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Land Adjacent to Aireville Grange House
Gargrave Road
Skipton
North Yorkshire
SD 9755 5225

Authorised by

Date:.....

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Gargrave Road
Skipton
North Yorkshire**

SD 9755 5225

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North Yorkshire**

**SD 9755 5225
Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Non-technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at land adjacent to Aireville Grange House, Gargrave Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire (SD 9755 5225) on the 7th and 8th February 2007. The work involved monitoring the excavation of 24 geotechnical test pits by Arc Environmental Ltd. in advance of the proposed development of the site.

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at land adjacent to Aireville Grange House, Gargrave Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire (SD 9755 5225) on the 7th and 8th February 2007. The work involved monitoring the excavation of 24 geotechnical test pits by Arc Environmental Ltd. in advance of the proposed development of the site.
- 1.2 All work was funded by Indigo Planning Limited.
- 1.3 All Maps within this report have been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The proposed redevelopment area consists of a rectangular parcel of land measuring 150m x 200m (3 Hectares) situated on the northern side of Gargrave Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire, at SD 9755 5225 (Figs. 1 and 2).
- 2.2 The site fronts Gargrave Road to the south and is bounded to the east by mixed woodland, and to the north and west by agricultural pasture. The proposed development area is currently pasture (Pl. 1). Access is from Gargrave Road via a 15m wide area of the site that directly fronts the road. The road frontage is flanked to the east by the grounds of Aireville Grange House and to the west by a 20m wide, 100m long strip of woodland.
- 2.3 The site lies at an elevation ranging from 133m AOD to 144m AOD and is situated on soils of the Brickfield 2 Association. These are characterised by fine loamy soils that overlie a drift geology of Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shale (Mackney 1984, 121).

3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The aim of the proposed work was to record and recover any archaeological remains affected by the excavation of the geotechnical test pits.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 The programme of works on the site involved the observation and recording of all ground disturbance works by an archaeologist. All excavation was undertaken by a JCB mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothed 60cm bucket. The test pits and soakaway pit were excavated to depths of between 1.80m and 3.10m below existing ground level (Pls. 2 to 4).

5. Results (Fig. 2)

- 5.1 Excavation revealed topsoil, modern services and natural sands and gravels. Topsoil coverage ranged from 0.25m to 0.40m in depth and below the topsoil naturally formed brown clays, boulder clay and shale bedrock were observed. Land drains of 2¹/₂" diameter were noted in test pits 1, 6, 11, 16 and 17. The dimensions and results of each test pit are given in the table below:

Identifier	Grid Reference	Description
Test pit 1	SD 97480 52350	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 1.80m. Topsoil 0.4m deep. Land drain at 0.80m deep. Brown clay 1.40m deep. Bedrock at 1.80m. Heavily rooted.
Test pit 2	SD 97480 52325	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 1.90m. Topsoil 0.25m deep. Brown clay 1.65m deep. Bedrock at 1.90m deep.
Test pit 3	SD 97460 52325	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.10m. Topsoil 0.25m deep. Brown clay 1.40m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.55m deep. Bedrock at 1.90m deep.
Test pit 4	SD 97515 52315	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.10m. Topsoil 0.30m deep. Brown clay 1.40m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.40m deep. Bedrock at 2.10m deep.
Test pit 5	SD 97505 52320	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 3.10m. Topsoil 0.35m deep. Brown clay 1.20m deep. Yellow sand with sandstone boulders 1.55m deep. Bedrock at 3.10m deep.
Test pit 6	SD 97560 52310	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.30m. Topsoil 0.30m deep. Ceramic land drain at 0.80m deep. Brown clay 1.40m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.60m deep. Bedrock at 2.30m deep.
Test pit 7	SD 97570 52285	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.30m. Topsoil 0.30m deep. Brown clay 1.40m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.60m deep. Bedrock at 2.30m deep.
Test pit 8	SD 97465 52300	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.05m. Topsoil 0.30m deep. Brown clay 1.40m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.35m deep. Bedrock at 2.05m deep.
Test pit 9	SD 97483 52312	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 1.95m. Topsoil 0.30m deep. Brown clay 1.20m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.45m deep. Bedrock at 1.95m deep.
Test pit 10	SD 97499 52392	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.5m Topsoil 0.25m deep. Brown clay 1.2m deep. Grey boulder

