

---

---

FORMER CARE HOME, FORDLANDS ROAD,  
FULFORD, YORK

---

---

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.  
OSA REPORT No.: OSA17EV33

October 2017

**OSA**

---

**ON SITE ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

25A Milton Street • York • North Yorkshire • YO10 3EP  
telephone • 01904 411673 • fax • 01904 414522 • mobile • 07767 385766  
e-mail • [mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk](mailto:mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk) • web [www.onsitearchaeology.co.uk](http://www.onsitearchaeology.co.uk)

© *On-Site Archaeology* 2017.



---

**Report Summary.**

---

**REPORT NO:** OSA17EV33

**SITE NAME:** Former care home, Fordlands Road, Fulford, York.

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 61187 48824

**PLANNING REF NO:** 17/01969/FULM

**ON BEHALF OF:** Octopus Healthcare Developments Ltd  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Holborn House  
London  
EC1N 2HT

**TEXT:** Graham Bruce

**GRAPHICS:** Graham Bruce

**FIELDWORK:** Graham Bruce,  
James Stanley

**TIMING:** Fieldwork  
October 2017  
Post excavation & report preparation  
October 2017

**ENQUIRIES TO:** Nick Pearson  
On Site Archaeology  
25A Milton Street  
York  
YO10 3EP

*tel* (01904) 411673

*fax* (01904) 414522

*mobile* (07767) 385766

*e-mail* mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk

---

## Table of Contents.

---

1.0	Abstract .....	4
2.0	Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use. ....	6
3.0	Archaeological Background .....	6
4.0	Methodology .....	9
5.0	Results .....	10
6.0	Discussion. ....	11
7.0	Bibliography.....	11
8.0	Appendix 1: Archive Index. ....	12
9.0	Appendix 2 ~ Plates. ....	13

---

## List of Figures.

---

Figure 1. Site location (NGR SE 61187 48824).....	5
Figure 2. Trench location plan.....	9

---

## List of Plates.

---

Plate 1. Trench 1, surface of truncated natural (103), looking east. ....	13
Plate 2. Trench 1, showing sondage into natural (103). ....	13
Plate 3. Trench 2, north facing section. ....	14

---

## 1.0 Abstract.

---

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by On-Site Archaeology at the site of the Former care home, Fordlands Road, York. This comprised the excavation of two trenches. The trenches were located within the footprint of a proposed new care home, in an area currently used as a car park. The evaluation was carried out to assist in the determination of a planning application to redevelopment the site.*

*The southernmost trench (Trench2) revealed 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground down to a depth of 1m below the existing ground surface. The made ground was similar to material revealed in evaluation trenches excavated immediately to the east of the site in 1996. During that evaluation the made ground was interpreted as forming backfill of a rubbish tip, in use until c. 1950. Trench 2 appears to demonstrate that the rubbish tip extends into this part of the former care home site.*

*The northern trench (Trench 1) revealed natural clay immediately below the make-up deposits for the current car park, presumed to have been deposited in the 1980s when the care home was constructed. There was no evidence for surviving subsoil deposits indicating that the surface of the natural was probably truncated during the car park construction. No archaeological features were present within the limits of the trench. However, the survival of the natural in this trench suggests that truncated, originally deep, archaeological features may still be present on the site.*

*Based upon the results of this evaluation, and previous evaluations carried out in the surrounding area, there should be no archaeological reason to prevent planning permission being granted. As there remains a possibility that truncated archaeological features survive in those parts of the site that do not contain mid 20<sup>th</sup> century land fill, an archaeological watching brief should be maintained. This watching brief could be secured through a condition attached to planning consent.*

