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Global reach, local knowledge.

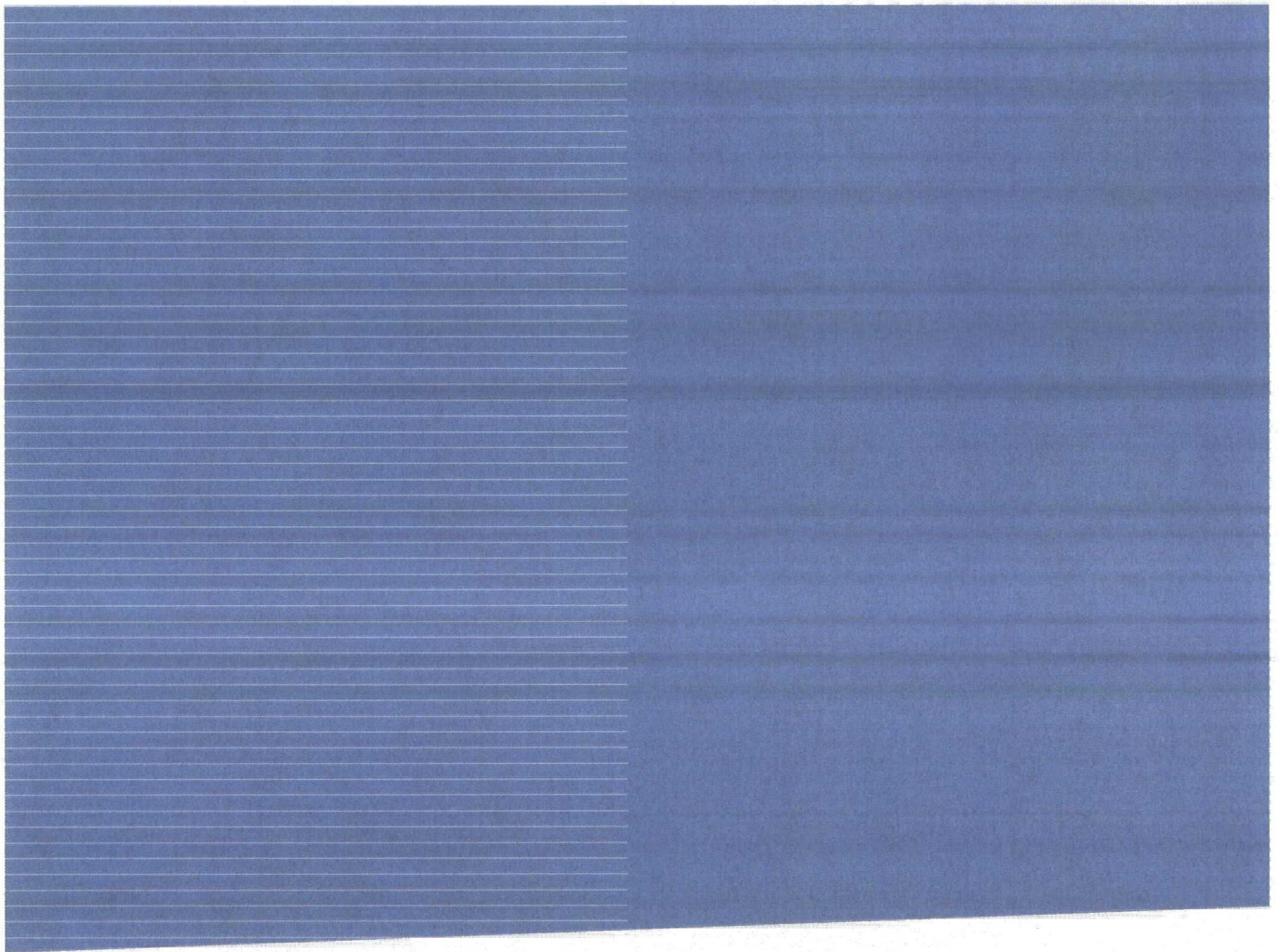
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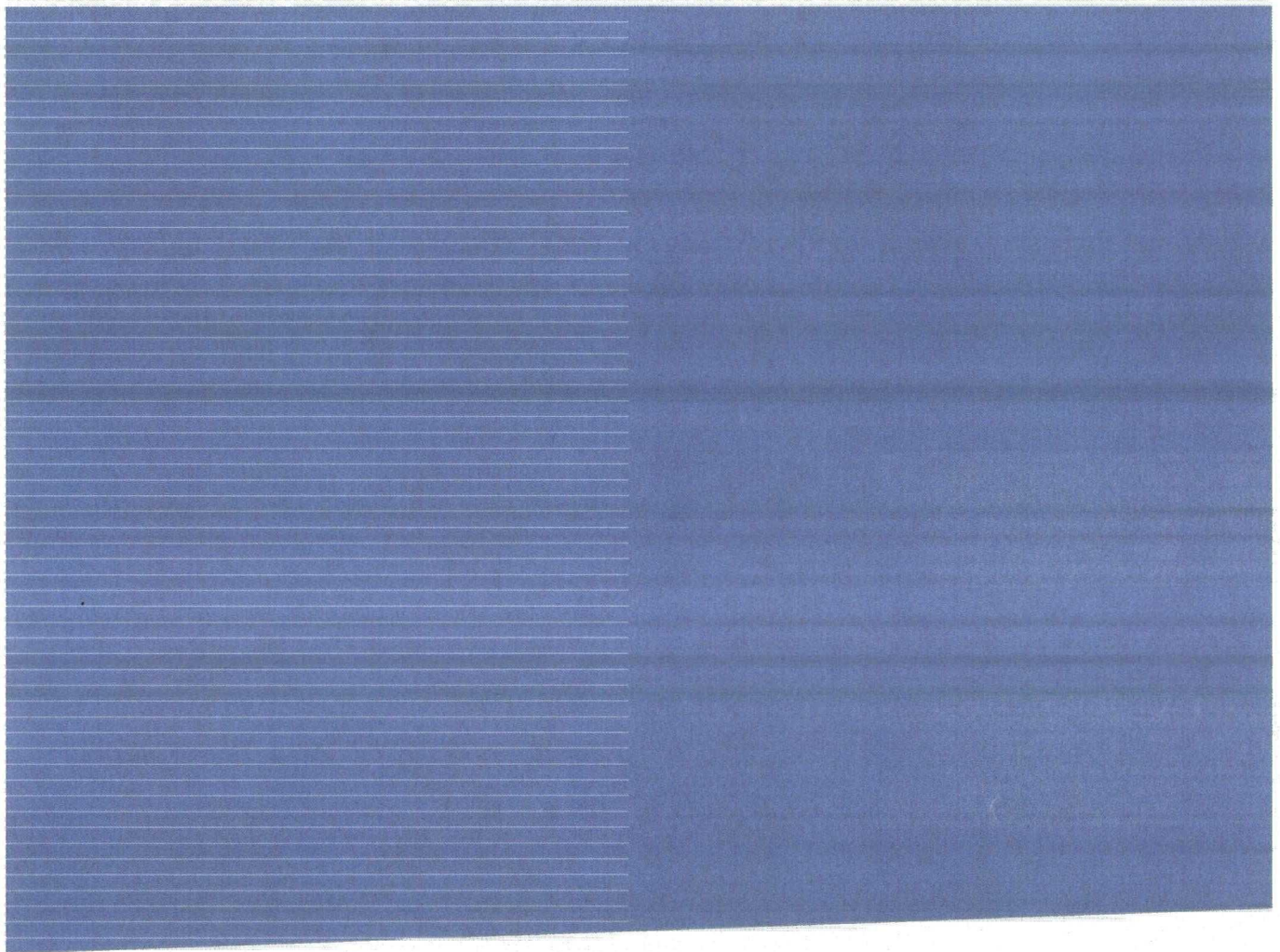
Executive Summary



Executive Summary

- An archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken for the proposed extension to Plaxton Park Industrial Estate. This comprises the extension of the industrial estate onto unused land in order to construct 11 new business units. These will range in size and will be used for Class B2 (general business) and B8 (storage and distribution). The existing road layout will be extended in order to access the new units.
- Information was collected from the National Monuments Record, North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record and North Yorkshire County Record Office for a 1km study area around the site. Historic mapping, aerial photography and unpublished archaeological reports of the area were examined. A walkover survey was also undertaken.
- The Historic Environment Record holds information for 16 sites, whilst the National Monuments Record Centre holds details of a further seven sites within the study area. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens or Battlefield within the study area.
- The archaeology within the study area covers all periods to the post-medieval. The earliest site is the find spot of a late Palaeolithic flint artefact. The Mesolithic period is represented by a number of sites, largely isolated find spots. However, a number of sites show evidence of settlement, and an internationally important Mesolithic settlement is located approximately 2.5km to the south west of the site at Star Carr (NGR TA 0280 8095). In addition, evidence of Mesolithic date is also present at the area known as Seamer Carr, located to the south west of the site (see Figure 2), where numerous settlement sites have been discovered.
- Neolithic and, to a lesser extent, Bronze Age settlement evidence has also been recovered from the study area, with an area of Neolithic settlement evidence at Hopper Hill (approximate NGR TA 0345 8238). The Bronze Age site continued in use into the Iron Age, and further Iron Age settlement was recovered from Crossgates Farm to the north west of the study area. Roman settlement, although limited to one site, is also present within the study area. A number of early medieval and medieval sites have been recorded within the study area, and comprise reoccupation of the Roman site as well as find spots. The post-medieval period is represented solely by evidence of the railways.
- A number of sites of archaeological interest are known within the study area. However, no previously recorded sites are known within the boundaries of the Plaxton Park Industrial Estate or the proposed development site and therefore, none of the known sites will be impacted by the proposals.

