
LAND AT FERRY COTTAGE, FERRY LANE,
BISHOPTHORPE, YORK.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OSA REPORT No: OSA18EV32

October 2018.

OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA18EV32

SITE NAME: Land at Ferry Cottage, Ferry Lane, Bishopthorpe, York.

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 59830 47640.

PLANNING REF NO: 17/02304/FUL

ON BEHALF OF: Mr Tony Loftus

TEXT: Graham Bruce

GRAPHICS: Graham Bruce

FIELDWORK: James Stanley

TIMING: Fieldwork
October 2018
Post excavation & report preparation
October 2018

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1.0 Abstract.

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by On-Site Archaeology on land at Ferry Cottage, Ferry Lane, Bishopthorpe, to the south of York. This was carried out in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The work consisted of the machine excavation of a single 10m x 2m evaluation trench located within the footprint of the new building. This revealed only natural deposits. No archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts recovered.

In view of the results of this evaluation it is unlikely that any significant archaeological remains will be disturbed during the construction of the proposed new dwelling.

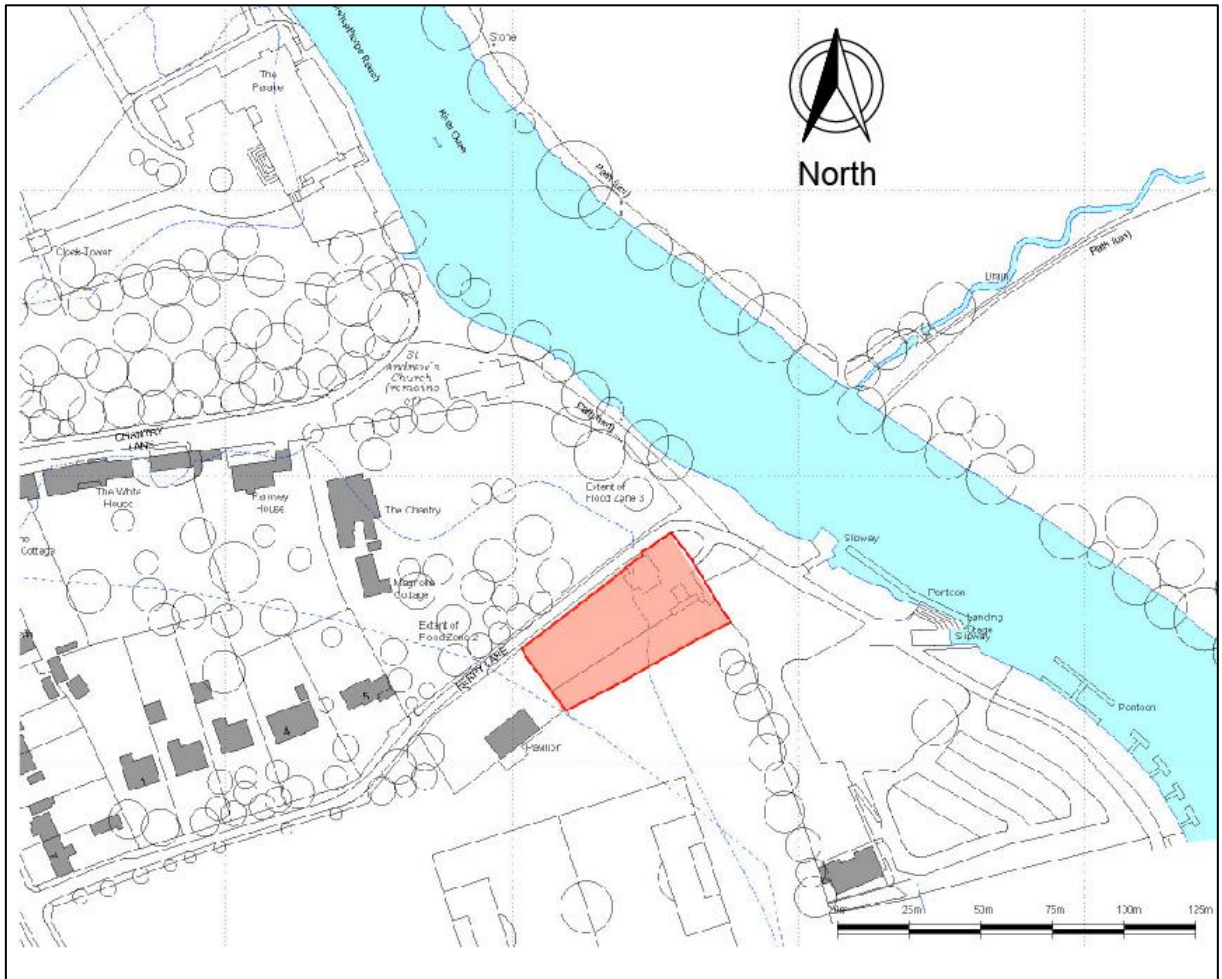


Figure 1. Site location.

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2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use.

The development site lies on the east edge of the village of Bishopthorpe, which is located approximately 4km to the south of the historic core of the City of York, on the west bank of the River Ouse. The site is centred at National Grid Reference SE 59830 47640. The site is situated in the overgrown former garden of Ferry Cottage, to the east of Bishopthorpe Sports Pavilion.

