

NYCC HER	
SNY	15363
ENY	5260
CNY	
Parish	3151
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3151

**Willerby Grange
Staxton
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

December 1997
MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

Willerby Grange, Staxton Archaeological Watching Brief

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Willerby Grange, Staxton

Archaeological Watching Brief

Introduction

This report sets out the results of an archaeological Watching Brief carried out on ground works, during the construction of an extension to Willerby Grange, Staxton (TA 019 7903 : Fig. 1).

Willerby Grange is situated to the north of the A64 in the parish of Willerby. The site consisted of an area of land approximately 33.04m², which once formed part of the gardens (Fig. 2).

Willerby Grange lies directly opposite the church of St Peters, Willerby, which was constructed in the 12th century, later in the 14th century the tower was added. The two farmhouses at Willerby Grange and the church are all that remain of the medieval village (Bulmer 1893). A watching brief condition was placed on the site which was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy in November 1997 on behalf of Mr M. J. Heaps.

The underlying geology consists of deep well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils of the Newport 1 Association over a solid geology of glaciofluvial drift (Mackney et al).

All work was funded by Mr M. J. Heaps.

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Methods

Each of the footings were excavated in spits under archaeological supervision, using a mini digger with a toothless bucket. Sketch plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 where necessary and a photographic and written record compiled.

Results

Before the Archaeologist arrived on site the process of topsoil removal had already commenced. This revealed a large concrete holding tank, approximately 2.60m in diameter and in excess of 2m deep. None of the five footings observed showed any indication of archaeological features and only in one (Trench 2) were finds recovered.

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 1m x 0.70m x 1.30m deep. Machining revealed three deposits common to the other trenches, the topsoil (context 2001), the subsoil (context 2002), and a sand deposit (context 2003).

Context 2003 was a clean compact sand, uniform in colour with no visible disturbance. Excavation located a single rim sherd of Staxton ware and occasional fragments of natural flint. Overlaying this was context 2002 a sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments. The topsoil, context 2001 consisted of a sandy silt with occasional tile fragments and frequent limestone fragments.

Discussion

The absence of archaeological features and paucity of finds would suggest that very little archaeological activity had taken place within the site. The nature of the sand deposit (context 2003), within which the Staxton ware rim sherd was found would suggest that it was a wind blown sand deposit. The rim sherd itself, from a jar, is a locally produced ware of 13th to 14th century (Appendix 2). If further archaeological evidence is to be found on this site it is likely to be buried beneath the wind deposited sand.

Bibliography

Bulmer, 1893. Directory of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Mackney D *et al.* 1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales. Sheet 1: Northern England.

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Context No	Description
2001	Topsoil; 5YR 3/2, loose sandy silt with limestone and tile fragments.
2002	Subsoil; 5YR 4/3, compact sandy silt with limestone fragments.
2003	Deposit; 5YR 6/3, compact sand.

