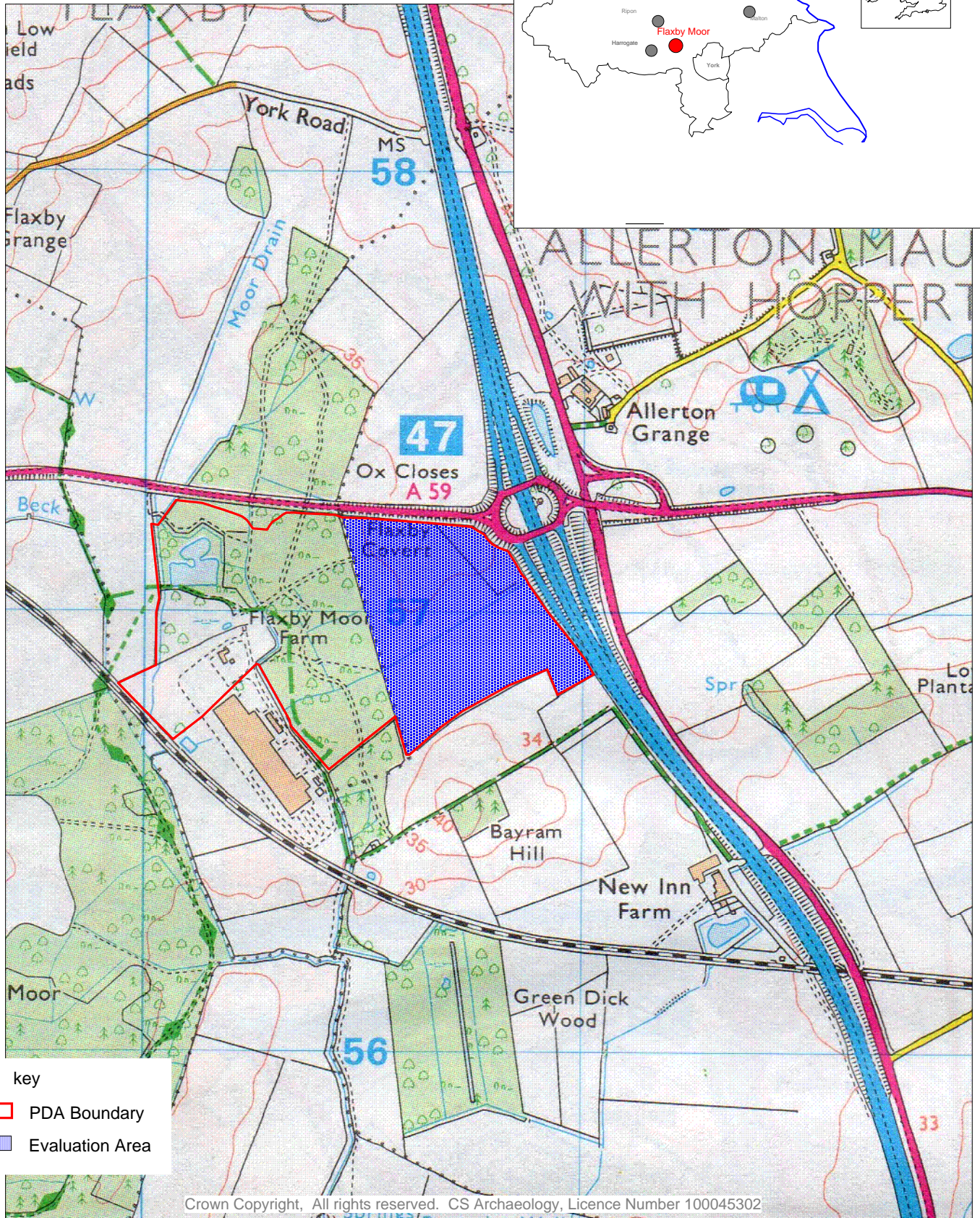
9.1 Cartographic References

Ordnance Survey map 1:25000 Explorer, 289

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Forward Investment LLP for commissioning this report and facilitating the works.