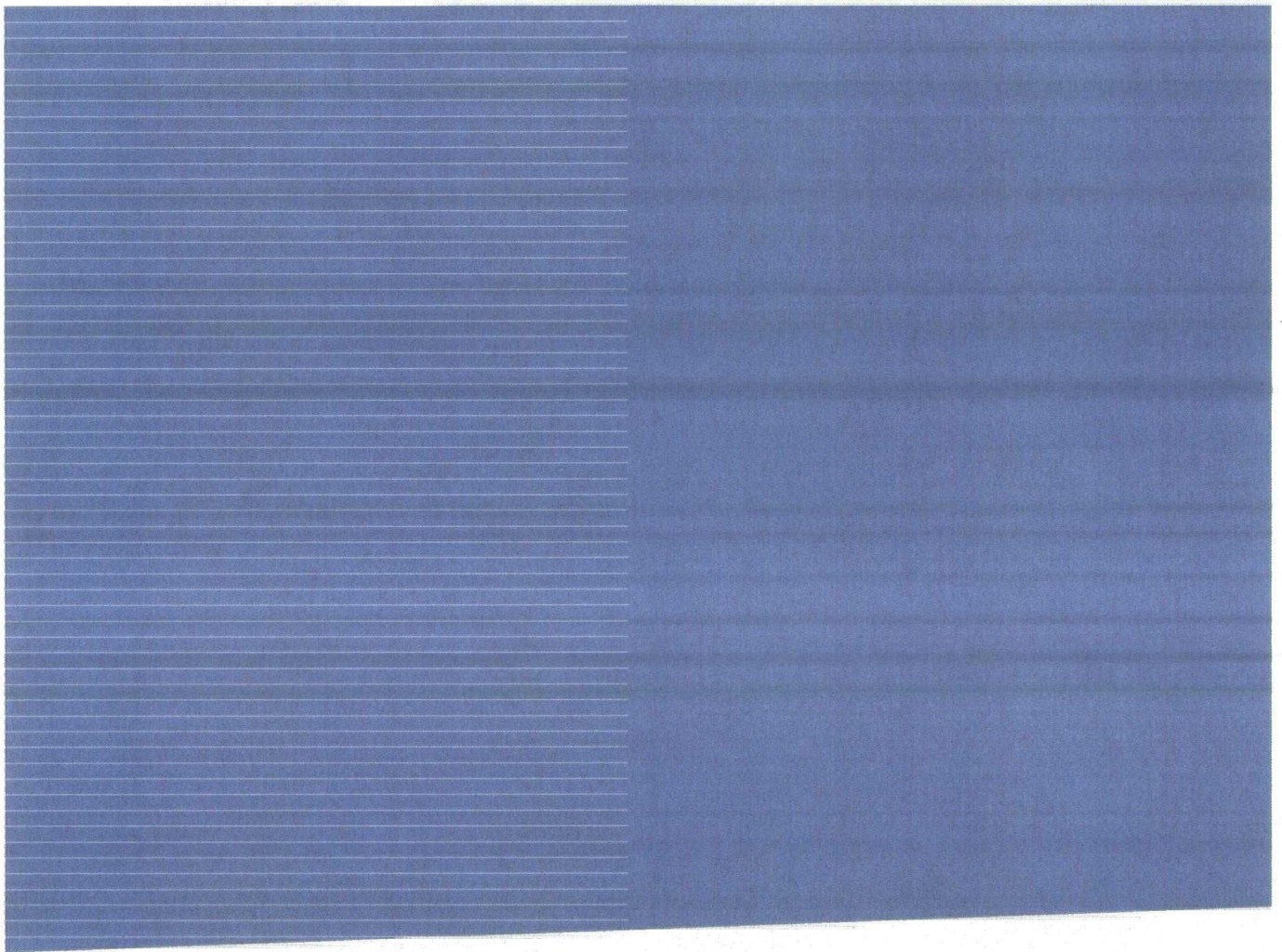
Introduction



1 Introduction

- 1.1 Plaxton Park Industrial Estate Ltd commissioned Faber Maunsell to undertake a desk-based archaeological assessment of a proposed extension to Plaxton Park Industrial Estate, to the south of Eastfield, Scarborough, North Yorkshire. The assessment is required in support of a planning application for the proposed development.
- 1.2 The proposed development site is centred on TA 041 830 (see Figure 1). A study area of approximately 1km around the site has been assessed. This was undertaken to gain an understanding of the nature of the surrounding archaeological landscape.
- 1.3 The proposals for the proposed development site at this stage comprise the erection of 11 no. industrial units for B2 (general business) and B8 (storage & distribution) use with estate service roads, vehicle and cycle parking and associated landscaping on land within and to the south of Plaxton Park Industrial Estate, Cayton Low Road, Scarborough.
- 1.4 The geology of the area comprises mainly of till (stony clay), with patches of Lacustrine Deposits, made up of silt, clay and sand. The soils in the area comprise fine loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils. The proposed development site is currently unused. The study area includes pasture, along with some marshy areas with spoil heaps, and a number of industrial and residential properties.
- 1.5 This archaeological assessment examines the known archaeology in the study area, as well as considering the potential for previously undiscovered archaeology.
- 1.6 The desk-based assessment involved gathering information from the Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Monuments Record (NMR), and documentary sources. Available aerial photographs and historic maps were also examined.

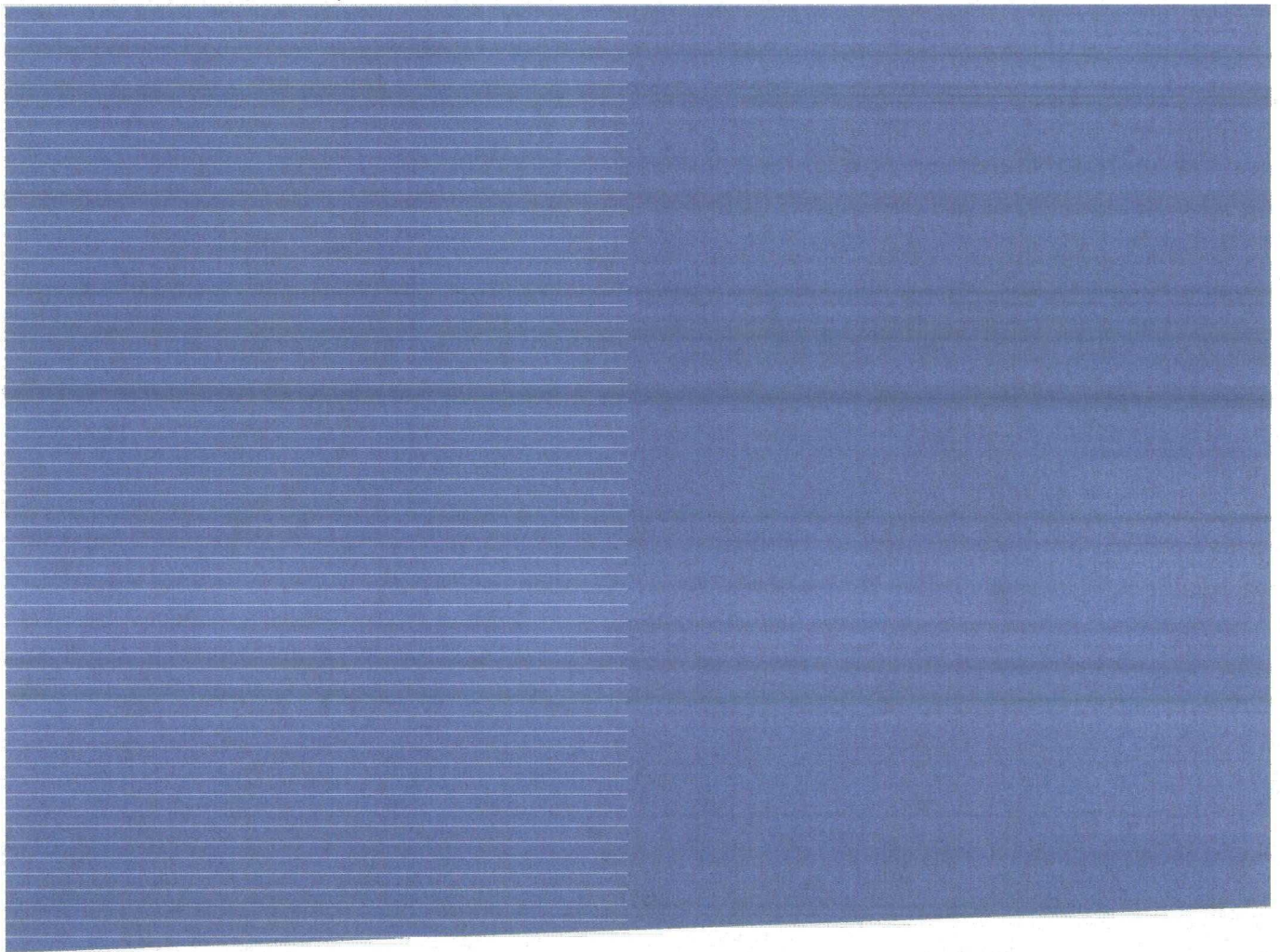
Methodology



2 Methodology

- 2.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been undertaken following guidelines from *The Institute of Field Archaeologists*.
- 2.2 The sources consulted were:
- North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record
 - The National Monuments Record.
 - Plans and maps of the site and its environs available from North Yorkshire County Records Office
 - Relevant, readily available primary source material.
 - Available aerial photographs.
- 2.3 A full archaeological walkover survey was undertaken on 19th July 2005.

Results



3 Results

- 3.1 The Historic Environment Record holds information for 16 sites, whilst the National Monuments Record Centre holds details of a further seven sites within the study area (see Appendix A and Figure 2). None of these sites lie within the boundaries of the proposed development site. Within the report, the bracketed numbers after site descriptions relate to those allocated to individual sites in Appendix A and on Figure 2.
- 3.2 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) within the study area. The closest SAM is at TA 0269 8356, approximately 2.5km away to the north west. It comprises a late Iron Age and Roman settlement, although earlier flint assemblages were found close by (MAP 2001).
- 3.3 There are no Listed Buildings within the study area.
- 3.4 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens, or Battlefields, within the study area.
- 3.5 The archaeology within the study area covers all periods to the post-medieval. The earliest site is the find spot of a late Palaeolithic flint artefact. The Mesolithic period is represented by a number of sites, largely isolated find spots. However, a number of sites show evidence of settlement, and an internationally important Mesolithic settlement is located approximately 2.5km to the south west of the site at Star Carr (NGR TA 0280 8095). In addition, evidence of Mesolithic date is also present at Seamer Carr, where numerous settlement sites have been discovered.
- 3.6 Neolithic and, to a lesser extent, Bronze Age settlement evidence has also been recovered from the study area, with an area of Neolithic settlement evidence at Hopper Hill. The Bronze Age site continued in use into the Iron Age, and further Iron Age settlement was recovered from Crossgates Farm to the north west of the study area. Roman settlement, although limited to one site, is also present within the study area.
- 3.7 A number of early medieval and medieval sites have been recorded within the study area, and comprise reoccupation of the Roman site as well as find spots. The post-medieval period is represented solely by evidence of the railways.
- Prehistoric Sites (to c. AD 43)**
- 3.8 There are 12 known sites of prehistoric date within the study area. The earliest of these dates to the Palaeolithic, and comprises the find spot of a flint burin¹ of Late Palaeolithic form (3).
- 3.9 Several of the known sites date to the Mesolithic period, perhaps unsurprising given the proximity of the site to Star Carr, a major Mesolithic settlement located some 2.5km to the south west, and Seamer Carr, approximately 1.5km to the south west, which also contains extensive evidence of Mesolithic settlement. These Mesolithic sites largely comprise the find spots of isolated artefacts (2, 10, exact location of other site unknown), probably lost on hunting trips from the nearby settlements, although augering of a site in advance of development revealed evidence of more extensive Mesolithic settlement (19).
- 3.10 As well as Mesolithic artefacts, there are also a number of locations with material of Neolithic date. Features of Neolithic date, as well as artefacts, were recovered from Scarborough Business Park at Hopper Hill (16), and the concentration of a scatter of Neolithic artefacts in the west of the study area suggests an area of Neolithic occupation (11). This site extends further west out of the study area. Neolithic settlement remains were also found through geophysical and augering surveys in advance of development (19). The final known site of Neolithic date is the find spot of a flint core² (15).
- 3.11 The Bronze Age is represented only by evidence of activity at a multi-period settlement site (14), which continued in use in the Iron Age. Iron Age settlement activity is further evidenced by an enclosure and gully found by geophysical survey at Crossgates Farm (17), which, upon

¹ Burin: A tool used for engraving objects (<http://thesaurus.english-heritage.org.uk/>)

² Core: A by-product of tool manufacture (<http://thesaurus.english-heritage.org.uk/>)

excavation, was revealed to comprise an enclosure and field system (MAP 1990). Additionally, a probable Iron Age chariot burial was discovered by workmen in 1862 at Seamer Station, when the remains of a horse and iron wheel hoops were uncovered (1). No wooden or human remains were uncovered, although it was assumed that these would once have been present.

- 3.12 The final known site of prehistoric date within the study area is the find spot of a convex scraper (4). Its exact date is unknown.