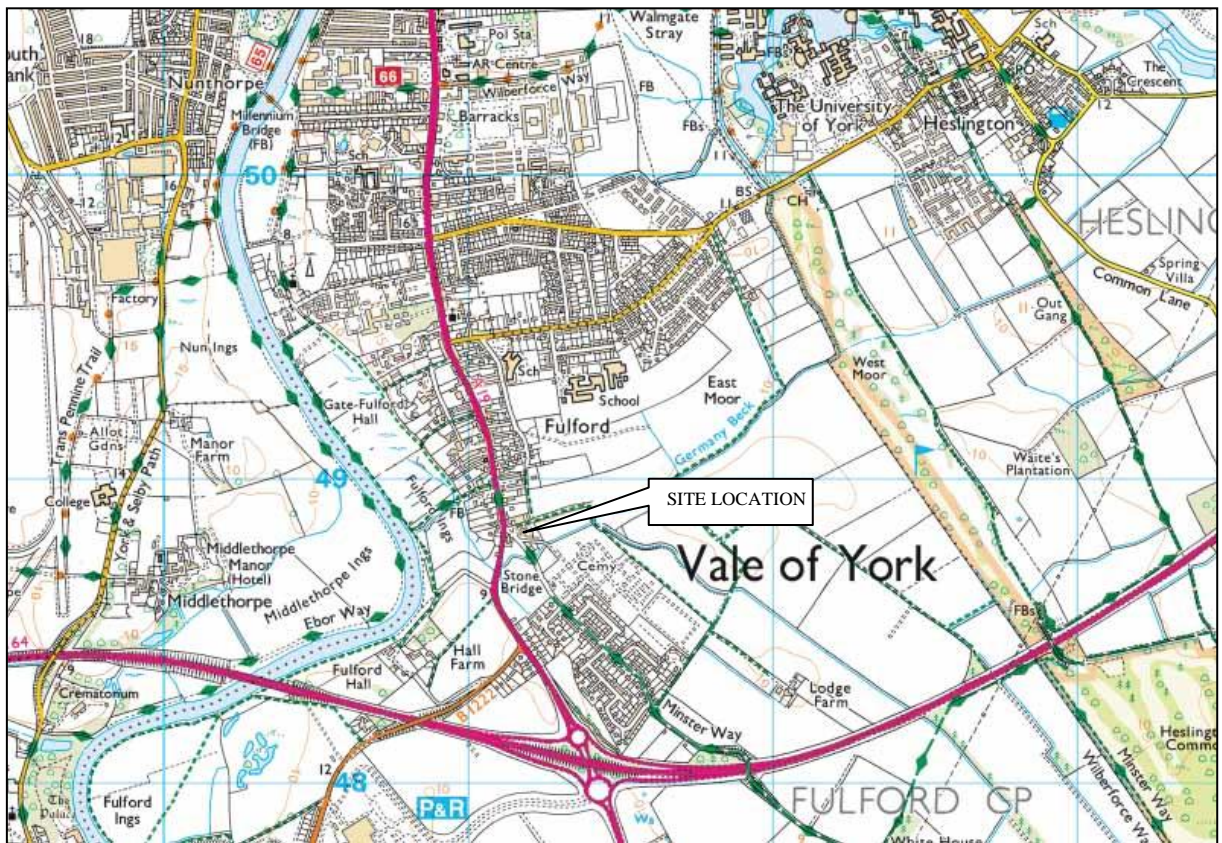


Figure 1. Site location (NGR SE 61187 48824).

Reproduced from the 2000 Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
© Crown copyright. OSA Licence No: AL 52132A0001

---

## 2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use.

---

The site is situated at the southern end of the village of Fulford, centred at National Grid Reference SE 61187 48824. The village of Fulford lies on the southern outskirts of the city of York, roughly 2-2.5 kilometres from the city centre. It is an historic village of linear plan, straddling the main A19 trunk road which enters the city from Selby and the modern A64 York by-pass. The village is bounded to the south by Germany Beck, a small tributary of the River Ouse and to the north the village is now attached to the city, so that the separate identity of the village is reduced.

The site currently comprises a series of one and two storey brick buildings, forming the former care home, together with soft landscaped garden areas and associated car parks. The evaluation trenches were placed within the tarmac car park located on the eastern side of the site.

The ground level within the car park is at approximately 9.50m AOD.

The underlying drift geology of the site comprises glacio-fluvio deposits. Beneath this the solid geology is Sherwood sandstone (bgs.ac.uk) laid down in the Triassic and Permian Periods.

---

## 3.0 Archaeological Background

---

The following section is drawn from the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (OSA, May 2017). Full bibliographic references are listed within the DBA.

Prehistoric period: Chance finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints have been made in the Fulford area throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These have been supplemented by an intensive programme of fieldwalking across the Germany Beck site in 1996, which found prehistoric lithics randomly distributed across the site, but with no obvious patterning or clusters. Germany Beck evaluation trench 5 excavated a circular feature with an internal diameter of 17m which was interpreted as a round barrow, of probable Bronze Age date, although no grave cut was present and doubts remain regarding this interpretation. Several trenches (trenches 30-36) excavated immediately adjacent to Germany Beck revealed peat deposits from which a single flint of Mesolithic date was recovered. Neolithic pottery and flint were also recovered from evaluation trench 11, located approximately 250m to the east of the care home site. Additional evidence for the Mesolithic to Bronze Age in this area of York is provided by the extensive archaeological investigations carried out at Heslington East (3-4km to the northeast). For the earliest period occasional temporary hearths were revealed, one of which contained a single flint tool of potentially Mesolithic date. Neolithic evidence was limited to a small quantity of worked flint. During the Bronze Age a series of natural springs were adapted and managed, including the insertion of hollowed out log cylinders. Geophysical survey suggests a series of north south aligned ditches and possible enclosures, located within the eastern part of the Germany Beck site. Several sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from a ditch excavated in Trench 56. The ditches represented through geophysics and evaluation trenching may represent field systems. Much more extensive

evidence for Iron Age landuse in the area has been revealed at the Heslington East site, with settlement, including multiple roundhouses, supplementing the evidence for field systems. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from a later deposit at Connaught Court to the north of the site during an evaluation carried out by On-Site Archaeology in 2004. A single undated ditch was also recorded, which was stratigraphically early in the sequence and therefore potentially of Iron Age date. This evidence is likely to indicate field systems rather than settlement in the area.

Roman period: The site lies approximately 3km to the south of the Roman fortress. The Roman road from York (Eboracum) to Throlam runs about 1km to the east of the modern Fulford Road although its course within the city boundary has never been proved with certainty. Geophysical survey and excavation of the Germany Beck site revealed a brick pattern of field boundaries dated by associated pottery to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. These field systems appear to have been abandoned by the 5<sup>th</sup> century as no dating evidence for this period was available. Although no certain structural remains were revealed during the evaluation the finds assemblage included large quantities of Roman building material concentrated around Trench 44. Whilst this suggests a Roman building stood in the vicinity its location has not been established. Further evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity was revealed at Connaught Court and at St Oswalds School, Fulford, where a sequence of boundary ditches dating from the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> to later 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD were excavated. Once again much more extensive archaeological information for the Roman period is provided by the Heslington East investigations. Those investigations have revealed the presence of a Roman farmstead, including a tile built hypocaust, complex water management systems, including deep stone, wattle and timber lined wells. A substantial foundation suggestive of a tower tomb, together with inhumation burials were also excavated.

Early medieval period. There is limited evidence for occupation in Fulford during this period. A pre-conquest cobble foundation beneath the tower of St Oswald's Church is intriguing as is the position of the church, well away from the medieval and later village. It is possible that the church was the focus for activity in this period but to date there is no conclusive evidence to demonstrate this. The place name Fulford is derived from Foleford or Fuleford (1086 DB) meaning foul or muddy ford possibly referring to a ford over the stream which is now known as Germany Beck, although it has been suggested that Germany Beck is an artificial watercourse of much later date. The Battle of Fulford, which took place on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1066, immediately before the Battle of Stamford Bridge was clearly a significant event in historical terms. The Anglo Saxon Chronicle speaks of a very great sea force with 300 ships or more under the Norwegian Viking king Harald Hardrada. They berthed their ships at Riccall on the River Ouse and Hardrada with perhaps 7-8000 warriors marched towards York and halted at Fulford. The Norwegian line stretched from the bank of the Ouse eastward along a ditch. Earl Morcar and the northern Saxon army were defeated and the Viking army moved on to Stamford Bridge. It has been suggested that the battle of Fulford may have been fought in the vicinity of the village in 1066, although this is based on later written sources. In 2007 the Inspector's report to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government regarding the application to build housing at the Germany Beck site, the inspector concluded that: "In my view, the historical accounts provide almost no support for locating the battle at

