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ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
**SERVICES**  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of  
Earthmill Ltd

Magdalen Farm  
Gristhorpe  
North Yorkshire

archaeological desk-based assessment

report 2768  
November 2011

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## **1. Summary**

### **The project**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment, which was conducted in advance of the proposed installation of a wind turbine at Magdalen Farm, Gristhorpe, North Yorkshire. The assessment comprised a search of pertinent documentary and cartographic records, records of archaeological interventions, the Historic Environment Record, and a site walk-over survey.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Earthmill Ltd, and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

### **The archaeological resource**

- 1.3 No archaeological resource has been identified which requires preservation *in situ*. There are no historic or statutorily protected buildings on the site. The structures to the east of the proposed development area are of late 19th or 20th-century date. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or in the vicinity of the site.
- 1.4 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the proposed development area. There is however evidence that the surrounding area was exploited in these periods, although there is little evidence in the near vicinity. There is therefore some limited potential for an as yet unidentified resource to exist on the site.
- 1.5 The area lies to the south of the village of Gristhorpe and north-west of the village of Muston. It was most likely exploited as agricultural land during the medieval and post-medieval periods. It is unlikely that a significant archaeological resource from these periods is present on the site.

### **Impact assessment**

- 1.6 Groundworks associated with the development have some potential to impact upon any archaeological resource that may be present.

### **Recommendations**

- 1.7 Given the limited occurrence of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development, and its small scale, no further archaeological works are recommended.



## 2. Project background

### Location (Figures 1 & 2)

- 2.1 The site is located to the west of Magdalen Farm, Gristhorpe, North Yorkshire (NGR centre: TA 08415 80700). To the east are the farmhouse, buildings and yard of Magdalen Farm with open, arable fields on all other sides.

### Development proposal (Figure 3)

- 2.2 The proposed development is for installation of a single wind turbine and a cable run connecting it to adjacent farm buildings just over 100m to the east.

### Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent and potential significance of any surviving archaeological resource within the proposed development area so that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in relation to the proposed development.

### Methods statement

- 2.4 The works have been conducted in accordance with standard Archaeological Services' procedures for desk-based assessments. The works comprised the study of pertinent cartographic and other historical sources, records of previous archaeological interventions, sites listed in the Historic Environment Record (HER) within 2km of the proposed development area, and a site walk-over survey. HER references are referred to in brackets throughout the text of this report, and are listed in Appendix 1.

### Planning guidance

- 2.5 This assessment and its recommendations are a considered response to the proposed development in relation to Government policy, as it is set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, and the *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*.

### Dates

- 2.6 The field visit took place on 31st October 2011. This report was prepared for the 4th November 2011.

### Personnel

- 2.7 Research was conducted and this report prepared by Judith Roberts, with illustrations by David Graham. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

### OASIS

- 2.8 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations project (OASIS). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-113012**.

### Acknowledgements

- 2.9 Archaeological Services Durham University is grateful for the assistance of the staff of North Yorkshire Record Office and East Riding of Yorkshire Archive service, and personnel of the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record and of Palace Green Library, Durham in facilitating this scheme of works.

### **3. Landuse, topography and geology**

#### **Landuse**

- 3.1 At the time of this assessment, the proposed development area comprised a field that had been ploughed and planted with rape.

#### **Topography**

- 3.2 The proposed development area was predominantly level on a slight ridge with a mean elevation of approximately 30m OD. The land slopes gently down to the south to the River Hertford.

#### **Geology and soils**

- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Speeton Clay Formation overlain by Devensian till deposits.
- 3.4 The soil appeared relatively stone free and was over 40cm deep (M. Hutchinson, pers. comm.).

### **4. Site walk-over survey**

- 4.1 A walk-over survey was conducted, to help ascertain the potential of the proposed development area to contain any archaeological resource. The visit noted site topography, earthworks and areas of modern overburden, modern services, boundaries, buildings and other upstanding remains. A *pro forma* recording sheet was completed.
- 4.2 At the time of the walk-over survey the proposed development area comprised a field that had been ploughed and planted with rape. An existing wind turbine (Figure 10) stood 50m to the south of the proposed site of the new turbine. The ground sloped slightly up to the north (Figure 11). To the south the ground sloped gradually down to the canalised River Hertford (Figure 12) with Flotmanby Wold beyond the river. Much of the surrounding land is between 30m and 40m OD.

### **5. Historical and archaeological development**

#### **Previous archaeological works**

- 5.1 No previous archaeological works have been identified within the proposed development area. The fields to the south-east of Magdalen Farm have been investigated by metal detectorists. Desk-based assessments have been carried out in advance of the Cayton to Muston pipeline (HERs 27 and 50) and East Coast pipeline (HER 4347). A desk-based assessment and recording was carried out at West House Farm, Muston (HER 5025).

