

Gateway to the Past: Discoveries at Skipwith 2025



Dr Jon Kenny



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1. Introduction

The Skipwith Gateway project took place throughout 2025 and concluded in January 2026. It was managed by the Archaeology Subgroup of Skipwith Heritage Group and supported by the Two Ridings Community Foundation. Dr Jon Kenny MClfA provided guidance, educational support and took the directorial lead during the excavation work.

The project built on two archaeological research projects:

- The first was conducted specifically at the Moat Field in Skipwith, located apposite the parish church between 2021 and 2023. This project uncovered evidence for a moated manor house (built first circa 1250 and substantially rebuilt circa 1400. Going into disuse or demolished circa 1650) (Kenny and Worrall, 2025).
- The second was a one-year project undertaken during 2024, named 'Searching for Skipwith. Searching for Skipwith used geophysical survey, LiDAR survey, test-pitting and core sampling to give a broader understanding of the archaeological landscape of the village and the fields immediately surrounding it (Kenny, 2024).

The Skipwith Gateway project focussed on specific elements revealed by geophysical survey (Earth Resistance and Magnetometry) in the moat field. A general aerial view of the moat field can be seen in Figures 01 and 02 below.

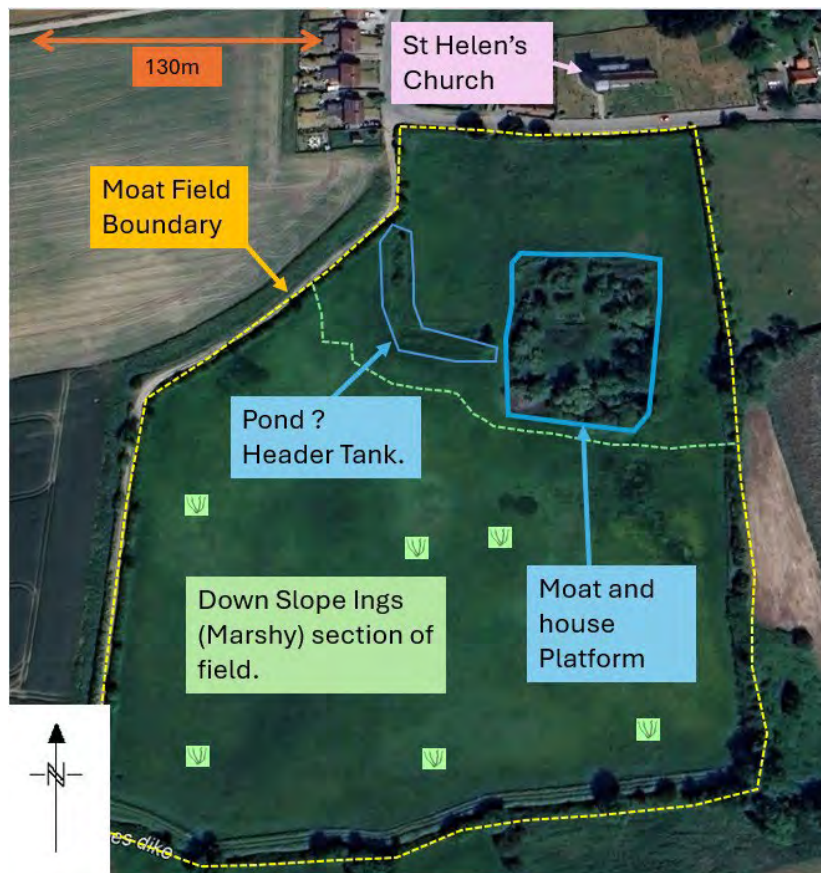


Figure 01: Aerial View of the Moat Field showing Key Features.

The project undertook three trenches aimed as specific targets. These are detailed in the trench descriptions below. In summary, we were looking for three suggested features in the landscape:

- Trench One: Was aimed at a ditch that was located in 2006 by Fern Archaeology, west of the church, running under church cottage. We considered that this ditch may be showing in the Earth Resistance survey (See figures 05 and 06 below).
- Trench Two: Was aimed at understanding linear features suggested by the same Earth Resistance survey to the north of the moated site (See figures 17 and 18 below).
- Trench 3: was aimed at an apparent back filled arm to the pond or header tank. This seemed to suggest an earlier version of the header tank, possibly relocated southwards about 10m when the moated manor was extended around 1400. Unfortunately, this trench was down in the much boggier ground, and a day of heavy rain left it full of water for much of the project period and the trench wasn't completed.

The three trenches can be seen in the drone image in figure 02 below (taken by David Mellor).



Figure 02: Aerial image showing the three trenches.

(Trench One) Next to the site tent, south of the church.

(Trench Two) Running west to east along the northern edge of the moat.

(Trench Three) In the foreground (filled with water!).

The Community Team

The project was led by the Archaeology subgroup of Skipwith Heritage Group. Five members volunteered on the archaeological work. The rest of the work team on the project was made up of members of the local village communities and a sprinkling of interested people from further afield.

The Team comprised 40 volunteers plus the 5 Skipwith Heritage Group members. Between June and September 2025, 1365, volunteer hours were contributed. The work was completed by a finds workshop held at the Village Hall attended by 18 team members. The excavation was always open to visitors and 71 were given guided tours of the excavation and the church next door.

Everyone was very aware that they were helping with an important archaeological investigation, and they all learned a great deal. The project was always aimed at wellbeing for all and making the opportunity to contribute available to all. It was emphasised to all who showed an interest that it wasn't just about getting on their knees and digging. Many volunteers contributed by undertaking finds work, taking aerial imagery on a regular basis (see Figure 02 above) and even contributing artists impressions of the phases of the development of the historic landscape (see Figures 53, 54 and 55 below). Jon Kenny – community archaeology takes wellbeing seriously operating under the wellbeing principal further reading is available in Jon Kenny's blog at:

<https://jkcomarc.wordpress.com/2026/02/01/the-wellbeing-principal-community-archaeology-and-wellbeing-with-howdenshire-archaeological-society/>

Acknowledgements

The Author would like to thank Skipwith Heritage Group and in particular the Archaeology subgroup for their unstinting support over the year or so of the project. Big thanks also go to Nigel Atkinson for his role as the project manager throughout. None of the project could have worked without a large group of 45 volunteers.

We would also like to acknowledge the support from the Two Ridings Community Foundation who made the project possible and thus supported the development of skills and wellbeing in the Selby District in the Heart of Yorkshire.

It is also fair to say that the project would not have been possible without the support of the landowners Escrick Park Estates and their estate manager Mark Hewitt. Many hours of labour were saved early on with the loan of a mechanical digger and driver to get us started.

We would also like to thank St Helen's Parochial Church Council for allowing us access to the church for comfort breaks and to show visitors around.

All coming together to make this a positive and rewarding project that also allowed us to develop our understanding of the village of Skipwith and its surrounding township.

2. Trench One

Trench Narrative

Introduction: Despite naming our project for the search for a gateway to the moated manor, our Trench one was found to the northern side of the moat field, near the location of the church. Our aim in this case was to seek a ditch surrounding an early medieval minster (or a monastery), built about 550 years earlier than the moated manor! The possibility that underlying the present church tower there stood an earlier structure, an earlier church, was discovered by Hall, Kendall, and Briden from York Archaeological Trust in 2007. They undertook excavation that revealed earlier foundations and burials with them (see Figure 03 below). The burials were radiocarbon dated to dates between the 7th and 10th centuries.

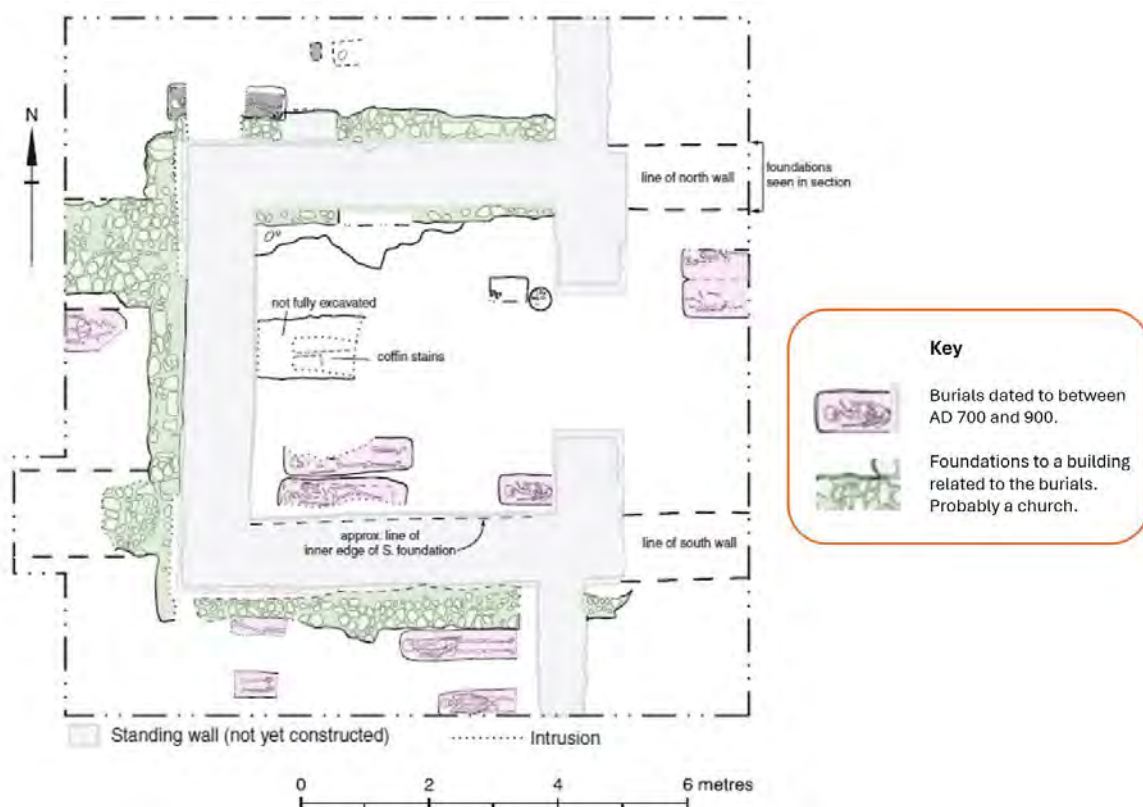


Figure 03: Plan adapted from Hall, Kendall, and Briden 2007.

Showing foundations and burials under the present church tower.

In the report on the excavations Hall, Kendall and Briden suggest that the foundations are those of a Minster church. An early medieval minster church was an important church that served a large area, rather than just a single village. In England, minsters were set up between about AD 650 and 900, during the early Anglo-Saxon period.

Unlike later parish churches, a minster was usually staffed by a community of clergy (priests or monks) who lived and worked together. Their role was to preach, teach, baptise, and provide pastoral care to people living across a wide district, often covering a number of settlements.

Minsters were often:

- Founded by kings or powerful local Lords.
- Placed at important locations, such as river crossings, routeways, royal estates, or former Roman sites.
- Centres of learning, administration, and worship, not just religious buildings

Over time, as populations grew and villages gained their own churches, the large minster territories were broken up into smaller parishes. Some later parish churches began life as minsters, while others declined in importance.

In short, an early medieval minster church was a regional religious hub, serving as a focal point for both spiritual life and local organisation in the centuries before the parish system developed.

The idea that Skipwith was a Minster community was taken on by Thomas Pickles in his work *Kingship, Society, and the Church in Anglo-Saxon Yorkshire* (2018). So, the idea could be pursued further.

Only shortly before York Archaeological Trust undertook the excavations at the church (in 2006), Fern Archaeology were appointed by the resident of Church Cottage (Noel McCool) immediately to the southwest of the church. Fern undertook a small excavation beneath the rear (north side) of the cottage so that the resident could build an extension at the back. This excavation revealed a ditch.

The ditch at Church Cottage was running from the NNE to SSW and passing beneath the cottage (see figure 04 below).

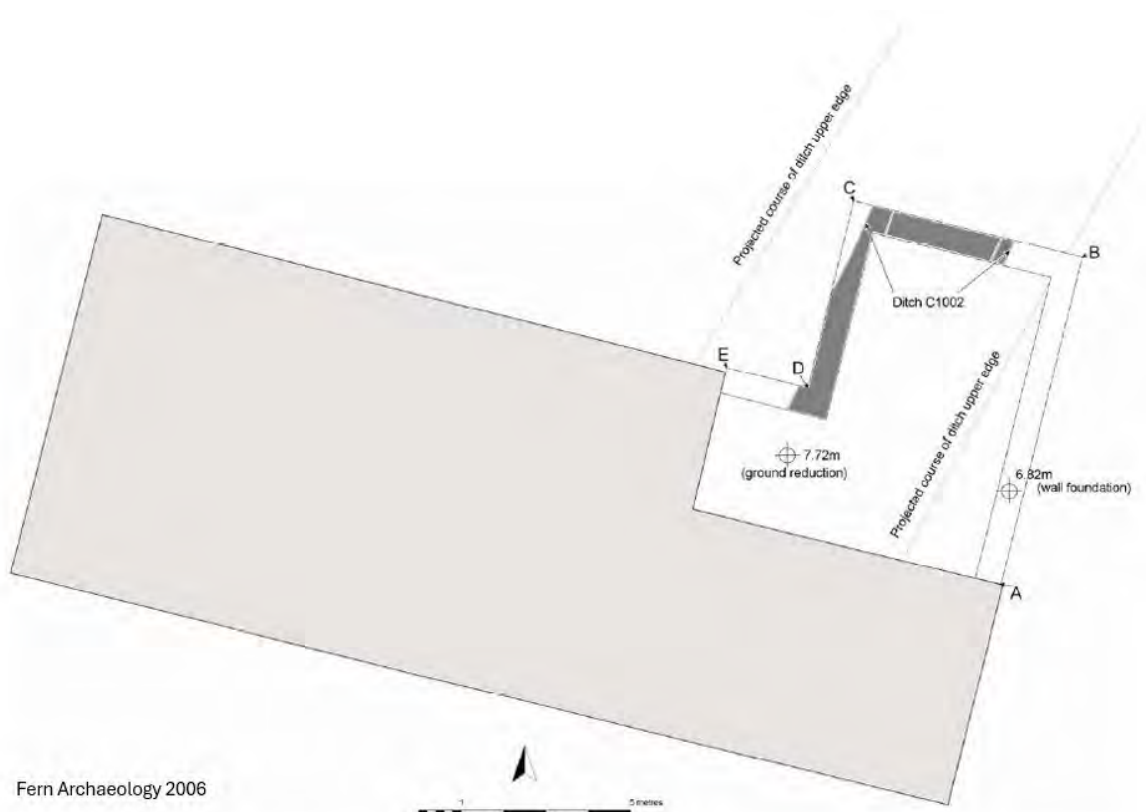


Figure 04: Plan showing 8m wide ditch passing beneath Church Cottage.

The ditch may have related to the earlier Minster, but the dating was not as precise as the radiocarbon dates obtained by York Archaeological Trust. Nor could the very bottom of the ditch be excavated. The earliest datable context in the ditch was AD 1000 to 1200 in context (1006). This date is a little too late to suggest it was a ditch demarking the boundary of a Minster community. But the idea that a ditch demarked the boundary of the church site this early might still be a useful addition to our understanding of the change from Minster, shown by York Archaeological Trust in 2007 to the later church. The church tower construction date is given as circa AD 960, so is quite early. Indeed, if the 8m wide ditch does not surround a Minster it might surround the church rebuilt around that date.

Looking Back to the Geophysical Survey (2022): As part of the archaeological research into the moated manor site (2021 and 2022) the community team undertook an earth resistance survey in the moat field (Kenny and Worrall, 2023). This hinted at something arcing and turning from north-south to east-west (see Figure 05 below).

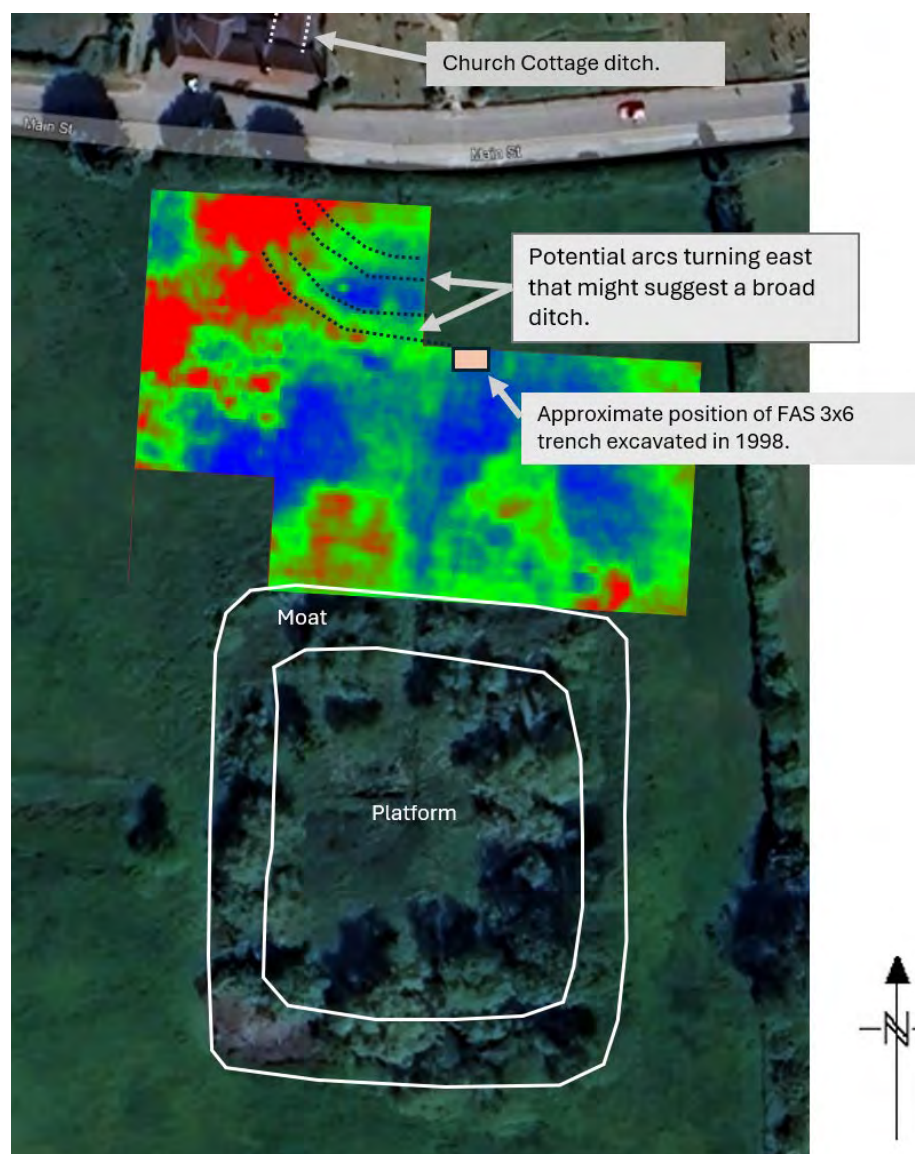


Figure 05: Earth Resistance Survey showing arcs if middle ground resistance (green). Could these be a broad ditch?

Despite the fact that Field Archaeological Specialists (FAS) (Copp, 1998) had excavated an east-west aligned trench in this part of field to evaluate the deposits we felt that they had not come upon the ditch (see Figure 05 above). They did however prove that there was a deep topsoil present 0.69m deep! And below that was an orange clay subsoil (0.42m thick) and then a sand at least 0.70m deep. Excavation stopped at 1.20m depth.

We felt that the deep topsoil would make results difficult to interpret on the earth resistance, so we chose to run a trench heading Southwest from the northern hedge to try to find the ditch (see Figure 06 below).