3.0 Archaeological Background

Previously called St Andrewthorpe the village of Bishopthorpe is known as the home of the Archbishop of York. This association began in the 13th Century when Archbishop Grey bought a Manor House and gave it to the Dean and Chapter of York. For centuries Bishopthorpe was really a hamlet centred around the palace. By 1800 its population was 218, and still only 439 at the turn of the 20th Century. From 13th Century origins the Archbishop's Palace has evolved, with a re-modelling of 1763-9 by Thomas Atkinson. The Gatehouse, former stables, Brewster's Cottage and Brewhouse are of the same period. All are listed buildings, as is the folly in the Palace Grounds. The ruins of the former St Andrew's Church date from 1768, on the site of a 13th Century Church. The present Parish Church of St Andrews (1898-1902) is by C Hodgson Fowler. Major expansion began in the 1930's, accelerating to treble the population in the last 30-40 years, to about 3250 people today. Ferry Lane, and Ferry Cottage, refer to the ferry across the River Ouse, that ceased in the 1930s (information drawn from City of York Council, conservation area appraisal).

A watching brief took place at no. 5 on the opposite side of Ferry Lane in 2016 by PastSearch Archaeology (SYO1853). The machine excavation of the foundation trenches for two storey and single storey extensions were monitored. No archaeological features were encountered, only modern drainage, although three sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved from the subsoil layer, which may relate to activity in the area from that period (information drawn from City of York Council, Archaeological Scheme of Investigation. September 2018).

4.0 Methodology

Planning permission has been granted for the development, with the following condition:

14 *No work shall commence on site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (an archaeological evaluation excavation and subsequent programme of analysis and publication by an approved archaeological unit) in accordance with the specification supplied by the Local Planning Authority. This programme and the archaeological unit shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before development commences. Reason: The site lies within an area of archaeological interest and the development may affect important archaeological deposits which must be recorded prior to destruction.*

City of York Council Heritage Project Officer Claire MacRae has provided a Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation as per the condition.

The archaeological investigation comprised the excavation of a single trench. This single archaeological evaluation trench, 10m x 2m at the modern ground surface, was located within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling.

The trench was initially opened by a mini-excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket. Excavation was progressed in shallow spits under constant archaeological supervision down to the surface of the natural. The base and sides of the trench were inspected for archaeological features.

Standard On-Site Archaeology techniques were followed throughout the investigation and a photographic record was also maintained. A full catalogue of context descriptions is provided in Appendix 1.



Figure 2. Trench location plan (Archaeological trench in black).

5.0 Results.

The archaeological trench measured approximately 10m x 2m and was sited within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, aligned approximately northeast to southwest. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m. (See Plate 1).

The earliest deposit encountered within the trench was mid orange brown silty sand natural (102). The natural was sealed by a 0.15m thick layer of mid orange brown silt subsoil (101). Sealing this was (100) 0.35m of dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil with occasional flecks of charcoal and ceramic building material, together with frequent roots (see Figure 3 and Plate 2).

No archaeological deposits or features were observed within the trench and no artefacts were recovered.

In view of the results of this investigation it is unlikely that any significant archaeological remains will be disturbed during the construction of the new dwelling.

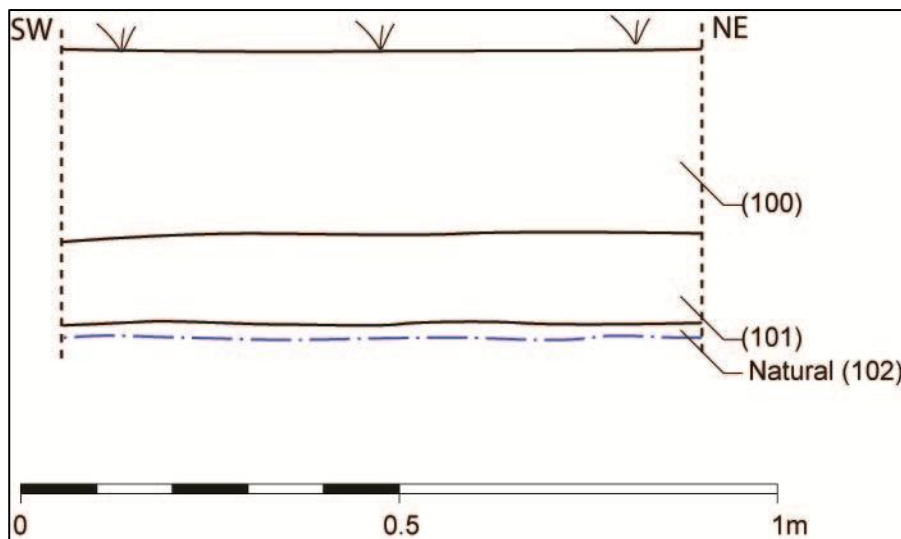


Figure 3. Sample section.

6.0 Appendix 1: Archive Index.

6.1 *List of contexts.*

Context no.	Description	Thickness	Extent (metres)
Tr.1			
100	dark grey brown sandy clay silt topsoil	0.35m	tr
101	mid orange brown silt subsoil	0.15m	tr
102	mid orange brown silty sand natural	-	tr

6.2 *Photographic register.*

Frame no.	Description	View	Inits and date
98-101	Pre-excavation views of site	Various	JS 021018
102-108	Excavation of trench	Various	JS 021018
109-112	SE facing sample section	NW	JS 021018
113-121	Final view of trench	NE	JS 021018

7.0 Appendix 2: Plates.



Plate 1. General view of archaeological trench, looking northeast.



Plate 2. Sample section.