



Scampston Park Lodges  
Firs Plantation  
Mill Lane  
Scampston  
North Yorkshire

SE 8630 7458

MAP 10.43.2014

Archaeological Watching Brief: Phase 2 Pond

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**Planning Ref. 07/01055/MFUL**

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**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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***Summary***

*An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd for the Phase 2 Pond at Scampston Park Lodges, Firs Plantation, Mill Lane, Scampston. The work involved the monitoring of the topsoil strip associated with the stripping and excavation for the Phase 2 Pond (Planning Consent: 07/01055/MFUL).*

*No archaeological deposits, features or structures were observed during the Archaeological Watching Brief.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results from an archaeological watching brief undertaken in January to March 2015, which monitored the groundworks associated with the Phase II Pond at Scampston Hall Lodges, Firs Plantation, Mill Lane, Scampston, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1: SE 8630 7458; Planning Ref. 07/01055/MFUL).

- 1.2 The watching brief was designed to provide the appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Scampston Estate.
- 1.4 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

## **2. Site Description**

- 2.1 The site is situated 500m south of the village of Scampston, which lies on the southern side of the Vale of Pickering (Fig. 1). Firs Plantation lies immediately south of the A64 Malton to Scarborough road, and west of Mill Lane, a minor road leading to Wintringham and the Wolds.
- 2.2 Firs Plantation is approximately 10 hectares in extent, but Phase 2 of the development concerned the area at the south western quarter of the site (Fig. 2). The Site forms a relatively level, the elevation of the existing ground level dropping from c. 35m AOD at the south to 32m AOD at the north.
- 2.3 Firs Plantation lies on soils of the Newport 1 Association, which are deep well-drained and coarse sandy soils overlying glaciofluvial drift (Mackney *et al.* 1984).

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.1 The development site lies within Scampston parish, but was formerly part of Rillington parish. Scampston was first mentioned at the time of

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the 1086 Domesday survey, when it was recorded as *Scameston(a)*, the name meaning 'Skammel's farm' (Smith 1937, 138-9).

- 3.2 The site lies on the 'Sherburn sands', which form a zone of easily cleared and cultivated soils that was attractive to early settlement. The high density of prehistoric activity on the Sherburn Sands has been amply demonstrated by the fieldwork carried out by the Landscape Research Trust in Heselton parish, c. 5km to the east and also by aerial photographs of cropmarks in the site's vicinity (Stoertz 1997). The cropmarks immediately west of Firs plantation show a cemetery of both round and square barrows, and a possible long barrow, along with ditched enclosures of domestic type; these nationally important remains are scheduled (Monument number 1117). In the arable field immediately south of Firs Plantation are the cropmarks of probable round barrows and undated boundary ditches.
- 3.3 The site lies adjacent to the English Heritage Registered Park and Garden of Scampston Hall (GD1326, Grade II\*).
- 3.4 Firs Plantation was established as an area of forestry in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, the northern half of the area apparently forming part of Scampston Park at the time of the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map, which was surveyed between 1848 and 1851.
- 3.5 Phase 1 of the development at Scampston Park Lodges (Firs Plantation) was undertaken in 2008 and 2009 (ref. no. 07/01055/MFUL), during the topsoil and overburden stripping associated with the installation of services and roads to the north and south of Phase 2, as well as the excavation of a lake and bases for the Lodges to the east of Phase 2. A

series of prehistoric boundary ditches and pits were recorded in the southern part of the area, around the lake. Further boundary ditches, along with gullies, pits and postholes were recorded during the excavation of the trench for the pumping main, which ran across the central and northern part of the site. A number of shallow linear features, interpreted as furrows associated with medieval arable cultivation, were revealed in the centre of the area. An assemblage of late Iron Age pottery was recovered, along with small quantities of animal bone and residual flint flakes and tools.

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

- 4.1 The aim of this archaeological watching brief was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, date, sequence, nature, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable a full record of the archaeology on the site to be made.

#### **5. Methodology**

- 5.1 The works associated with the striping and excavation of the Phase II Pond.
- 5.2 All work was carried out in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014).
- 5.3 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the site visits on a high resolution digital camera

#### **6. Results (Fig. 2; Pls. 1-6)**

6.1 The initial strip removed 0.2m to 0.3m of topsoil to sand natural (Pls. 2-3). The reduced level dig for the pond c. 1.2m deep was then recorded (Pl. 4).