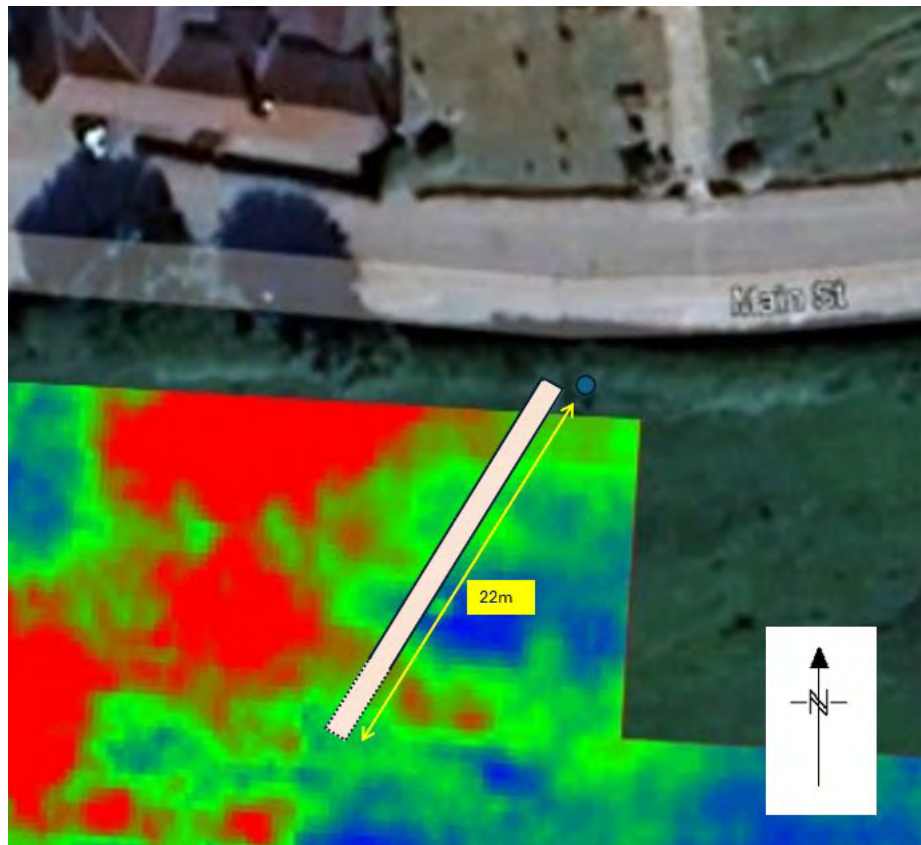


Figure 06: Full trench one opened.

Opening Trench 1: We opened a trench by taking off the turf by machine along a 22m strip running southwest from a telegraph pole in the hedge. Given the knowledge that we faced a 0.70m deep topsoil we decided to seek a most profitable spot to start excavating the topsoil. To do this we worked with Tony Hunt to use his thermal cameras on his drone. This had been used with success seeking a large ditch at Kirk Hammerton in finding a large, wetter (cooler) feature after stripping off the topsoil.

The thermal image can be seen overlaid onto the aerial image in Figure 07 below. The colouration is warmer (light) and cooler (darker) patches. Obviously mostly on the rough pasture, but inside the yellow rectangle being the trench, where we have a bare soil surface. A cooler (darker) spot appeared next to the site HQ tent. We chose to excavate a 6.5m long section of the 2.5m wide trench.

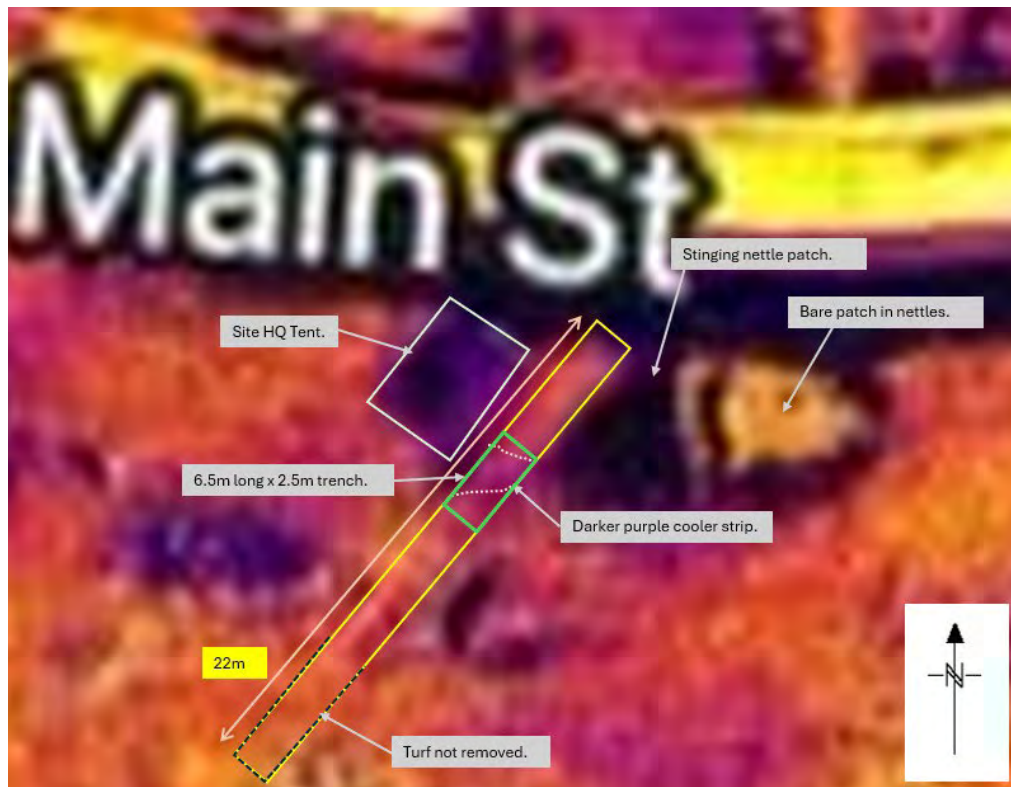


Figure 07: Thermal image showing trench one and the cooler patch that we chose to excavate deeper through the deep topsoil.

The trench can be more clearly seen in Figure 08 below, early on in the excavation, but good to show the trench location.



Figure 08: Trench 1 Location, next to the northern hedge of the Moat Field.

Trench 1 Narrative: The deposits excavated in trench one can be seen set out in a stratigraphic chart (a Harris Matrix) in Figure 09 below. The relationships are simple but the deposits that we found are remarkably interesting.

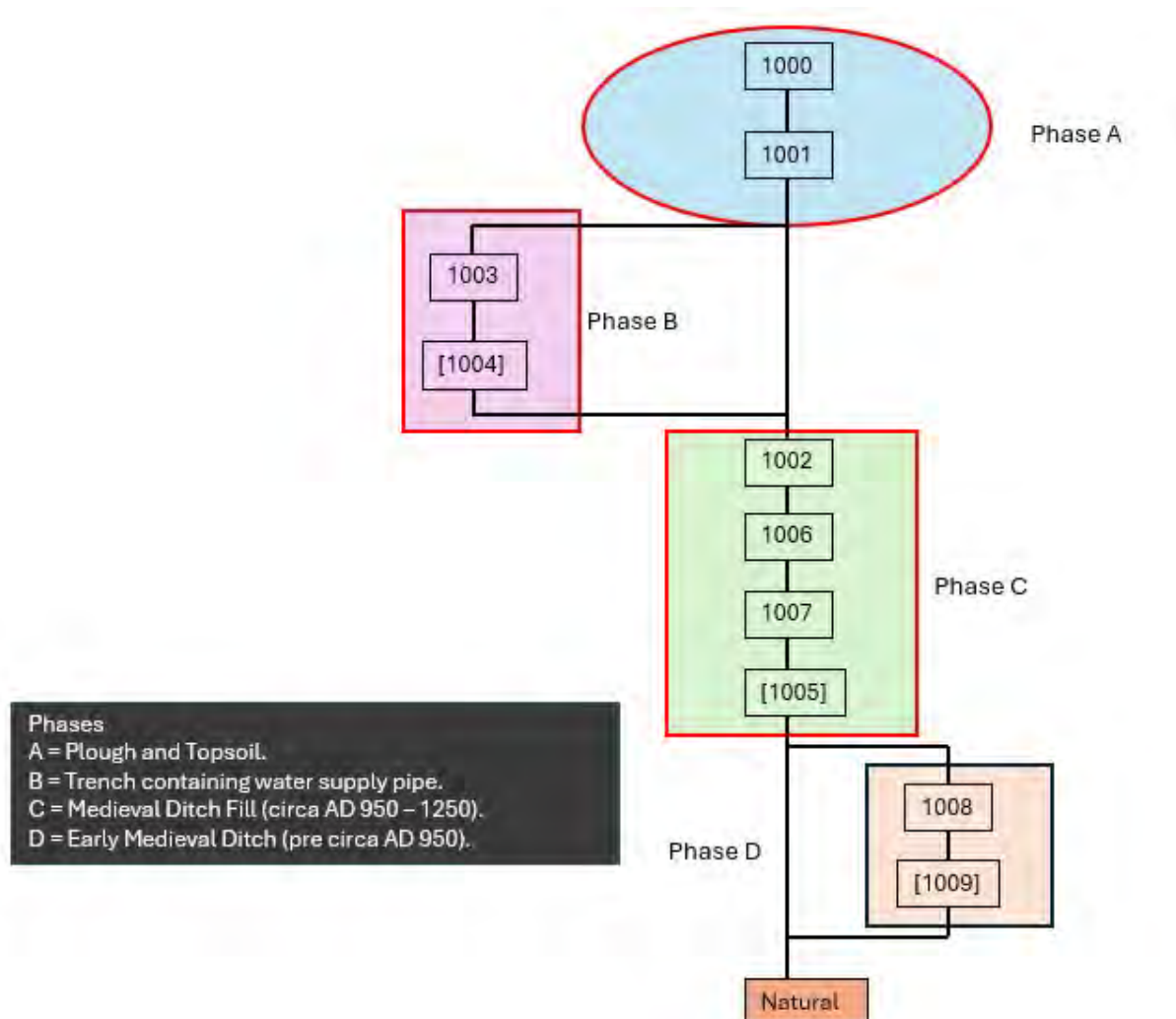


Figure 09: Harris Matrix showing relationships between deposits excavated.

In this narrative I will turn the deposits around from the order in which they were excavated to create a narrative more understandable to the way that we like to tell stories. The first part of that narrative being Phase D.

Phase D: The Smaller Ditch: The earliest deposit in trench one was a ditch fill (1008) that ran off west to east. It was truncated by a much bigger and later ditch, so we do not have a substantial portion of the ditch remaining. But it is remarkably interesting and it has to be said that we got incredibly lucky to find it. What we have is a ditch measuring in excess of 2.50m in width and 0.70m in depth. The width of the ditch is difficult to estimate as its southern edge was truncated by a much later water supply pipe trench (1003) [1004]. It did, however, have a recut or a double bottom. The more northerly section being about 1.60m wide the more southerly section being 0.65m plus being cut through by the water pipe ditch. It did not however, reappear south of the water supply ditch (1003) [1004] (See plan, cross section, and image in Figures 10, 11 and 12 below).

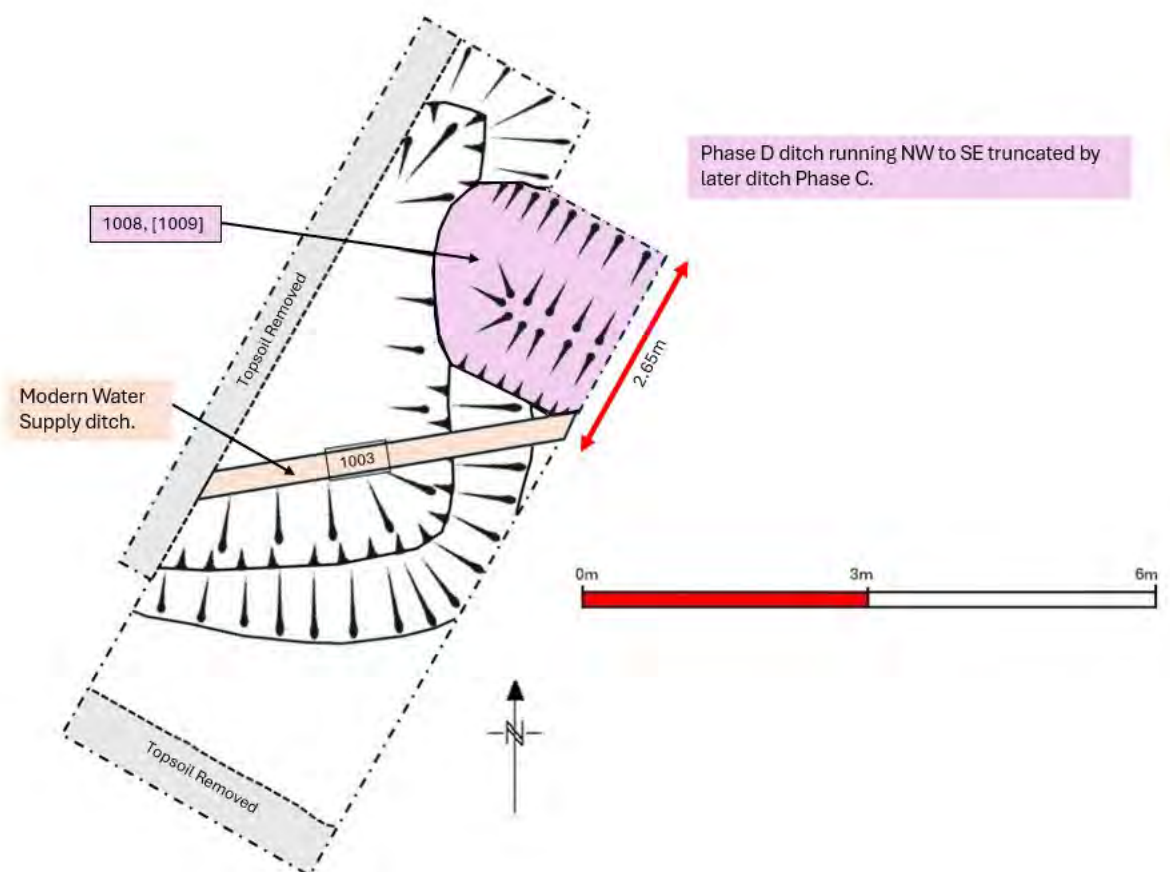


Figure 10: Plan showing Phase D running NW to SE.

It is truncated by later ditch, see Phase C.

The ditch did not have dating material, or indeed any finds whatsoever, so cannot be safely attributed to a particular period in the development of the archaeological landscape. Stratigraphically however, it is truncated by another ditch, that at its very bottom held medieval roof tile. This clearly might be in use right up to the demolition of the moated manor circa 1650. But it can also date from the first building phase of the moated manor around 1250. Around the period when such flat roof tile was being introduced. It is also possible that the much wider ditch truncating the Phase D ditch is a continuation of the ditch found by Fern Archaeology beneath Church Cottage in 2006. This ditch was dated by Fern Archaeology to somewhere between AD 950 and 1300. Making it perfectly possible that the ditch in our Phase D, being older than Phase

C ditch could predate AD 950 and be related to the Minster suggested by Hall, Kendall, and Briden in 2007.

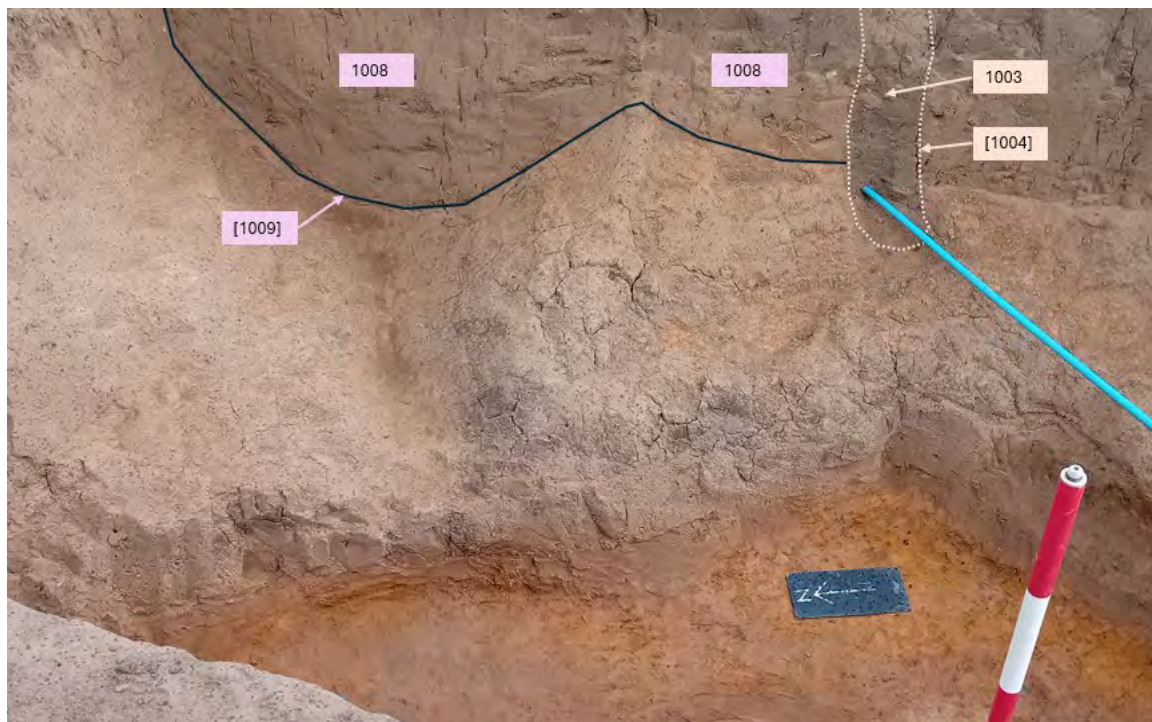


Figure 11: Ditch from Phase D.

Truncated by later deeper ditch terminal and water supply ditch to the south.

Northwest Facing Section of ditch from Phase D in Trench 1.

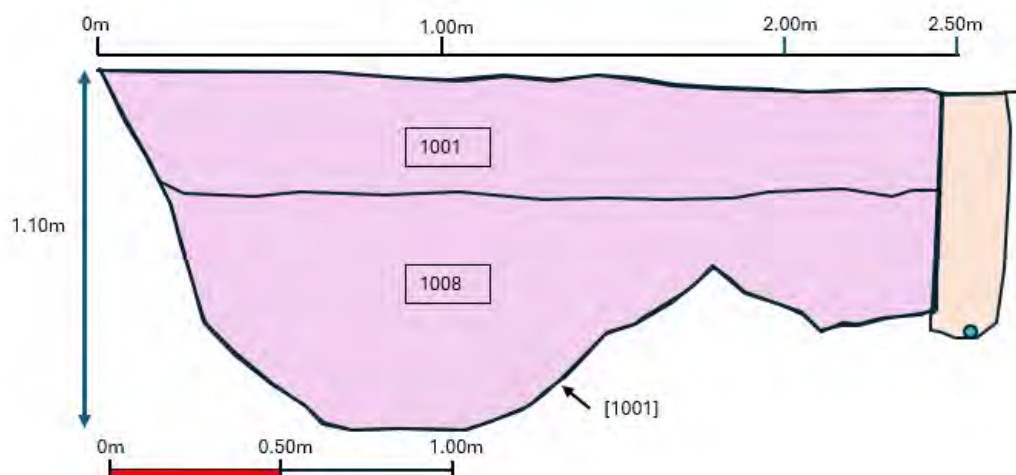


Figure 12: Northwest facing section through Phase D ditch.

Phase C: The Big Ditch Terminal: Cutting across the ditch in phase D we had another, single, much larger ditch running more East to West. By good fortune, the second ditch ends in our trench. This is the only reason that the earlier Phase D ditch was visible. This larger, Phase C ditch appears at this point anyway to replace the earlier ditch. Although then coming to a terminus (see Figure 13 below).

The Phase C ditch had discernible layering, but no obvious humic deposit at the base. It is possible that there was more depth to it, but even coring did not reveal anything. This suggests that the ditch was kept fairly clean during its existence and then back filled rapidly. The three deposits discernible in the fill (1002), (1006) and (1007) suggest a number of breaks in the back fill. The top two layers (1002) and (1006) were composed of a sand clay mix, where the base (1007) was much more of an orange sand and suggests more gradual back fill from the ditch sides. But not vegetation growth.

The ditch cut right through the orange clay subsoil noted nearby by FAS in 1998 into a much lighter sand, suggesting that the ditch would not have held water for any length of time.