FIGURES

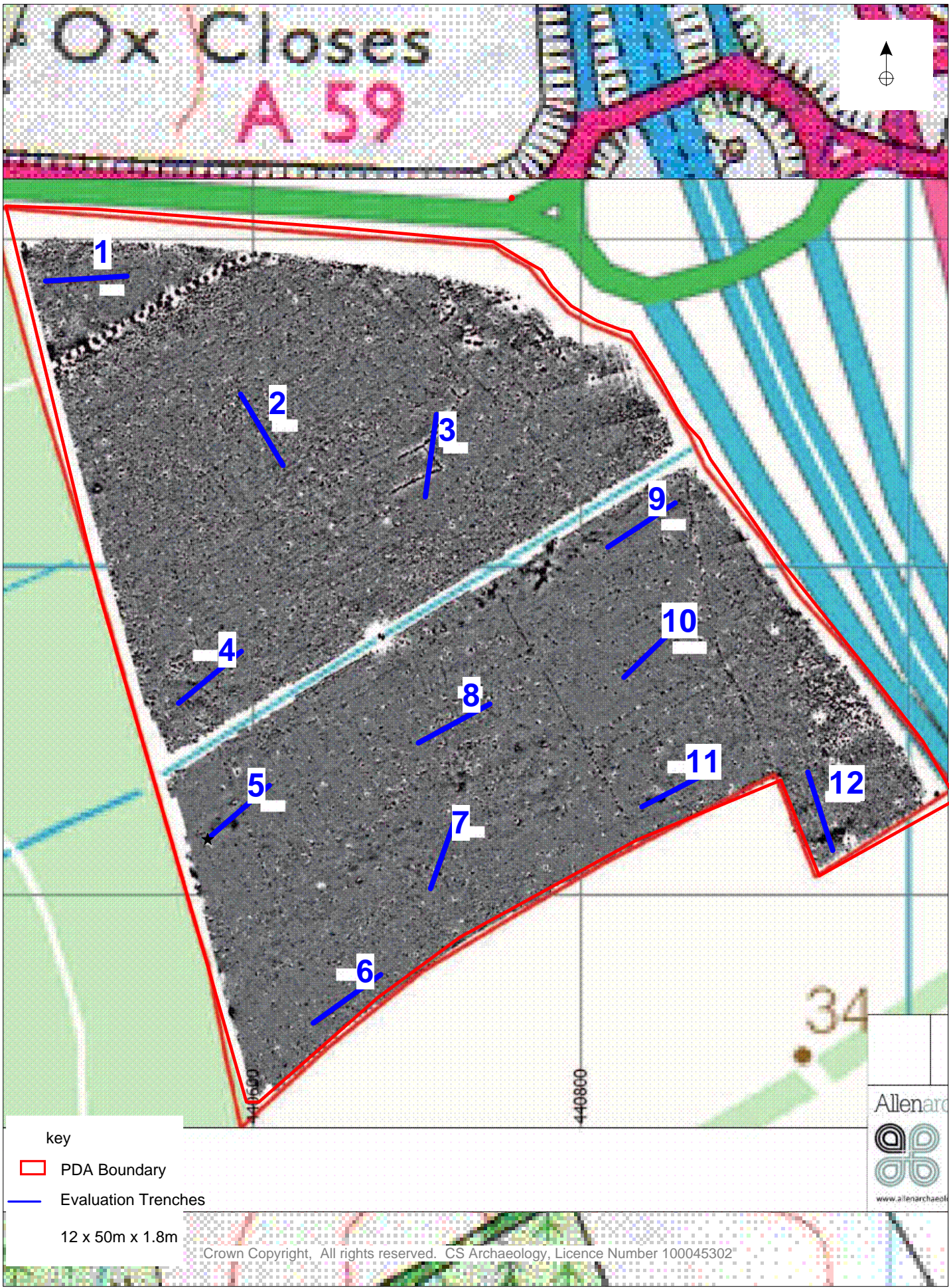


An Archaeological Evaluation:
'Flaxby Green Park', Flaxby Covert,
North Yorkshire

