

04/01162/fuL  
05/00740/fuL

Land Adjacent to Ashfield Caravan Park  
Kirby Misperton  
North Yorkshire  
SE 7792 7956

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

NYCC HER	
SNY	11243
ENY	2773
CNY	3904+4698
Parish	3071
Rec'd	24/10/06

© MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

2006

**Land Adjacent to Ashfield Caravan Park  
Kirby Misperton  
North Yorkshire  
SE 7792 7956**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Figure List	2
Plate List	2
Non-Technical Summary	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Site Description	4
3. Historical and Archaeological Background	4
4. Aims and Objectives	5
5. Methodology	5
6. Results	6
7. Conclusions	6
8. Bibliography	7
<b>Appendices</b>	
1. Context Listing	11
2. Drawing Archive Listing	11
3. Photographic Archive Listing	11
4. Project Team Details	11

**Figure List****Page**

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Site Location. Scale 1:50000.              | 8 |
| 2. | Area of Watching Brief Site. Scale 1:10000 | 8 |

**Plate List**

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | Overall View of Site. Facing South                               | 9  |
| 2. | Post-excavation View of South-eastern Foundation.<br>Facing East | 9  |
| 3. | General Working Shot of Foundations. Facing West                 | 10 |
| 4. | Final Excavation View of Foundations. Facing South               | 10 |

**Land Adjacent to Ashfield Caravan Park  
Kirby Misperton  
North Yorkshire  
SE 7792 7956**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

***Non Technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Recording Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at land adjacent to Ashfield Caravan Park, Kirby Misperton, North Yorkshire (SE 7792 7956) during May 2005 and May 2006. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the erection of a residential property at the site and the creation of a garden retaining wall to the rear*

*No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was conducted during May 2005 and May 2006 by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on a plot of land adjacent to Ashfield Caravan Park, Kirby Misperton, North Yorkshire (SE 7792 7956, Figs.1 and 2).
- 1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to provide an appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, following the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG 16)*, and in accordance with Policy C13 of the Ryedale District Local Plan.
- 1.3 All work was funded by Mr S. Bulmer.

- 1.4 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

## **2. Site Description**

- 2.1 The site lies in the village of Kirby Misperton, on the eastern side of the former medieval settlement, at SE 7792 7956 (Figs. 1 and 2). The site is bounded to the north by Barugh Lane and to the south and east by Ashfield Caravan Park. The site formerly consisted of an open area and grassed earthen embankment that was created in the 1960s by the present owner.
- 2.2 The site stands on soils of the Dunkeswick Association. These are characterised by fine loam and clay soils over a solid geology of Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shale (Mackney et al 1984).
- 2.3 At the time of the Recording Brief the site had been partially stripped of topsoil (Pl.1). An initial site walk-over ascertained that no archaeological features were visible in plan.

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.1 The village of Kirby Misperton is seated on a rise, approximately 6.5km to the south of Pickering. Frank, writing in *'Ryedale and North Yorkshire Antiquities'*, proposed that a monastery was once located in the village, on the grounds that the second part of the name was a corruption of *'Minstertown'*. However, this is disputed (Black 1888). Misperton may also derive from the Old English word *mispel* meaning *'medlar tree'*. The Old English word *mespiler-tun* thus translates as *'farm with the medlar tree'* (Smith 1979).
- 3.2 The Domesday Survey has three entries referring to Kirby Misperton, two to Kirby (*'Chirchebi'*), held by Berenger de Todeni, and one to Misperton (*'Mispeton'*), which belonged to Hugh, son of Baldric.

3.3 The manor of Kirby in 1086 is recorded as having a mill and a church that belonged to the Abbot of St. Mary's, York. The township of Kirby Misperton was in the fee of St. Mary's, the abbey retaining overlordship until the Dissolution.

3.4 Earthworks associated with medieval settlement at Kirby Misperton are visible in the fields to the east of Habton Road. Excavations by Raymond Hayes (Hayes 1987) and ERART (Stephens 1989) confirmed that the visible earthworks included house platforms and other features of 12<sup>th</sup> century date and highlighted the fact that the village had contracted in size. In addition to the earthworks of the Shrunken Medieval Village, well-preserved medieval ridge and furrow earthworks are located at Sandlands Farm and to the south-east of Glebe Farm.

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief were to record and recover archaeological remains, which could be affected by proposed development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

#### **5. Methodology**

5.1 The monitored groundworks were undertaken in three phases.

Phase 1: The partial removal of a existing embankment

Phase 2: Excavation of house foundations

Phase 3: Excavation of foundations for a garden retaining wall

5.2 All excavations were undertaken by a 360° mini mechanical excavator, operating under close archaeological supervision.

5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).

- 5.4 All deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.
- 5.5 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a digital camera.

## 6. Results (Fig. 3)

- 6.1 The groundworks monitored in Phases 1 and 2 covered a maximum area of 28m x 20m. Initial work consisted of the partial removal of an existing slope at the rear of the development plot, followed by the excavation of a series of strip foundation trenches. The foundation trenches were excavated to a mean depth of 1m (Pls. 2, 3 and 4). Excavations revealed a naturally-formed subsoil deposit (context 1002) that was sealed by a silty clay subsoil (context 1001). Deposit 1001 was sealed by modern topsoil (context 1000).
- 6.2 The excavations in Phase 3 consisted of the partial removal of an existing slope at the rear and the south of the development plot, followed by the excavation of a series of strip foundation trench for a retaining wall. The foundation trenches were excavated to a mean depth of 0.40m. Excavations revealed a natural subsoil (context 1000)

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief.

## 7. Conclusions

- 7.1. Natural deposits were reached in all of the foundation trenches, and *in situ* subsoil deposits were also observed. No archaeological features or deposits were observed, a fact which reflects the previous agricultural nature of the site

## 8. Bibliography

- Black, G 1888 Ryedale and North Yorkshire Antiquities
- Bulmers 1890 Bulmers Directory of 1890
- Hayes, R 1987 Excavations at Kirby Misperton, near Pickering. *Transactions of the Scarborough and District Archaeological and Historical Society, Vol. 20 pp 1-15.*
- Mackney, D. 1983 Soils of England and Wales-Sheet 1 Northern England
- Page, W 1971 A History of Yorkshire North Riding, Victoria County Histories
- Smith, A 1979 Placenames of the North Riding Volume 5
- Stephens, M.R 1989 Habton road, Kirby Misperton. Archaeological Sample Excavations.