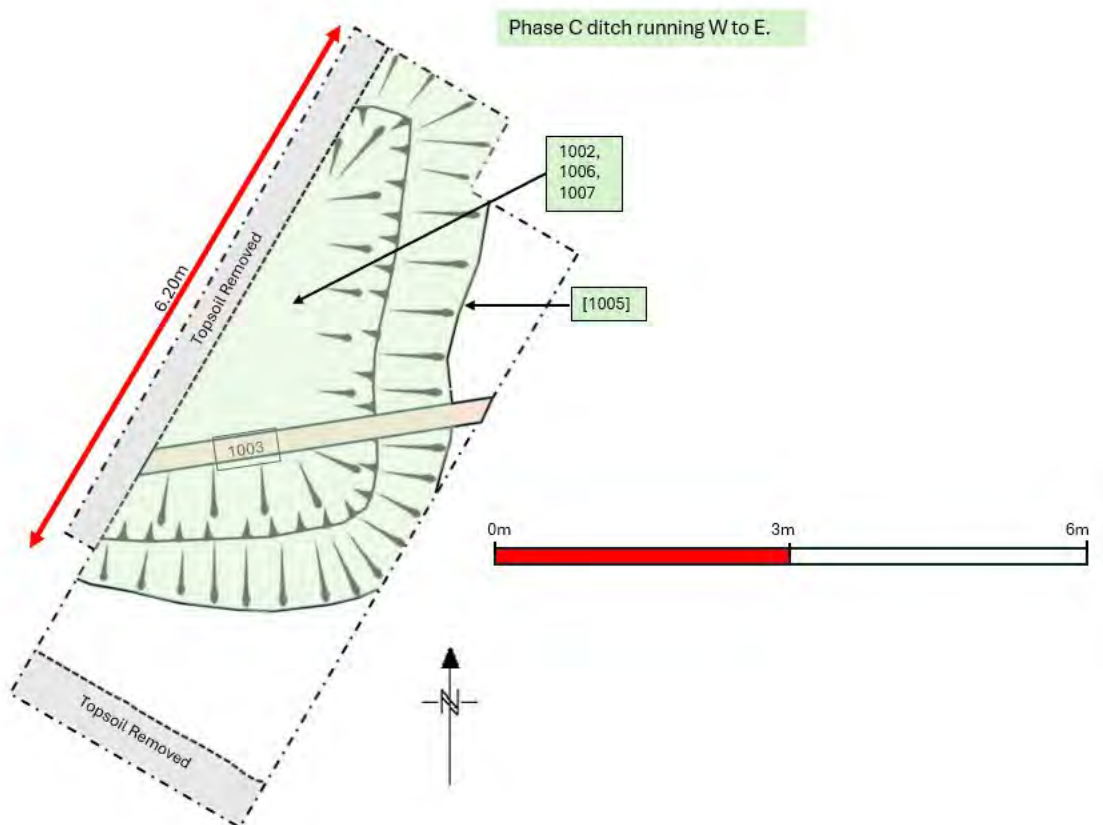


Figure 13: Ditch Terminal being Phase C.

It cuts across the smaller ditch on the same location previously.

The SE facing cross section of the ditch heading towards its terminal can be seen in Figures 14 and 16 below. The cross section is also comparable to the section of the ditch found back in 2006 by Fern Archaeology (Figure 15 below). A more humic base is discernible in the ditch at Church Cottage.



Figure 14. Southeast facing section of Phase D ditch.



Figure 15: Southwest facing ditch at Church Cottage.

Fern Archaeology 2006.

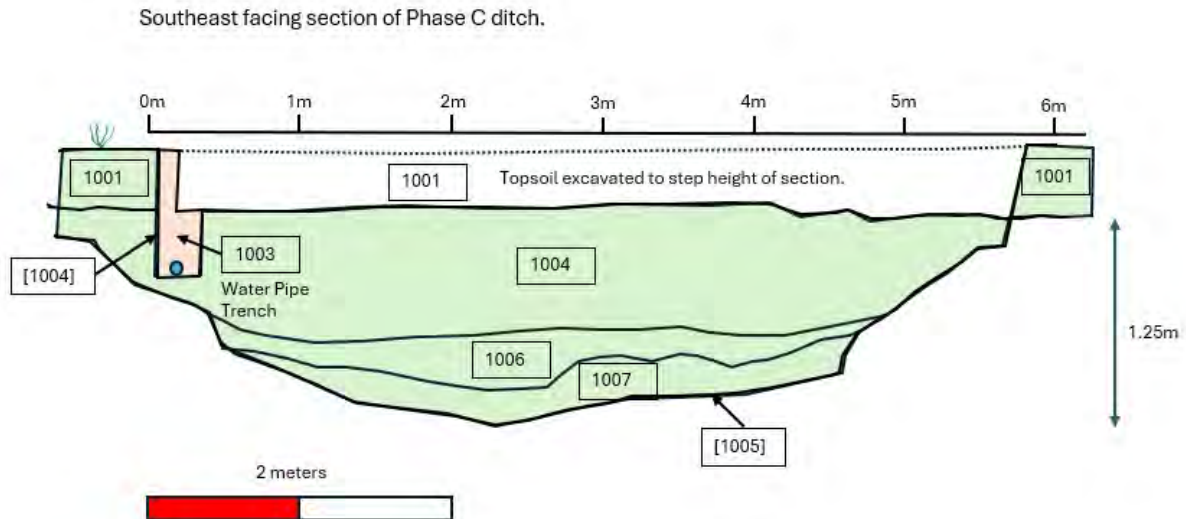


Figure 16: Southeast facing section through the large ditch in Phase C.

The large ditch terminal deposits had assemblages of distinct types:

- Context 1001, the topsoil had:
 - o Bone and teeth being domestic pig, sheep, and cow.
 - o Brick Fragments.
 - o Charcoal.
 - o Glass, recent.
 - o Iron metalwork.
 - o Pottery dating from Gritty Wares (1150-1350).
- Context 1004, the most recent ditch backfill had no finds.
- Context 1006, ditch fill nearing the point that the ditch cuts through the heavy clay subsoil. This had:
 - o Bone and teeth being domestic pig and sheep.
 - o Flat roof tile on the interface with the side of the ditch. Although this type of roof tile remained in use well into the post-medieval period, it was first introduced around 1250. Meaning that the ditch may be being back filled by the church or Lord at around the same time as the first version of the moated manor was built.
 - o A collection of little stone fragments and a single fragment of stone roof tile. May also relate to the construction going on nearby at the moated manor, or indeed the church.
 - o Pottery consisted of two sherds, both York Glazed Ware. These sherds give us a latest date for the back fill between 1150 and 1250.
- Context 1007, the very base layer of the ditch, sandy rather than humic as noted above. This had small fragments of bone, slag and a stone chip.

3. Trench Two

Trench Narrative.

Introduction: This trench narrative takes the stratigraphic and finds evidence to build a narrative for the excavated material into a narrative. The objective of the trench was based on earth resistance results from the Skipwith Moated Site work in 2021 and 2022 (Kenny and Worrall, 2023, 36). This suggested a series of linear features on the northern side of the moat that may indicate a structure outside the moat (see Figure 17 below), a gatehouse like that seen on sites such as Bolton Percy.



Figure 17: Geophysical survey undertaken in 2022 showing linear features to the north of the moat. Trench 2 was used to investigate these.

Trench 2 was originally dug using a machine to strip off the topsoil for a length of 30m running east to west along the northern edge of the moat. This revealed layers of subsoil (2002) and (2003) that contained frequent fragments of roof tile and broken medieval brick. The central section (12m long) of the 30m trench was focussed on first, being the section where Victorian maps show

a bridge still spanning the moat. The depth of deposits meant that we just concentrated our excavation on that central section (see Figure 18 below for the placement of trench 2).

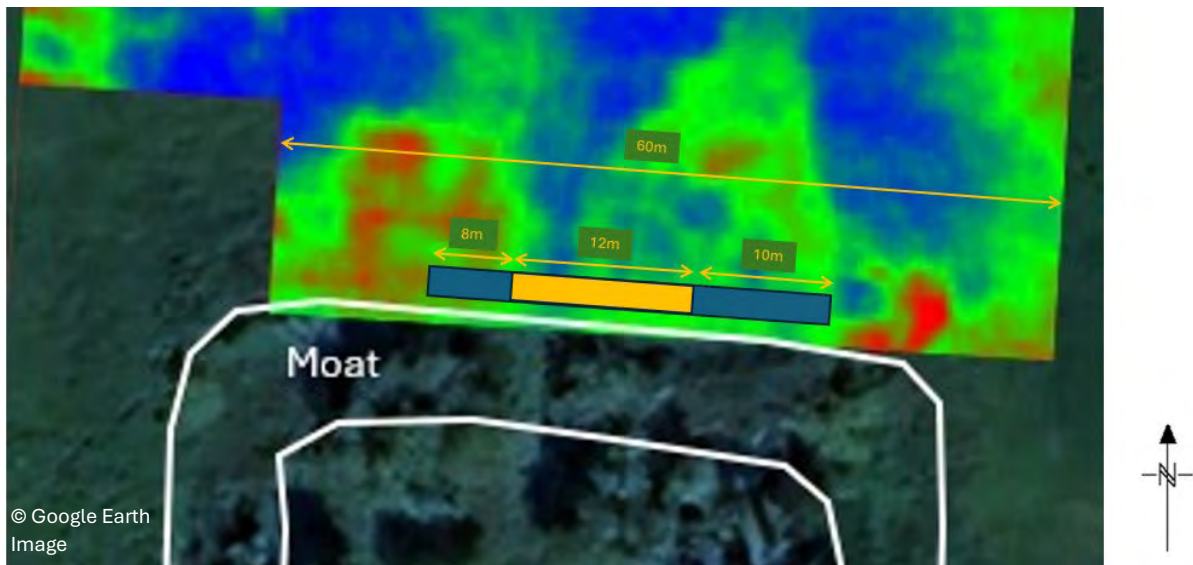


Figure 18: trench location on the geophysical survey and aerial image showing the moat.

The initial stages of the excavation of trench two can be seen in Figure 19 below.



Figure 19: Image looking southwest along trench two. Focussed already on the central 12m slot along the trench.

The story we were able to put together for the archaeology observed in trench two is set out here. That story was written by studying the stratigraphic relationships between all of the distinct layers (contexts) that we excavated. See Appendix ?? for the full list of trench two contexts. Part of the recording process is to build up a matrix (a Harris Matrix) of these contexts and their relationships.

Putting activity into time order to allow us to build up a narrative. This is shown in the Harris Matrix for trench two in Figure 20 below. The matrix has then been divided into phases in time lettered from A to G.

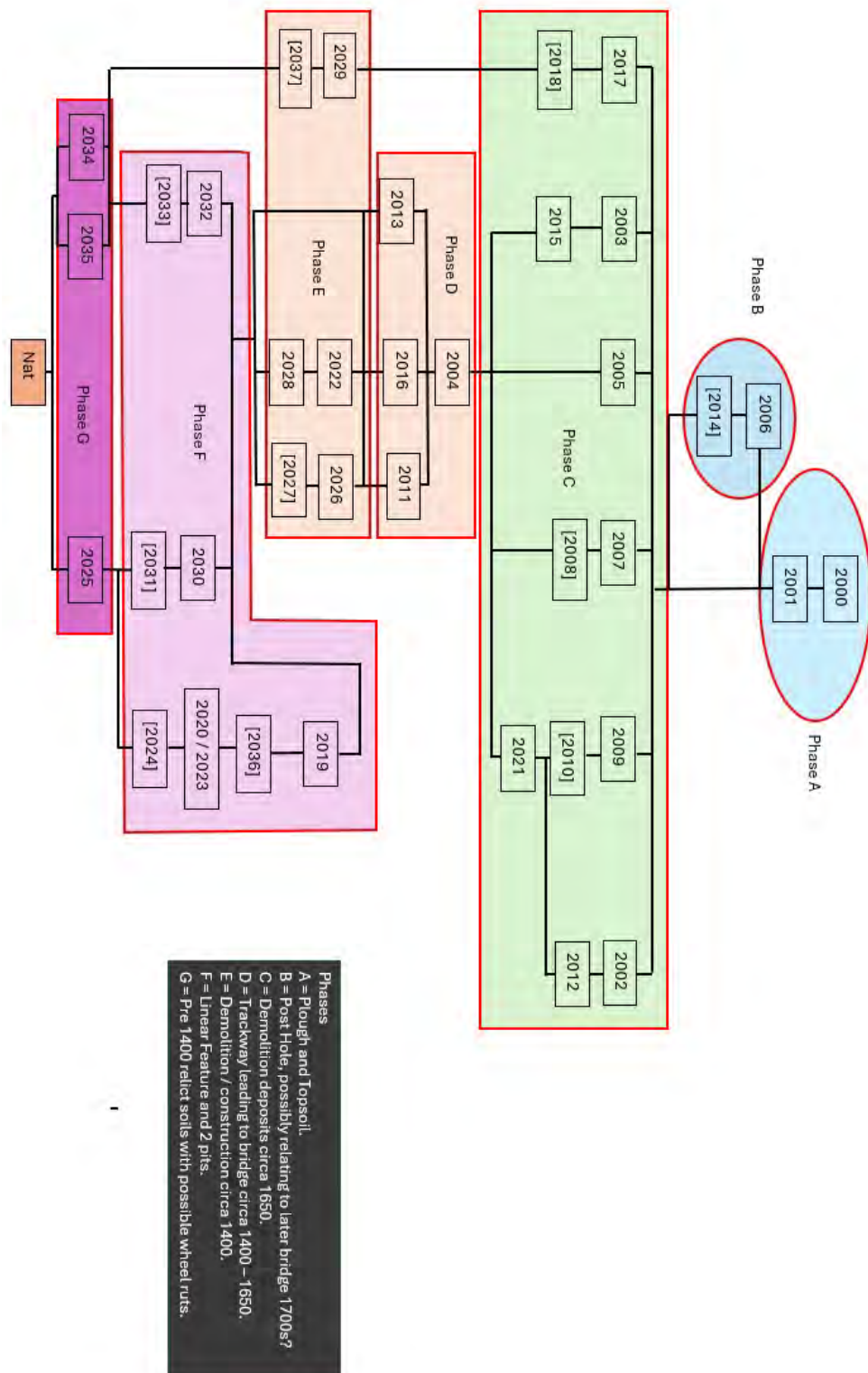


Figure 20: Harris Matrix for SKIP25 Trench 2.

Showing phases of activity identified during the excavation.

More detail and dating is then added to the phases by the study of the finds. In this case utilising pottery to give us dates for phases as well as observation of demolition materials to suggest what was going on. Other small finds, metal detecting finds and animal bone give a deeper understanding of the trench and activity nearby in the case of metal detected finds.

This narrative is followed in reverse order from which it was excavated to lend a narrative flow for the reader. So instead of beginning with phase A, we start with the oldest, phase G instead.

Phase G: Relict Soils (Mesolithic to circa AD 1150 – 1350).

This phase is referred to as a relict soil, meaning soil that was once at ground level, but has been buried and leached of much of its goodness. In trench two the relict soils are made up of three deposits, (2025), (2034) and (2035). The soil (2025) covered two thirds of the trench and was located at the west end of the trench. At the west end the relict soil was buried to a depth of about 0.50m. The relict soils slump down at the western end of the trench to a depth of about 1.10m making a drop off as much as 0.60m. This slump is no longer visible in the present ground levels, indeed a deeper deposit of relict soil (2034) and (2035) fills the base of the slump. The deposits can best be seen in Figures 21, 22 and 23 below showing the south facing cross section and trench two plan.

The two western most layers (2034) and (2035) within Phase G had been blended together but not entirely mixed, this seems to have been the result of activity prior to the deposits being buried. This activity included wheel ruts, either left by multiple vehicles over time or a single cart or other vehicle passing through / over the soil. If it was a single vehicle, it had a span between wheels of about four ½ feet.

Abutting, these soils to the east was another relict soil (2025) which extended over most of the remainder of the trench. This relict soil (2025) only contained York / Buff Gritty Ware pottery dating from 1150 to 1350. Although we only have a single sherd there are no other later pottery forms present. Suggesting that these relict soils (2025, 2034 and 2035) were active during or prior to that date range 1150 – 1350. It seems that, given they are deposited on top of the natural sands, these relict soils had been in situ since they formed to cover the natural sands after the last ice age. They were however not buried until sometime between AD 1150 and 1350.

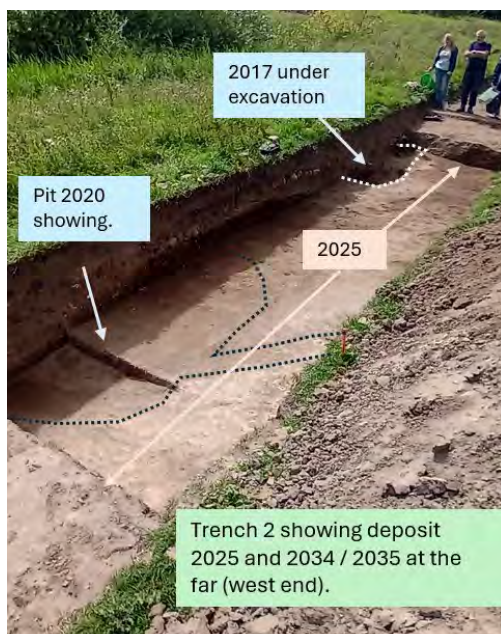


Figure 21: Context 2025 revealed.

SKIP25. South Facing Section of Trench 2. Showing Phase G, Relict Soil deposits (pre circa 1400).

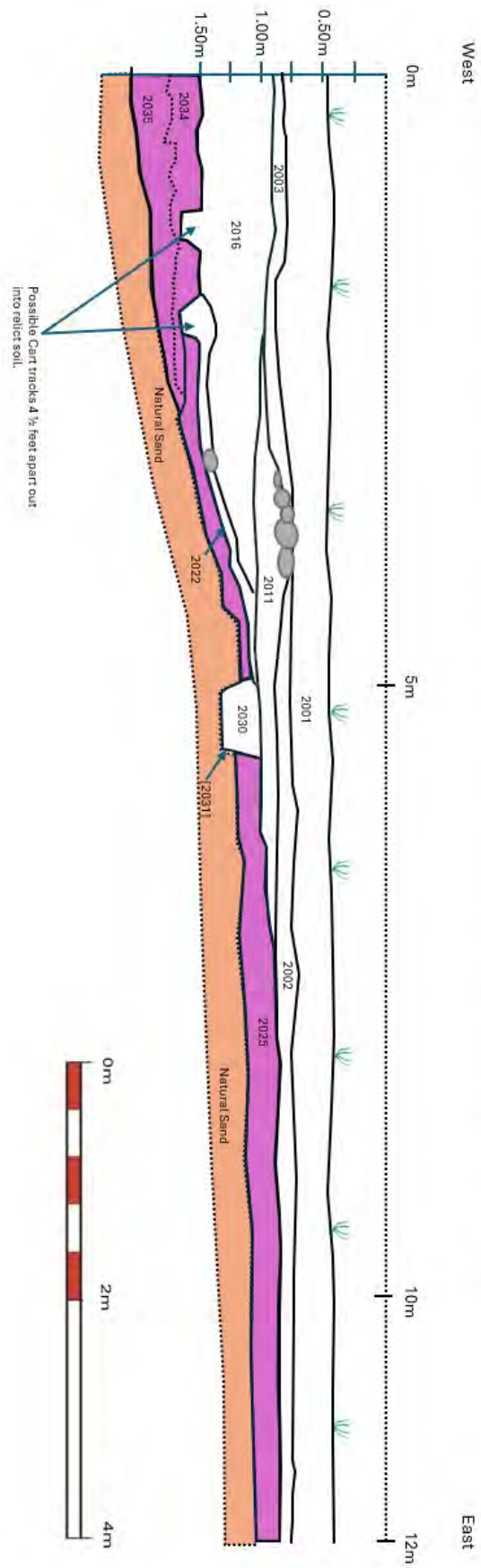


Figure 22: South Facing Section of Trench 2.

SKIP25 Trench 2 Plan showing Phase G Deposits:
Relict Soils (2034 and 2035) and (2025).

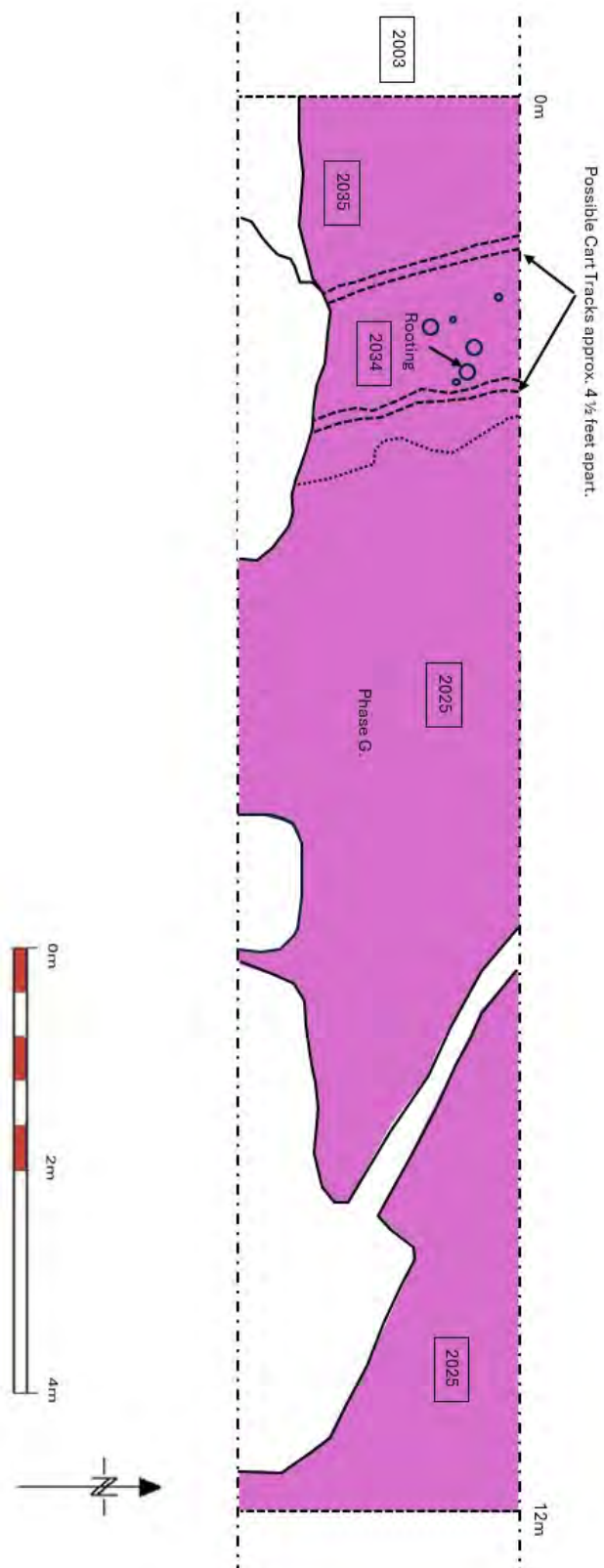


Figure 23: Trench 2 plan showing Phase G

Phase F: Three pits and a linear feature cut through the relict soils and into the natural (circa AD 1150 – 1350).

This phase represents a set of features cut into the relict soils from the previous phase. The activity begins with a linear feature (2030) that runs from NW to SE. It is a square cut [2031] feature as much as 0.50m deep at its northern end before shallowing to about 0.25m at its southerly end. The linear feature was about 0.25m wide. At its southerly point, the feature runs into a pit, most of which has been removed by a later recut. The earlier pit fill was recorded as (2019), contained by cut [2024] (see Plan in Figure 24 below). What could be seen of the base of the first pit [2024] appears to have been shallow, about 0.15m.

SKIP25 Trench 2 Plan showing Phase F Deposits: Pits (2032 and 2020 / 2023).
 Also linear feature (2030 & 2019) running into Pit (2020 / 2023).
 All cutting into relict deposit Phase G (2025).

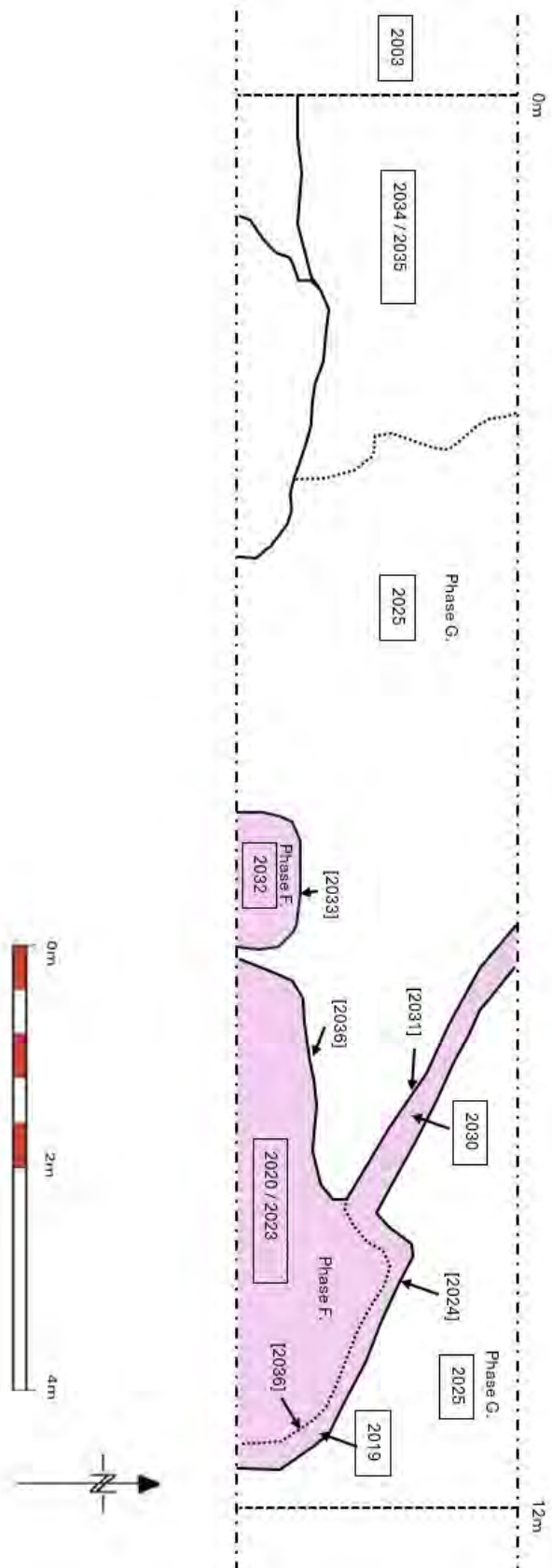


Figure 24: Plan of Trench 2 showing Phase F.

Most of the pit containing (2019) appears to be recut by a fresh pit cut [2036] and refilled by (2020 / 2023) (see Plan in Figure 24 above).

This linear feature running into a pit may represent a beam slot, running at an angle that does not line up with the moat and house to the south. Making it enigmatic in its purpose. Dating once again comes from a single sherd of York / Buff Gritty Ware pottery that suggests that this activity is going on shortly before construction of the moated site (believed to have taken place circa AD 1250). Or that the sherd is residual and that it was deposited after the construction date (Kenny and Worrall, 2023).

A second, smaller pit (2032) sits to the west of the large recut pit (2019) (2020) & (2023). This can be seen in the plan in Figure 24 above and the north facing section in Figure 25 below.

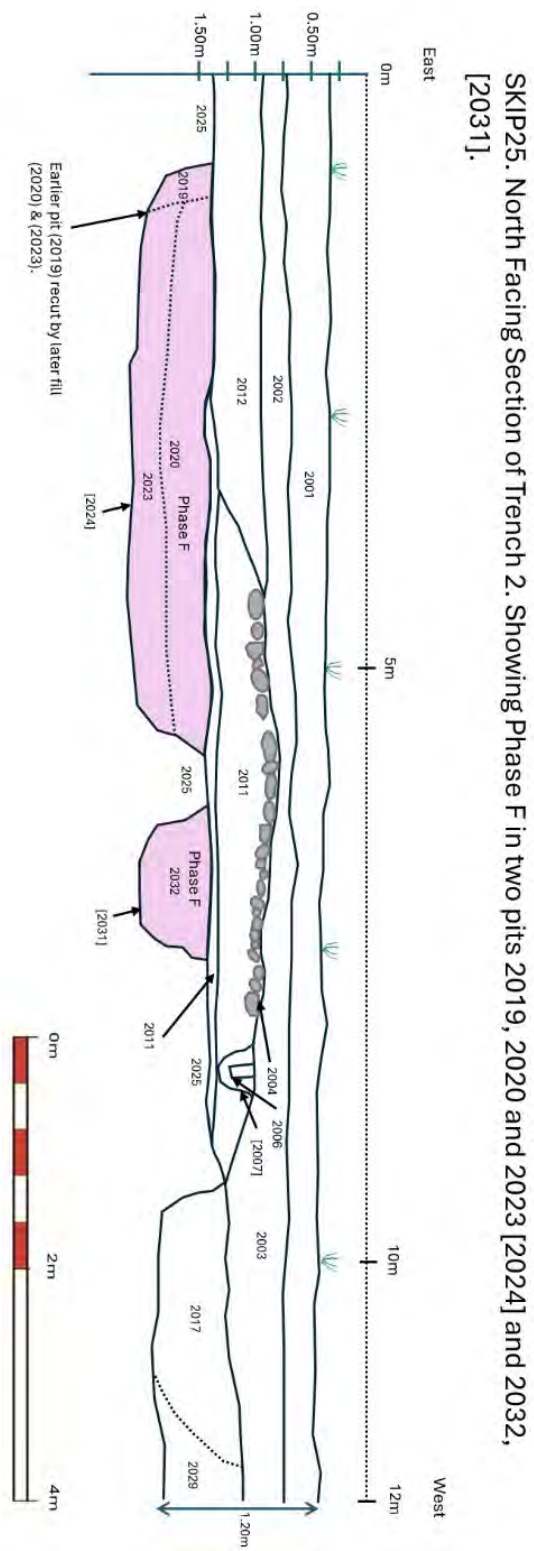


Figure 25: North Facing section of Trench 2 showing phase F.

The pit cuts after excavation are shown in plan in Figure 26 below. It is not clear whether the features existed prior to the building of the moated site or afterwards (built around 1250) the pottery dates the activity to AD 1150 to 1350. The shallow nature of the first large pit (2019) [2024] can be seen at the point where the possible beam slot (2030) [2031] runs into it. Are we looking at parts of an earlier ground fast timber structure replaced by the moated site circa AD 1250? Or are these features of something sitting on the edge of the moat after AD 1250?

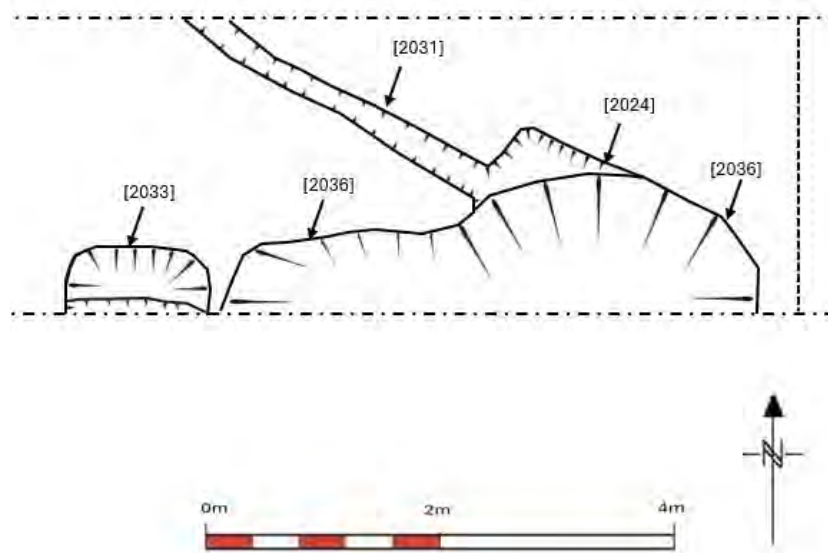


Figure 26: Post excavation plan of the features in Phase F.

(Note these are the cut numbers, the fills having been excavated)



Figure 27: Context 2032 under excavation.

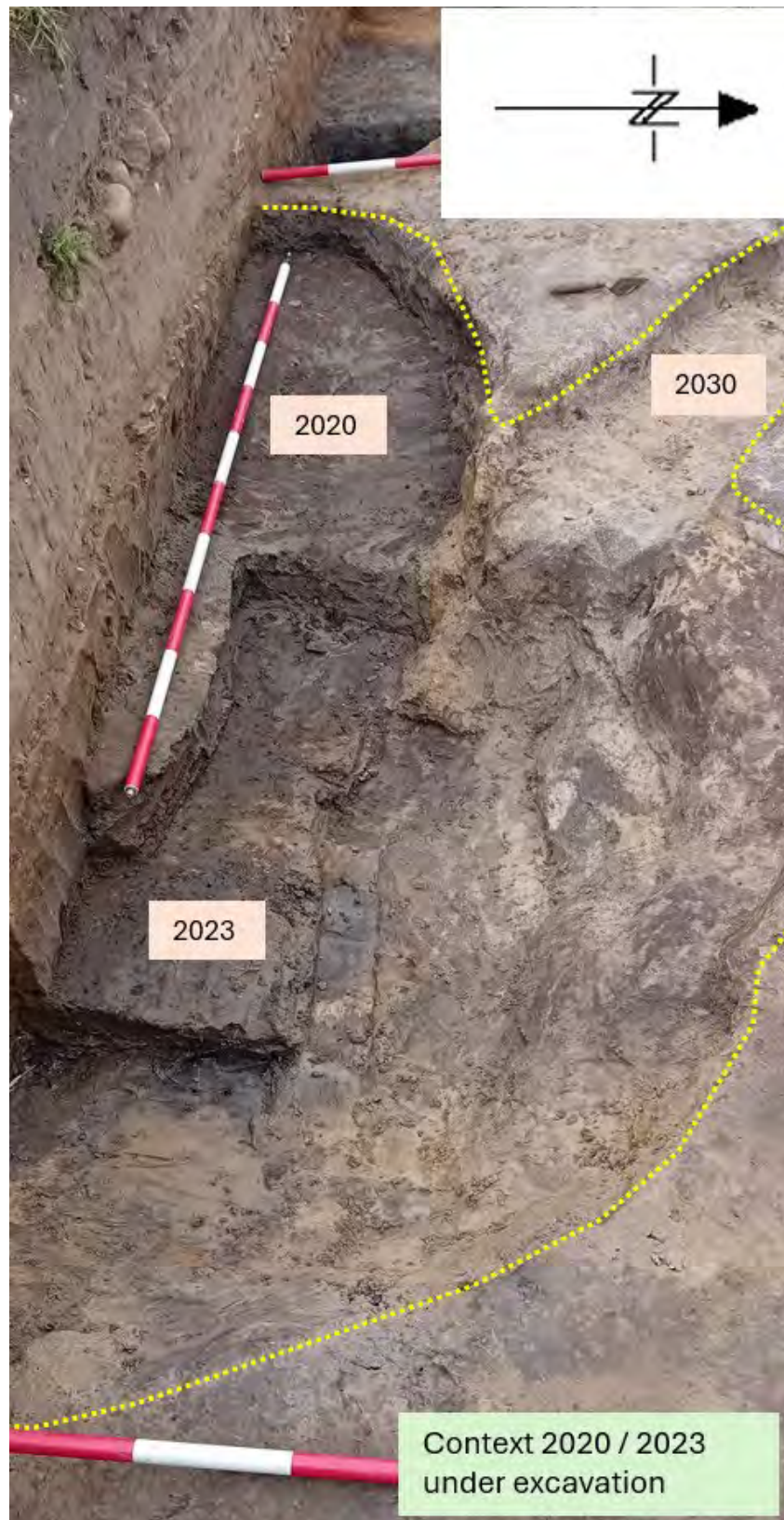


Figure 28: Contexts 2020 and 2023 under excavation.

Phase E: A Demolition or Construction phase (or both) (circa AD 1400).

Phase E activity takes place at the west end of trench two, being the deposition of a thin deposit dominated by fragments / chips of stone roof tile (2022). This demolition or construction deposit appears to relate to a rebuild on the moated site platform dated to around 1400 (Kenny and Worrall, 2023). The excavation on the moated hall site had generated whole stone roof tiles as well as many ceramic roof tiles (Kenny and Worrall, 2023). See deposit 2022 in the north facing cross section shown in Figure 29 below.

SKIP25. North Facing Section of Trench 2.
 Showing Phase D, a cambered track topped with cobbles (2004, 2011) and
 Phase E a Demolition / Construction Horizon (2022) dating to c 1400.

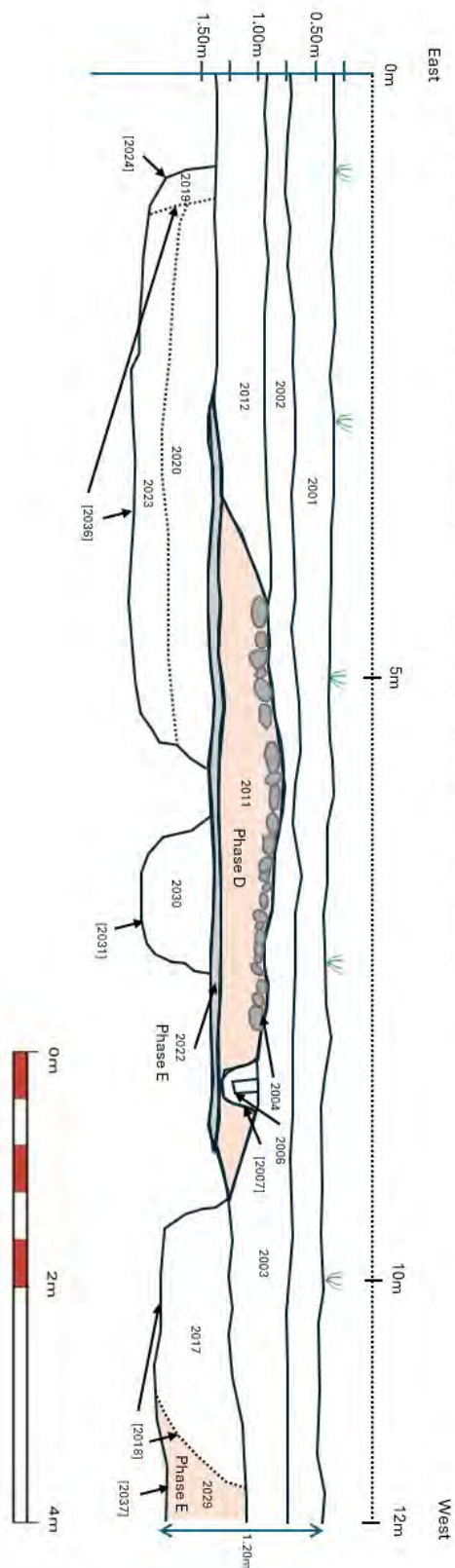
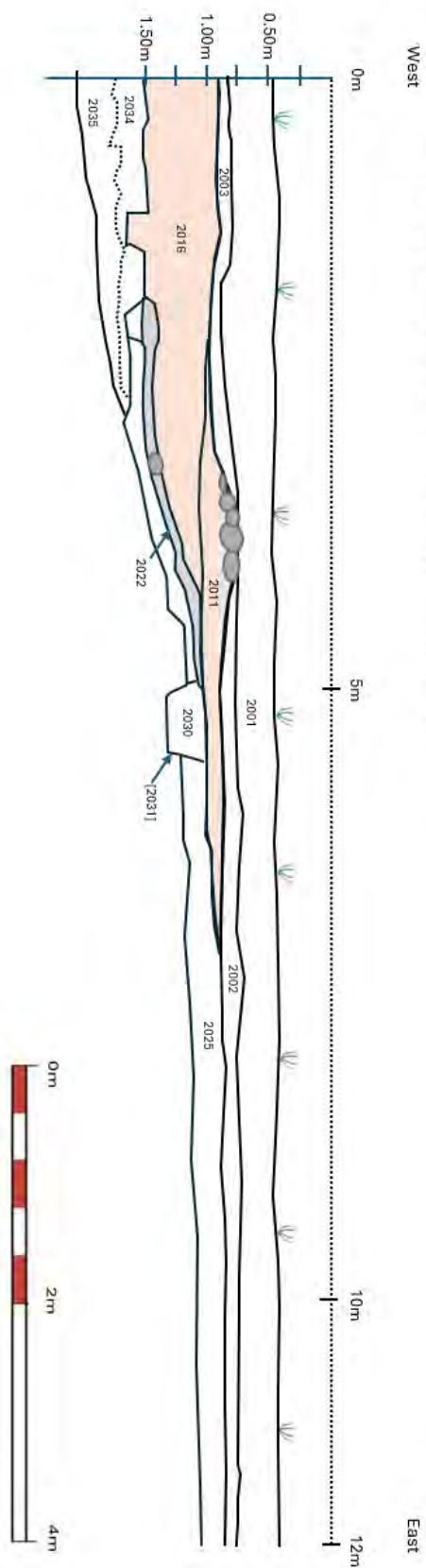


Figure 29: North Facing section showing Phases D and E.

The slumped area to the west of the trench was back filled during this phase of development. After the stone roofing activity, it seems that a lot of material was dumped into the hollow (2016), this material was dominated by fragments of burned daub and larger chunks of charcoal. It represents the demolition and removal of a timber framed building, on the moat platform. This material is best seen in the south facing section of trench two in Figure 30 below.



SKIP25. South Facing Section of Trench 2:
Showing Phase D make up and cambered track and
Phase E demolition / construction circa 1400.

Figure 30: South facing cross section showing Phase D and E deposits.

Following the demolition of a timber framed building, represented by context (2016) a pit was dug near the southern edge of the moat (2029) [2037]. This pit does not relate to the pits identified in phase F. As it appears stratigraphically later than Phase F. The pit extends to the south and west of the trench so its size cannot be determined. Pit (2029) contained an interesting collection of pottery (1 x sherd of Torksey Ware (AD 850 – 1150), 1 x sherd of Northern Gritty Ware (AD 1150-1350), 4 x sherds of York / Buff Gritty Ware (AD 1150 – 1350) and one sherd of York Glazed Ware (AD 1200 – 1350). This pit was in use at the same time as the early moated site (AD 1200 – 1400).