the application site." A substantial amount of archaeological investigation has failed to locate the site of the battle in its alleged location. The investigative work from work from 1995 to 2007 was listed in the Inspector's report to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in 2007. The inspector noted that: "All that effort, undertaken over more than a decade, has identified nothing that might be associated with the Battle of Fulford. Indeed no objects and no deposits dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century have been identified in any phase of the archaeological evaluations". Overall, the Inspector concluded that: "I consider that there is no archaeological evidence to show that the application site contains the location of the Battle of Fulford. Moreover, on the basis of the evidence adduced, I am doubtful that it is even likely that the battle was fought here. I agree with English Heritage that the available evidence is insufficient to allow the inclusion of the site on the Register of Battlefields. The site cannot, therefore, benefit from the protection that such a designation would bestow."

Medieval period: In 1086 Gate Fulford comprised a single estate of 10 carucates, held by Count Alan of Brittany, which had belonged before the Conquest to Morcar. About 1100 it was given by Count Stephen of Brittany to St. Mary's Abbey, York, along with a carucate and 3 bovates in Water Fulford. The abbey retained the manor of Gate Fulford until the Dissolution, when it was worth about £48. The site lies towards the periphery of the village within associated open fields. One of the evaluation trenches located to the south of the site encountered a probable medieval field boundary ditch containing pottery dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Post-medieval: The predominantly agricultural landuse continued from the medieval period through the majority of the post-medieval, as indicated by the cartographic sources. Fulford played a significant role during the English Civil War, particularly during the siege of York. The besieging Parliamentary forces, under the command of Fairfax, covered the area from the River Ouse at Fulford to the Red Tower (next to Foss Islands Road), with a headquarters at Heslington Hall. A Parliamentary Tract described the early days of the siege as follows: "*Our guards are so many on all sides of the Citie, that not a man can goe in, or come forth without discovery, much lesse can the least provision be carried in to them.*". The potential importance of Fulford during the siege would have increased in June 1644, with the construction of a bridge of boats across the Ouse, in the Fulford to the Middlethorpe area. This would have linked Fairfax forces with the Scottish army which surrounded the western part of the City. Archaeological evidence of civil war date was found during evaluation and excavations at St Oswald's School. This included musket balls and probably defensive slit trenches. There is evidence from evaluation trenches located immediately to the east that at least part of the site may have been disturbed by a mid 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish tip. Where excavated this tip has been shown to extend to a depth in excess of 2.5m below the modern ground surface. If present this would almost certainly have removed all but the very deepest archaeological features. The current former care home buildings were constructed upon the site during the 1980s.

## 4.0 Methodology

The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches (see Figure 2) as agreed with the City of York Council Principal Archaeologist and set out in detail in a Written Scheme of Investigation (OSA, September 2017). Originally it had been intended that the trenches would measure 10m in length. However, due to the presence of extensive live services, it proved necessary to shorten these to approximately 6m in length. This alteration is not deemed to be detrimental to the results of the evaluation.

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



Figure 2. Trench location plan.

---

## 5.0 Results.

---

### ***Trench 1.***

This trench measured 6m x 2m and was sited to the east of the existing former care home building, within the northern part of the car park. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.00m.

The earliest deposit encountered within the trench was the pinkish, orange brown clay natural (103). This was revealed throughout the trench a depth of 0.35m below the modern ground surface at a maximum height of 9.21m AOD (Plate 1). A sondage 0.70m deep was machine excavated into this deposit to confirm that it was in-situ natural (Plate 2). The surface of the natural was overlain by a thin (<0.05m) layer of black ashy silt containing frequent gravel (102). This layer appears to represent levelling prior to the construction of the current car park. The levelling was overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of crushed limestone hardcore (101) and 0.10m thick tarmac (100) forming the current car park. The surface of the car park was at a maximum height of 9.56m AOD at the western end of the trench.

