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**Tinley Garth, Kirbymoorside
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Trialhole Survey**

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Introduction

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd were commissioned to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief on four testholes dug at land to the north of the Old School, Tinley Garth, Kirbymoorside and immediately to the rear of properties fronting onto High Market Place and Tinley Garth (SE 6950 8658 Fig 1)

The site is to be developed by Ryedale Housing Association for housing, and has a mixture of uses at present. The eastern part of the site has workshops and garages on it, which are linked to Tinley Garth by a metalled access road. The north-western area of the site is occupied by an overgrown orchard. Overgrown gardens and the remains of collapsed temporary structures occur over the remainder of the site. The present ground levels dip downwards to the west. There is a noticeable terrace associated with the modern outbuildings at the east of the site.

The purpose of the testholes was to investigate the ground conditions in order to indicate the requirements for the proposed housing development. As there was the possibility that archaeological deposits might be effected, an archaeological Watching Brief was required by the Archaeology Section of NYCC Planning Department.

The Watching Brief was funded by Ryedale Housing Association.

Figure 1 is produced from the Ordnance Survey with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No AL50453A.

Excavation Methods

The testholes were dug by a JCB excavator using a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. Notes were made on the limited stratigraphy revealed.

Results

The testholes were each c 0.8 x 1.5m in size. Testholes 1, 2 and 3 were excavated to a depth of c 1.2m, but Testhole 4 was deeper, with a depth of c 2m.

Testhole 1

Testhole 1 was situated in the south-west corner of the site (Fig 1). Fractured sandstone bedrock was observed at a depth of 0.35m from modern ground level. Above this lay a 0.17m deep layer of dark yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil which was overlain in turn by 0.18m of modern topsoil. No archaeological deposits or finds were present.

Testhole 2

Testhole 2 was situated towards the north-west corner of the site (Fig 1). Fractured sandstone bedrock was present at a depth of 0.53m from the present ground surface. A 0.36m deep layer of subsoil, similar to that seen in Testhole 1, overlies the bedrock. The subsoil was overlain by a 0.17m thick layer of modern topsoil. No archaeological deposits or finds were present.

Testhole 3

Testhole 3 was situated in the north-east corner of the site (Fig 1). Fractured sandstone bedrock was encountered at a depth of 0.55m from the modern ground surface. A 0.36m layer of subsoil, similar to that seen in Testholes 1 and 2, overlies the bedrock. The overlying modern topsoil was 0.19m deep and contained quantities of modern building rubble. No archaeological deposits or finds were present.

Testhole 4

Testhole 4 was positioned in the area of the existing outbuildings at the eastern area of the site (Fig 1). As mentioned above, this testhole was deeper than the others. This greater depth is explained by the fact that solid bedrock was present at a greater distance from the ground surface (c 2m). A 0.90m deep deposit of dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil overlies the degraded bedrock. The subsoil was overlain by a 0.15m deep layer of modern topsoil. Finally, a 0.20m thick deposit of gravel overlies the topsoil, and represented a recent hard-standing. The greater depth of stratigraphy in this testhole is largely explained by the terrace providing level ground for the modern outbuildings. No archaeological deposits or finds were present.

Conclusions

The testholes failed to locate any archaeological deposits or finds. However, the negative results should not necessarily be applied to the site as a whole. Larger testholes designed specifically for archaeological evaluation could provide an accurate picture of any archaeological deposits present at the site.

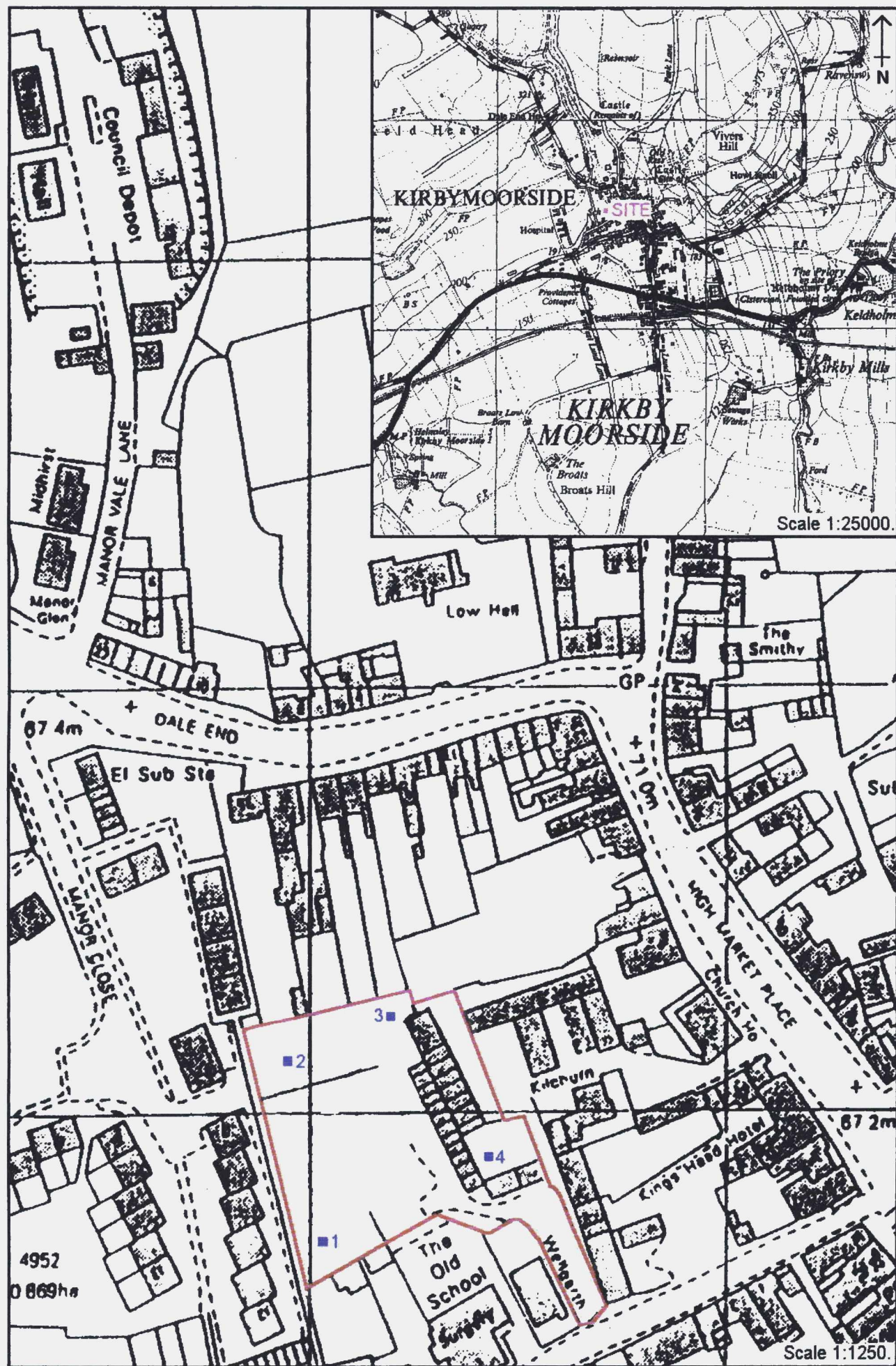


Figure 1. Site and Testhole Location Plans.