#### **The prehistoric period (up to AD 70)**

- 5.2 There is no direct evidence of prehistoric activity in the proposed development area. There is, however, evidence that the surrounding area was exploited in prehistory. A flint artefact was found in 2006 in the low-lying fields to the south-east of the farmhouse and buildings, in Muston Carr. This was identified by J. Atkin of UKDFD as a Neolithic lanceolate (or kite-shaped) flint arrowhead and reported to Simon Holmes (the Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer). The tenant of Magdalen Farm has photographs and text relating to the arrowhead.



5.3 An Early Bronze Age axe was found at Lebberston Carr Farm (HER 12505) and a number of Bronze Age monuments have been excavated at Flotmanby, to the south-west of the proposed turbine site. These were excavated in the 19th century (Kinnes & Longworth 1985, 118) and include round barrows on West Flotmanby Wold (Scheduled Monument NY822, HER 7948 and HER 7964). Wold Dyke, to the south of Magdalen Grange Farm, and other linear earthworks in the area have been dated to the Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age (HERs 7979, 7980, 7983 and 7986).

5.4 Gristhorpe is known for the remains of an early Bronze Age individual found in a log-coffin. The remains were found in 1834 in one of three barrows on Gristhorpe Cliff (Melton *et al* 2010, 796-815), to the north-east of Gristhorpe.

#### **The Roman period (AD 70 to 5th century)**

5.5 There is no evidence of Roman activity in the proposed development area or in the vicinity. The pattern of native British settlements, with scattered hamlets and farmsteads is likely to have continued into the Roman period. Cropmarks of a trackway and enclosure (HER 8238) have been recorded to the south-west of Magdalen Grange Farm on Flotmanby Carrs. These cropmarks have been identified as a settlement but remain undated. The former road line of Flotmanby Lane (HER 7927) was thought to have Roman or medieval origins based on 19th century investigations. A Roman road (HER 12652) was also identified whilst laying an electricity cable to the east of Gristhorpe and was thought to be linked to the Roman Signal Station on the coast at Filey (SAM NY478).

#### **The medieval period (5th century to 1540)**

5.6 Settlement is recorded at Flotmanby in the Domesday Survey (HER 7931) but the village was depopulated by 1353-4. Remains of the village were visible as earthworks near West Flotmanby in the mid-20th century. A moat at Newbiggin (HER 12663) indicates that settlement at this time was based on the higher land, round the carrs. There is no evidence that the area around Magdalen Grange Farm was used for anything other than grazing in this period. Lebberston Carr, Muston Carr and Flotmanby Carrs would have been waterlogged for much of the year and used only on a seasonal basis. Areas of medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation have been identified in the North Yorkshire Historic Land Characterisation project (Figure 2). An undated, linear feature (HER 12516) may also date to this period. A mound close to Newbiggin (HER 12667) is thought to be the remains of the base of a mill and may be of medieval or post-medieval date.

#### **The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)**

5.7 Blaeu's map of 1645 (Figure 4) shows the village of Gristhorpe to the north of the Hertford River and close to the coast but this map provides little detail of the countryside around the settlements other than rivers and upland areas. Weston House in Muston (HER 31052) dates from the 18th century. Documentary evidence for a beacon is recorded to the north-east of Muston (HER 12668) but it is not known when a beacon functioned on the hill.

5.8 In the early 19th century the land around Magdalen Grange Farm was drained and the River Hertford, to the south, was canalised. Smith's map of 1801 (Figure 5) shows the village of Gristhorpe to the north of the river and Muston to the south but no farms are marked in the intervening area. In 1808-9 many of the fields in the area were enclosed by Act of Parliament. (Figure 2).

- 5.9 The more detailed map of Yorkshire, produced in 1817 by Greenwood (Figure 6), marks Muston Carr House in the approximate position of Magdalen Grange Farm.
- 5.10 By the mid-19th century the Ordnance Survey maps clearly mark Muston Carr Farm (Figure 7). The 1st edition 1" edition of 1860 shows Carr Lane leading from Gristhorpe to Muston Carr Farm and a footpath leading south-east from the south-eastern part of the farm. By the time the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 8) was compiled in 1893 another path is marked crossing the field to the south-west of the farm buildings and onwards across the Hertford River to Flotmanby.

#### **The modern period (1900 to present)**

- 5.11 During the first part of the 20th century the layout of the fields to the west of the farm remained unchanged. The name remained as Muston Carr Farm and is shown as such on the 1954 6" edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 9).
- 5.12 In 1943 two aircraft crashed in the area, one at Muston (JER 26820) and one to the south-west of Magdalen Grange Farm, at West Flotmanby (HER 26871).
- 5.13 Between the 1950s and 1970s the name was changed to Magdalen Grange Farm but the layout of the fields to the west of the farm remained unchanged.