The excavation thought process can be observed at the time of excavation as context 2022 was being revealed in Figure 31 below. Written at the time of excavation.

Deposit 2022 underlying the cambered track heading down to the moated manor.

Showing different deposits of demolition and possibly construction material.

Appearing to represent a horizon of rebuilding on the moat platform, taking down sections of an original building, with stone roof tiles and attaching it to new wings possibly with a gateway tower.



Figure 31: Context 2022 under excavation.

Phase D: Track Building (circa AD 1400).

Following the demolition work on the platform a track was built heading towards the moat, to a bridge. The presence of a bridge is suggested in later Victorian maps of the moat, which by then was home to a row of workers cottages. It is not clear when the bridge was added, at a point before the demolition / construction work took place in Phase E. The full cambered track topped with cobbles clearly takes place after the activity outlined in phase E. The surviving cobbles can be seen in the plan in Figure 32 below.

SKIP25 Trench 2 Plan showing Phase D Deposits: Remains of cobbled track (2004), Clay and Sand Make-up deposits forming a cambered track beneath cobbles (2011) and (2013).

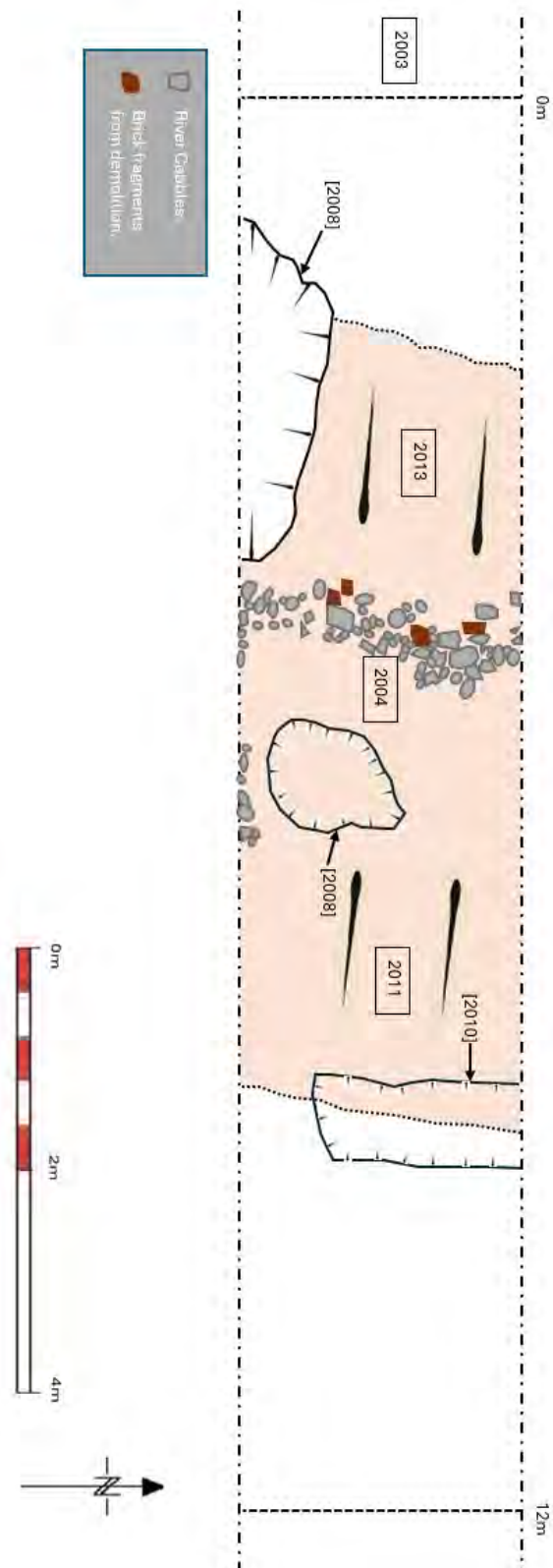


Figure 32: Plan showing Cambered deposits in Phase D along with remains of a cobbled track.

The cobbled track sat on top of two cambered deposits (2011) and (2013). These cambered deposits were made up with a combination of sand and clay. In some instances, quite solid patches of clay. This offers a solid base for the cobbles to be laid upon. The well made-up track begs comparison with deposits that had gone before. There is no sign of the making up of ground prior to the rebuilding circa AD 1400. There were some cart tracks in the relict soil, but these only demonstrate how muddy this approach to the moat must have been without a properly made-up track. This may suggest that the early moated site had a different bridging point and road. See later discussion for more analysis.

The track and its cobbles are clearly visible in the north facing section seen in Figure 29 above and 33 below.



Figure 33: Jan showing off the cambered make-up deposit beneath the cobbled track behind her. (Image looking south).

Phase C: A Post Hole dating to the life of the later Medieval Hall (circa AD 1400s and 1650s).

Cutting through the demolition layers and cobbled track deposit we had a post hole, contexts (2006) and [2014]. This may have been large enough to have held a later support for a later version of the bridge giving access to the moat platform. The post hole was 0.57m wide with an internal post pipe measuring 0.13m.

The post hole can be seen in the north facing cross section shown in Figure 34 below.

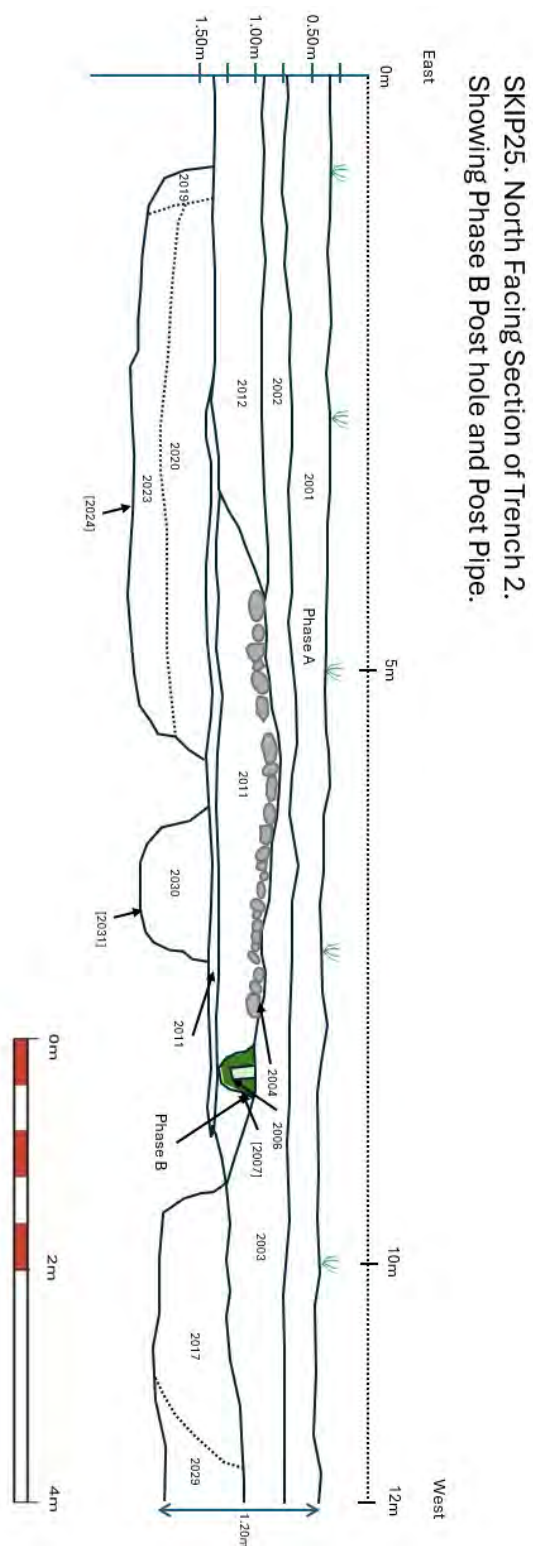


Figure 34: North facing section showing the post hole from phase C.

Phase B: Second Demolition and a Builder's Yard (circa AD 1650).

Following the construction of a cobbled track in Phase D around AD 1400 there is a gap in activity that represents the 'hey day' of the moated manor at Skipwith. The house has been expanded to be a part stone built, courtyarded building with wings on the south, east and north of the platform (Kenny and Worrall, 2023). After the resident family (the de Skipwiths) fall upon challenging times the hall also becomes increasingly unfashionable. Too small to expand and grow, a new house elsewhere in the village becomes more desirable. By 1650 the house is dilapidated and demolished.

The demolition process generates considerable deposits on either side of the track way, indeed covering most of the track too (see Figure 35 below).

SKIP25 Trench 2 Plan showing Phase C Deposits: Demolition deposits containing medieval and a little 17th century material (2003, 2002, 2015, 2005, 2021, 2012), Pit (2017, [2018] and Demolition Patches (2007, [2008] and 2009, [2010]).

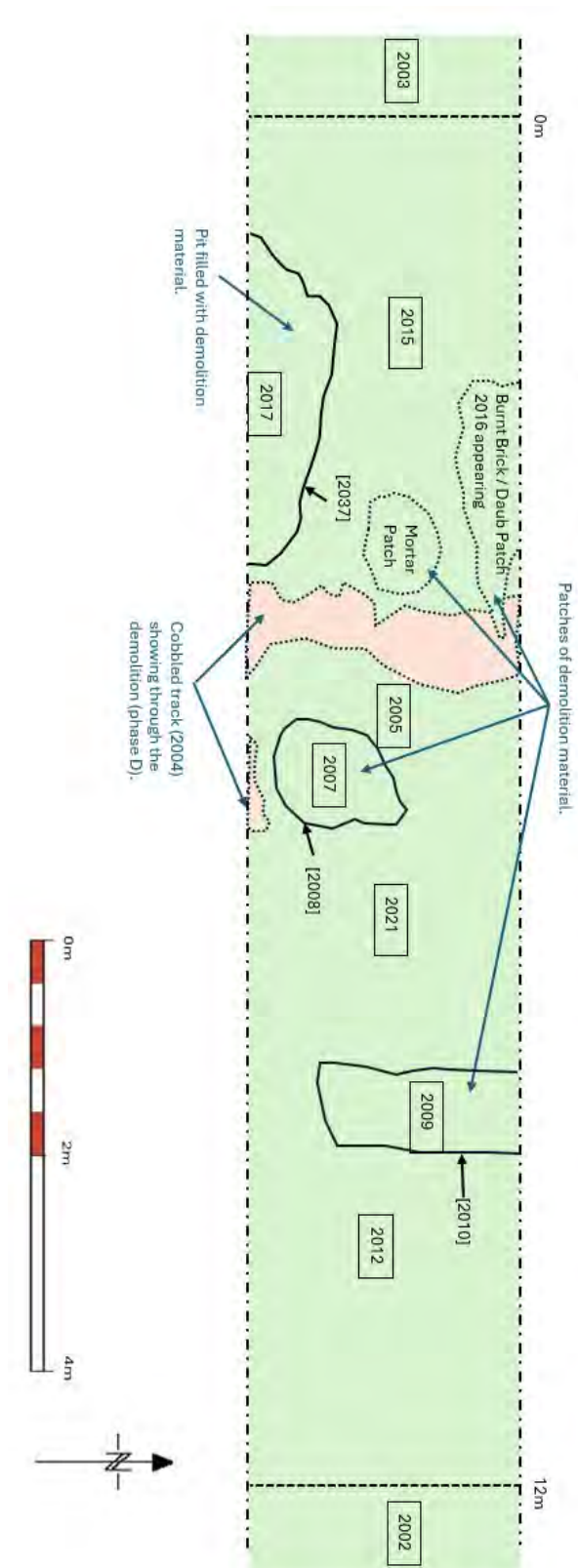


Figure 35: Plan showing the demolition deposits from Phase C.

The main bulk of the demolition deposits were made up of a sandy matrix with a little clay mixed with it; contexts (2002, 2003, 2005 and 2021). Each of these contained diverse sizes of brick fragment and even more ceramic roof tile. See Figure 36 below showing a patch of roof tile not taken away for reuse in recycling. Dating evidence from this broad spread of deposits comes from pottery that, perhaps unsurprisingly, covers a widespread date range. Including very occasional Gritty wares AD 1150-1250, through medieval wares such as Brandsby, Humber and Hambleton wares dating from AD 1200s – 1400s. It also contains later pottery such as slip wares which give a date from the late AD 1600s into the 1700s. Phase C gives us the largest assemblage of pottery, but also a wide date range. The key date actually being the latest slip wares dating to the 1600s, along with a fragment of a Reticello Glass Goblet (early AD 1600s), made in Venice, from the pit 2017 (see Figure 38 below). This all gives credence to a demolition date for the middle of the 1600s.

Fragments of stone roof tile also appeared in a number of parts of phase C. Three concentrations or dumps within the broad deposits were identified and excavated separately:

- (2009), [2020] – a linear scoop or depression containing copious amounts of mortar, the result of brick cleaning.
- (2007), [2008] – a patch of very gritty demolition dumping in a circular depression.
- (2017), [2018] – a pit containing various demolition material such as brick, mortar, roof tile and domestic waste, animal bone, animal teeth, and pottery. The pit also contained Humber Ware dating it to AD 1300 – 1500. The pit cut into an earlier pit (2029) [2037] dating to phase E circa AD 1400.



Figure 36: Patch of rooftile within deposit 2003.



Figure 37: Pit 2017 under excavation.

A whole medieval brick is recovered by Jan.



Figure 38: Stem of a Reticello Glass Goblet (early AD 1600s), made in Venice recovered from 2017 (on the right). Stem of a similar Goblet on sale (on the left).

Phase A: A deep plough soil.

The overlying plough soil (2001) sealing the demolition deposits formed circa 1650 are interesting in their depth. They run to a depth of 0.50m, which is what may be expected in a modern arable field set on natural substrata. In the case here the field which is now pasture must have been put back to arable after the demolition and recycling had been undertaken. To make up a level of some 0.50m would require the introduction of a large quantity of soil. This would then have been ploughed, taking out any layering in the dumping process but also clipping the surface of the cobbled track causing the damage we observed.

See Figure 39 below for a view of this deposit in the North facing cross section.

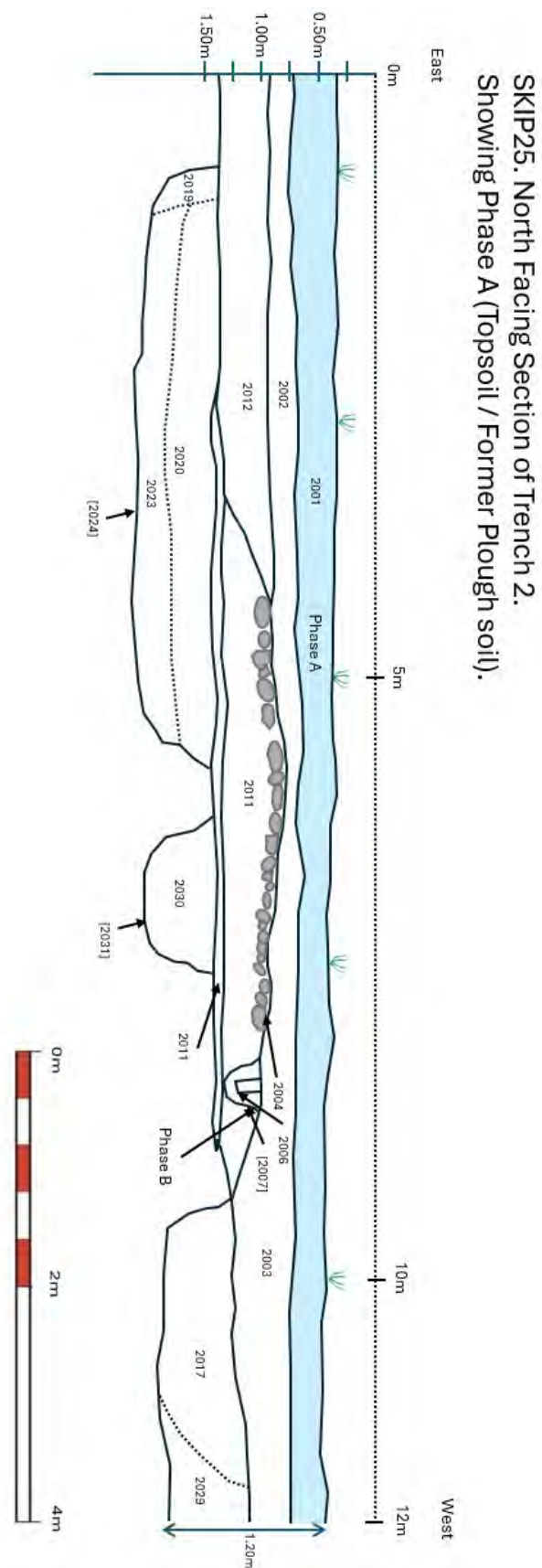


Figure 39: North facing cross section showing the Plough Soil layer (2001).

Conclusion: The excavation of Trench 2 has provided important evidence for the development and use of the northern approach to the Skipwith moated site, spanning activity from at least the later medieval period through to post-medieval demolition and agricultural reuse. While no definitive structural remains of a gatehouse were identified, the trench has significantly enhanced understanding of access, movement, and peripheral activity associated with the moat.

The earliest activity recorded (Phases G and F) demonstrates that the area north of the moat was an active ground surface prior to, or contemporary with, the initial construction of the moated site in the 13th century. The survival of relict soils containing wheel ruts suggests repeated traffic across this area, implying a route or working surface that predates formal track construction. Cut features within these soils, including a linear feature interpreted as a beam slot and a series of shallow pits, raise the possibility of an earlier ground-fast timber structure or ancillary activity close to the future moat edge. However, the limited extent of excavation and the ambiguous alignment of these features mean that their precise function remains uncertain.

Later medieval activity (Phases E and D) marks a clear shift in how this space was used. Demolition debris and dumped material, including burned daub and roofing material, indicate substantial rebuilding and structural change on the moated platform around the late 14th or early 15th century. The subsequent construction of a well-made, cambered cobbled track leading towards the moat represents the first unmistakable evidence for a formalised access route and strongly suggests the presence of a bridge at this location by this period. This track contrasts markedly with the earlier muddy ground surface and implies changing expectations of access, status, and permanence at the site.

The pottery from phase E, did give us a single sherd of Torksey Ware. This has been our first sherd of definitively pre-Norman pottery. It was clearly residual when it went into context (2029) but gave us a hint at activity in the area in the AD 800s or 900s.

The lack of a good track heading to the site is highlighted in Figure 40 below. The image used in the Figure below shows the thought process at the time of excavation as we realised that there really was only a very narrow set of deposits to contain such. On looking back at the magnetometry survey we had undertaken during the Searching for Skipwith project (Kenny, 2024) that there was a possible routeway appearing on the survey heading towards the Northeast corner of the moat (see Figure 41 below). This then made us rethink our interpretation of the moated manor prior to 1400, was it accessed from a slightly different direction and had an entrance on that Northeast corner. Evidence that some moated manors had an entrance, and a bridge at the corner comes from a community project at Penpergwm in Gwent, South Wales, run by the Trostrey Excavation Group.

The Trostrey Excavation Group interpretive drawing shown in Figure 42 below shows how our earlier moated manor might have looked between 1250 and 1400.