### ***Trench 2.***

Trench 2 initially measured 10m x 2m but due to a concentration of live services at the western end only the easternmost 6m was excavated to the full depth of 1m below the modern ground surface. Trench 2 was located in the southern part of the car park, east of the existing former care home building.

The earliest deposit recorded was a layer of friable dark brownish grey sandy clay silt (203) containing frequent fragments of brick, concrete and limestone rubble. This was recorded for a maximum thickness of 0.25m, and clearly extended below the basal limit of the trench, which lay at 8.30m AOD. This earliest made ground deposit was sealed by up to 0.60m thick layer of loose pale brown silty sand (202) containing frequent fragments of brick, concrete and limestone rubble. This deposit is likely to form levelling for the current car park, put down in the 1980s. The final two contexts recorded comprised the 0.15-0.20m thick crushed limestone hardcore (201) and 0.08m thick tarmac layer (200) forming the current car park surface, at a height of 9.34m AOD (see Plate 3 for the full sequence of deposits in Trench 2).

---

## 6.0 Discussion.

---

The southernmost trench (Trench 2) revealed deposits dating from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to a depth in excess of 1m below the current ground surface, to at least 8.30m AOD. These deposits are likely to relate to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish tip recorded in evaluation trenches carried out in 1996 immediately to the east of the site (MAP, 1996).

The northernmost trench (Trench 1) revealed natural clay immediately below the make-up deposits for the current car park, presumed to have been deposited in the 1980s when the care home was constructed. A single borehole was sunk approximately 5m to the north of Trench 1 during a geotechnical investigation carried out in April 2017. This also revealed natural clay to be present immediately beneath the current car park sub-base. There was no evidence in either the evaluation trench, or the borehole for surviving subsoil deposits indicating that the surface of the natural was probably truncated during the car park construction. No archaeological features were present within the limits of the trench. However, the survival of the natural in this trench suggests that truncated, originally deep, archaeological features may still be present in this part of the site.

Based upon the results of this evaluation, and previous evaluations carried out in the surrounding area, there should be no archaeological reason to prevent planning permission being granted. As there remains a possibility that truncated archaeological features survive in those parts of the site that do not contain mid 20<sup>th</sup> century land fill, an archaeological watching brief should be maintained. This watching brief could be secured as a condition attached to planning consent.

---

## 7.0 Bibliography.

---

MAP, 1996. Germany Beck - Fulford. Archaeological Sample Excavations.

Met Engineers, 2017. Fordlands Care Home, Fordlands Road, Fulford, York, YO19 4QT. Phase II Geo Environmental Site assessment.

OSA, 2017 (May). Former Care Home, Fordlands Road, Fulford, York. An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. OSA Report No: OSA17DT07 (DBA).

OSA, 2017 (September). Former Care Home, Fordlands Road, Fulford, York. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching.

## 8.0 Appendix 1: Archive Index.

### 8.1 List of contexts.

Context no.	Description	Thickness	Extent (metres)
<b>Tr.1</b>			
100	tarmac	0.10m	tr
101	crushed limestone hardcore	0.20m	tr
102	black ashy silt containing frequent gravel	<0.05m	tr
103	pinkish, orange brown clay natural	0.70m+	tr
<b>Tr 2</b>			
200	tarmac	0.08m	tr
201	crushed limestone hardcore	0.15-0.20m	tr
202	loose pale brown silty sand containing frequent fragments of brick, concrete and limestone rubble.	0.60m	tr
203	friable dark brownish grey sandy clay silt containing frequent fragments of brick, concrete and limestone rubble	0.25m +	tr

### 8.2 Photographic register.

Frame no.	Description	View	Inits and date
<b>Download 04-10-17</b>			
1-15	Trench 1, general views	various	JS 041017
16-20	Trench 1 south facing section	N	JS 041017
21-50	Trench 2 north facing section	S	GB 041017
51-61	Trench reinstatement	-	JS 041017

9.0 Appendix 2 ~ Plates.



Plate 1. Trench 1, surface of truncated natural (103), looking east.



Plate 2. Trench 1, showing sondage into natural (103).



*Plate 3. Trench 2, north facing section.*