



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT 87 LOW CATTON ROAD, STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Clare Jackson

*WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

Report Number 2018/45    March 2018

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### Abbreviations

YAT – York Archaeological Trust

BGL – Below Ground Level

### Non-technical Summary

On the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 York Archaeological Trust conducted a watching brief at 87 Low Catton Road, Stamford Bridge (SE 71011 54841).

The work was undertaken for Mr. R. Room as part of a planning condition provided by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (DC/17/02056/PLF). The work was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by YAT. The work comprised of monitoring the excavation of a foundation trench for a single storey extension to the side and rear of the dwelling at 87 Low Catton Road.

The archaeological monitoring recorded a late post-medieval to modern plough soil under the topsoil, likely dating to just before the current dwelling was built in the 1950s. Natural sands were seen at between 0.60m and 0.66m BGL. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded on the site.

### KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	87 Low Catton Road, Stamford Bridge
YAT Project No.	6047
Document Number	e.g. 2018/45
Type of Project	Watching Brief
Client	Mr. R. Room
Planning Application No.	DC/17/02056/PLF
NGR	SE 71011 54841
Museum Accession No.	N/A
OASIS Identifier	Yorkarch1-313515

### REPORT INFORMATION

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
1	CJ	29/03/18	IDM	09/04/18	IDM	13/04/18

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

On the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 YAT conducted a watching brief at 87 Low Catton Road, Stamford Bridge (SE 71011 54841) (Figure 1 Site Location).

The work was undertaken for Mr. R. Room as part of a planning condition provided by East Riding of Yorkshire Council (DC/17/02056/PLF).

The excavation of the foundation trenches for the outside walls of the single storey extension were monitored and recorded. A modern plough soil and natural sands were recorded.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

A 1.5tn rubber tracked 360 machine excavated the outline of the foundation trench required for the outside walls of the proposed extension (Figure 2). The trench was 0.80m wide and between 0.60m and 0.66m deep. Notes and measured sketches were taken and plans were drawn on a scaled plan of the site. Digital photos were taken throughout and digital and black and white film shots were taken of a sample area and section with a 0.5m scale.

## 3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The proposal site is at 87 Low Catton Road (Figure 1) at the southern outskirts of Stamford Bridge, a village located along the River Derwent within the East Riding of Yorkshire, approximately 5 miles to the east of York. The site comprises of a detached residential dwelling with associated front and rear gardens, and drive. The site is bounded to the north, east and south by other residential properties, whilst Low Catton Road extends along the western boundary of the site.

The bedrock geology of the site is formed from the Sherwood Sandstone Group, which comprises of red, yellow and brown sandstone, part pebbly with some quartz, red mudstone and siltstone inclusions and dating from the Induan Age to the Anisian Age.

The superficial geology of the site is formed by the Bielby Sand Member which comprises of dominantly yellow to pale brown and reddish yellow slightly clayey to slightly silty sand with local fine-grained gravels.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located just to the north of the designated Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Roman settlement of *Derventio*. Evidence of the town has been mainly characterised by rectilinear ditched enclosures extending from two road frontages. The full extent of the settlement is unknown however it is believed to extend north, under the modern settlement of Stamford Bridge and aerial photographs of the settlement show one of the roads extending northeast, towards the proposed development area.

Excavations by Humber Field Archaeology on land off High Catton Road (Adams 2006) uncovered archaeological remains dating from the Roman to the modern period. The most significant remains recorded were ditches representing the delineation of Roman settlement enclosures, pits representing settlement activity and a boundary ditch for the Roman road

running to the south of the site. A large excavation undertaken by NAA (2005) during works on the south and west of the site uncovered a Roman road surface with associated ditch, settlement related features such as enclosure ditches, corn drying kilns, watering holes and a small number of human burials. A large 'burnt mound' with associated pits dating to the Bronze Age was also recorded during the excavations.

## 5 RESULTS

Natural yellow brown sands were seen at 0.60m to 0.66m BGL – the ground water level was also reached at this depth. Sealing the natural was a plough soil of light grey mottled orange brown/yellow brown sand. The soil contained occasional charcoal flecks and animal bone inclusions along with very occasional small abraded pottery sherds dating the post-medieval and modern periods. The plough soil measured 0.20m thick and was recorded at 0.48m BGL. The topsoil comprised of a dark grey brown sandy silt garden soil.

## 6 CONCLUSION

Despite the close proximity of the Roman town of *Derwentio* to the site there was no evidence of Roman settlement activity on the site. A reason for this could be that the Roman settlement did not extend this far, however the small size of the area excavated means this cannot be conclusive. Evidence of the Roman road recorded from aerial photographs extending towards the proposed development site was also not seen, however plans of the cropmarks (NAA 2005) show that road potentially extends north of the proposed development site and therefore misses the monitored area.

Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.

## LIST OF SOURCES

[www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk) – British Geological Survey [accessed 30/03/18]

## REFERENCES

Adams, K. A. 2006. *Archaeological Trial Excavation on Land off High Catton Road, Stamford Bridge, East Riding of Yorkshire*. Humber Field Archaeology

Jackson, C. 2018. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Watching Brief: 87 Low Catton Road*. YAT Report no. 2018/44

NAA. 2005. *Stamford Bridge Water Pipeline: Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation Post-Excavation Assessment Report*

**APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE**

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	3 sheets
Levels register	0
Photographic register	1
Sample register	0
Drawing register	0
Original drawings	0
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	3 shots
Colour slides (films)	0
Digital photographs	18
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

**Table 1 Index to archive**

**APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST**

Context Number	Type	Description
1	Layer	Topsoil garden soil
2	Layer	Plough soil
3	Layer	Natural

**Table 2 Context list**

**APPENDIX 3 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION****WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**Site Location:** 87 Low Catton Road

**NGR:** SE 71011 54841

**Proposal:** Alterations and extensions including erection of single storey extension to the side and rear, construction of dormer to front and erection of porch to front of dwelling.

**Planning ref:** DC/17/02056/PLF

**Prepared for:** Mr R. Room

**Document Number:** 2018/44

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
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1	CJ	26/03/18	IDM	27/03/18	IDM	27/03/18

**SUMMARY**

Mr R. Room has received planning consent for the erection of a single storey extension to the side and rear of the dwelling and the construction of a dormer and porch to the front at 87 Low Catton Road (SE 71011 54841).

The following archaeological condition has been imposed:

*“No development shall take place until the applicant, 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 by the Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details (Circular 11/95, Model Clause 55).*

*Reason: The recommendation of a programme of observation, investigation and recording (watching brief) has been requested because the application site lies within a significant archaeological landscape, with one of the roads associated with the nationally significant Roman settlement running adjacent to the proposal site.*



*The request for this condition is in line with Policies 128, 129, 131, 135, 136, 139 and 141 within Section 12 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment', in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012. The programme of archaeological work, which must be undertaken by a professional archaeological conductor, should comprise a scheme of observation, investigation and recording conducted during all the below-ground works associated with the proposed development. If archaeological remains are uncovered, the archaeological contractor on site should be afforded the opportunity to record them by means of photographs and scale drawings. This may involve a temporary suspension of construction work in a specific area; however the archaeological work should cause no significant delay to the development overall. A report on the archaeological observations should be produced and an ordered archive prepared."*

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to a brief written by James Goodyear, Development Management Archaeologist at Humber City Council. The work will be carried out in accordance with the Brief and this WSI.

## **SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION**

The proposal site is at 87 Low Catton Road (Figure 1) at the southern outskirts of Stamford Bridge, a village located along the River Derwent within the East Riding of Yorkshire, approximately 5 miles to the east of York. The site comprises of a detached residential dwelling with associated front and rear gardens, and drive. The site is bounded to the north, east and south by other residential properties, whilst Low Catton Road extends along the western boundary of the site.

The bedrock geology of the site is formed from the Sherwood Sandstone Group, which comprises of red, yellow and brown sandstone, part pebbly with some quartz, red mudstone and siltstone inclusions and dating from the Induan Age to the Anisian Age.

The superficial geology of the site is formed by the Bielby Sand Member which comprises of dominantly yellow to pale brown and reddish yellow slightly clayey to slightly silty sand with local fine-grained gravels.

## **DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS**

There are no designations or constraints for this site however the site is located less than 50m north of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Roman minor town identified as *Derventio*.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

The site is located just to the north of the designated Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Roman settlement of *Derventio*. Evidence of the town has been mainly characterised by rectilinear ditched enclosures extending from two road frontages. The full extent of the settlement is unknown however it is believed to extend north, under the modern settlement of Stamford

Bridge and aerial photographs of the settlement show one of the roads extending northeast, across the proposed development area.

Excavations by Humber Field Archaeology on land off High Catton Road (Adams 2006) uncovered archaeological remains dating from the Roman to the modern period. The most significant remains recorded were ditches representing the delineation of Roman settlement enclosures, pits representing settlement activity and a boundary ditch for the Roman road running to the south of the site. A large excavation undertaken by NAA (2005) during works on a water pipeline in fields to the south and west of the site uncovered a Roman road surface with associated ditch, settlement related features such as enclosure ditches, corn drying kilns, watering holes and a small number of human burials. A large 'burnt mound' with associated pits dating to the Bronze Age was also recorded during the excavations.