#### **The buildings**

- 5.14 There are no statutorily protected buildings within the site. The buildings to the east of the site are of late 19th or 20th century date and are not regarded as archaeologically significant. There are a number of statutorily protected buildings in Gristhorpe, Flotmanby and Muston (Appendix 1) but these are not likely to be affected by the proposed development.

#### **Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other Designated Heritage Assets**

- 5.15 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the proposed development area, or the near vicinity. The barrow cemetery on Flotmanby Wold, over 2km to the south-west of Magdalen Grange Farm, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NY 822).

## **6. The potential archaeological resource**

- 6.1 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the proposed development area. There is however evidence that the surrounding area was exploited in these periods, although there is little evidence in the near vicinity. There is therefore some limited potential for an as yet unidentified resource to exist on the site.
- 6.2 The proposed development area was exploited as agricultural land in the medieval and post-medieval periods and it is unlikely that a significant archaeological resource from these periods is present on the site.

## **7. Impact assessment**

- 7.1 The excavation of the foundations for the wind turbine and a service trench from the turbine to existing farm buildings may have an impact on any archaeological resource that may be present on the site.



## 8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Given the limited occurrence of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development, and its small scale, no further archaeological works are recommended.

## 9. Sources

### Cartographic sources [North Yorkshire Record Office]

Morden, 1695 The East Riding of Yorkshire  
Jeffrey, 1770 Map of the County of Yorkshire  
Tuke, 1787 Map of the County of Yorkshire  
Smith, 1801-4 Map of the County of Yorkshire  
Greenwood, 1817 Map of the County of Yorkshire  
Bryant, 1827 Map of the East Riding of Yorkshire  
Teesdale, 1828 Map of the County of Yorkshire  
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1" sheet 110  
Ordnance Survey 6" 1st edition, 1855, sheet 110.2  
Ordnance Survey 6" 2nd edition, 1893, sheet 110.2  
Ordnance Survey 1:25,000, 1954 edition, sheet TA08

### Other sources

David, A, Linford, N, & Linford, P, 2008 Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluatin. English Heritage  
Kinnes, I A, and Longworth, I H, 1985 *Catalogue of the excavated prehistoric and Romano-British material in the Greenwell Collection*. British Museum  
Melton, N, *et al* 2010 Gristhorpe Man: an Early Bronze Age log-coffin burial scientifically defined. *Antiquity* 84, 796-815

### North Yorkshire County Record Office

MIC1919 Various maps of Yorkshire  
MIC1982 Maps of the East Riding of Yorkshire  
MIC2002 Various maps of the Ridings of Yorkshire  
MIC2036 Maps of the East Riding of Yorkshire  
MIC2056 Various maps of Yorkshire

### Websites

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/genmaps>  
<http://sine.ncl.ac.uk>  
<http://treasurehouse.eastriding.gov.uk>  
[www.bl.uk/ukgallery](http://www.bl.uk/ukgallery)  
[www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)  
[www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/NY/Scarborough](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/NY/Scarborough)  
[www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)  
[www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
[www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)



### **Aerial photographs**

The Cambridge University Collection of Air Photos, the National Monuments Record and Ordnance Survey aerial photographic collections contain a considerable number of vertical and oblique aerial photographs of the area taken in the late 1960s and 1970s. These photographs form the basis for many of the features identified in the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record. The photographs were not re-assessed for the current report.

### **Geotechnical works**

No records of geotechnical works within the proposed development area were identified for this assessment.

## Appendix 1: Historic Environment Record

The tables include sites recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area (within an approximate radius of 2km from the site).

### Historic Environment Record

(PRN = Public Record Number)

PRN	Description	Date
7927	Flotmanby Lane	?Roman/post-medieval
7931	Flotmanby deserted settlement	medieval
7948	West Flotmanby Wold round barrow	Bronze Age
7964	West Flotmanby Wold ring ditch and barrow	Bronze Age
7979	Wold Dike	Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age
7980	Wold Dike	Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age
7983	Wold Dike	Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age
7986	Dyke	Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age
8238	Cropmark, trackway and settlement	unknown
12505	Bronze Axe	Early Bronze Age
12516	Linear earthwork	unknown
12652	Roman Road	Roman
12663	Newbiggin Moat	medieval/post-medieval
12667	Mill Hill	undated
12668	Beacon at Beacon Hill, Filey	undated
26820	Aircraft crash site, Martinet, serial no. HN862	07/07/1943
26871	Aircraft crash site, Mosquito, serial no. DD754	12/12/1943
31052	West House Farm, Muston	1752
31443	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31702	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31703	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31704	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31705	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31706	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31707	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31708	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31709	Ridge and furrow	medieval/post-medieval
31710	Ridge and furrow	medieval/post-medieval
31711	Ridge and furrow	medieval/post-medieval
31712	Ridge and furrow	medieval/post-medieval
31713	Ridge and furrow	medieval/post-medieval
31715	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31716	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31717	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31718	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31720	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31721	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31722	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31723	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31724	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval
31727	Ridge and furrow	post-medieval