		clay 1.05m deep. Bedrock at 2.5m deep
Test pit 11	SD 97515 52335	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.40m. Topsoil 0.30m deep. Ceramic land drain at 0.80m deep. Brown clay 1.40m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.70m deep. Bedrock at 2.40m deep.
Test pit 12	SD 97605 52370	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.3m. Topsoil 0.25m deep. Brown clay 1.65m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.4m deep. Bedrock at 2.3m deep.
Test pit 13	SD 97462 52275	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.00m. Topsoil 0.25m deep. Brown clay 0.70m deep. Grey boulder clay 1.05m deep. Bedrock at 2.0m deep.
Test pit 14	SD 97501 52270	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.5m Topsoil 0.25m deep. Brown clay 1.2m deep. Grey boulder clay 1.05m deep. Bedrock at 2.5m deep
Test pit 15	SD 9730 52260	Dimensions c. 2m by 0.6m. Depth 2.9m Topsoil 0.25m deep. Brown clay 1m deep. Grey boulder clay 1.55m deep. Bedrock at 2.9m deep
Test pit 16	SD 97455 52250	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.15m deep. Topsoil 0.30m deep. Ceramic land drain at 0.90m deep. Brown clay 1.40m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.45m deep. Bedrock at 2.15m deep.
Test pit 17	SD 97501 52205	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.05m. Topsoil 0.25m deep. Ceramic land drain at 0.8m deep. Brown clay 1.25m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.55m deep. Bedrock at 2.05m deep.
Test pit 18	SD 97520 52380	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.8m Topsoil 0.25m deep. Brown clay 1.05m deep. Grey boulder clay 1.3m deep. Bedrock at 2.6m deep
Test pit 19	SD 97452 52220	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.00m. Topsoil 0.30m deep. Brown clay 1.25m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.45m deep. Bedrock at 2.00m deep.
Test pit 20	SD 97161 52320	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.6m. Topsoil 0.20m deep. Brown clay 0.7m deep. Mudstone 0.9m deep. Stiff grey clay with cobbles 1.3m deep.
Test pit 21	SD 97520 52290	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.6m. Topsoil 0.25m deep. Brown clay 1.10m deep. Grey boulder clay 1m deep. Bedrock at 2.6m deep.
Test pit 22	SD 97505 52290	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 1.95m. Topsoil 0.30m deep. Brown clay 1.20m deep. Grey boulder

		clay 0.45m deep. Bedrock at 1.95m deep.
Test pit 23	SD 97568 52200	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.85m. Topsoil 0.25mm deep. Brown clay 0.9m deep. Grey boulder clay 1.65m deep. Bedrock at 2.85m deep.
Test pit 24	SD	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.65m. Topsoil 0.25mm deep. Brown clay 1.10mm deep. Grey boulder clay 1.3m deep. Bedrock at 2.65m deep.
Soakaway 1	SD 91759 52170	Dimensions c. 2m x 0.6m. Depth 2.1m. Topsoil 0.25mm deep. Brown clay 1.55m deep. Grey boulder clay 0.3m deep. Bedrock at 2.1m deep.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 With the exception of land drains, no archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed during the Watching Brief. This reflects the previous land use of the site as undeveloped agricultural or pastoral land, situated on the outskirts of the town of Skipton.