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

2003	Pottery- 1 sherd	
	1 Staxton Ware Jar Rim	13th to 14th century
	Flint - 5 fragments.	
	Natural	

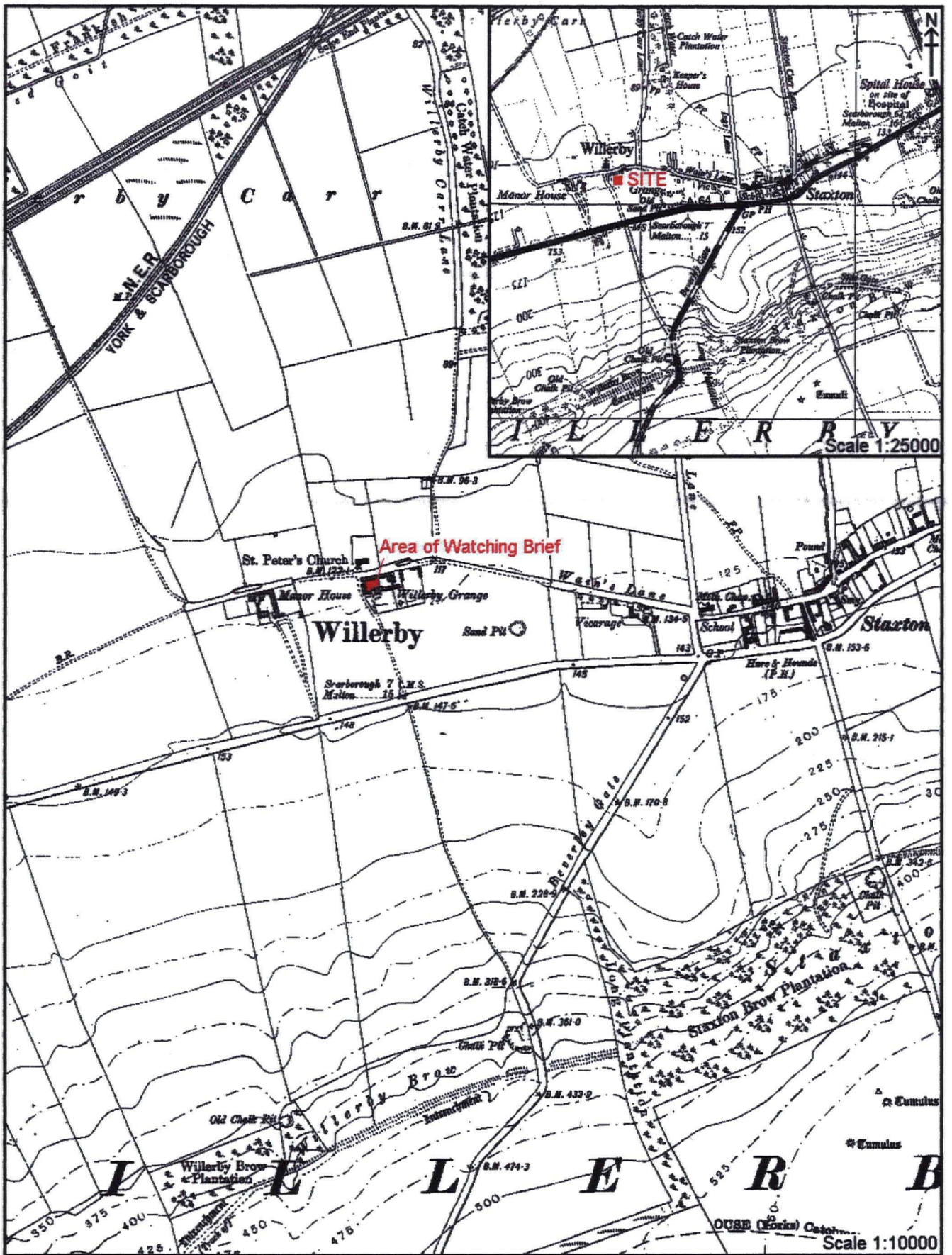


Figure 1. Site Location.

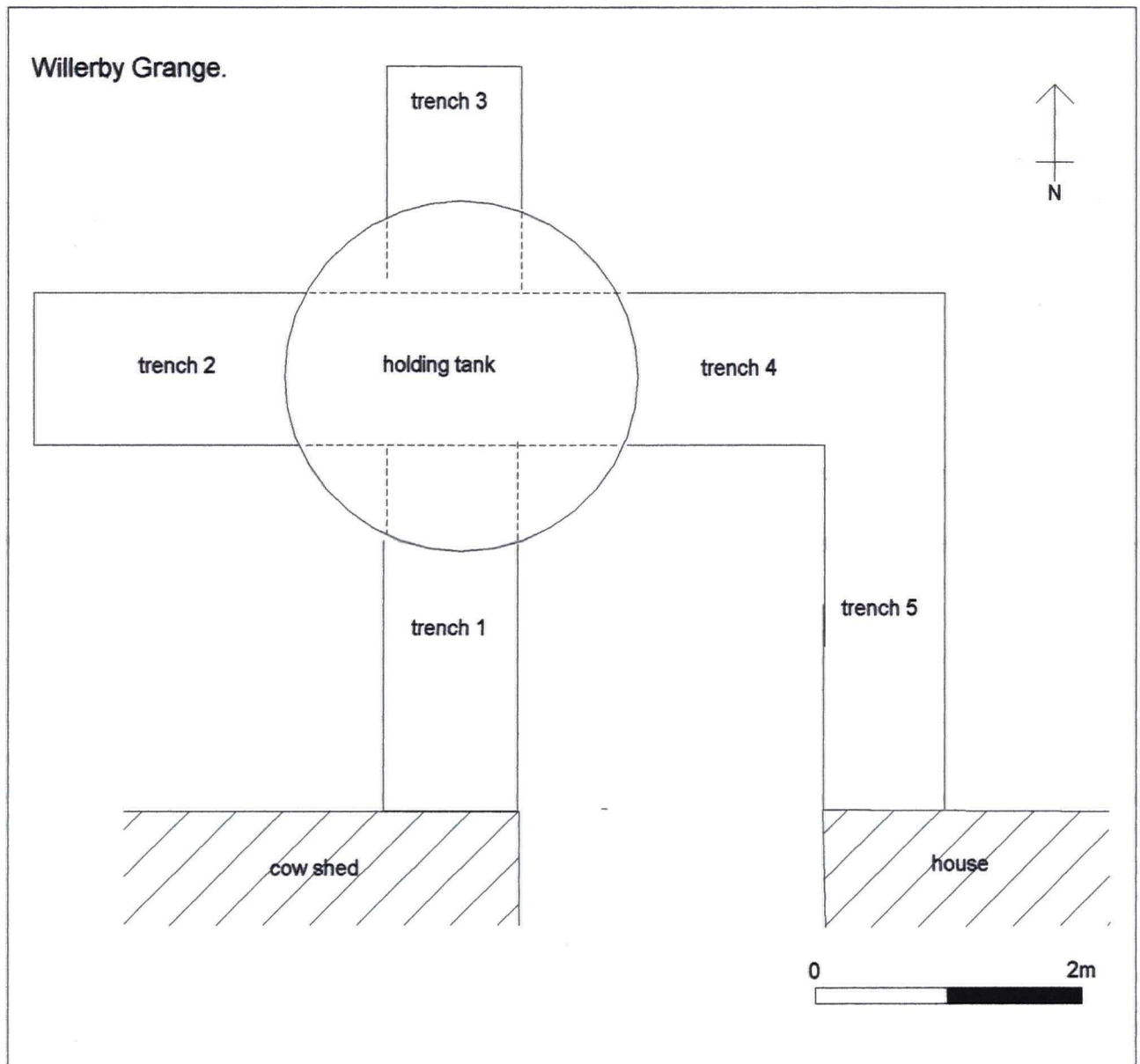


Figure 2. Trench Location Plan.