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4 Woodlands Grove
Rillington
North Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

SE 8563 7422

Authorised by *NA* 

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July 2008

**4 Woodlands Grove
Rillington
North Yorkshire
07/01037/FUL**

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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**4 Woodlands Grove
Rillington
North Yorkshire
07/01037/FUL**

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd in the rear garden of 4 Woodlands Grove, Rillington, North Yorkshire on 28 May 2008. The work took the form of the excavation of conventional strip foundations for a single-storey extension.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the Watching Brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. in the rear garden immediately south of the existing dwelling at 4 Woodlands Grove, Rillington, North Yorkshire (SE 8563 7422), on 28 May 2008. The Watching Brief was carried out to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to the planning application (07/01037/FUL).
- 1.2 The work was funded by Mr and Mrs Dukesell.
- 1.3 The project was assigned the MAP Site Code 06.06.08.

- 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 is situated at the southern margin of Rillington village, on the south side of Woodlands Grove, which is a cul-de-sac leading from Woodlands Road (SE 8563 7422, Fig. 1). The monitored area was situated immediately to the south-east of the existing dwelling, the building footprint covering a trapezoidal area with maximum dimensions of c. 8m x 5m.
- 2.2 The site stands on soils of the Newport 1 Association, well-drained sandy and coarse loamy soils (Mackney et al 1983).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The southern edge of the Vale of Pickering formed a focus for prehistoric settlement, coincident with the easily cultivated light sandy soils that lie along the northern fringe of the chalk Wolds. These soils are also ideal for the formation of crop marks, large numbers of which have been plotted by the former RCHM(E) (Stoertz 1997). The later prehistoric and Roman settlement pattern revealed consisted of a 'ladder settlement,' extending along the northern edge of the Wolds on a parallel alignment to the present day A64. In addition, enhanced geophysical survey by the Landscape Research Trust has brought into focus the extent of ancient settlement in this zone.
- 3.2 Immediately to the west of Rillington the crop mark of a double-ditched track way or boundary runs immediately north of, and parallel to, the A64, disappearing under the village's western fringe.
- 3.3 The spectacular crop marks of a cemetery of round and square-ditched barrows, multi-ditched boundaries, and settlement-related features, probably

ranging in date from the Neolithic to the late Iron Age, lie c. 200m east of the site. This complex is scheduled as a nationally important ancient monument (NY 1117).

- 3.4 The crop marks of further ditches and barrows were located c. 200m north of the site. During 1980s the construction of housing in this area prompted a rescue excavation, which recorded late Iron Age ditches, pits and postholes (Turnbull 1983). An Anglian burial was recorded during the erection of a house c. 200m northeast of the site (*ibid.*).
- 3.5 The Anglo-Saxon origins of Rillington are indicated by the fact that the settlement was mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086). Three separate holdings were recorded at Rillington.
- 3.6 Analysis of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed between 1849 and 1853) suggests that the medieval settlement at Rillington formed two rows along Sledgate, on either side of Rillington Beck, with the church located at the southern end of the western row. Westgate formed a possible extension to the west. Two open fields (West Field to the west and south-west, and East Field to the east and southeast of the village) lay at either side of the beck. It was only in relatively recent times that the village spread eastwards along the Malton to Scarborough turnpike (now the A64), and westwards beyond Westgate.
- 3.7 A Watching Brief carried out in 1994 during an extension to Ellis Patent's factory (c. 50m south-west of Woodlands Grove) recorded a group of five pits, the associated calcite-gritted pottery sherds suggesting a late Iron Age date (MAP 1994). Further pits and postholes, plus three linear features, were recorded at the factory during the construction of an additional extension in 2005 (MAP 2005).
- 3.8 An Archaeological Evaluation in November 2004 within the former gardens behind 30-32 Scarborough Road, Rillington revealed evidence of ancient

ploughing into the top of the natural gravel along with undated archaeological activity in the shape of small pits/postholes, and a single flexed burial of a juvenile (MAP 2004). Additional pits were recorded during open area excavation in 2006 (MAP 2006).

- 3.9 TCM Brewster recorded calcite-gritted, Roman and medieval coarse ware pottery sherds during the construction of a new canteen for the village school near the junction of High Street and Malton Road (ERART archive).

4. Methodology

- 4.1 The groundworks associated with the erection of the building consisted of conventional strip footings with a width of c. 0.80m and a depth of around 0.90m.
- 4.2 All excavations were undertaken by a 2.5 tonne 360° mechanical excavator, operating under close archaeological observation.
- 4.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 4.4 A basic photographic record of the monitored groundworks was taken using a digital camera.

5. Results

- 5.1 The foundation trenches displayed a similar stratigraphy consisting of natural sands and gravel at a depth of c. 0.80m from the present surface, with an overlying layer, up to 0.60m deep, of reddish brown silty sand. The sequence was completed by a 0.20m deep layer of topsoil. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1. Although located within an area of demonstrable archaeological potential, the Watching Brief at 4 Woodlands Grove was archaeologically negative, probably due to the small scale of the monitored groundworks.