Figure 1: Location Map
of PDA

scale 1:12500

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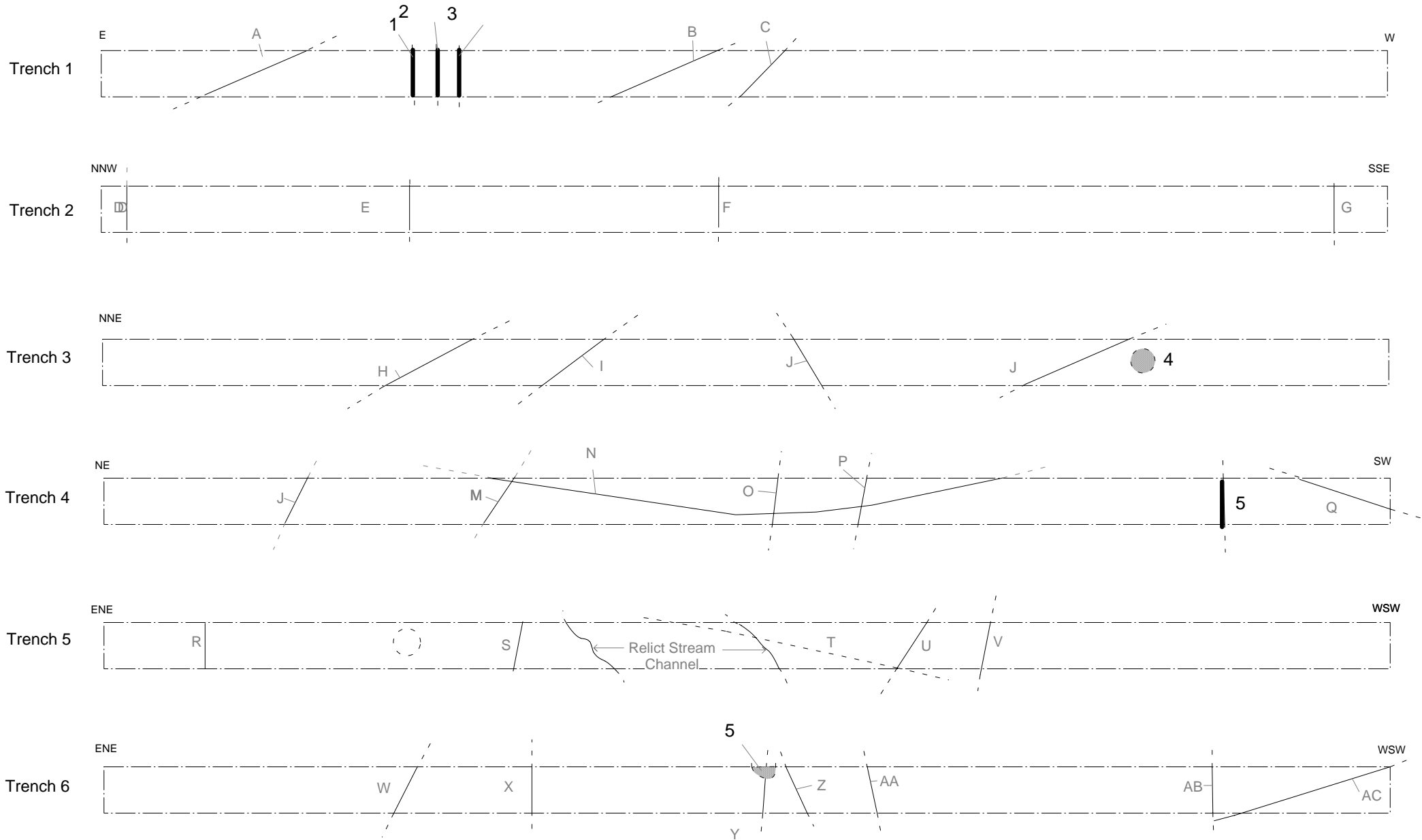


An Archaeological Evaluation:
'Flaxby Green Park', Flaxby Covert,
North Yorkshire

Figure 2: Trench Location
and Geo-physics Survey Plan

not to scale

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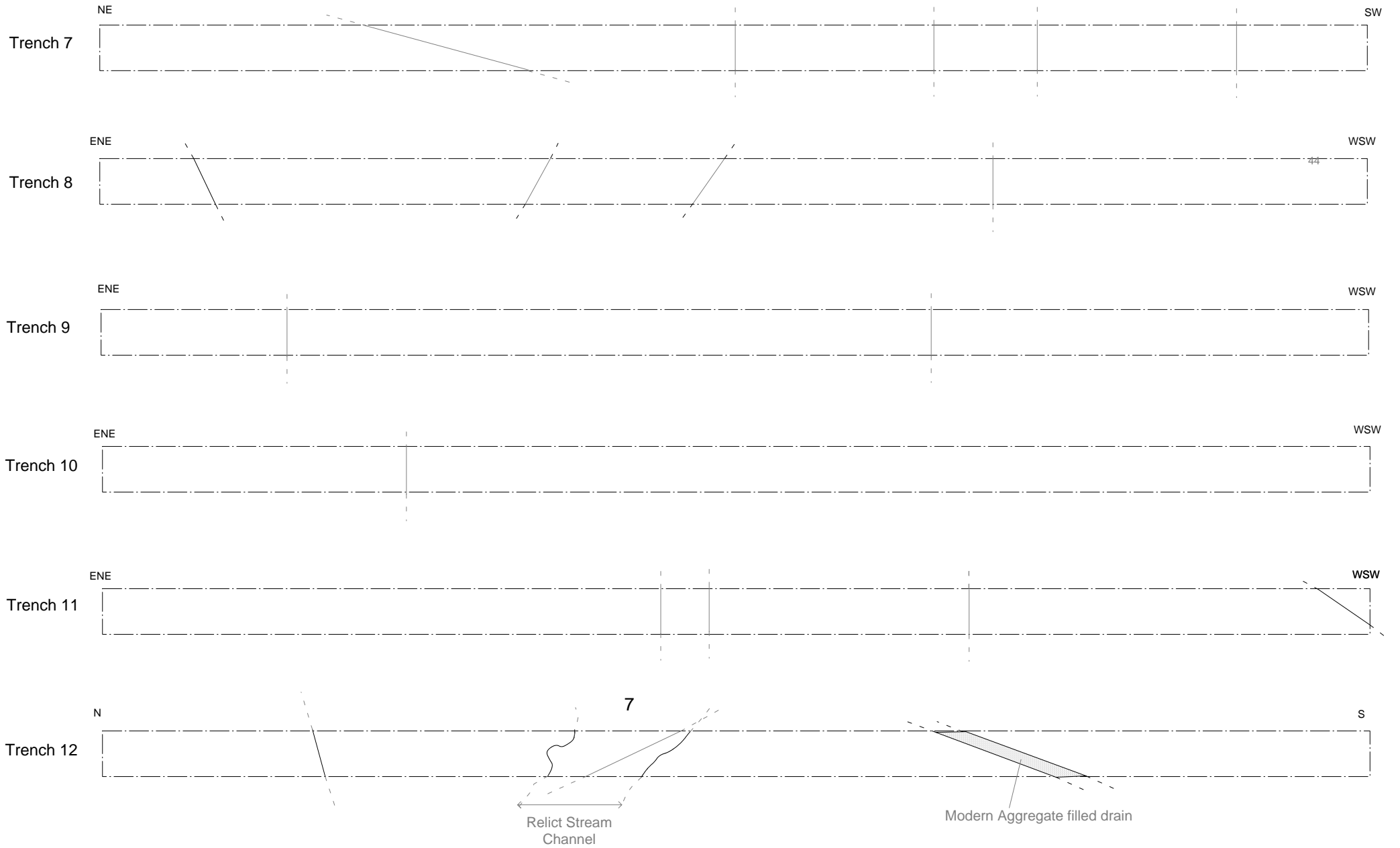
not to scale

An Archaeological Evaluation:
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 North Yorkshire

- key
- limit of excavation
 - drainage pipe A-Z, AA-AC
 - } anomalies 1-7

Figure 3: Trench Plans

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scale 1:200

An Archaeological Evaluation:
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 North Yorkshire

key

- limit of excavation
- drainage pipe A-Z, AA-AC
- } anomalies 1-7
- } anomalies 1-7

Figure 4: Trench Plans

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PLATES

with photographic position numbers, in italics, for cross referencing with the archive



Plate 1: general view towards the A1 with trench 6 (right), looking northeast



Plate 2: general view of trenches 3-5, from the A1, looking southeast



Plate 3: western end of trench 1 with anomalies [1-3] towards the western end of the trench, looking west