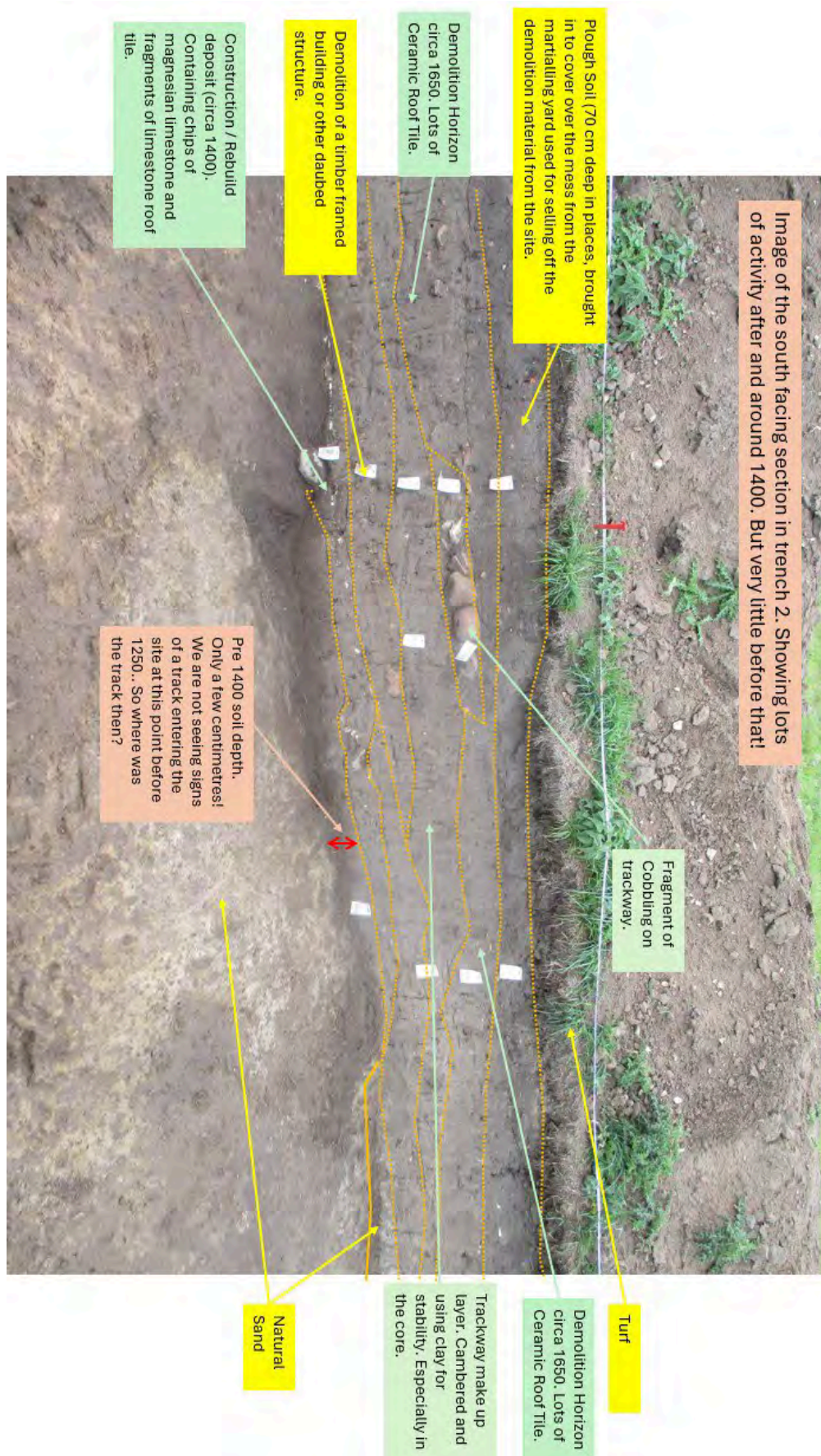


Figure 40: Image highlighting the lack of a trackway before circa 1400.

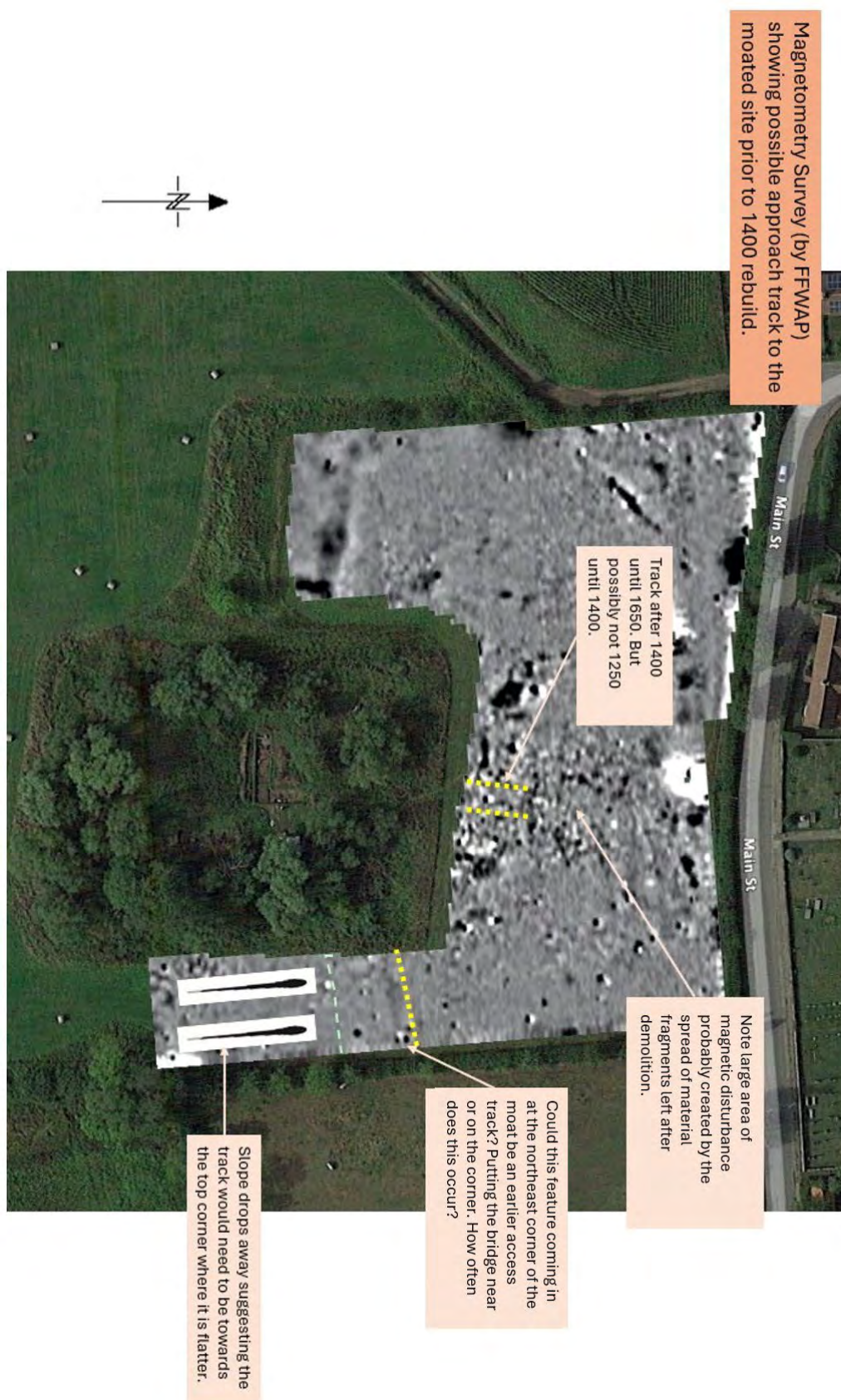


Figure 41: Magnetometry survey (2024) showing trackway evidence heading to the northeast corner of the moat.

Artists Impression of moated site at Penpergwm – Coed Morgan, Gwent, South Wales.

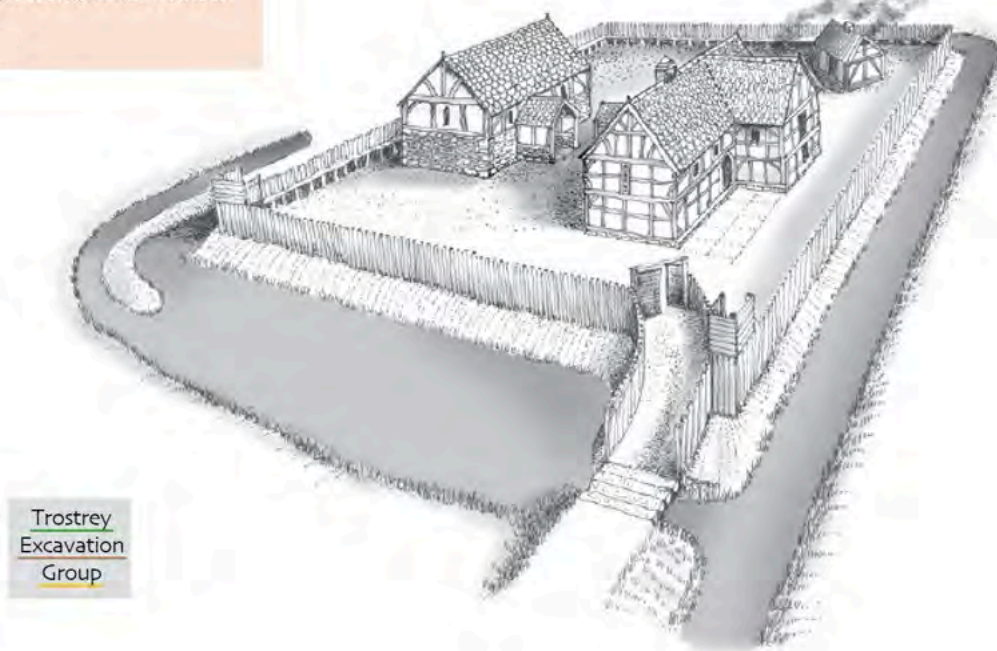


Figure 42: Artists Impression of the Site at Penpergwm in Gwent.

© Trostrey Excavation Group.

Post-medieval activity (Phases C and B) reflects continued use, modification, and eventual decline of the moated hall. The post hole cutting through the track may relate to a later bridge structure, while extensive demolition deposits dating to the mid-17th century confirm documentary and structural evidence for the abandonment and dismantling of the hall complex. The nature of these deposits, including evidence for material sorting and reuse, suggests an organised demolition process rather than sudden destruction. The deep plough soil sealing these layers indicates subsequent agricultural improvement and levelling of the area, effectively removing visible traces of the former approach to the moat.

In summary, Trench 2 did not reveal a gatehouse structure as initially hypothesised, but it has produced valuable evidence for changing patterns of access, construction, and demolition on the edge of the moated site. The results suggest that the primary formal approach to the moat may have been established late in the site's development and that earlier access routes were less formalised and potentially located on other desire lines. These findings contribute meaningfully to the broader interpretation of Skipwith Moated Site and highlight the importance of peripheral areas in understanding the life cycle of high-status medieval residences.

4. Trench Three.

Introduction: Trench three was located on an anomaly appearing on the magnetometry survey to the west of the moated manor (see Figure 43) below. The feature appears to be an earlier section of water way running down to the moat to keep the water levels up or down depending on the weather conditions. It appears that the point that the inlet / outlet fed into / out from the moat needed to be adjusted at some point. That point may have been the time that the manor house was substantially rebuilt or remodelled in around 1400 (Kenny and Worrall 2025).

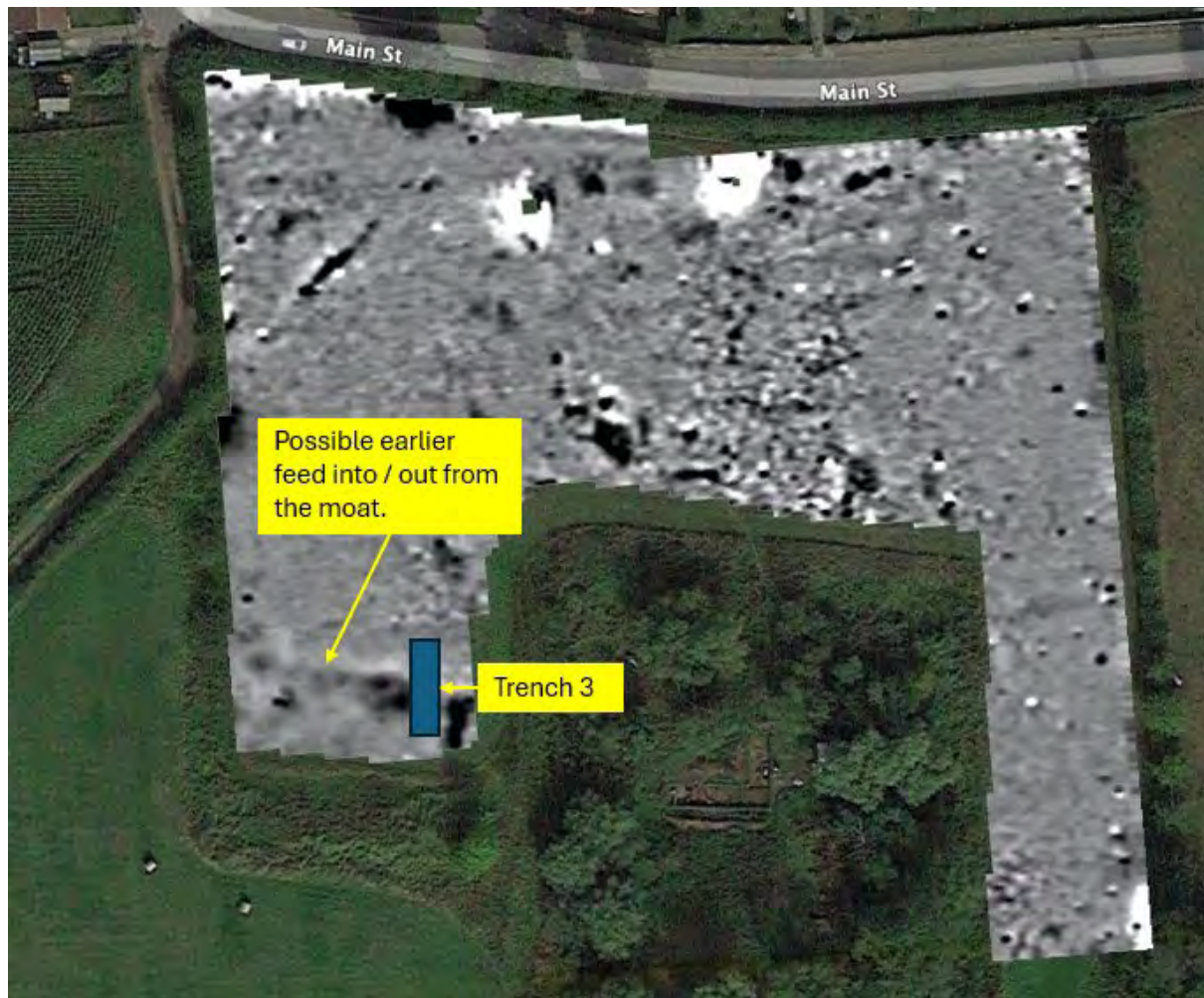


Figure 43: Location of Trench Three.

Placed over possible earlier feeder / drain to the moat.

Unfortunately, at an early stage of the excavation heavy rains caused the trench to fill with water. The water did not drain away naturally until close to the end of the excavation. Three contexts were identified, one of them being the topsoil. Beneath that we were excavating peaty deposits that were difficult to distinguish. The excavation came to an end before we had clearly defined the edges of any feeder / drain could be established (see Figure 44 below).

Even from the deposits encountered the finds suggested that the material being excavated was on the edge of the much busier deposits located in trench two. Here we located a scatter of Medieval pottery dating from the 1200s (Buff Gritty Ware) through to the 1400s (Humber Ware). Evidence for the proximity to the manor and its building and deconstruction were represented by occasional brick and roof tile fragments. A sherd of copper alloy medieval cooking pot (SF no 2)

was located nearby by the metal detecting survey. Presumably cast across the moat after it was broken.



Figure 44: Trench Three, just prior to its flooding. Context 3002 partially excavated.

Conclusions: It was not possible to clearly establish the edges of the feature apparent in the geophysical survey. However, we were able to confirm that the deposits at this location, outside the moat, and further into the valley are much boggier and dominated by peat. Deeper excavation may start to encounter the water table more quickly than anticipated. Despite the lack of further evidence for a water way the finds add to the picture of occupation at the moated site to the east.



Figure 45: Trench Three under excavation.

5. Metal Detecting in the Moat Field

As part of the archaeological research the team undertook metal detecting over the northern part of the moat field and around the southern section of the moat (see Figure 46 below). The work was led by experienced metal detectorist Phil Lowrey who also trained one member of the Skipwith team to use the detector.



Figure 46: Area Covered by Metal Detecting.

The detector survey recovered finds from the plough soil, which in the cases we excavated was unusually deep, measuring up to 0.70 m. The results do add to the overall picture of activity going on in the moat field from the early medieval period (circa 700 – 900 AD), before of course it was a moat field, through the existence of the moated manor and into the period after the manor house had moved up the road to its present location.

This section of the report covers the metal finds located in the plough soil by period. A full list of the detected finds can be found below in Appendix B.

Early Medieval Finds.

The single early medieval find from metal detecting going alongside the Torksey Ware pot sherd from trench 2, probably the 3m wide ditch in trench 1 and of course the structural and burial evidence from the YAT excavations at the church itself in 2004 (Hall, Kendall and Briden 2007). This find was an Anglo-Saxon stylus (or reading pointer) dated to between 700 and 1100 AD (See Figures 47, 48 and 49 below).

The stylus is 96 mm in length and is made from copper alloy. It is decorated by ribbing along its length. The flattened end is possibly decorated by ring and dot motifs (or simply pock marked by corrosion (see Figure 49 below). The stylus is a genuinely significant indicator of literacy, administration, and status at the site—especially given the proximity of a church that is probably built on the site of a minster or monastic settlement.

A stylus (used on wax tablets) is a direct tool of writing and / or on occasion following text as it is read. In the early medieval period, literacy was rare and concentrated in ecclesiastical settings.

Its presence strongly suggests:

- Clerical activity.
- Record-keeping.
- Teaching or schooling.
- Estate administration.

This is not an everyday domestic object for most rural settlements. Minsters typically functioned as:

- Administrative hubs.
- Centres of pastoral care for a large territory.
- Places where charters, accounts, and correspondence were produced.
- Training centres for clergy.
- A teaching function
- Novice clergy learning to write
- Production of simple documents rather than manuscripts

So, the stylus could reflect:

- A resident priest or community of clergy.
- A scriptorium-like function (even at a modest level).
- Management of church lands and dues.

In early medieval England, minsters often sat at the heart of estate networks. There is also a possibility that the stylus reflects a secular administrative centre nearby. But any such site remains purely speculative at this point.

Roman or Early Medieval Stylus

with ring and dot decoration on the eraser, used for writing on wax tablets

Find spot Skipwith - SE 65734 38435



Figure 47: Stylus, now confirmed by PAS as Early Medieval.

The decoration on the stylus is visible in figures 48 and 49 below:



Figure 48: The flattened end (20mm) of the Stylus.



Figure 49: Part of (20mm) the shaft of the stylus showing the ribbing.

Medieval Finds

The only fairly accurately dated finds from the medieval period are two fragments of cooking vessels. A fragment of a large copper alloy cauldron (see Figure 50 below) and a leg from a smaller copper alloy cauldron.



Figure 50: Rim Fragment from a Copper Alloy Cauldron.

These represent domestic activity at the manor house but not necessarily particularly high status.

There is also a large collection of 71 lead scraps that may date from the medieval right through to modern period. None can be identified as window lead. There are a smaller number 6 scraps of Copper Alloy.



Figure 51: Henry VIII Half Groat.

Post Medieval (1500s and 1600s)

This period is represented by a silver Henry VIII half groat (see Figure 51 above). The Henry VIII silver half groat (2 pence) was a hammered coin, ours is minted in York between 1531 and 1544. It features a crowned profile portrait. Key types show initials denoting Archbishop Edward Lee flanking a royal shield on the reverse, with Latin legends denoting the King's authority over England, France and Ireland.

The coin was located in the believed vicinity of the track leading down to the moated site and represents the passage of someone of reasonably high status. It also makes a nice representation of the Skipwith family still in a reasonable position of status. The Skipwiths were an old landowning family rooted primarily in Lincolnshire, with a branch also in Skipwith. By Henry VIII's reign they were part of the county elite — serving as:

- Justices of the Peace
- Sheriffs
- Members of Parliament
- Royal administrators at local level

Their status was secure rather than meteoric; they were not newly risen Tudors but long-embedded gentry. The family difficulties really come with the Civil War in England, Scotland and Ireland. They took the Royalist side, and Skipwith Manor went into decline in the 1600s, in part as a result. The house was demolished / recycled in around 1650 and the Skipwith fortunes in the township were much reduced.

After the Civil War, some branches of the Skipwiths:

- Lost political influence
- Sold land to cover debts
- Shifted to other estates
- Declined into minor gentry status

However, the family did not disappear entirely. A Lincolnshire branch remained prominent later, and the baronetcy (created earlier in the 17th century) survived.

In addition to the coin a small selection of finds represent the 1600s, the final stage of the use of the manor house. Two Jetons (counters) one originating from Nuremberg. There is also a thimble from the 1500s. A very worn Scottish Half Penny from the reign of Charles II (1630 – 1685) also represents this period.

The Georgian Period (1700s) and Victorian (1800s)

By the 1700s there is a collection of lead and smaller value coins. Two lead pistol balls and two lead bag seals represent a more agricultural period of land use. The coins are all half pennies dating from George III (1806), a very worn Victoria half penny and a George V half penny from 1912.

This period still saw the path in use from the village main road down to the moated platform where a row of cottages were built in the early 1700s. There continues to be use of the site and the pottery on the platform site itself actually hits a high number of sherds for the site.

