



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| SITE | The Laurels, Church Fenton | | |
| CLIENT NAME | Evora Construction Ltd | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 5946 | YAT REPORT # | 2017/08 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 5148 3704 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 8/62/177D/PA 2016/0484/REM | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |

1 INTRODUCTION

YAT undertook a watching brief commencing on the 12th December 2016 at the Laurels, Church Fenton (Figure 1), on groundworks related to the construction of 25 dwellings, garages and associated access road. This was carried out in response to an archaeological planning condition imposed by North Yorkshire County Council. The reason for the archaeological condition was that the site is thought to form part of a medieval moated manor complex. Following observation of the road strip and the foundations for 8 dwellings no features or deposits of archaeological importance were identified. Following these results a decision was made in consultation with Peter Rowe Principal Archaeologist for North Yorkshire County Council for the watching brief to be curtailed.

2 METHODOLOGY

Groundworks were monitored by an archaeologist and recorded by means of written notes and digital photography. The excavation for the main road access onto the development was carried out by a CX130C 13.0 Tonne rubber tracked excavator equipped with a 1.8 metre toothless ditching bucket. During the excavation of the strip foundations of individual dwellings a 700mm toothless bucket was used.

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located to the north of Main Street, Church Fenton at SE 5148 3704 (Figure 1).

The underlying geology consists of superficial deposits of clay and silts of the Hemingbrough glaciolacustrine formation, laid during the last glaciation, overlying bedrock of Roxby Formation mudstones (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, accessed 04/07/16).

The land is currently an open, unused field measuring c.0.8ha in area. It is bounded to the east by the modern housing development of Chapel Close, Church Fenton, to the south by buildings aligned to Main Street, to the west by the grounds of a primary school and to the north by an open field drain that may be a remnant of a medieval manor moat, beyond which are agricultural fields.

The land is generally flat, with depressions that are prone to standing surface water. At the southern boundary, a low earthwork is perceivable running west-east. The site contains mature trees and the derelict remains of a military style temporary building of corrugated sheet construction, probably re-located from the nearby RAF airfield. The land contains many self-sown saplings and is generally overgrown.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| COMPLETED BY | G.Loffman | CHECKED BY | Ian Milsted | FINISHED | 19/01/17 |
| FINDS | No | SAMPLES | No | PHOTOS | Yes |
| | | | | PAGE | 1 of 9 |

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| SITE | The Laurels, Church Fenton | | |
| CLIENT NAME | Evora Construction Ltd | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 5946 | YAT REPORT # | 2017/08 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 5148 3704 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 8/62/177D/PA 2016/0484/REM | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The northern site boundary appears to preserve elements of a moat that formerly enclosed a larger area containing a hall mentioned in 1379. The form suggests a manorial site although no building remains are discernible on the ground (http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=56300&sort=4&search=all&criteria=Church%20Fenton&rational=q&recordsperpage=10&p=2&move=p&nor=39&recfc=0#). The moat is marked on the 1849 Ordnance Survey map and there is potential for medieval structural remains relating to the manor to survive within the site.

A geophysical survey was undertaken by GSB on 18 April 2016 (Swinbank 2016). Amidst a general background of probable modern magnetic disturbance, three potential anomalies were identified that were provisionally interpreted as possible remains of the moated manorial complex.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site by YAT between the 27th June and 29th June 2016 (Milsted 2016). This consisted of three trial trenches targeting anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The anomalies identified were found to relate to modern field drains and consolidation deposits. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the investigations.

5 RESULTS

The deposit sequence encountered during the watching brief is described below. Natural consisted of a soft to friable, yellow, sandy clay found at a depth of 0.50m BGL. Above this was a 0.20m thick deposit of firm, brownish grey, silty clay subsoil. This was sealed by a friable, brownish grey clayey silt topsoil deposit that was 0.30 in thickness.

The only features identified during the operations were 19th - 20th Century field drains and ground consolidation deposits. During the road strip two modern field drains aligned NNE-SSW were encountered consisting of a 0.11m diameter ceramic drainage pipe. At the southern end of the road strip, a 0.10m thick consolidation deposit was uncovered overlying subsoil. This consisted of friable, dark grey, clayey silt. Finds from this deposit were pottery, glass, and bathroom tile dating to the 19th-20th Century, these were not retained.