Plate 4: pre-excavation view of anomalies [1-3], looking east



Plate 5: excavated sections of anomalies [1 & 2], looking north



Plate 6: post-excitation view of trench 2, looking northwest



Plate 7: general view of trench 3, looking north north-east



Plate 8: trench 4, view of anomaly [5], looking west south-west



Plate 9: trench 4, post-excitation view of anomaly [5], looking north-west



Plate 10: trench 5, post-excitation view, looking west south-west



Plate 11: trench 6 with anomaly 6 in the foreground, looking west south-west



Plate 12: trench 6 post excavation view of anomaly [6] , looking south-east



Plate 13: trench 7, looking south south-west



Plate 14: trench 8, looking east north-east



Plate 15: trench 9, general view looking west south-west



Plate 16: trench 10, general view, looking west south-west



Plate 17: trench 11, general view, looking east north-east



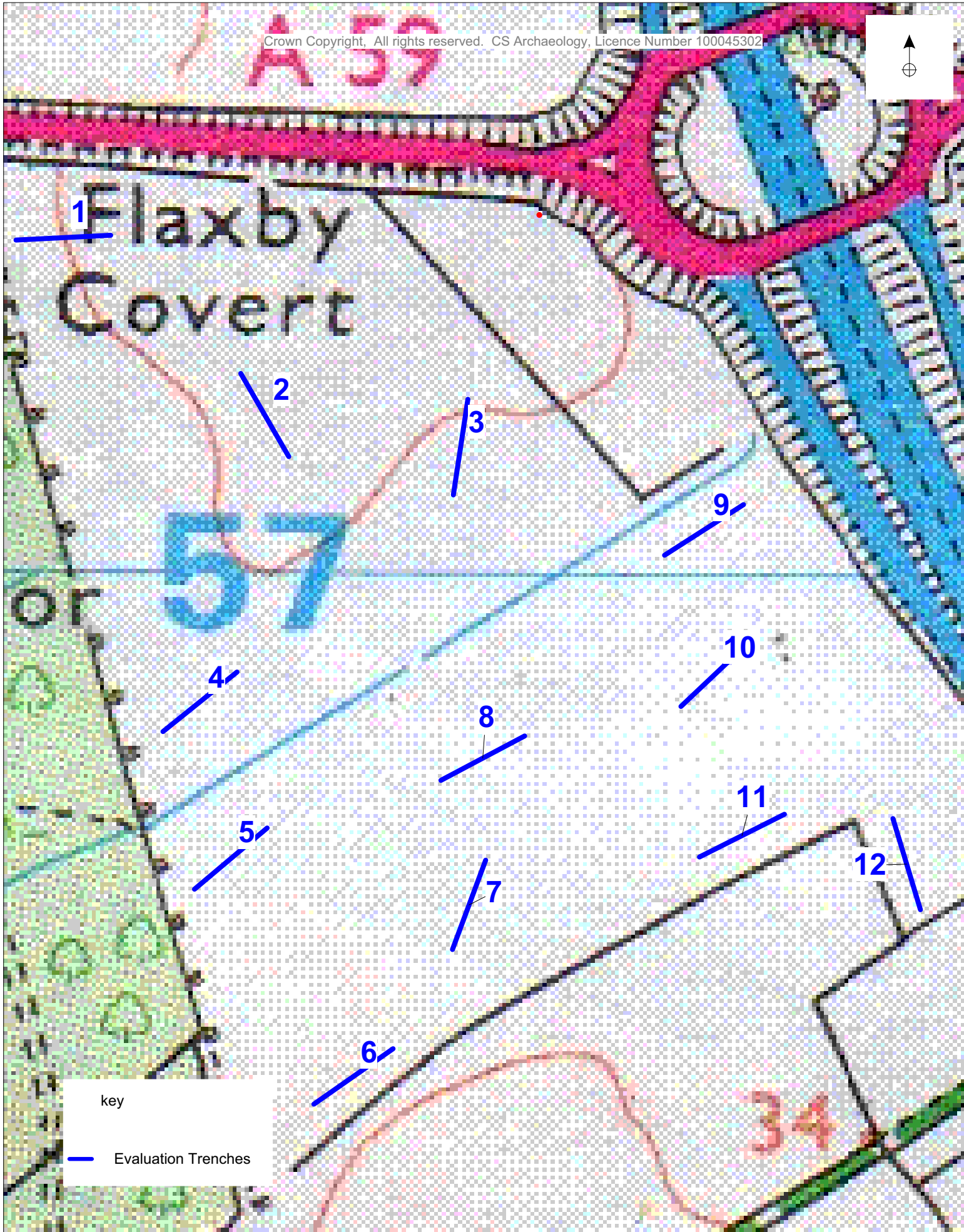
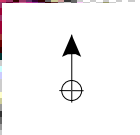
Plate 18: trench 12, general view, looking south south-east