Roman (AD 43-c. AD 400)

- 3.13 There are five sites with evidence of Roman material known within the study area. A settlement and associated villa or fortlet has been excavated within the north west of the study area (5), and dates from the end of the 1st century AD. Geophysical survey has also revealed settlement evidence of Roman date, comprising an enclosure (18).

- 3.14 The remainder of the known sites of Roman date are the find spots of artefacts. These include pottery (6, 7 & 12) and quern stones (6).

Early Medieval (c. AD 400-1066)

- 3.15 There are four sites known within the study area with evidence of early medieval date. The Roman fortlet/villa site (5) was reoccupied in the 5th and 6th centuries, and early medieval settlement remains have been uncovered in the south west of the study area (19). Early medieval pottery was found at Crossgates Farm (17), and some reuse of the earlier Iron Age field system was uncovered (MAP 1990).

- 3.16 An Anglo-Saxon embankment cross, consisting of three earth banks faced with stones embedded in clay, is also located within the study area (8). The embankment has been reduced by ploughing, and mature trees have grown on the embankment platform.

Medieval (AD 1066-1500)

- 3.17 Two sites within the study area are known to have evidence of medieval occupation. This evidence comprises a ditch at Crossgates Farm (17) and features at a multi-period settlement site in the north west of the study area (14).

Post-Medieval (AD 1500-1900)

- 3.18 The only known sites of post-medieval date relate to the railways. The sites comprise the York and Scarborough railway, open between 1845 and 1965, Scarborough Branch Railway, which opened in 1846, and Seamer station which opened in 1845 (9).

Modern (1901-Present)

- 3.19 There are no known sites of modern date.

Unknown

- 3.20 There is one site of unknown date recorded on the Historic Environment Record within the study area. This is the village of Eastfield (13). The date of its origins is unknown, but it was certainly less extensive on the 1928 Ordnance Survey edition.

- 3.21 An additional site of unknown date, a boundary stone (20) was recorded within the Cayton parish file at the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.

Documentary Evidence

- 3.22 The place-names in the vicinity of the proposed development site indicate medieval origins. Cayton, to the east of the study area, derives from the Old English personal name of Cæga and *tūn* meaning farmstead (Mills, 2003). Seamer, to the west of the study area, means 'lake or marsh pool' and also derives from the Old English. Both place-names were in the Domesday Book.

- 3.23 A number of historic maps of the proposed development site and its surrounds were examined at North Yorkshire Records Office. A full list of the sources examined can be seen in the bibliography. Not all of the maps showed the proposed development site directly.

- 3.24 The 1730 "Plan of Part of Deepdayes Enclosed Grounds at Cayton" shows the area to the east of the site, but not the site itself. In turn, the 1810 Seamer Enclosure Award shows the area immediately to the west of the site (Figure 3). Unfortunately no historic maps other than the Ordnance Survey plans discussed below show the proposed development site itself.

- 3.25 Although these maps do not show the proposed development site they show that field boundaries adjoining streams and drains have not changed. In addition, a number of the post-

enclosure field boundaries have also survived, such as the curvilinear boundary for the field named "Blinking Sike" on Figures 4 and 5, which is also shown on Figure 3 as Field 299.

3.26 The Ordnance Survey First Edition (1854) was not available at North Yorkshire Records Office. However, it was examined on www.old-maps.co.uk. This shows that the field boundaries have not changed significantly. The area is called 'Low Deepdale'.

3.27 The 1911 Ordnance Survey edition (Figure 4) shows that, within the study area, the field boundaries have not changed significantly, although the eastern boundary of what is now the Plaxton Park Industrial Estate, varies slightly now due to the area of spoil heaps, presumably created when the industrial estate was built. The 1928 Ordnance Survey edition (Figure 5) does not show any significant changes.