6 DISCUSSION

No definitive archaeological evidence for the potential medieval moated manor site was observed during the course of the watching brief. No artefacts earlier than the 19th Century were observed within deposits or residually within topsoil or subsoil.

The results of the watching brief concur with the conclusions reached by the archaeological evaluation

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| COMPLETED BY | G.Loffman | CHECKED BY | Ian Milsted | FINISHED | 19/01/17 |
| FINDS | No | SAMPLES | No | PHOTOS | Yes |
| | | | | PAGE | 2 of 9 |

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| SITE | The Laurels, Church Fenton | | |
| CLIENT NAME | Evora Construction Ltd | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 5946 | YAT REPORT # | 2017/08 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 5148 3704 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 8/62/177D/PA 2016/0484/REM | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |

(Milsted 2016), that any structural remains relating to the manor house have either been destroyed or were never present within the development site.

LIST OF SOURCES

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=56300&sort=4&search=all&criteria=Church%20Fenton&rational=q&recordsperpage=10&p=2&move=p&nor=39&recfc=0#

REFERENCES

Milsted, I. 2016 'Archaeological Evaluation at The Laurels, Church Fenton' YAT report 2016/46

Swinbank, L. 2016 'Geophysical Survey at the Laurels, Church Fenton, North Yorkshire'. GSB report G1572

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| COMPLETED BY | G.Loffman | CHECKED BY | Ian Milsted | FINISHED | 19/01/17 |
| FINDS | No | SAMPLES | No | PHOTOS | Yes |
| | | | | PAGE | 3 of 9 |

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading as *ArchHeritage* GLASGOW, trading as *Northlight Heritage* NOTTINGHAM, trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| SITE | The Laurels, Church Fenton | | |
| CLIENT NAME | Evora Construction Ltd | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 5946 | YAT REPORT # | 2017/08 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 5148 3704 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 8/62/177D/PA 2016/0484/REM | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |

PLATES



Plate 1 View of road strip facing south.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| COMPLETED BY | G.Loffman | CHECKED BY | Ian Milsted | FINISHED | 19/01/17 |
| FINDS | No | SAMPLES | No | PHOTOS | Yes |
| | | | | PAGE | 4 of 9 |

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading as *ArchHeritage* GLASGOW, trading as *Northlight Heritage* NOTTINGHAM, trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| SITE | The Laurels, Church Fenton | | |
| CLIENT NAME | Evora Construction Ltd | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 5946 | YAT REPORT # | 2017/08 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 5148 3704 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 8/62/177D/PA 2016/0484/REM | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |



Plate 2 Excavation of foundations facing west.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| COMPLETED BY | G.Loffman | CHECKED BY | Ian Milsted | FINISHED | 19/01/17 |
| FINDS | No | SAMPLES | No | PHOTOS | Yes |
| | | | | PAGE | 5 of 9 |

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading as *ArchHeritage* GLASGOW, trading as *Northlight Heritage* NOTTINGHAM, trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| SITE | The Laurels, Church Fenton | | |
| CLIENT NAME | Evora Construction Ltd | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 5946 | YAT REPORT # | 2017/08 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 5148 3704 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 8/62/177D/PA 2016/0484/REM | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |



Plate 3 Deposit sequence within foundation.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| COMPLETED BY | G.Loffman | CHECKED BY | Ian Milsted | FINISHED | 19/01/17 |
| FINDS | No | SAMPLES | No | PHOTOS | Yes |
| | | | | PAGE | 6 of 9 |

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading as *ArchHeritage* GLASGOW, trading as *Northlight Heritage* NOTTINGHAM, trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| SITE | The Laurels, Church Fenton | | |
| CLIENT NAME | Evora Construction Ltd | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 5946 | YAT REPORT # | 2017/08 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 5148 3704 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 8/62/177D/PA 2016/0484/REM | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |

FIGURES

York Archaeological Trust

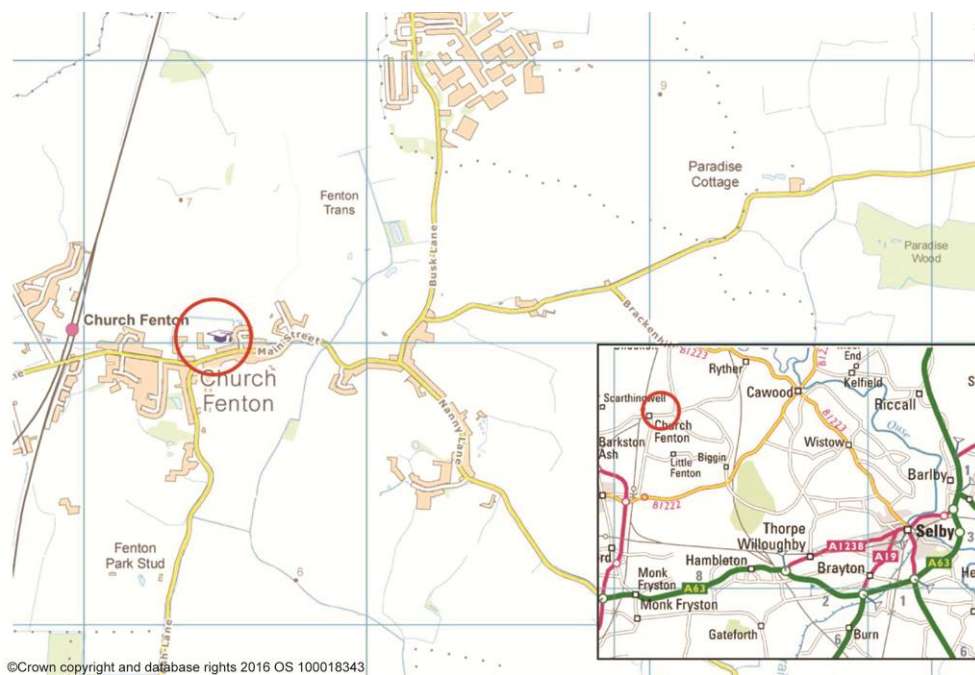


Figure 1 Site location

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| COMPLETED BY | G.Loffman | CHECKED BY | Ian Milsted | FINISHED | 19/01/17 |
| FINDS | No | SAMPLES | No | PHOTOS | Yes |
| | | | | PAGE | 7 of 9 |