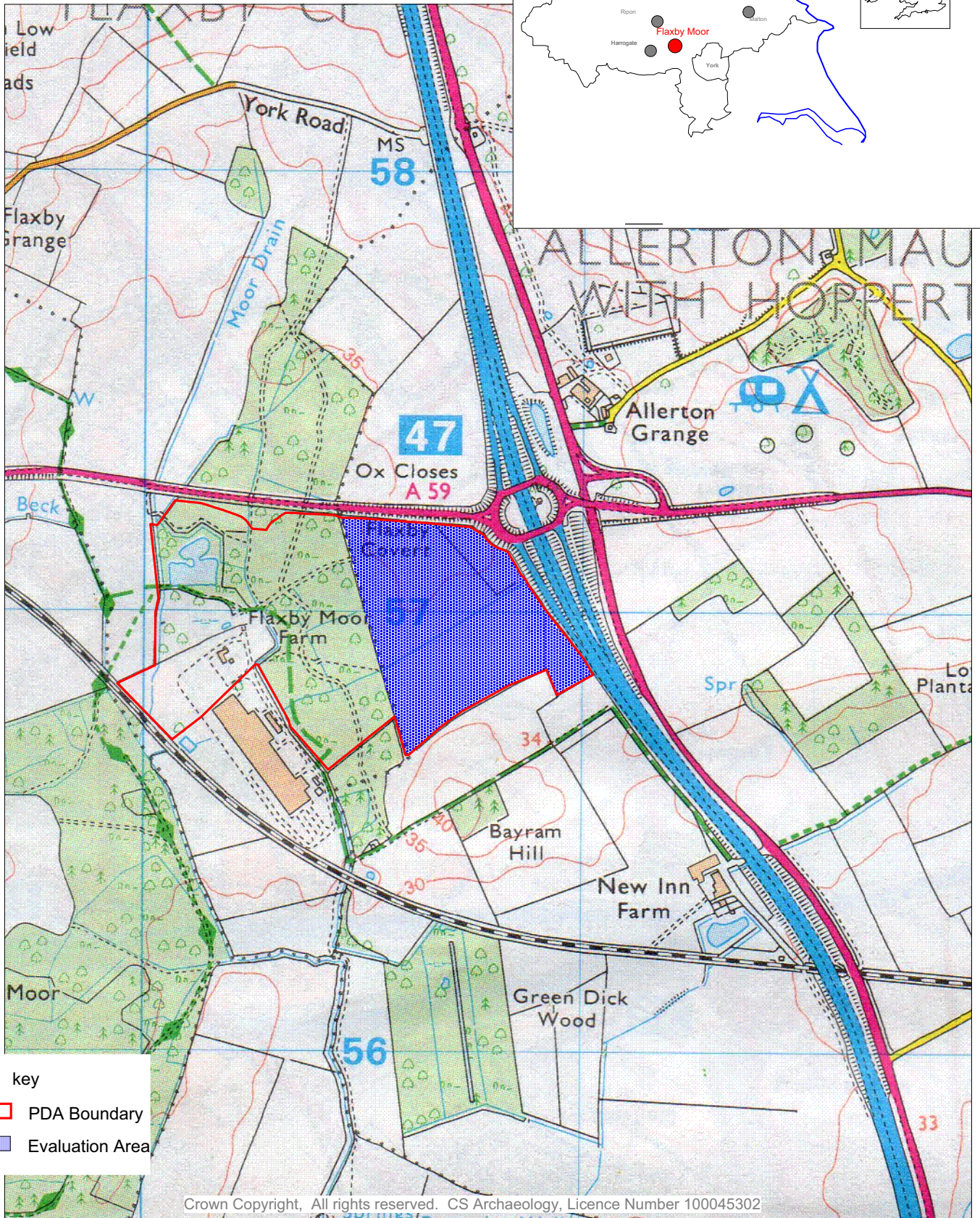


Plate 19: trench 12, anomaly [7], pre-excitation view, looking south-south-east



Plate 20: trench 12, anomaly [7], post-excitation view, looking east





An Archaeological Evaluation:
'Flaxby Green Park', Flaxby Covert,
North Yorkshire

Figure 1: Location Map
of PDA
scale 1:25000

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The WSI

- 3.9.2 CS Archaeology will either arrange for copyright on the deposited material to be assigned to the Harrogate Museum in perpetuity; this licence will allow the archive to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.
- 3.9.3 CS Archaeology is aware that this work may lead to further archaeological dissemination.