Conclusion

The metal detecting was a very useful way to access finds from the plough soil in the adjacent parts of moat fields. The location of the stylus was particularly important for the interpretation of the early stages of the moat field to link it to work undertaken by the Skipwith Heritage Group and Jon Kenny – community archaeology on one side and YAT at the church and Fern Archaeology's work at Church Cottage.

It was also very useful in interesting the volunteer work force and visitors. The metal detectorist on the team (Phil Lowrey) was also able to teach one of the enthusiastic volunteers from the village (see Figure 52 below).



Figure 52: Heading for a well-deserved Cup of Tea.

6. Conclusions and Discussion

What did we learn from our excavation work in 2025? Our aim was threefold:

- To search for a possible gate house on the north edge of the moat.
- To establish whether a feature showing on the west of the moat was an earlier water course.
- To establish whether an 8m wide ditch identified by Fern Archaeology running under Church Cottage just to the west of the church turns eastwards to form an early enclosure for the church.

Answering these questions was going to help us establish the extent of the rebuild of the moated manor around 1400, both building a gate house and shifting the water feed into the moat further south by 10m. Lastly we hoped that we could further investigate the suggestion that prior to the building of the first phase of the present church (circa 960AD) there was an earlier Minster or Monastic site located there.

Search for a Gateway

Our search for a gateway was begun by a series of linear anomalies identified in the earth resistance survey carried out back in 2022 (see Figures 17 and 18 above). The excavation of trench 2 led us to different discoveries (a shame in some ways as our project was named the Skipwith Gateway project). We learned about:

- The demolition or even recycling of the house circa 1650. The land either side of the track leading down from the village road clearly had demolition material set on it. There were deposits that suggested the building stone, stone roof tiles, ceramic roof tiles and brick were being moved on. Only the broken unrecyclable leftovers remained in the field. Mostly ceramic roof tile. We did note patches of mortar crumb that seemed to suggest bricks being cleaned before sale. We found one whole brick amongst the fragments.
- Beneath the demolition we located a cambered and cobbled track leading to the presumed bridge over the moat. This was certainly the same bridging point used in the 1800s and noted on OS maps. This track represents the operation of the house at its height of importance.
- It does seem that the Skipwith family not only take the whole of the Lordship around 1400, but they also institute a great rebuilding of an earlier structure, range of structures on the moat platform. This may represent the Skipwith family seeking to establish influence in Medieval Society in Yorkshire.
- The Skipwiths were very influential in Lincolnshire and the rebuild of the house in around 1400 represents their interest in expanding that influence.
- The building of the new house is reflected in our work immediately to the north of the moat, by layers of mortar underlying the material building up the camber for the track suggest that building event, before the track was completed.
- It was interesting that below the rebuild layer we did not have a great depth of soil left before natural. Effectively a relict soil with pits cut into it and a strangely angled (compared to the house and track) beam slot. What we didn't encounter was any sign of a pre-1400 track to the moated manor. Yet our work on the manor platform suggested a first build in the region of 1250. This seems to suggest another approach to the earlier version of the moated manor.

- The Magnetometer Survey (see Figure 41 above) suggests a possible approach to the manor at the northeast corner of the moat. There are examples of this kind of arrangement and further research of the anomaly may be fruitful.

Based on our work in trench 2 John Broadbridge kindly volunteered to produce artists impressions of an earlier moated manor built circa 1250 (see Figure 51 and 53 below) and a second impression showing the second building of the manor (see Figure 52 below). The impressions consider the patchy data, given that we only opened up 3 trenches on the platform and the one this year north of the moat. So, the conjectural tower entrance on earlier impressions does not appear on this one.

Searching for evidence of an earlier water course.

Our search for the postulated earlier water course looks very clear on the Magnetometer survey (see Figure 53 above). Unfortunately, due to an early rainstorm this trench became filled with water. The water took much longer than anticipated to drain and ultimately, we never really established the edges of the feature.

We did establish that this far down the slight slope into the valley, we were into very different deposits. Encountering peat build ups suggesting that we had dropped into the boggy valley bottom.

Finds from the seep upper peaty deposits suggested proximity to a busy medieval site, which we should have expected.

A Ditch around the Church?

Trench 1 was intended to answer this question and were very pleased to achieve our objective. The geophysical surveys (see figures 05 and 06 above) did not seem conclusive, so we de turfed a wide length of trench. Having deturfed we asked Aerial Archaeologist Tony Hunt to fly the surface using thermal readings to see if we had a damper patch where a ditch might be located. We did see a faint anomaly and settled on that as our start point. This did indeed prove to be a wide ditch cut into underlying clay deposits. We learned about:

- We first identified an 8m wide ditch that appeared to be running east to west. This matched in width the ditch running north south located previously to the west of the church.
- Further definition of the ditch showed that we actually had an 8m wide ditch that terminated within our trench.
- The ditch proved to be 1.25m deep and matched the one excavated by Fern Archaeology in shape, width and depth (see figure 15 above). The ditch fill interestingly did not contain peaty layers suggesting a slow natural back filling. It does seem that the ditch was kept clean and empty and probably did not contain water. The ditch had cut through the clay deposits onto sands again.
- Located on the ditch edge, near the bottom were fragments of ceramic roof tile. Roof tile does not normally act too well for dating as it covers a long stretch of time in use, from circa 1250 through until the 20th century. However, in this case it may be possible that the tile represents the moment that the ditch was back filled and the moated manor to the south was being built.



Figure 53: An impression of how the 1250 – 1400 moated manor may have appeared.

(John Broadbridge)



Figure 54: An impression of the post 1400 manor.

(John Broadbridge)

- The ditch under Church Cottage (Fern 2006) also suggested back filling at a similar time.
- Neither our excavation or the earlier one by Fern Archaeology could put a date on the opening of the ditch.

Modelling the appearance of the wider landscape looking northwards across the moated manor towards the church allowed John Broadbridge to create more impressions of the site. The image in Figure 55 below suggests a view showing the new manor with its main entrance and crossing on the northeast corner of the moat. Also note to the north the ditch surrounding the church being back filled.



Figure 55: An impression of the moated manor and the church circa 1250AD.

(John Broadbridge)

The church shown in the impression above shows the church as a large tower and a small nave. This arrangement has been suggested by the YAT team (Hall, Kendall and Briden, 2007) as a Tower Nave church. These types of church had little or no nave, using the ground floor of the tower as a nave. They were built during the Anglo-Saxon period; this one being suggested as 960AD. They represent small but significant religious sites with:

- Possible Minster Origins.
- Local elite patronage.

Also of significance is the earlier ditch located in trench 1. Because the 8m wide ditch terminates in trench 1, we were very lucky that it was created over the top of an earlier ditch. WE only had a small section of the first ditch and did not locate any dating evidence. We do know however that earlier in time we had a Minster beneath the Tower Nave church. This suggests a time sequence like this:

- Minster complex with burials dating to around 700AD a chapel with stone foundations and a 3m wide ditch at least to the south.
- The Minster and its Chapel may go out of use after the land passes into early Scandinavian hands. Possibly resulting in the carving of the Ragnarök stone now rebuilt into the tower.
- The refoundation of a Proprietary Church by a local thegn and construction of a new Tower Nave church circa 960AD.
- After the Norman arrival the church is expanded, especially as one third of the Lordship falls to the Prince Bishops of Durham.

The thought that there could be a thegnly residence nearby, representing the high-status individual who invested in the building of the Tower Nave, is tantalising and means we need to look back at our geophysical surveys (see Figure 56 below). The image in figure 56 shows magnetometry to the west and earth resistance in the field to the east. The possible track coming away from the northeast corner of the moat heads into the field next door. A location situated slightly higher than the moated site. There are large (maybe too large) circular anomalies in the field, with the track heading for them. Could this be the location of an Anglo-Saxon Hall? First, we need to do a bit more geophysics in that field!

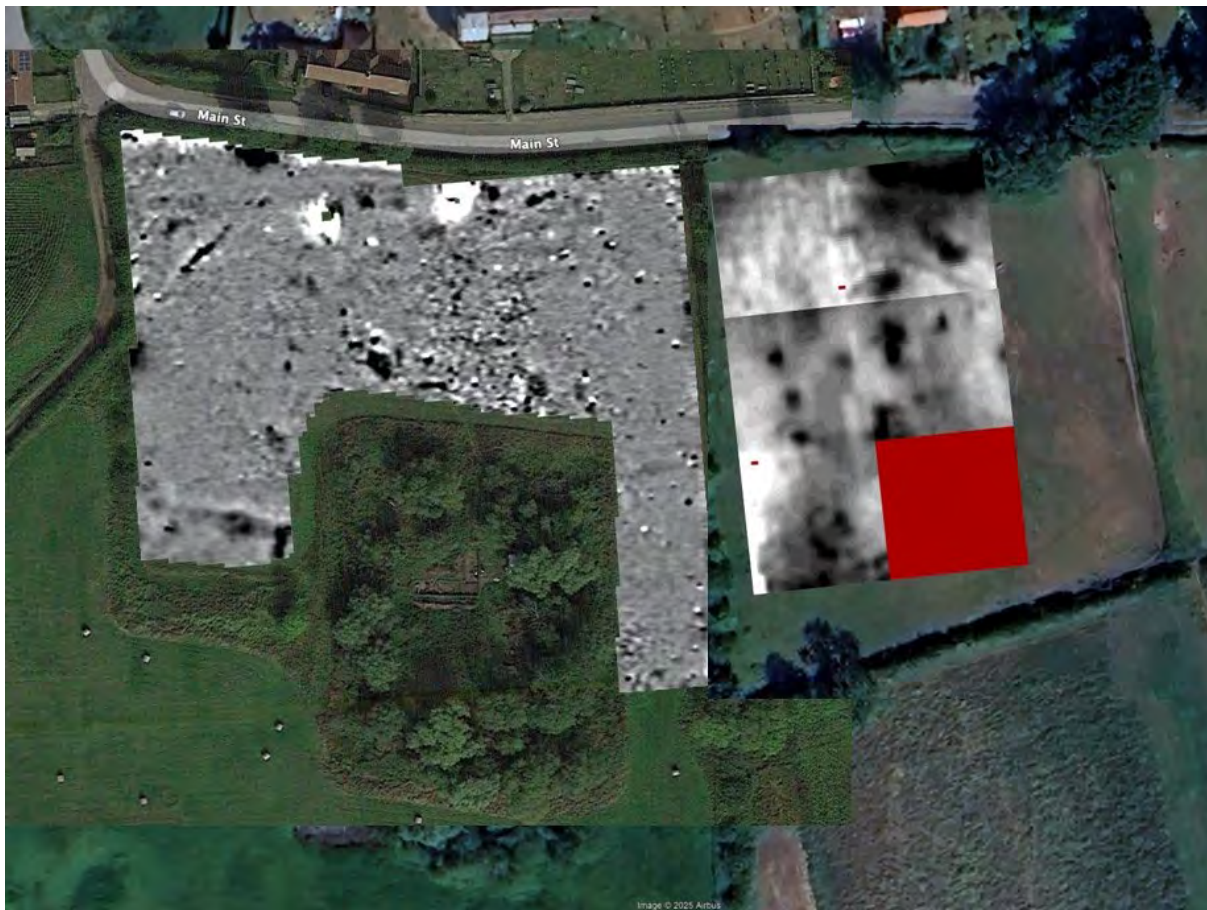


Figure 56: Magnetometry and Earth Resistance data suggesting a track running from the northeast corner of the moat towards large circular anomalies to the east.

It seems there is more work to do looking for the continuation of the ditches and a possible Hall too!

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Appendix A Finds List

Timestamp	Phase	Context	Material	Container	Quantity being recorded	Notes
9/18/2025 11:24:05	A	1000	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 12:24:34	A	1001	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 12:21:33	A	1001	Brick	Medium bags	2	
9/18/2025 11:51:27	A	1001	Brick	One piece	1	
9/18/2025 12:32:08	A	1001	Brick	Part brick	1	L5" x 5.25" x D2.5"
9/18/2025 12:33:42	A	1001	Brick	Part brick	1	L4.25" x W5.25 x D2"
9/11/2025 12:25:51	A	1001	Charcoal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 12:25:21	A	1001	Glass	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 12:24:09	A	1001	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 12:23:13	A	1001	Mortar	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:16:54	A	1001	Pot	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 12:20:39	A	1001	Roof tile	Large bags	4	
9/11/2025 12:23:41	A	1001	Slag	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 12:22:28	A	1001	Stone	Large bags	2	
9/11/2025 13:21:02	C	1002	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:21:34	C	1002	Charcoal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:20:38	C	1002	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:17:55	C	1002	Pot	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:22:04	C	1002	Roof tile	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:20:09	C	1002	Slag	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:19:11	C	1002	Stone	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:25:24	B	1003	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:23:48	B	1003	Brick	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:24:54	B	1003	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:24:32	B	1003	Pot	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:22:56	B	1003	Roof tile	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:23:20	B	1003	Stone	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:28:09	C	1006	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:20:45	C	1006	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:28:43	C	1006	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:21:22	C	1006	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:26:36	C	1006	Roof stone	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:26:08	C	1006	Roof tile	Large bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:23:34	C	1006	Roof tile	Medium bags	1	

Timestamp	Phase	Context	Material	Container	Quantity being recorded	Notes
9/11/2025 13:27:45	C	1006	Slag	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 13:27:00	C	1006	Stone	Medium bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:44:58	C	1006	Stone	Large bags	1	One large stone
9/18/2025 11:22:30	C	1007	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:22:02	C	1007	Slag	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:22:58	C	1007	Stone	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:47:16	A	2001	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:21:20	A	2001	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:27:57	A	2001	Mixed	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:00:57	A	2001	Pot	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:56:40	A	2001	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:28:42	A	2001	Roof stone	Large bags	1	
9/10/2025 11:04:29	A	2001	Roof tile	Large bags	7	
9/11/2025 10:29:14	A	2001	Sharpening stone	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:52:59	A	2001	Stone	One piece	1	
9/10/2025 13:47:54	C	2002	Bone/tooth	Large bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:39:09	C	2002	Brick	Large bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:22:31	C	2002	Metal	Small Bags	2	
9/10/2025 12:02:10	C	2002	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:31:13	C	2002	Roof stone	Large bags	2	
9/10/2025 11:06:00	C	2002	Roof tile	Large bags	7	
9/10/2025 14:20:28	C	2002	Roof tile	Sacks	1	
9/18/2025 11:24:38	C	2002	Roof tile	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:29:56	C	2002	Sharpening stone	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:19:50	C	2002	Stone	Small Bags	1	Coal/Stone
9/10/2025 13:48:42	C	2003	Bone/tooth	Large bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:23:12	C	2003	Metal	Small Bags	3	
9/18/2025 11:25:55	C	2003	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:02:54	C	2003	Pot	Small Bags	2	
9/10/2025 14:31:44	C	2003	Roof stone	Large bags	1	
9/10/2025 11:07:17	C	2003	Roof tile	Large bags	3	
9/11/2025 10:20:51	C	2003	Stone	Medium bags	2	Coal?
9/10/2025 13:49:29	D	2004	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:03:56	D	2004	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:04:30	D	2004	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:32:08	D	2004	Roof stone	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 11:11:22	D	2004	Roof tile	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:50:08	C	2005	Bone/tooth	Large bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:07:33	C	2005	Bone/tooth	Large bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:47:51	C	2005	Charcoal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:50:44	C	2005	Coal	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:24:27	C	2005	Metal	Medium bags	1	

Timestamp	Phase	Context	Material	Container	Quantity being recorded	Notes
9/11/2025 10:54:02	C	2005	Mortar	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:07:18	C	2005	Pot	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:33:00	C	2005	Roof stone	Large bags	2	
9/10/2025 11:13:44	C	2005	Roof tile	Large bags	5	
9/10/2025 11:23:01	C	2005	Roof tile	Large bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:20:57	C	2005	Roof tile	Sacks	1	
9/11/2025 10:58:05	C	2005	Shell	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:21:17	C	2005	Stone	Large bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:53:33	C	2005	Stone	One piece	1	
9/18/2025 11:50:44	B	2006	Brick	Piece	2	
9/10/2025 13:50:33	C	2007	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:39:58	C	2007	Brick	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:07:58	C	2007	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 11:25:03	C	2007	Roof tile	Large bags	1	Mixed bag
9/11/2025 10:21:53	C	2007	Stone	Small Bags	1	With mortar
9/10/2025 13:51:43	C	2009	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:26:24	C	2009	Metal	Small Bags	2	
9/11/2025 10:54:34	C	2009	Mortar	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 11:27:03	C	2009	Roof tile	Large bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:52:11	C	2009	Stone	One piece	1	
9/10/2025 13:52:13	D	2011	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:40:28	D	2011	Brick	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:27:06	D	2011	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:08:46	D	2011	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:33:36	D	2011	Roof stone	Large bags	2	
9/10/2025 11:36:16	D	2011	Roof tile	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:58:39	D	2011	Shell	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:51:27	D	2011	Slag	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:22:29	D	2011	Stone	Medium bags	2	
9/10/2025 14:23:30	C	2012	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:40:53	C	2012	Brick	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:24:51	C	2012	Roof tile	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:59:07	C	2012	Shell	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:52:42	D	2013	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:08:08	D	2013	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:27:53	D	2013	Metal	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:09:28	D	2013	Pot	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:24:16	D	2013	Roof tile	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:53:10	C	2015	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:41:18	C	2015	Brick	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:28:30	C	2015	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:55:15	C	2015	Mortar	Small Bags	1	

Timestamp	Phase	Context	Material	Container	Quantity being recorded	Notes
9/10/2025 12:10:34	C	2015	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:34:02	C	2015	Roof stone	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:00:22	C	2015	Shell	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:22:51	C	2015	Stone	Medium bags	2	
9/10/2025 13:53:37	D	2016	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:29:54	D	2016	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:41:44	D	2016	Brick	Medium bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:28:05	D	2016	Ceramic (brick?)	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:48:42	D	2016	Charcoal	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:28:56	D	2016	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:55:45	D	2016	Mortar	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:11:01	D	2016	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:28:36	D	2016	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:25:15	D	2016	Roof stone	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:12:18	D	2016	Roof tile	Medium bags	1	Ridge tile
9/18/2025 11:30:33	D	2016	Roof tile	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:23:22	D	2016	Stone	Large bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:26:30	D	2016	Stone	Medium bags	1	
9/18/2025 12:06:21	D	2016	Stone	Large bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:54:07	C	2017	Bone/tooth	Large bags	2	
9/11/2025 10:42:12	C	2017	Brick	Medium bags	1	
9/18/2025 12:17:56	C	2017	Brick	One whole brick	1	L11" x W5.25"x D2"
9/18/2025 12:19:54	C	2017	Brick	Part brick	1	L5" x W5" xD2.25"
9/18/2025 12:21:58	C	2017	Brick	Part brick	1	L3" x W5.5" x D2.25"
9/18/2025 12:23:57	C	2017	Brick	Part brick	1	L 6" x W5.5 x D1.5"
9/18/2025 12:25:50	C	2017	Brick	Part brick	1	L7" x W5.5" x D2.25"
9/18/2025 12:27:31	C	2017	Brick	Lumps	3	D2.25
9/18/2025 12:28:54	C	2017	Brick	Lump	1	D1.75
9/18/2025 12:29:55	C	2017	Brick	Lump	1	D2.25"
9/11/2025 10:49:28	C	2017	Charcoal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:52:42	C	2017	Daub	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:16:21	C	2017	Glass	Small Bags	1	Fancy glass
9/10/2025 13:29:37	C	2017	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:56:13	C	2017	Mortar	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:14:04	C	2017	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:09:24	C	2017	Roof tile	Medium bags	2	
9/10/2025 14:11:24	C	2017	Roof tile	Large bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:23:56	C	2017	Stone	Medium bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:29:05	F	2019	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:31:27	F	2019	Stone	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:54:41	F	2020	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:42:54	F	2020	Brick	Small Bags	1	