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



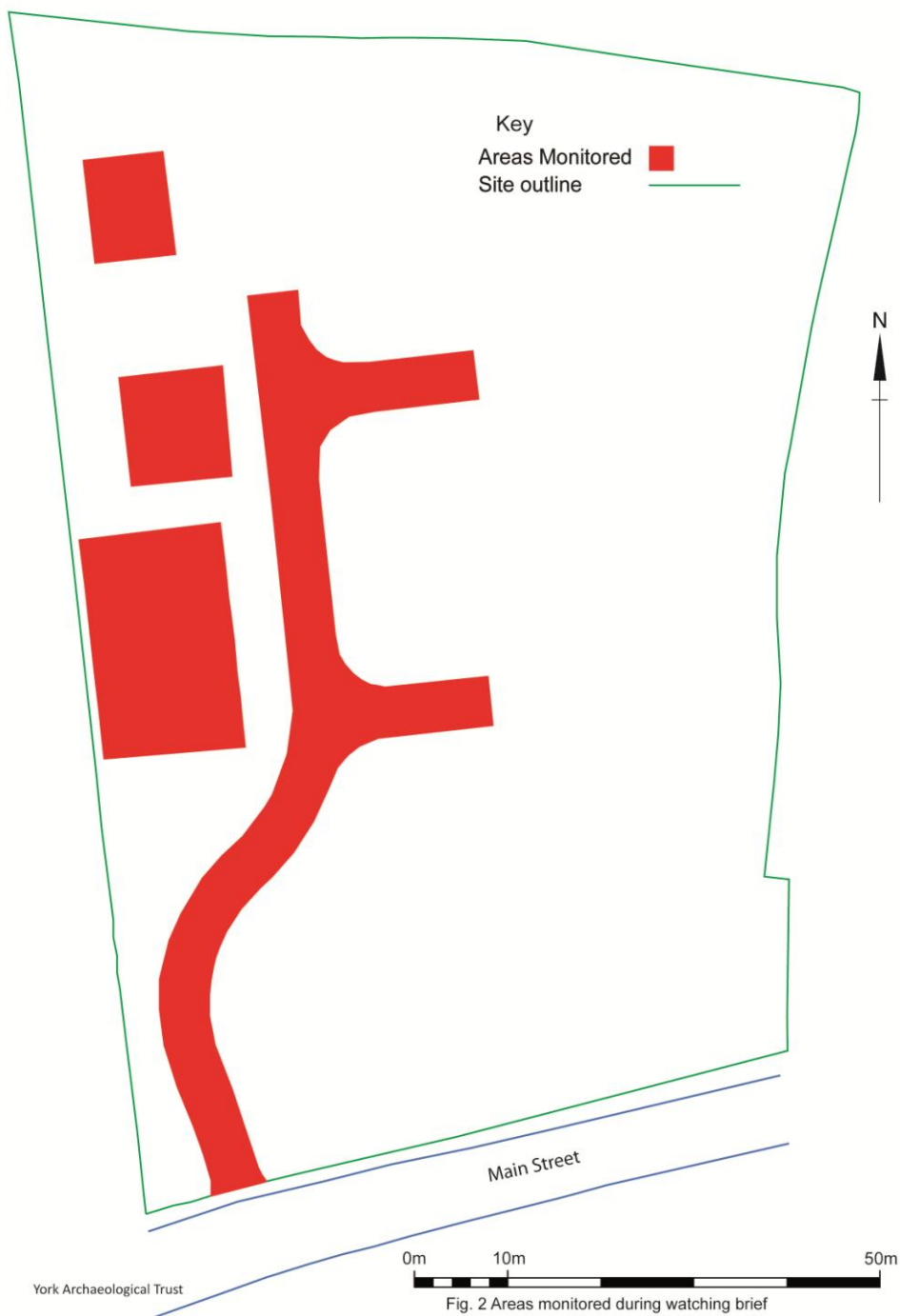
A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading as *ArchHeritage* GLASGOW, trading as *Northlight Heritage* NOTTINGHAM, trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| SITE | The Laurels, Church Fenton | | |
| CLIENT NAME | Evora Construction Ltd | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 5946 | YAT REPORT # | 2017/08 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 5148 3704 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 8/62/177D/PA 2016/0484/REM | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |



| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| COMPLETED BY | G.Loffman | CHECKED BY | Ian Milsted | FINISHED | 19/01/17 |
| FINDS | No | SAMPLES | No | PHOTOS | Yes |
| | | | | PAGE | 8 of 9 |

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading as *ArchHeritage* GLASGOW, trading as *Northlight Heritage* NOTTINGHAM, trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| SITE | The Laurels, Church Fenton | | |
| CLIENT NAME | Evora Construction Ltd | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 5946 | YAT REPORT # | 2017/08 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 5148 3704 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 8/62/177D/PA 2016/0484/REM | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |

This Report has been prepared solely for the person/party which commissioned it and for the specifically titled project or named part thereof referred to in the Report. The Report should not be relied upon or used for any other project by the commissioning person/party without first obtaining independent verification as to its suitability for such other project, and obtaining the prior written approval of York Archaeological Trust for Excavation & Research Limited ("YAT"). YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this Report being relied upon or used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was specifically commissioned. Nobody is entitled to rely upon this Report other than the person/party which commissioned it. YAT accepts no responsibility or liability for any use of or reliance upon this Report by anybody other than the commissioning person/party.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| COMPLETED BY | G.Loffman | CHECKED BY | Ian Milsted | FINISHED | 19/01/17 |
| FINDS | No | SAMPLES | No | PHOTOS | Yes |
| | | | | PAGE | 9 of 9 |

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)



Registered Office:
47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX
Tel: 01904 663000 Fax: 01904 663024



A Company Limited by Guarantee
Without Share Capital Registered
in England No. 1430801