3.10 References

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*
Charter Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
Watkinson D. & Neal V., 1998, *First Aid for Finds* (3rd edition), RESCUE & the Archaeological Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.
Treasure Act, 1996, Code of Practice
National Planning Policy Framework, 2012, Department for Communities And Local Government, Chp 12. Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Any comments on this PD please address to Chris Scurfield at:

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3.8 Preservation in situ

- 3.8.1 During the course of the strip and record and monitoring of the car park excavations, structures and deposits could be encountered that require the need for preservation in situ. CS Archaeology will ensure that any feature meriting preservation will be reported to and a design solution will be developed in full consultation with NYCC and EH.

3.9 Archive Preparation & Deposition

- 3.9.1 A site archive will be prepared in accordance with English Heritage MoRPHE guidelines (English Heritage 2006). See also *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales* Society of Museum Archaeologists 1995.
- 3.9.2 The site archive, including finds and environmental material, subject to the permission of the relevant landowners, will be labelled, conserved and stored according to the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC)'s *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (Walker 1990) and the Museums and Galleries Commission's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*, 1992.
- 3.9.3 Arrangements will be made for the full and final archive to be deposited in with Harrogate Museum in accordance with their deposition and archiving standards. If, after the strip and record, no further archaeological work is initiated, the archive will be deposited. An agreed allowance will be made for a contribution to Harrogate Museum towards the curation and storage of material.
- 3.9.4 If further archaeological mitigation is requested any additional archaeological work undertaken, the archive will be prepared accordingly for incorporation into the final archive.
- 3.9.5 Archive deposition will be arranged in consultation with, and will take account of Harrogate Museum's requirements and the relevant guidelines (see above). The timetable for deposition shall be agreed on completion of the site archive and report.

3.10 Report Submission

- 3.10.1 Upon completion of the field work a full report will be produced and copies with CD Rom containing the text of the report and illustrations (including all photos and slides taken), scanned at 300 dpi, is to be provided with each copy of the printed report submitted to Mr Allen and Mr. A Lines of the NYCC. As a minimum, a summary or interim statement will be produced 6 weeks after completion of the fieldwork, and a full report within 3 months.
- 3.10.2 Copies of the completed report will be submitted in both hard (if required) and digital formats to:
- The Client, Forward Investments LLP;
 - Mr P Rowe and the HER at the NYCC.

3.9 Publicity

- 3.9.1 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, and an OASIS form will be completed for the project.

ceramic building material, worked bone, flint and/or worked stone. Potential finds could date from any period.

- 3.4.2 All recording, marking and storage of material will be of archive quality and recording systems will be compatible with Harrogate Museum (to be confirmed). Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects and an assessment of their long-term conservation and storage needs.
- 3.4.3 Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication First Aid for Finds. In accordance with the procedures outlined in MAP2, all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be X-radiographed before assessment.
- 3.4.4 If required a specialist assessment report on the recovered artefacts will be undertaken, with a view to their potential for further study. Any assessment report will form an appendix to the main report. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and storage needs.

3.5 Health and Safety

- 3.5.1 CS Archaeology will operate with due regard to health.

3.6 Post –Recording Work and Report Preparation

- 3.6.1 Once the site works have been completed, a full report of the results of the evaluation will be undertaken by CS Archaeology, within 3 months. The post-excavation assessment of material if recovered will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991). The report will include: background information, methods, detailed results, grid references, conclusion and discussion.
- 3.6.2 The evaluation report may if required include a phased interpretation of the site, and a detailed photographic index.
- 3.6.3 A copy of this PD will be included as an appendix to the final report.

