



East Riding Archaeology

AN INTERIM REPORT ON A CONTROLLED SCHEME OF OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING AT LAND NORTH EAST OF HENLEY'S NURSERIES, MARKET WEIGHTON, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

EAST RIDING ARCHAEOLOGY
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Prepared for:
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Planning Ref: DC/23/03386/AGNOT; DC/23/02935/AGNOT; DC/10/04921/STPLF
HHER Reference No: PA/CONS/17083
National Grid Ref: SE 86130 40678 (centred around)

ERA Site Code: 026.MHR.2012

J. Fraser
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SUMMARY

A controlled scheme of observation, investigation and recording was undertaken between 8th and 14th May 2012 by East Riding Archaeology, on behalf of Mr A. Metcalfe, at land north east of Henley's Nurseries, Market Weighton, East Riding of Yorkshire, in advance of the erection of a farm dwelling and a number of general purpose agricultural buildings (*Figure 1*).

The extent of the scheme undertaken in 2012 comprised a geophysical survey (*Figure 2*) followed by a topsoil strip across the footprint of the farm dwelling and the excavation of 21 stanchion pits across the footprint of one of the proposed agricultural buildings (Agricultural Building A).

FARM DWELLING

(*Plates 1 & 2*)

The ploughsoil was stripped across the footprint of the farm dwelling, an L-shaped area measuring up to 22m long NE/SW by up to 13m wide NW/SE.

The natural brown sand (106) was encountered 0.34-0.40m below ground level (hereafter BGL) across the stripped area.

Undated

Across the northern extent of the stripped area the natural was cut by a NW/SE aligned ditch [103] up to 0.95m wide and up to 0.2m deep. No artefacts were recovered from the dark grey, sand silt fill (102).

An isolated, 0.55m diameter pit [106] up to 0.12m deep was exposed roughly 5m to the east of the ditch. No artefacts were recovered from the dark grey, sand silt fill (105).

Modern

The earlier features and natural sand were sealed by a layer of ploughsoil (101) up to 0.4m thick, which formed the current ground. A number of early modern/modern bricks were recovered from the ploughsoil but not retained.

AGRICULTURAL BUILDING A

(*Plates 3-6*)

21 stanchion pits (STP 1-21), up to 1.4m square by up to 0.95m deep, were excavated across the footprint of the proposed agricultural building.

The natural (106), which varied from brown sand to chalk gravel, was encountered between 0.32-0.45m BGL.

Modern

The natural was sealed by a layer of ploughsoil (101) between 0.32-0.45 m thick. No artefacts were recovered from the ploughsoil.

Discussion

The archaeological features encountered in the area of the farmhouse are considered to be part/extension of cropmarks/anomalies to the south. No further development, however, is proposed in this area.

No evidence of Anomaly f4 was encountered in the stanchion pits of Agricultural Building A. The stanchion pits excavated in 2012 are proposed to be re-used for the current development (pers comm. A. Metcalfe).

Proposed Construction Methodology

The construction of the proposed agricultural buildings (A, B, C, D and E) will follow the same methodology (*Figure 3*):

A series of roughly 1.4m square, 0.8m deep stanchion pits to be excavated around the perimeter of, and across the footprint of, the proposed building. The current ground level across the footprint of the building to be reduced by roughly 0.15m to form a level area for a 0.3m thick, raised stone sub-base for a 0.2m thick concrete slab. The depth of any excavation is to be kept to a minimum and will only extend below the level of the ploughsoil in the stanchion pits (pers comm. A. Metcalfe).



Plate 1: Footprint of farmhouse stripped of ploughsoil to expose ditch [103].
Facing north-west. 1m & 2m scales.



Plate 2: Ditch [103]. Facing south-east. 0.5m scale.



Plate 3: *Stanchion pits excavated around the perimeter of, and across the footprint of, Agricultural Building A. Facing north-east.*



Plate 4: *Excavated stanchion pit. 1m scale.*



Plate 5: *Excavated stanchion pit. 1m scale.*



Plate 6: *Excavated stanchion pit. 1m scale.*

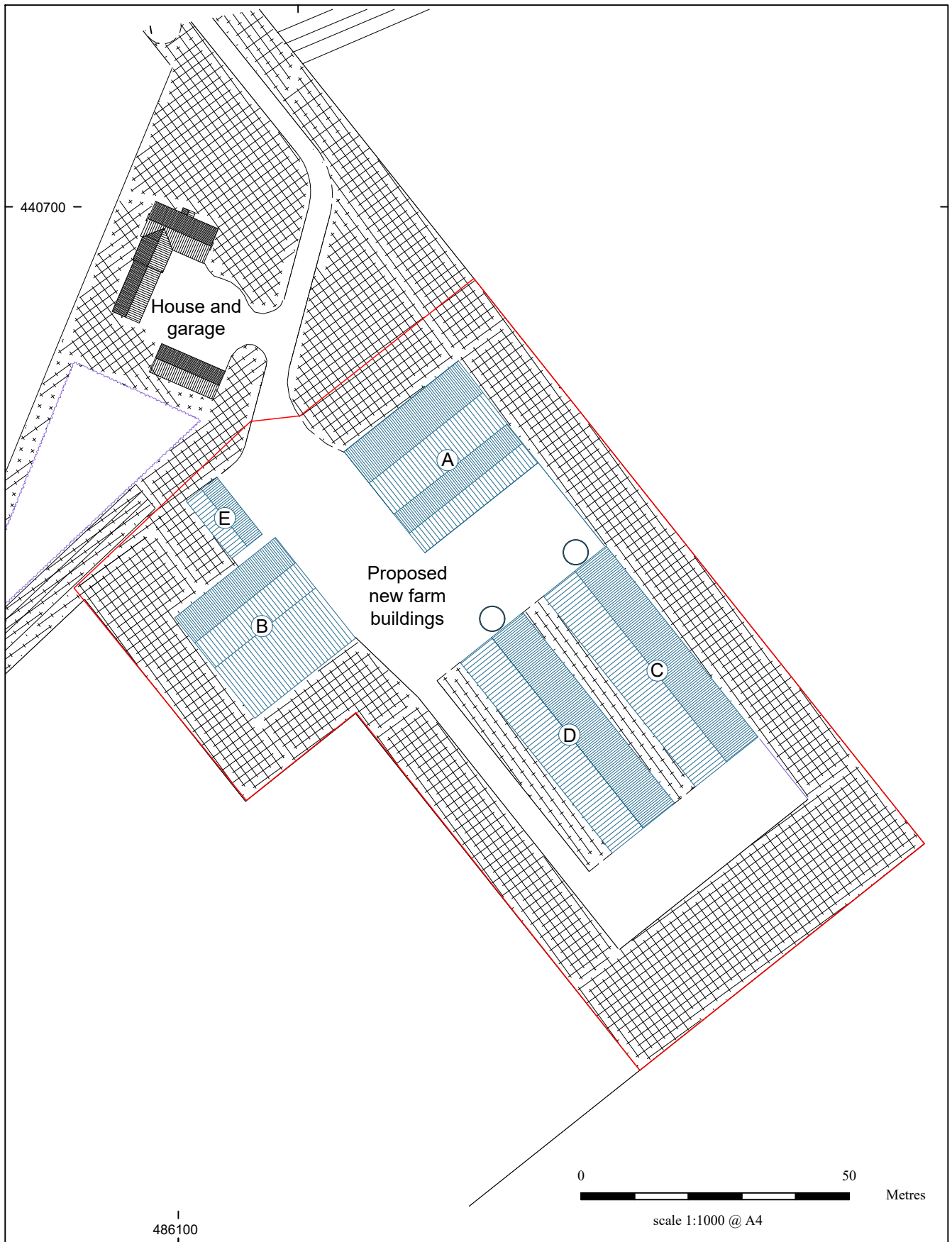


Figure 1: Site location & proposed layout

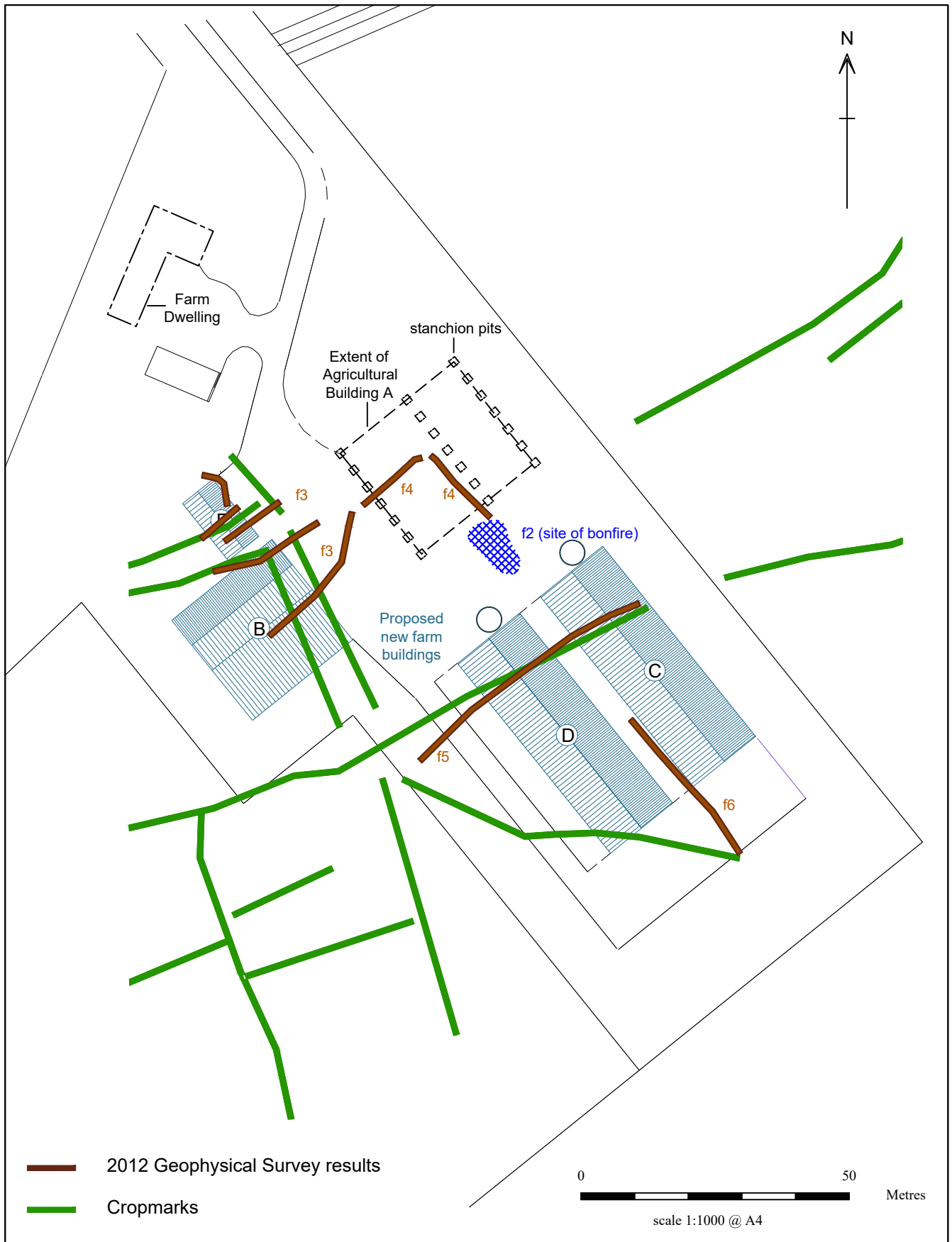


Figure 2: Site layout overlaid by geophysical survey and cropmarks

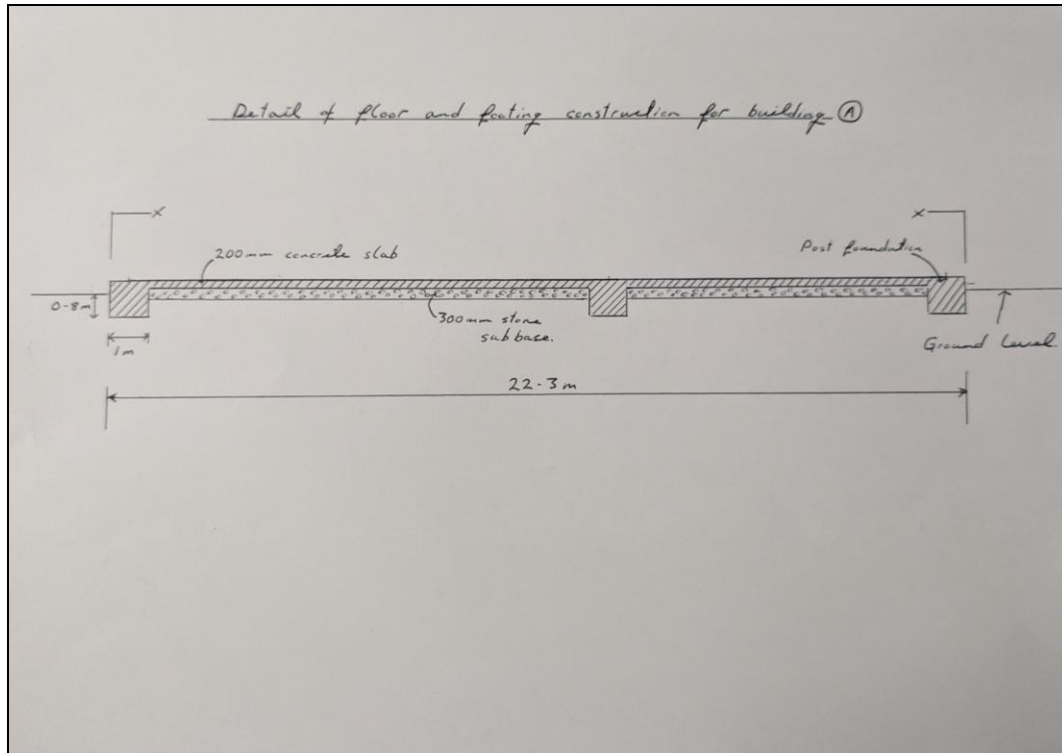


Figure 3: Detail of floor and footing construction for Agricultural Building A