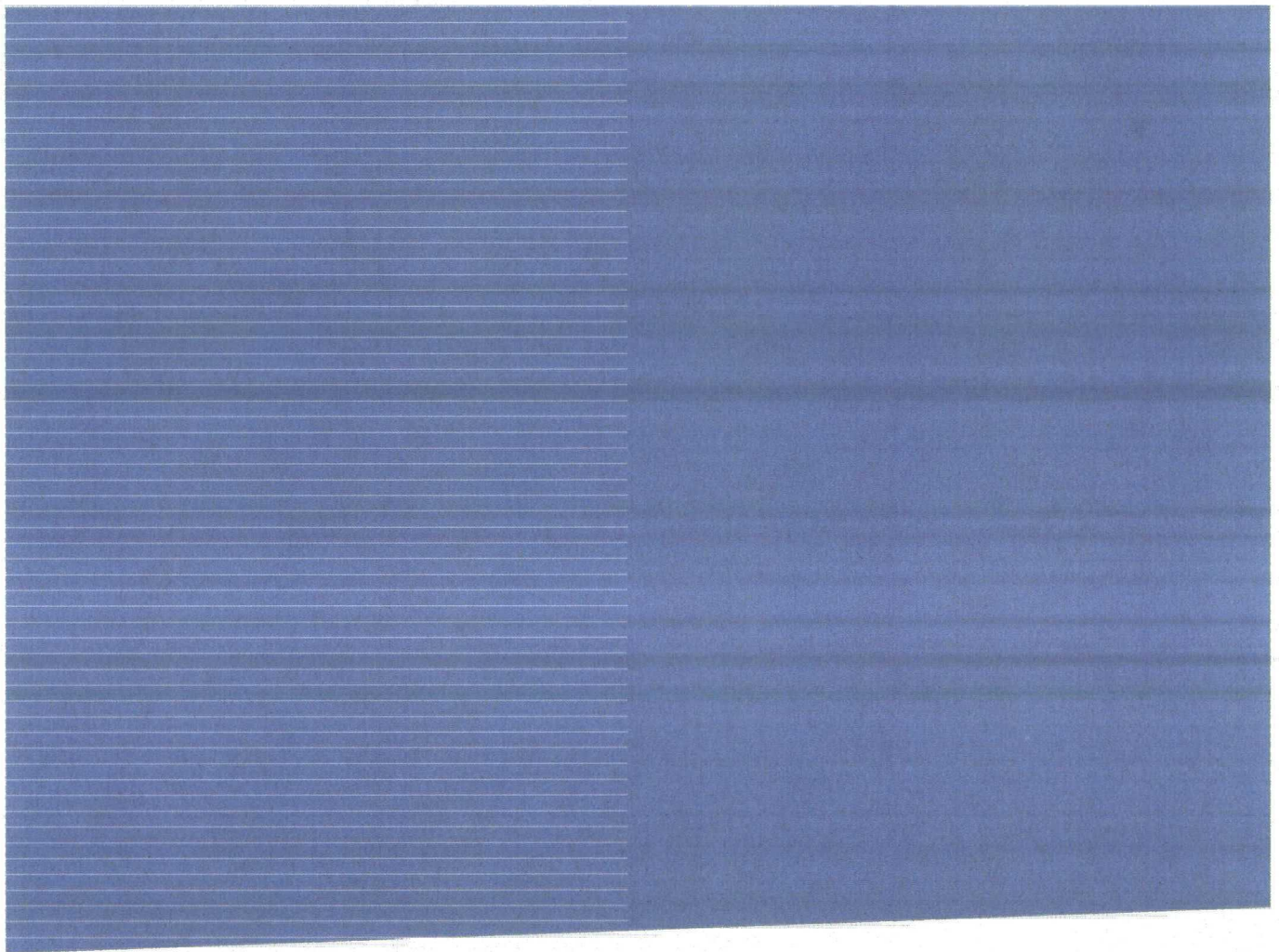
Aerial Photographs

3.28 Eighteen aerial photographs were examined for evidence of archaeological sites (see Appendix B for full list). Apart from modern drainage, only one feature was noted. This is a circular feature just to the west of the proposed development site, which seems to be geological in origin (TA 035 831; AF/02C/033 4535).

Walkover Survey

3.29 The landscape of the proposed development site was gently undulating, generally from north east to south west. The majority of the land is under semi-improved neutral grassland. No archaeological features were noted.