### Historic Landscape Characterisation

PRN	Description	Date
271	Enclosed land, modern improved fields	20th century
449	Magdeline (Magdalen) Farm	1802-1808
777	Enclosed land	1808
778	Enclosed land, modern improved fields	20th century
784	Enclosed land, parliamentary enclosure	1802-1806
785	The Ings; pasture or meadow	medieval
786	Broadleaf plantation	post-medieval
787	Chalk quarry	19th century
788	Manor Farm, ?medieval origins	post-medieval



PRN	Description	Date
789	Farm complex	early 19th century
790	Broad leaf plantation	post-medieval
791	Chalk quarry	19th century
792	Large scale parliamentary enclosure	1802-1806
796	Enclosed land, modern improved fields	late 20th century
797	Large scale parliamentary enclosure	1808
798	Enclosed land, modern improved fields	20th century
807	Enclosed land, strip fields	late medieval
808	Enclosed land, strip fields	late medieval
809	Caravan park, formerly strip fields	20th century
817	Enclosed land, modern improved fields	mid to late 20th century
819	Large scale parliamentary enclosure	1808
820	Muston Cottage Farm	post-medieval
821	Irregular fields with later parliamentary enclosure	medieval
823	Parkland attached to Gristhorpe Manor	late 19th century
824	Mixed commercial/industrial	late 20th century
825	Modern housing estate	late 20th/early 21st century
826	Semi-detached housing	20th/21st century
827	Modern housing estate	late 20th/early 21st century
828	Gristhorpe Manor	1600-1753
829	Irregular fields, medieval enclosure	medieval
831	Large scale parliamentary enclosure	1750-1850
833	Large scale parliamentary enclosure	1802-1808
834	Enclosed land, modern improved fields	20th century
836	Piecemeal enclosure	medieval to 19th century
837	Lebberston Carr	post-medieval
838	Enclosed land with modern caravan park	medieval
839	Lingholm Farm	post-medieval
847	Golf course	late 20th/early 21st century
870	Unknown planned enclosure	early post-medieval
871	Detached housing	late 20th/early 21st century
872	Gristhorpe Carr	late 20th century
892	Gristhorpe, linear village	medieval
895	Piecemeal enclosure	post-medieval
897	Newbiggin West Farm (moated settlement)	medieval to post-medieval
898	Piecemeal enclosure	medieval to post-medieval
899	Crayke House Farm	post-medieval
900	Piecemeal enclosure	medieval to post-medieval
901	Enclosed land, modern improved fields	post-medieval
902	Unknown planned enclosure	20th/early 21st century
903	Enclosed land, formerly open field, with ridge and furrow	medieval
904	Allinson Field Farm	20th/early 21st century
905	Piecemeal enclosure	post-medieval
906	Enclosed land, modern improved fields	20th/early 21st century
907	Piecemeal enclosure	18th century
908	Enclosed land, formerly open field	medieval
909	Modern housing	20th/early 21st century
910	Piecemeal enclosure with modern caravan park	post-medieval
911	Carless Farm on former clay pit	20th/early 21st century
912	Unknown planned enclosure	post-medieval
913	Large scale parliamentary enclosure	19th/early 21st century
921	Cricket ground	20th/early 21st century
923	Crofts	late medieval/early/post-medieval
924	Muston Hall	post-medieval
925	Muston nucleated village	medieval
926	Enclosed land, modern improved fields	20th/early 21st century
927	Farm on post-medieval piecemeal enclosure	20th/early 21st century
928	Farm on medieval piecemeal enclosure	20th/early 21st century
930	Modern housing	late 20th/early 21st century

PRN	Description	Date
23666	Lebberston nucleated village	medieval
23669	Piecemeal enclosure	post-medieval
23696	Muston linear village	post-medieval

### Listed buildings

PRN	Description	Grade
327048	Gristhorpe Hall	II
327049	Coach house attached to Gristhorpe Hall	II
327007	Forge Cottage, Wellbank	II
327010	Bank House	II
327014	Muston Hall	II
326962	Do vecote east of West Flotmanby Farmhouse	II
327050	Manor Farm House	II
326961	West Flotmanby Farmhouse	II
327015	West House Farm	II
327006	6 and 7 Hunmanby Road, Muston	II
327008	White Horse Cottage	II
327009	Ashley Cottage	II
327029	Church of All Saints, Muston	II

### Previous archaeological interventions

PRN	description
27	Cayton to Muston pipeline; desk-based assessment
50	Cayton to Muston pipeline; written scheme of investigation for archaeological recording
4347	East Coast Pipeline; desk-based appraisal
5025	West House Farm, Mustorn; building recording