7. Bibliography

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------|---|
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| MAP | 2006 | Land Behind 3032 Scarborough Road, Rillington, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Excavation Report. |
| Stoertz, C. | 1997 | Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds. RCHME. |
| Turnbull, P | 1983 | Excavations at Rillington, 1980. <i>YAJ</i> 55:1-10. |

8. Project Team Details

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|------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Fieldwork:</i> | Mark Stephens |
| <i>Report Writing:</i> | Mark Stephens |
| <i>Figures:</i> | Nigel Cavanagh |
| <i>Editorial:</i> | Nigel Cavanagh |

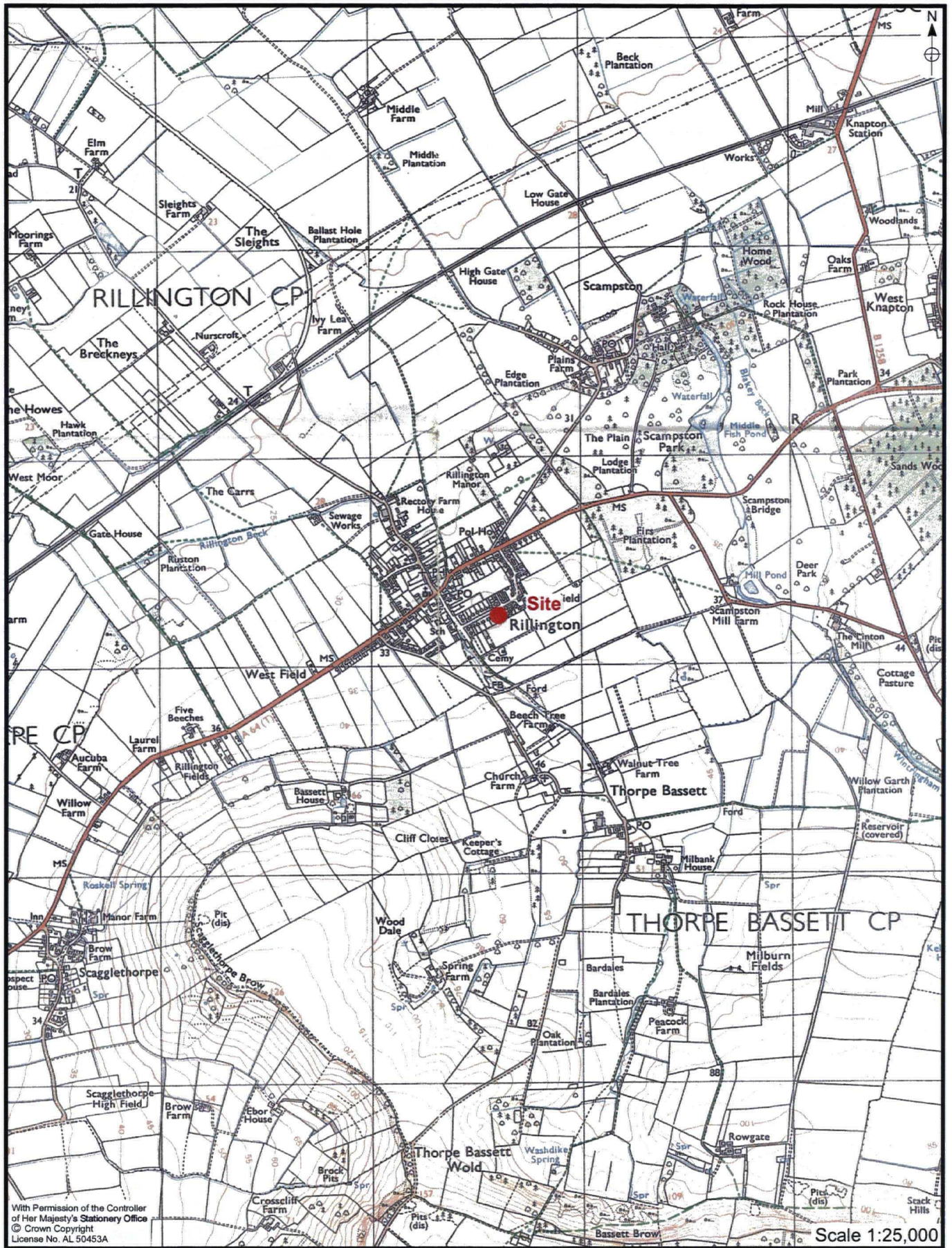


Figure 1. Site Location

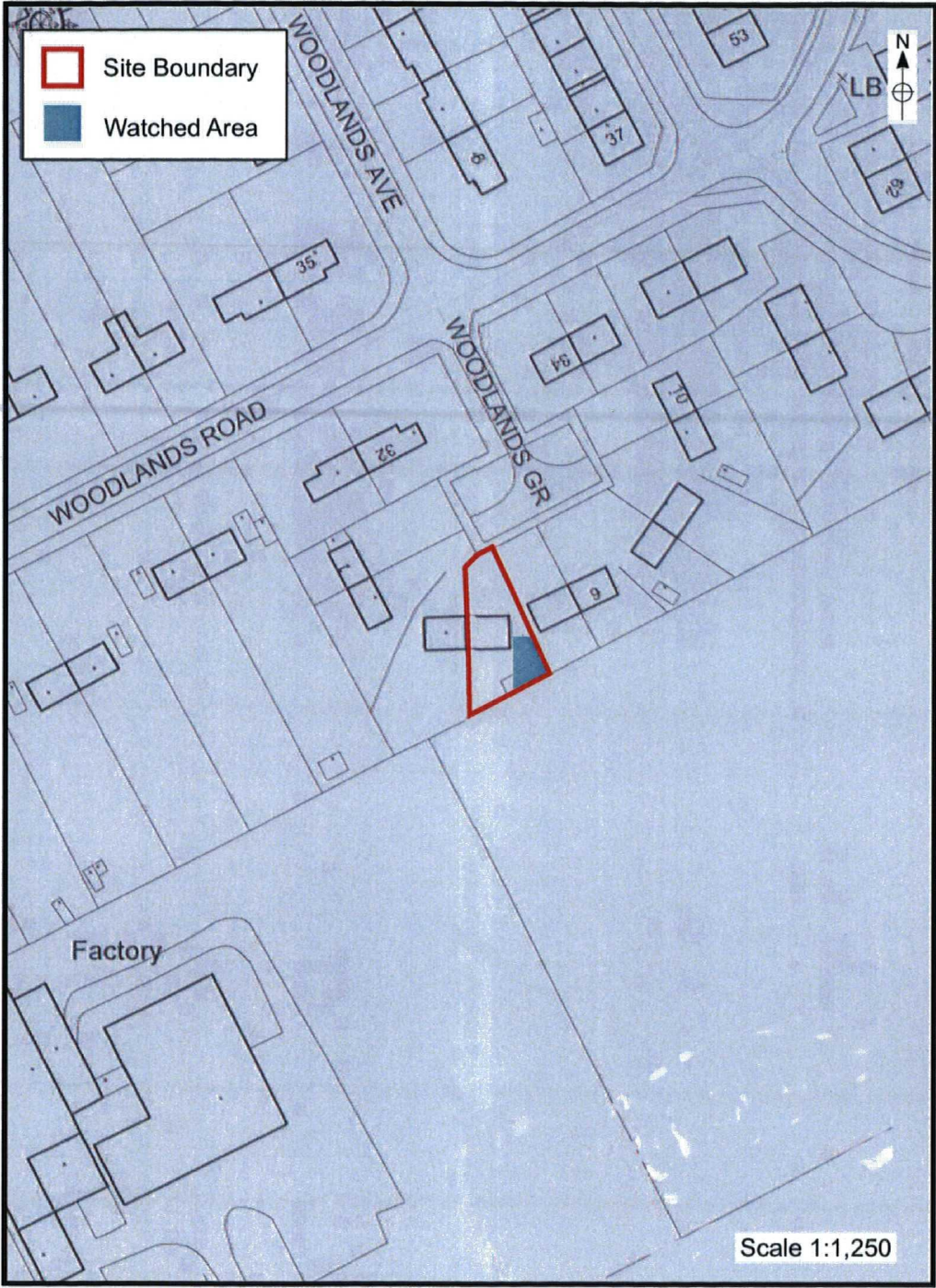


Figure 2. Area of Watching Brief



Plate 1: View of Site. Facing East.



Plate 2: View of Foundation Trench. Facing South-east.

STANDARD WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING (“RECORDING BRIEF”)

4 Woodlands Grove, Rillington

Planning Ref: 07/01037/FUL.

An Archaeological Recording Brief will be undertaken on behalf of Ryedale District Council, during the erection a new single storey extension to the existing residential property (Ref: 07/01037/FUL).

The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains, which could be affected by proposed development. The area is to be stripped under archaeological supervision and any features/deposits exposed excavated and recorded to correct archaeological standards

1. The work should not require the construction programme or development to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although some developers may give such a facility.
2. The WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements needed to comply with an archaeological planning condition. The scheme does not comprise a full specification, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. The details of implementation must be specified in a contract between the developer and the selected archaeological contractor.
3. The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) should be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI. The Archaeologist should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal.
4. Removal of overburden by machine should be undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where materials are exceptionally difficult to lift, a toothed bucket may be used temporarily. Subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by back-acting excavator but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist on site, and only with archaeological supervision. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Where reinstatement is required, topsoil should be kept separate from other soil materials.
5. Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.
6. Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they

should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The sampling of deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence should be a standard consideration, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available if appropriate.

7. Heavy plant should not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the Archaeologist on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision. Where reinstatement is required, subsoils should be backfilled first and topsoil last.

8. Upon completion of fieldwork, samples will be processed and evaluated, and all finds cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated, and properly stored. A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist will arrange for either the County Archaeologist or an independent post-excavation specialist to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to an appropriate museum or records office.

9. A report will be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report will contain planning or administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas will be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features will be illustrated with conventionally scaled plans, sections, or photographs. Where few or no finds are made, a summary report the form of a letter with plans will be submitted.

10. Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Unit (SMR), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage.

11. The County Archaeologist will be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work will be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If human remains are encountered, they will be exhumed subject to the conditions of a Home Office licence.