3.7 Post Excavation Specialists

- 3.7.1

Prehistoric and Medieval Pottery	Dr C G Cumberpatch, Sheffield
Roman Pottery	Ms R Leary
Anglo-Saxon Pottery	Ms J Young
Slags	Dr R MacKenzie, Sheffield
Environmental sampling and analysis	Ms E Simmons, Sheffield
Bone (Animal)	Mr J Buglass, Northallerton
Bone (Human)	Ms M Holst, York Osteolo-Archaeology

- 3.7.2 Should any further specialists be required these will be employed accordingly after approval by the NYCC and EH (if required).

- 3.1.2 CS Archaeology will ensure that any plant and machinery operated by CS Archaeology is used with due care and attention.
- 3.1.3 Ditching bucket will be used at all times unless modern/concrete deposits are encountered.
- 3.1.4 This project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and professional standards and guidance (IFA, 2001).
- 3.1.5 All finds that are 'treasure' will be reported to the coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act Code of Practice (1997).
- 3.1.6 If archaeological remains are discovered during the course of the site works CS Archaeology will be afforded the opportunity to investigate and record them. Significant or unexpected discoveries will be immediately reported to the archaeological monitor (NYCC).
- 3.1.7 During the evaluation analytical drawings and a written report on the deposits will be made sufficient to illustrate archaeological details.
- 3.1.8 A total of 12 trenches will be excavated (**Figure 2**). Each trench will measure 50m long and will be 1.8m wide.
- 3.2.9 Once the trenches are opened up by machine, hand cleaned and recorded, all feature excavations will be undertaken by hand. It is anticipated that 50% of all post/stake holes and 20% of all linear features will be excavated.

3.2 Photography

- 3.2.1 A general and detailed photographic record of the evaluation will be made using a 35mm camera. All photographs will be in black and white using an appropriate silver based film (Ilford Delta 400 Professional), this will form the primary photographic record.
- 3.2.2 This record will be supplemented by 35mm digital photographs (>10Mb), especially where colour is an aspect that needs to be recorded, e.g. bedrock and characteristic stratigraphy. All photographs will contain an appropriate graduated photographic scale. copies of the archive will be included in the digital archive which will be supplied both to the client and NYCC.

3.3 Site Monitoring

- 3.3.1 NYCC will be notified at least two weeks in advance of the site works and the start of the site works, so that arrangements for monitoring the work can be made.
- 3.3.2 Monitoring will be arranged so that all excavated areas can be inspected in an exposed condition.

3.4 Finds Recovery and Conservation Strategy

- 3.4.1 If any site reduction work does take place and this is not anticipated, the following categories of artefact may be predicted on this site: pottery, ferrous and non ferrous metalwork, glass,

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Details

1.1.1 *Site Name:* Land SW of the A59/A1 junction, Flaxby Covert, North Yorkshire

1.1.2 *Location:* Flaxby Covert, North Yorkshire

1.1.3 *Grid reference:* SE 40735 56942

1.1.4 *PDA:* 17.2 hectares (**Figures 1 & 2**)

1.1.5 *Purpose of the Evaluation:* To record the nature and extent of archaeological deposits.

1.2 Archaeological Background

1.2 Little is known about the PDA during the historical and archaeological periods. There is a cropmark site to the south of the PDA which features a high archaeological potential of significant archaeology (pers. comm. Mr P Rowe). And there was a cropmark within the PDA, identified in the Sites and Monuments Record NYCC.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 This Project Design (PD) has been written in response a request for more information prior to the submission of a planning application.

1.3.2 This PD represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements during the redevelopment of the PDA. This is in accordance with Local Plan Policies and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 12).

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 To ensure that any archaeological remains present, whether buried or part of a standing building, are investigated in order than an understanding of their nature extent and significance gained, before they are damaged or destroyed, and that the knowledge gained is then disseminated.

2.2 If archaeology is revealed every effort will be made to enable the deposits to be preserved in situ.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Procedures and Objectives

3.1.1 Access during the works will be afforded to CS Archaeology at all reasonable times, arrangements for access to the site will be agreed with the client in advance.

0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 This Project Design (PD) is in response to pre-planning application information from Harrogate BC/North Yorkshire County Council for further information in advance of a proposed planning application.
- 0.2 The results from this evaluation will provide more detailed information of potential heritage assets within the Proposed Development Area's (PDA) and will enable future archaeological management of the Proposed Development Area (PDA).

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: 'FLAXBY
GREEN PARK', FLAXBY COVERT NORTH
YORKSHIRE**

For: Forward Investment LLP

CS Archaeology

March 2017