### **GROUNDWORKS TO BE MONITORED**

This work will comprise a **comprehensive** watching brief, on the excavation of all foundations, trenches services and any subsequent groundworks involving excavation. The watching brief may be stepped down **to intermittent monitoring**, depending on the results, and following agreement from the Development Control Archaeologist.

### **DELAYS TO THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE**

All earth-moving machinery must be operated at an appropriate speed to allow the archaeologist to recognise, record and retrieve any archaeological deposits and material.

It is not intended that the archaeological monitoring should unduly delay site works. However, the archaeologist on site should be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate hand excavate, sample and record any exposed features and finds. In order to fulfil the requirements of this WSI, it may be necessary to halt the earth-moving activity to enable the archaeology to be recorded properly.

Plant or excavators shall not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeologist on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

### **RECORDING METHODOLOGY**

If a base plan of intervention areas is available, the areas being monitored will be determined using this information. If a plan is not available, or the watching brief work involves monitoring of long linear works, interventions which are not mapped, or large open areas, the location of the monitoring will be determined using a hand-held GPS, which will provide accuracy to c.2m.

Unique context numbers will only be assigned if artefacts are retrieved, or stratigraphic relationships between archaeological deposits are discernable. In archaeologically 'sterile' areas, soil layers will be described, but no context numbers will be assigned. Where assigned, each context will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions.

Archaeological deposits will be planned at a basic scale of 1:50, with individual features requiring greater detail being planned at a scale of 1:20. Larger scales will be utilised as appropriate. Cross-sections of features will be drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation. All drawings will be drawn on inert materials. All drawings will adhere to accepted drawing conventions.

Photographs of archaeological deposits and features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. Digital and black and white photography will form the site archive and all site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.

Areas which are inaccessible (e.g. for health and safety reasons) will be recorded as thoroughly as possible within the site constraints. In these instances, recording may be entirely photographic, with sketch drawings only.

All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the ClfA guidance for archaeological materials. Unstratified material will not be kept unless it is of exceptional intrinsic interest. Material discarded as a consequence of this policy will be described and quantified in the field. Finds of particular interest or fragility will be retrieved as Small Finds, and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.

All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.

A soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains where suitable deposits are identified. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Campbell, Moffatt and Straker 2011). Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the evaluation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. Soil samples of approximately 30 litres for flotation (or 100% of the features if less than this volume) will be removed from selected contexts, using a combination of the judgement and systematic methodologies.

- **Judgement sampling** will involve the removal of samples from secure contexts which appear to present either good conditions for preservation (e.g. burning or waterlogging) or which are significant in terms of archaeological interpretation or stratigraphy. (Given the nature of an archaeological watching brief, it is anticipated that the implementation of a systematic sampling methodology will not be possible).

It is highly unlikely that industrial activity will have taken place on the site. If industrial activity of any scale is detected, industrial samples and process residues will also be collected.

Separate samples (c. 10ml) will be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) (Historic England 2015).

Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with YAT specialists and the Historic England Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.

In the event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately. An osteoarchaeologist will be available to give advice on site.

- If **disarticulated** remains are encountered, these will be identified and quantified on site. If trenches are being immediately backfilled, the remains will be left in the ground. If the excavations will remain open for any length of time, disarticulated remains will be removed and boxed, for immediate reburial by the Church.
- If **articulated** remains are encountered, these will be excavated in accordance with recognised guidelines (see 7.12) and retained for assessment.
- Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.

Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, ClfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and Historic England guidance (2005).

## REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

Upon completion of the groundworks, a report will be prepared to include the following:

- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
- b) An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
- c) An account of the methodology and results of the operation, describing structural data, associated finds and environmental data.
- d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored.
- e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports as necessary.
- f) Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
- g) A copy of the key OASIS form details

- h) Copies of the Brief and WSI
- i) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report

Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body and the HER/SMR (also in PDF format).

The requirements for archive preparation and deposition will be addressed and undertaken in a manner agreed with the recipient museum. In this instance Beverley Treasure House Museum is recommended and an agreed allowance should be made for the curation and storage of this material.

Provision for the publication of results, as outlined in the Brief, will be made.

The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the County Council and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.

A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

## **TIMETABLE & STAFFING**

The timetable will be as agreed with the client.

Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:

- Human Remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd)
- Palaeoenvironmental remains – PRS Ltd
- Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
- Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers
- Medieval Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
- Finds Officers – Nienke Van Doorn
- Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues – Dr Rod Mackenzie & Dr Roger Doonan
- Conservation – Ian Panter

## **MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

As a minimum requirement, James Goodyear, Development Management Archaeologist for Humber HER will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site, and

will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed. York Archaeological Trust will notify James Goodyear, Development Management Archaeologist for Humber HER of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with James Goodyear, Development Management Archaeologist for Humber HER.

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## **KEY REFERENCES**

Adams, K. A. 2006. *Archaeological Trial Excavation on Land off High Catton Road, Stamford Bridge, East Riding of Yorkshire*. Humber Field Archaeology

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For the latest Historic England guidance documents see:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/>

**PLATES**



**Plate 1 Foundation trench to rear of house, water table reached. View north.**





**Plate 2 Foundation trench to rear of site filled with ground water, view south.**

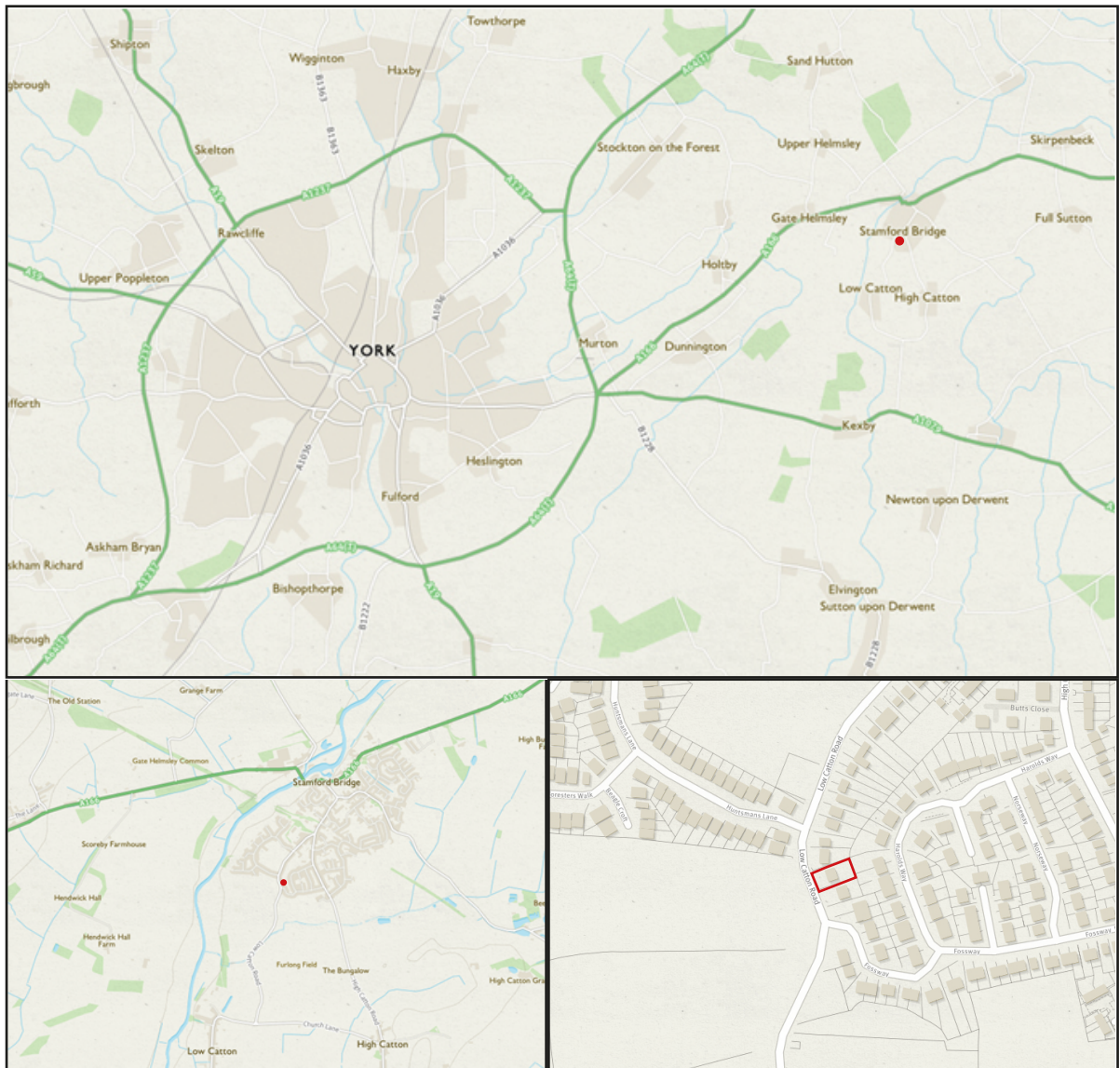


**Plate 3 North facing section showing topsoil (1) and plough soil underneath (2). Plough soil is also within base of the trench.**