6.4 No archaeological features, structures nor deposits were encountered during the archaeological watching brief.

## **7. Conclusions**

7.1 No archaeologically significant material was revealed from this investigation.



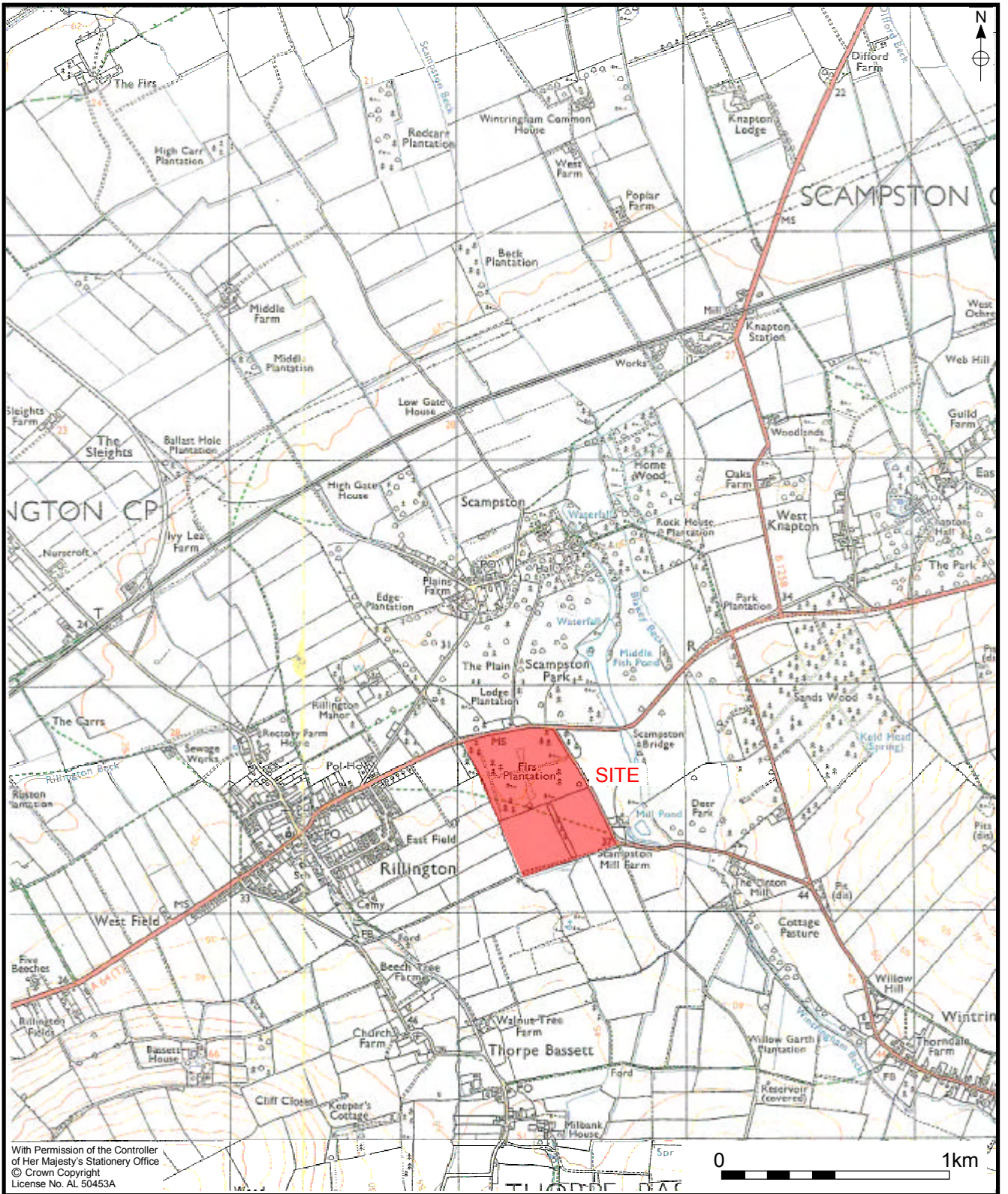


Figure 1. Site Location.



Figure 2. Location of Phase 2 Pond.



Plate 1. Area of Phase 2 Pond. Facing South-west.



Plate 2. Phase 2 Pond during stripping. Facing East.



Plate 3. Phase 2 Pond during stripping. Facing South-east.



Plate 4. Phase 2 Pond after reduced level dig. Facing West.

