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Kirby Misperton West (6)  
Wellsite Extension  
North Yorkshire  
SE 7638 7920

Archaeological Watching Brief

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North Yorkshire  
(SE 7638 7920)**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Non-technical Summary**

*An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Kirby Misperton West (6) Wellsite Extension, North Yorkshire (SE 7638 7920) from the 28<sup>th</sup> of October to the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2010. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with a natural gas Wellsite Extension where no archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was conducted from the 28<sup>th</sup> October to the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2010 by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Kirby Misperton West (6) Wellsite Extension, North Yorkshire (SE 7638 7920). The archaeological work was undertaken in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to the Planning Application Consent for the Wellsite Extension (Planning Ref. 10/00924/CPO).
- 1.2 The Archaeological Watching Brief was designed to provide an appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development.
- 1.3 The site code for the project was MAP 06.10.10.
- 1.4 All work was funded by Viking UK Gas Ltd.
- 1.5 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 wellsite extension is located 6.9km to the north of Malton, 5km south-west of Pickering, 1.5km to the west of Kirby Misperton, 0.3km to the south-east of Little Barugh, at the end of an access track leading north-west from Habton Road, which runs between Great Habton and Kirby Misperton. The site lies on flat pasture and is bounded by the existing wellsite to the west and agricultural land on all other sides, with level land to the south rising to the north (Pl. 1).
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Dunkeswick association, slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils associated with similar clayey soils (Mackney 1984).

## 3. Archaeological Background

- 3.1 There is little evidence of prehistoric or Romano-British activity on or within close vicinity of the site but Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement are recorded in the villages of Kirby Misperton and Little Barugh both of which are mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086. St Lawrence's church at Kirby Misperton is thought to be of an early 14<sup>th</sup> century date but fragments of a Saxon cross shaft, a carved grave slab and sundial are also present at the church.
- 3.2 Few archaeological features are recorded on or within the vicinity of the wellsite but those that are present include medieval ridge and furrow features that are still visible in some of the surrounding and adjoining fields and a former field boundary and pond located in the north-eastern corner of the site. A further pond, recorded as *Brick Pond* is located to the south-east of the wellsite, both ponds were associated with clay extraction for brick and tile manufacture, with the brick and tile works located to the north of Kirby Misperton, where manufacturing took place in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.3 During archaeological monitoring of test pit excavations on the route of the Knapton pipeline to the east of the existing wellsite or during the construction

of the access road nothing of archaeological significance was found. Neither was anything found within the wellsite extension area during the above works, where only natural deposits were recorded (NAA 1994a, 24).

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

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief were to record and recover archaeological remains and finds that were affected by the development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

#### **5. Methodology**

- 5.1 The groundworks associated with the wellsite extension were undertaken under direct archaeological supervision and included topsoil stripping using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The stripped surface was monitored to ascertain the presence/absence of archaeological features deposits or finds. A bund that separated the existing well site with the extension area was removed and stripped to the same level as the rest of the site and drainage trenches were excavated around the perimeter of the stripped area.
- 5.2 All work was carried out in line with the Institute for Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 2008a).
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Watching Brief on a digital camera.

#### **6. Results**

- 6.1 No archaeological features finds or deposits were recorded during the groundworks for the wellsite extension.

- 6.2 The area encompassing the wellsite extension measured 105m long by 45m wide but the area actually stripped measured 80m long by 30m wide, with the perimeter of the site forming a raised bund with trees and shrubs screening the site. A narrow drainage ditch approximately 0.8m deep was also excavated around the perimeter of the stripped area.
- 6.3 The stripping of the site involved the removal of a maximum of 0.3m of topsoil (context 1) that sealed a pale natural clay (context 2) with no other deposits, features or finds recorded (PI.2). A trench for the gas-pipe leading from the existing wellsite was visible running eastwards and a section of this was excavated to locate the pipe (carried out by the Viking UK Ltd Gas contractors) where nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.
- 6.4 The same negative results were recorded in the drainage trenches that ran around the perimeter of the stripped area with no evidence of any cut features, just the natural clay (PI. 3)
- 6.5 Removal of the bund separating the wellsite and extension area was also undertaken where the resulting surface below appeared to be have been already disturbed during the construction of the original wellsite. This disturbed area measured 14m wide and ran the length of the site. The deposit below the bund consisted of mixed clay topsoil and stones (context 3) - (PI 4), the remainder of the area being clear of any archaeological features (PI. 5). Following stripping geotechnical membrane was laid, followed by the laying of stone to form a hard standing (PI. 6)
- 6.6 The former field boundary and pond that were located in the north-eastern corner of the wellsite extension area were not encountered as they were located below the bund forming the perimeter of the site on ground that was not disturbed.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in the wellsite extension area. The negative results of the archaeological watching brief were not unexpected as few significant archaeological findings are recorded on or within the proximity of the site, apart from the ridge and furrow features and the pond and field boundary that lay outside the affected area.

## **8. References**

- Mackney, D. 1984 Soils of England and Wales-Sheet 1, Northern England
- Cardwell, P. 2010 Kirby Misperton West (6) Wellsite Extension North Yorkshire Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation
- NAA 1994a Northern Archaeological Associates; Knapton Generating Station Pipeline Construction: Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy NAA 94/6
- IFA 2008a Institute for Archaeologists; Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief