



**YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**



## **EVALUATION TRENCHES 7,8, & 9**

### **HESLINGTON EAST, YORK**

**INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT**

*by Mark Johnson*

**REPORT NUMBER 2008/33**



# YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

York Archaeological Trust undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. It can manage projects, provide professional advice and monitor archaeological works to ensure high quality, cost effective archaeology. Its staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. Based in York its services are available throughout Britain and beyond.



© 2008 York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited

Registered Office: 47 Aldwark, York, UK, YO1 7BX

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: [archaeology@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:archaeology@yorkat.co.uk) Internet: <http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk>

York Archaeological Trust is a Registered Charity No. 509060  
A Company Limited by Guarantee Without Share Capital Registered in England No. 1430801

## CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY	1
2.	RESULTS	1

## List of Illustrations

### Figures

1.	Trench location	4
----	-----------------	---

### Plates

Cover: Aerial view of site

1.	Trench 7	2
2.	Trench 8	3

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

Between 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008 York Archaeological Trust excavated two archaeological evaluation trenches in the southern part of the Heslington East site. These trenches, known as Trenches 7 and 8, formed part of a multi-trench archaeological evaluation of the Heslington 'B' areas. Trench 8 was located immediately west of overhead electrical powerlines and Trench 7 some 300m to the east. It had been intended to excavate a further trench, Trench 9, some 120m to the north of Trench 8. Owing to severe standing water problems it was not possible to excavate this latter trench.

The trenches were mechanically excavated by a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket and operated under direct archaeological supervision. The trenches were stripped of topsoil down to natural deposits.

Figure 1 shows the positions of trenches 7 and 8.

## **2. RESULTS**

### **2.1 TRENCH 7**

Natural deposits of slightly plastic, mid yellowish brown clayey sand with mottled grey patches, context 17001, were encountered at the base of the trench at a depth generally around 0.32m BGL (typically around 10.85m OD). Although this trench suffered from a continuous in-rush of adjacent standing water the surface of natural deposits was exposed long enough to check for any cutting features. In order to confirm the 'natural character of 17001, parts of the trench were further reduced by around 0.10-0.15m.

Only a single feature, a post-medieval north-west – south-east aligned land-drain, 17002/17003, was seen to cut into natural deposits.

The uppermost deposit encountered in Trench 7 the extant topsoil of slightly plastic, mid grayish brown, clayey silt, context 17000.



**Plate 1** *Trench 7, looking ESE*

## **2.2 TRENCH 8**

Natural deposits of plastic, mid yellowish brown clayey sand containing occasional patches of gravel and reddish coloured mineralisation, context 18001, were observed at the base of the trench at a depth of around 0.30m – 0.36m BGL (typically around 10.35m OD). After cleaning, this was subsequently reduced by an additional 0.20m in order to be absolutely certain of the 'natural character of 18001.

Five features, all lumped under a single number 18003, were seen to cut into the natural deposits. These consisted of four south-west – north-east aligned field drains and a further example aligned north – south. All these field drains were of a later post-medieval date.

The uppermost deposit in Trench 8 was the extant topsoil, context 18000, composed of slightly plastic, mid grayish brown, clayey silt that was generally in the region of 0.30m deep.



**Plate 2** *Trench 8, looking N*

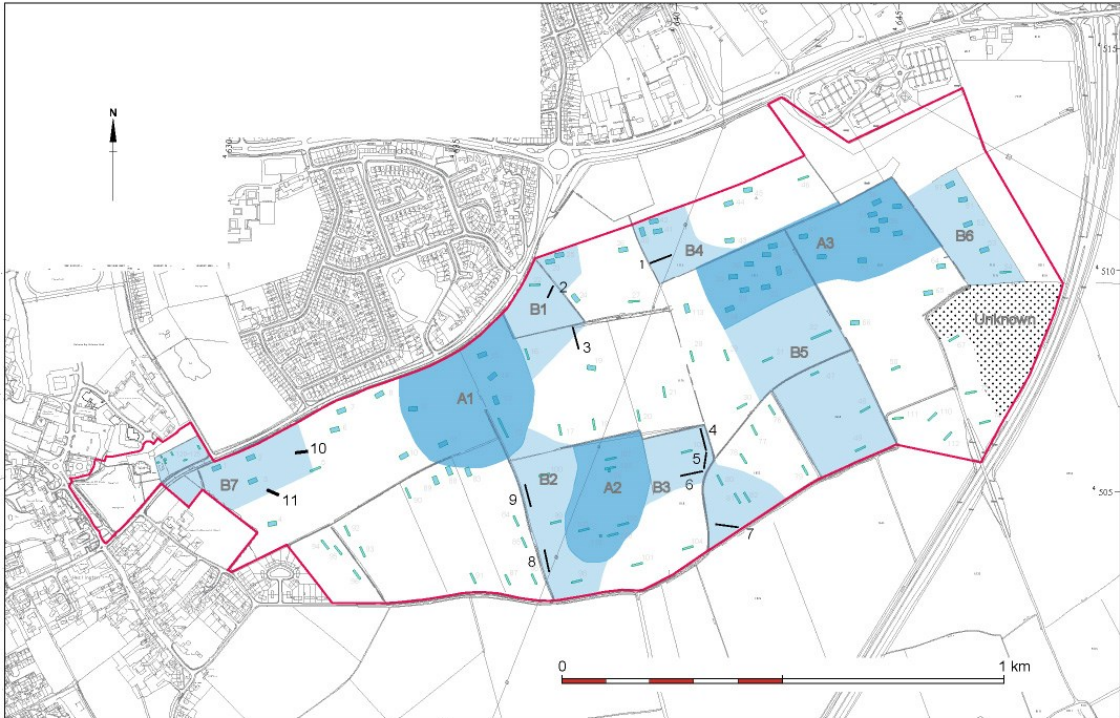


Figure 1 Plan showing the location of Evaluation Trenches (black) 7 and 8