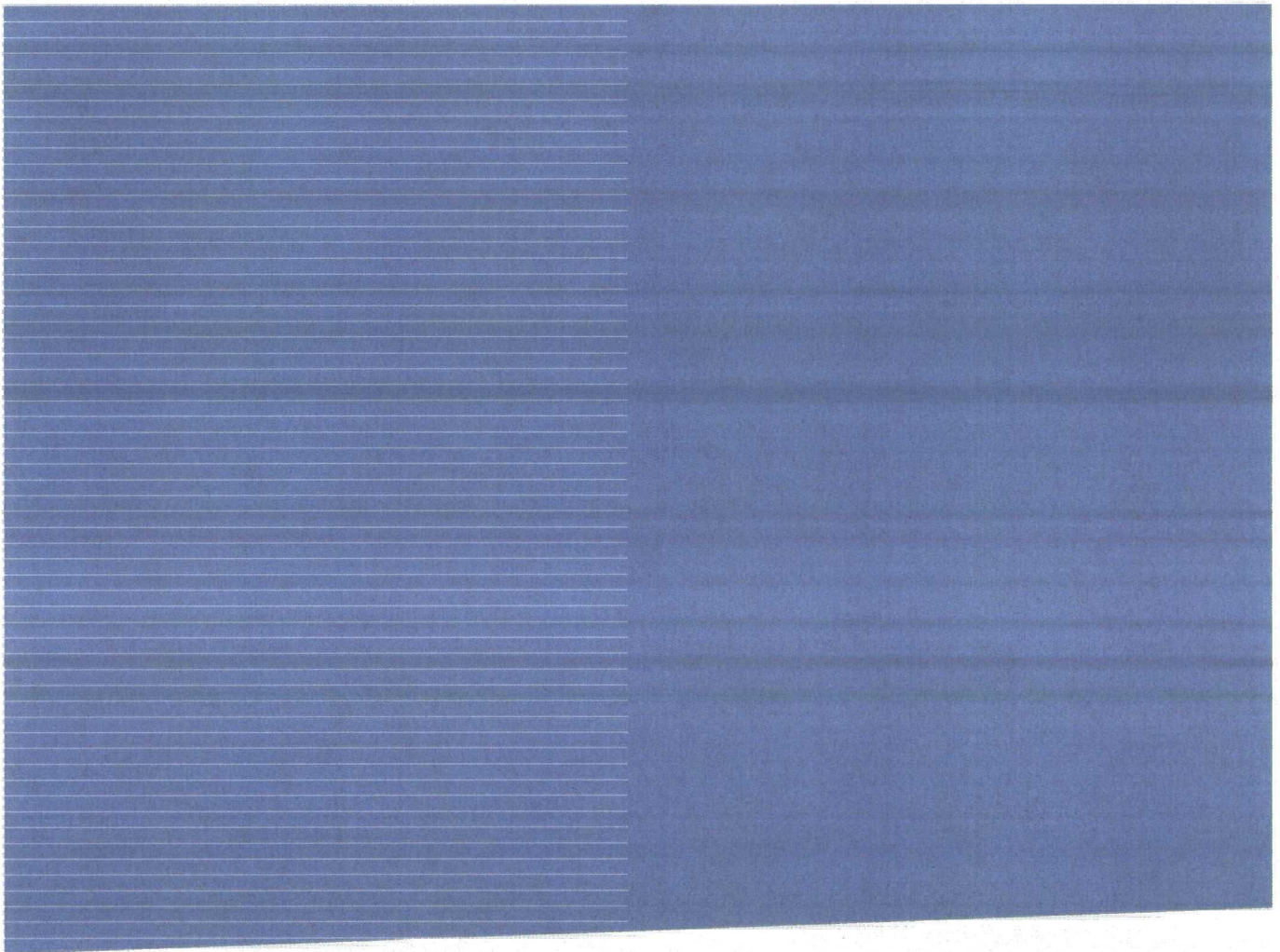
Impact Assessment & Mitigation



4 Impact Assessment & Mitigation

- 4.1 No previously recorded sites are known within the boundaries of the proposed development site and therefore, none of the known archaeological sites will be impacted by the proposals. The proposed development site comprises a post-enclosure landscape which is gradually being encroached upon by modern development. Fields have been enlarged, with the removal of some boundaries in the study area.
- 4.2 Although there will not be any impact upon any known archaeological sites, there is a potential that previously unrecorded sites may be discovered. To the west of the proposed development site, at Crossgates Farm, archaeological surveys have revealed a number of features of archaeological interest, which then required further excavation. These included field systems and enclosures of Iron Age date, and some of the field boundaries were reused and amended in the medieval period.
- 4.3 An assessment of the area undertaken in 1999 included a study of the correlation of contours and site types (Dennison 1999). Dennison concluded that early Mesolithic sites are likely to be located around the 25m AOD contour on sand and gravel deposits and that later prehistoric sites are likely to be found on or above the 27m AOD contour line. More specifically, Iron Age/Romano-British sites are likely to be found around the 30m AOD contour. The proposed development site itself is located in the region of both the 30 and 40m AOD contours.
- 4.4 Taking into account settlement evidence of the later prehistoric and medieval periods found elsewhere in the study area, in conjunction with the contour evidence discussed in paragraph 4.3 above, it is possible that remains of Iron Age/Romano-British or medieval date may be discovered within the development site boundary. It should be noted that discovery of sites of other date cannot be discounted, especially given the number of Mesolithic sites within and beyond the study area.
- 4.5 Any mitigation strategies must be agreed with the North Yorkshire County Archaeologist and should follow standards and guidance from the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

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- ERARC (1989) *Crossgates Farm – Sample Excavations and Watching Briefs*.
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Web Pages:

- <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>
- <http://thesaurus.english-heritage.org.uk/>

Figures