Timestamp	Phase	Context	Material	Container	Quantity being recorded	Notes
9/10/2025 13:30:16	F	2020	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:34:30	F	2020	Roof stone	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:24:22	F	2020	Stone	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:43:23	C	2021	Brick	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:30:56	C	2021	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:15:16	C	2021	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:34:57	C	2021	Roof stone	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:55:16	E	2022	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:43:54	E	2022	Brick	Large bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:49:59	E	2022	Charcoal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:53:21	E	2022	Daub	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:31:33	E	2022	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:56:57	E	2022	Mortar	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:11:35	E	2022	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:35:49	E	2022	Roof stone	Large bags	2	
9/11/2025 10:26:25	E	2022	Roof stone	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:13:20	E	2022	Roof tile	Medium bags	2	
9/11/2025 10:52:08	E	2022	Slag	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:22:08	E	2022	Stone	Sacks	2	
9/11/2025 10:24:58	E	2022	Stone	Large bags	5	
9/10/2025 13:55:42	G	2025	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:45:55	G	2025	Brick	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:12:07	G	2025	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:27:06	G	2025	Roof stone	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:25:23	G	2025	Stone	Medium bags	1	
9/10/2025 13:56:10	E	2026	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 10:46:23	E	2026	Brick	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 12:12:40	E	2026	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:36:41	E	2026	Roof stone	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:33:56	E	2026	Roof tile	Small Bags	1	
9/10/2025 14:22:38	E	2026	Stone	Sacks	1	
9/11/2025 10:25:50	E	2026	Stone	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:44:06	E	2029	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:42:30	E	2029	Plant remains	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:43:29	E	2029	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:43:01	E	2029	Stone	Large bags	2	
9/18/2025 11:33:18	F	2030	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:32:41	F	2030	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:35:01	F	2031	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:35:36	F	2031	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:38:00	F	2032	Bone/tooth	Medium bags	1	
9/18/2025 12:06:56	F	2032	Brick	Medium bags	1	
9/18/2025 11:36:39	F	2032	Ceramic possibly tile	Medium bags	1	

Timestamp	Phase	Context	Material	Container	Quantity being recorded	Notes
9/18/2025 11:37:26	F	2032	Stone	Medium bags	1	
9/18/2025 12:05:44	F	2032	Stone	Large bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:25:24	A	3001	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:21:48	A	3001	Brick	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:34:41	A	3001	Charcoal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:30:04	A	3001	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:35:28	A	3001	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:26:30	A	3001	Roof stone	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:18:35	A	3001	Roof tile	Medium bags	2	
9/11/2025 11:31:41	A	3001	Slag	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:23:44	A	3001	Stone	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:25:56	A	3002	Bone/tooth	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:22:24	A	3002	Brick	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:30:37	A	3002	Metal	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:34:05	A	3002	Mortar	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:36:31	A	3002	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:27:52	A	3002	Roof stone	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:19:15	A	3002	Roof tile	Large bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:32:12	A	3002	Slag	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:24:07	A	3002	Stone	Small Bags	2	
9/11/2025 10:39:35	A	3003	Brick	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:22:55	A	3003	Brick	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:33:26	A	3003	Daub	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:37:03	A	3003	Pot	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:20:28	A	3003	Roof tile	Medium bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:32:42	A	3003	Slag	Small Bags	1	
9/11/2025 11:24:34	A	3003	Stone	Medium bags	1	

Appendix B Metal Detecting Finds

Timestamp	Small finds number	Context number	Material	Brief Description	Date Found
9/11/2025 18:01:10	1		2001 Lead	Lead pistol balls	12/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:03:43	2		2001 Copper Alloy	Sherd of a cooking pot	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:05:53	3		2001 Lead	Lead bag seal	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:07:23	4		2001 Metal	Cauldron leg	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:08:28	5		2001 Lead	Small lead scraps	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:09:32	6		2001 Lead	Clump lead bent	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:10:30	7		2001 Lead	Small lead pieces	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:11:20	8		2001 Lead	Small lead pieces	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:12:26	9		2001 Lead	12 small pieces of lead	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:13:34	10		2001 Copper Alloy	3 pieces of copper alloy	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:15:17	11		2001 Copper Alloy	Half penny coin. George III AD1806	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:16:35	12		2001 Copper Alloy	19th C thimbles	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:17:33	13		2001 Lead	11 pieces of bent lead	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:18:45	14		2001 Copper Alloy	Thimble 16th C	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:21:04	15		2001 Alloy	Nuremberge Jeton	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:22:43	16		2001 Copper	three pieces of copper (skewer)	12/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:23:50	17		2001 Lead	Approx 10 pieces various	12/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:25:35	18		2001 Copper	3 pieces of a crotal bell bottom half	12/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:27:01	19		2001 Copper	Half penny coin George III 1806	12/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:28:57	20		2001 Copper	Half penny coin (Scottish) Charles II	12/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:30:20	21		2001 Copper	Penny coin George V 1914	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:31:30	22		2001 Copper	Half penny coin Victoria (worn)	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:32:41	23		2001 Alloy	16th C Jeton	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:36:56	24		2001 Lead	Lead whorl weight	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:38:03	25		2001 Lead	25 pieces of mixed lead	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:39:21	26		2001 Lead	Bag seal crushed	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:40:33	27		2001 Lead	Lead weight	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:41:26	28		2001 Lead	Lead pistol shot	26/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:43:27	29		2001 Silver	Half groat coin. Henry VIII 1544	12/08/2025
9/12/2025 16:44:56	30		2001 Copper Alloy	Stylus 8th C	01/07/2025
9/12/2025 16:46:05	31		2001 Copper Alloy	Copper alloy cauldron rim	01/07/2025
9/12/2025 16:46:57	32		2001 Lead	Pistol balls	01/07/2025
9/12/2025 16:48:18	33		2001 Copper Alloy	Buttons	01/07/2025
9/12/2025 16:49:26	34		2001 Lead	Crushed lead	01/07/2025
9/12/2025 16:50:29	35		2001 Lead	25 pieces of lead	01/07/2025

Appendix C Pottery

Introduction: Pottery was present in 26 contexts of our 3 trenches. The pottery types were broadly the same as those identified during the 2021 and 2022 excavations on the moat platform, reported by Anne Jenner and published in Kenny and Worrall 2025 (Appendix 4). The pottery quantity from the 2025 excavations was not large enough to warrant quantitative analysis, as undertaken on the material from the platform. The pottery types encountered are listed below. All of the pot types are the same as ones from the platform. We probably had more Gritty Wares and York Glazed Ware than encountered on the platform.

The excavation team were quite excited on the last day of excavation by finding a single sherd of Torksey Ware in a pit along with other post Norman gritty wares. Although it was exciting to locate our first pottery evidence for activity before the Normans, the sherd must have been residual.

Torksey Ware is a distinctive Lincolnshire medieval pottery type produced at kilns centred on Torksey from the later 9th to 10th centuries (with some continuation into the 11th), characterised by a hard, sandy fabric typically grey to dark brown in colour, often wheel-thrown and frequently displaying sooting from use as cooking vessels. Forms are dominated by jars and pitchers with everted rims, sagging bases, and simple strap or thumbled handles, reflecting everyday domestic functions within Late Saxon settlements and market networks along the Trent. Its distribution across eastern and northern England is closely associated with Viking-Age activity and the Danelaw economy.

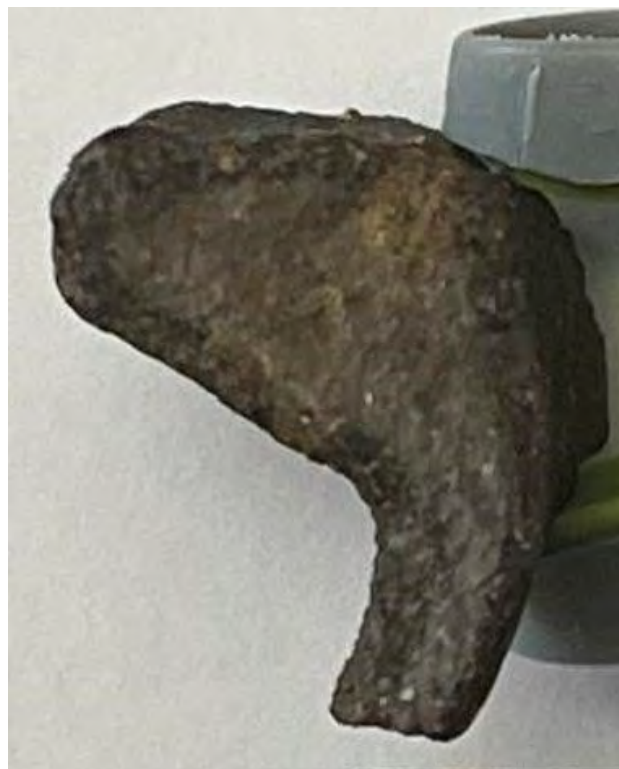


Figure 57: Torksey Ware rim sherd from context 2029.

The pottery is grouped into the stratigraphic phases described above in Figures 09 and 20 above.

Trench 1 (see phases in Figure 09 above):

Phase D: Is proposed to date from the early development of the Minster located under the church to the north. Dated by burials to the late 600s or early 700s AD. No dating pottery was located in the small section of this narrower (3m wide) ditch that predates the wider (8m wide) and deeper ditch overlying it (but terminating to allow us a glimpse of the Phase D ditch).

Phase C: Is the wider (8m) that mostly obliterates the earlier ditch in our trench at least. The latest pottery types in this phase were gritty wares and York glazed ware. All of which date to the 1100s and 1200s. Suggesting that the wide ditch is back filled as a point during the 1200s. Fragments of ceramic roof tile suggest that this date is around or later than 1250 when such roofing starts to be used. This suggests that the ditch may have been back filled at the time that the moated manor was first being constructed circa 1250.

Phase A: Is a deep topsoil and contains examples of a number of medieval pottery types, suggesting that this deposit is in use and growing in depth as agricultural and pasture at different times.

Trench 2 (see phases in Figure 20 above):

Phases G, E and F: All date to the period between the first construction of the moated manor (circa 1250) and the rebuilding of the manor circa 1400. The pottery in these phases all dates to 1400 and before.

Phase D: Contained pottery dating from 1400 to about 1600 with a little residual from earlier dates. This suggests that it comes from deposits relating to the bridge and trackway use heading to and away from the newly remodelled (in 1400) moated manor.

Phase C: is an extensive set of deposits relating to the careful deconstruction (or demolition) of the house. Much of the pottery relates to the 1600s, with discarded earlier medieval material cast aside during the deconstruction process.

Phases A and B: Represent the partial agricultural and then pasture phase of the moat field, still next to a track running down, in the 1700s to a row of cottages that existed on the platform until circa 1950.

Trench 3:

Only three contexts containing pottery from the 1700s back to post Norman gritty wares. All of the pot types are included in the descriptions drawn from the work undertaken on the moat platform set out below.

Pottery Types Identified during the Platform excavations in 2021 and 2022.

Medieval .

The medieval period is generally defined as starting at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and ending at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. Although the ceramic timeline in Britain does not always fit neatly into these historic dates, they are useful as ante- and post-quem dates for medieval pottery types.

Gritty wares – Late 11th to Mid-13th Century.

There are at least three gritty ware fabric groups, according to the size and frequency of their inclusions, but they are all usually fairly rough and pimply to the touch. However, the quartz grains used to temper this ware are not as angular as those of their predecessors, the 'York wares'. White gritty wares (Plate 1) slightly predate the buff gritty wares (Plate 2), though all the fabrics vary in colour from cream to pinkish.

Wheel thrown shouldered jars with pronounced ribs, squared rims and sagging bases are the most common form. Jars are almost always unglazed and undecorated, although occasionally spots of a light greenish yellow colour can be seen on them. They were probably used in relation to new Norman cooking methods, as differing amounts of soot are visible on them. This varies from quite dense to lighter more watery patches of soot.

Other forms include 'pitchers' and 'spouted bowls'. Pitchers often have a thin pitted splashed glaze on the shoulder. These are relatively rare.

Buff gritty wares are commonly found in York, where they occur in large numbers, from the late 11th to the early 13th century.

Splashed wares – Late 11th to Mid-13th Century.

There are three main Splashed ware fabrics in York – oxidised, reduced and white – within which the fabric colours range enormously from red, to grey, and white. Glazes vary from light to dark green, and brown to red, depending often on their underlying fabric colour. The glazes also vary in coarseness, depending on where and how they were made. This is perhaps due to an era of experimentation with glazes which occurred across Britain, after a period where the majority of vessels were unglazed. Their only common denominator is their splashed looking glaze which is often patchy and frequently has small pock marks in it. It is thought that glaze was applied to a prepared surface as ground up minerals, rather than in suspension, thus giving a speckled effect. This technique is thought to be a late 11th to early 13th century phenomenon.

York glazed wares – Mid-12th to Mid-13th Century.

A white to light greyish coloured, lightly gritted fabric with sub-angular quartz inclusions and occasional red stained larger rounded 'quartz'. A finer white version of this fabric is sometimes called York white ware and a pinkish fabric with yellow glaze and copper spots is sometimes labelled early glazed ware, though it is now not thought to occur any earlier than the other fabrics within this category.

The most common form is the jug. They are often highly decorated, sometimes with applied strips, scales, pellets or seals. Handles often have 'ears' applied at the top of their handles. Spouts vary from tubular bridge spouts to 'parrot beak' and small pinched lips. Glazes are usually shiny and watery, light green and yellow. These wares are thought to be in use from the late 12th to early 13th century.

Brandsby-type wares – Mid-13th to Mid-14th Century.

These wares usually have a fine, fairly hard sandy buff fabric, though this varies from a fabric closer in appearance to York glazed ware to a finer denser, harder fabric. Another variant is finer and whiter, sometimes with a grey core. This fabric resembles York white ware, a variant of York glazed ware. This similarity is due to the Brandsby-types succeeding York glazed wares and overlapping in production in the early years.

The most common forms of Brandsby-type wares are jugs and bowls, though other forms such as money boxes also occur. Glazed areas vary from dark mottled green to plain mid green. Vessels are mostly either plain, or decorated with 'roller stamped' lines, triangles, or rectangles. They are found in late 13th century to early 14th century contexts. A kiln which is thought to have been producing these wares is situated at Brandsby-cum-Stearsby, in the Howardian Hills.

Humber ware – late 13th to 15th century.

Humber wares were made at a number of places in Yorkshire and Humberside (Mainman and Jenner 2013, 1275). They have a fairly fine sandy, red firing clay body and a greenish glaze. The edges of the glaze are often tinged with an amber or brownish colour. Later 14th and 15th century products can have a purplish coloration, perhaps due to higher firing temperatures and a desire for a more metallic looking finish.

Vessels are usually jugs, but jars, dishes, condiments, chafing dishes and bowls are also part of the Humber type potters repertoire.

It is not clear where these ware types were produced. Humber wares and Humber type wares were made in a number of locations in North and East Yorkshire and Humberside (ibid). These include Walmgate where the fabric has a coarser sand than West Cowick for instance. Other production centres making these wares include Blue Bridge Lane and more recently a site at Marygate (Mainman forthcoming). It is possible there was a kiln closer to the site of Skipwith which is as of yet undiscovered.

The Humber ware within the assemblage from Skipwith varies from oxidised to reduced in colour, though the glazes are usually greenish brown. Jugs appear to have thick strap handles with two thumb marks at the lower join.

Later forms are flat based and have a fabric that varies from a fine oxidised to reduced with a fine white external margin

Hambleton ware – Late 14th to Early 15th Century

There are two fabric types within Hambleton wares. These include a coarse open fabric and a finer, harder, more compact fabric. Some of the coarser fabrics are pinkish in colour and are described as oxidised Hambleton wares, though the typical fabrics are buff to pale white, with some reduced grey cores being seen. Hambleton ware has a characteristic deep green copper glaze that often flakes off the surface of the vessel. Cisterns with two strap handles are common, but finer wares include jugs, lobed bowls, drinking vessels, bowls and dishes. These wares are thought to be in circulation from the late 14th to the early 15th century in York.

Post Medieval

The post-medieval period starts after the end of the medieval period in 1485. This is an arbitrary date for ceramic production as it is based on the date of the battle of Bosworth. The period can be split into Industrial and modern. The Industrial period was from 1760 to 1901. This period

saw the development of factories into industries, from Wedgwood's time to the end of Queen Victoria's reign. The modern period starts with the end of Victoria's reign and continues until the present day.

Cistercian wares – late 15th to late 16th Century

These wares are made from a red iron-rich clay which is fired to temperatures high enough to produce a harder body than that of the previous medieval wares. Despite this, the clay body can vary from a red colour to a grey reduced colour. Temperatures must have varied as the softness of the body varies considerably.

Cistercian wares are thought to have been made in a number of places including Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the North-East. They were not necessarily produced by or for the Cistercian monks in their Granges, although this remains a possibility.

Forms are mainly those used at table, such as various drinking cups, mugs, beakers and possets (Brears 1971, 19-23), but flasks and salts also formed part of the potters repertoire (ibid). It is likely that these may have been used during religious festivals as many had decorative motifs which have been interpreted as symbols of Catholicism. As Catholic practices became treasonable during Henry VIII and his son Edward VI's reign, these vessels were discarded during the reformation and before Elizabeth I came to power. Thus, the period of using Cistercian wares was fairly limited, particularly as large fines or even a sentence to death could be issued to anybody seen to be following the Catholic faith.

'Reversed Cistercian ware' is also seen in similar forms to the regular Cistercian ware but with an off-white to cream fabric and red-firing decoration.

Ryedale ware – Late 16th to Early 18th Century

This ware type is named after the Ryedale District that it is thought to have been made in. There may have been a number of kilns in the Hambleton Hills and North Yorkshire moors. These workshops were probably in operation from the late 16th to early 18th century. This broad group of wares are made using white firing clays. Internal surfaces and cores are often reduced to a dark grey, although the external margin can be lighter or even white in colour. The glaze varies from a pitted olive green to a darker green colour and decoration when present is limited to stamps, incised lines and occasional thumbled strips. Products include jugs and cisterns mainly.

Slipware – late 17th to 18th Century+

Slipware as a term refers to an earthenware with a layer of slip on its surface. The technique of applying slip really began in earnest in the late 15th/16th centuries with the production of Cistercian wares with applied slip motifs. However, true Slip wares are covered in slip, at least on one visible surface, and are sometimes decorated. Many of these wares are made in local rural locations, though they are also produced in factories such as those at Staffordshire.

Banded Slipware – Late 17th and 18th Century+

This ware type is factory made and is consequently finer walled. As the name suggests it has bands of decoration, often in blue and/or brown on a cream, pearl or white ground.

English stoneware – Mid 18th to Late 18th Century

Stonewares are made from clay which has been fired to over 1000 degrees centigrade. Such high temperatures cause the minerals in the clay to fuse and become very hard. This makes products very hard and perhaps more hygienic than more porous earthen wares.

Broadly, these wares can be split into white firing wares and brown salt glazed wares. The former are often made into medicine pots and food storage jars and the latter into vessels for storing, pouring and drinking alcoholic beverages. These hardy fabrics were often used to make vessels for feeding animals and also for drains. Potteries in operation in the 18th and 19th centuries in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are probably the main suppliers for the York market, although some wares may have come up from the London area.

White Salt Glazed Stoneware – 1740 to 1785

Wares of this type are fired to higher temperatures than earthenwares and have a fine, white body. The surfaces are often pitted, giving an 'orange skin' appearance. Forms often include plates, tankards and other wares used for eating and drinking, as well as other items for the table or for storing special items.

Transfer Printed

Transfer printing was, as the name suggests, was produced by transferring a design from a metal plate onto paper and then the surface of a pottery vessel. Cobalt was often used to create the blue colour so frequently seen on Transfer printed wares. These were mass produced in a number of factories across Britain including those at Staffordshire and Yorkshire.

Pearl ware – 18th century to present day

This ware type has a whitish body with a light blue tinge to the glaze. It can form the ground for transfer printed decoration and may have been part of a Transfer Printed ware but from a bit of the vessel that was undecorated. It can also form the base of a Banded Slipware or just have come from a vessel intended to be plain light blue Pearl ware.

Cream ware – Late 18th to 19th Century

Cream ware is a refined earthenware with a lead glaze. Vessels are often finely potted and forms usually include plates, dishes and table wares. They are associated with Josiah Wedgwood who produced many highly decorated forms.

Post medieval Earthenware – 18th/19th Century

Earthenwares are fired to lower temperatures than Stonewares, below 800 degrees centigrade.

White earthenware – 18th/19th Century

This is a generic term used for fine hard white everyday table wares produced during the Victorian era. Cups, saucers, plates and dishes are the most common forms. They are wheel thrown and often factory made.

Many experiments were made to try and get a white body that resembled porcelain but was cheaper. Often archaeologists have difficulties separating these wares from 'pearl' and 'cream' wares, but they are generally whiter.

Tin glazed ware – Late 17th Century to Present Day

A specific type of earthenware that is wheel thrown and then 'biscuit' fired. When cool, a tin rich glaze is applied to the porous surface to produce an even white background. Once dry, free-

hand motifs including anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures, sometimes within schematic landscapes, or simple geometric symbols are generally applied with a paint brush. Blue is the most frequent colour used, but other colours such as red and yellow, are not uncommon. Moulded dishes and bowls with small finger impressions give the edges a 'piecrust' appearance. These wares are commonly produced from the late 17th to early 18th centuries. Other forms are produced throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and up to the present day. The tradition may have started in Staffordshire but was continued in many 'Country' potteries.