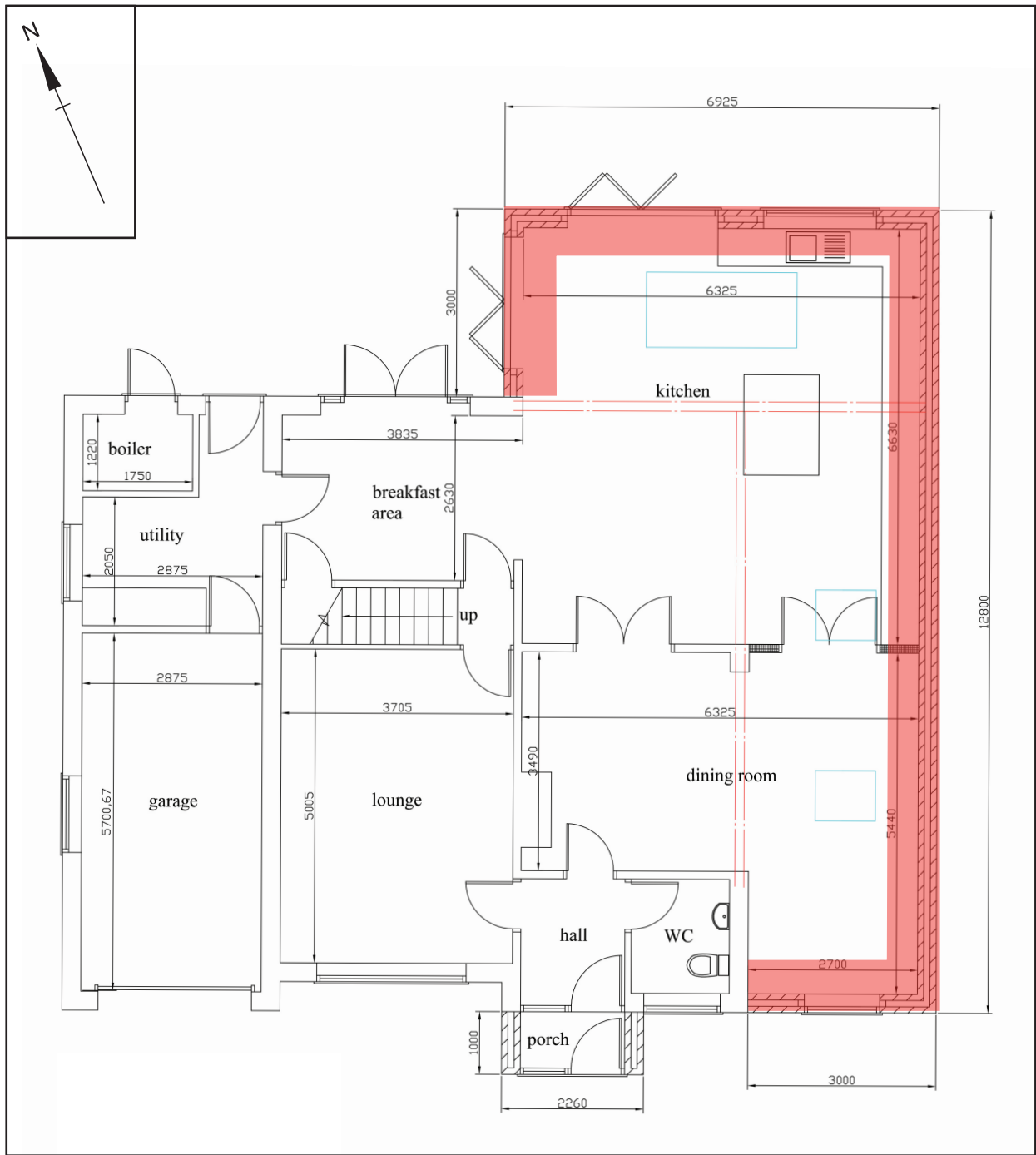
**Plate 4 Pottery sherds retrieved from plough soil (2).**



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Key	
●	Site Location

**Figure 1 Site Location**



Area monitored

scale 1:100

**Figure 2 Location of works monitored**  
**Plan taken from Robert Room Architectural Drawing Services Plan No. T01/1622/02**



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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