Figure 1. Site Location

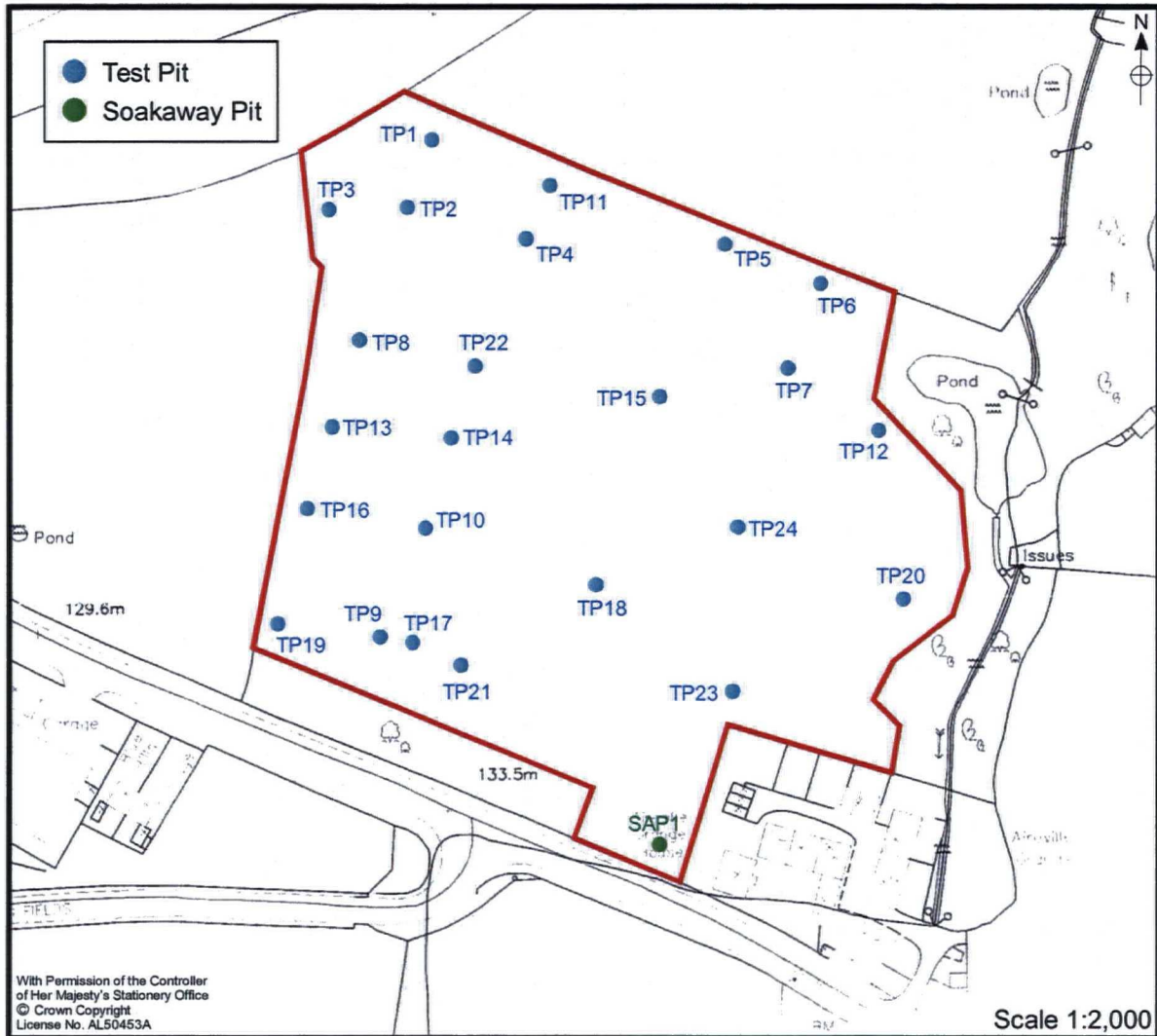


Figure 2. Area of Development



Plate 1. General View of Site. Facing North West



Plate 2. Test Pit 1. Facing West



Plate 3. Test Pit 12. Facing East



Plate 4. Test Pit 18. Facing West