

**MAP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE LTD**

**10.17: Land to the Rear of
Mount Pleasant Farm
Welburn
Malton
North Yorkshire
SE 473441 466876**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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October 2011

**Land to the Rear of Mount Pleasant Farm
Welburn
Malton
North Yorkshire
SE 473441 466876**

11/00505/FUL

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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**Land to the Rear of Mount Pleasant Farm
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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Non Technical Summary

A Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd on Land to the rear of Mount Pleasant Farm, Welburn, Malton, North Yorkshire on the 18th of October 2011. The work was undertaken in order to fulfil a Condition attached to the Planning Application Consent (Application No: 11/00505/FUL) for the erection of 2-bedroom agricultural workers dwelling with separate garage and formation of vehicular access.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered throughout the Watching Brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report concerns the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was carried out on the groundworks associated with the erection of a 2-bedroom agricultural workers dwelling with separate garage and formation of vehicular access on land to the rear of Mount Pleasant Farm, Welburn, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 473441 466876, Fig. 1).

- 1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to provide the appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, in accordance with the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5)* and in accordance with policy C13 of the Ryedale District Local Plan.

- 1.3 The application number for the development was 11/00505/FUL.
- 1.4 The work was funded by Mr John Till.
- 1.5 The Ordnance Survey maps are reproduced under licence from the Ordnance Survey, licence no. AL 50453A, with permission from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, (c) Crown Copyright.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site is located on the outskirts of Welburn village on the southern side of the A64, from Malton to York (Fig. 1), at SE 473441 466876. The application site is bounded by agricultural fields, to the north and west, woodland to the south and by Cragg Jamies' Caravan Park to the east. At the time of the Watching Brief the site was in use as arable cultivation.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The site of the Roman pottery kilns lie c. 1300m north-east of the site at Crambeck village. Roman occupancy around this area seems to have been in the late Roman period as the pottery trade spread west from Norton. Large quantities of Crambeck Ware have been recovered around the site of Jamies' Cragg caravan park just to the east of the site (Corder, 1928).
- 3.2 Mount Pleasant Farm appears on the 1854 Edition Ordnance Survey Map. It is believed to have been built circa 1720 with later additions in 1828, denoting it a grade II listed property. The gardens were first laid out in the 1920s by John Heckley and follow much of their original form as stated in a diary extract published in the Malton Gazette.

- 3.3 Just east of the proposed development site lies the decommissioned Castle Howard Station, once part of the York to Scarborough Railway line. The station was built in 1845 and served the needs of farmers, merchants and passengers. The station was closed to passenger traffic in 1930 but continued to operate for local freight movements. It was decommissioned in 1960 and ceased all freight movements (Harris, 2010). Access to the proposed development will be via Castle Howard Station Road which one served as a transportation route for goods from Mount Pleasant Farm.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 The ploughsoil was stripped from the location of the plot boundary extents and double garage boundary extents, which formed two separate rectangles measuring c. 7.5 x 20m and 8 x 6m in size. The ploughsoil was stripped using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless blade, operating under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the top of archaeological or naturally-formed deposits, depending upon which was located soonest. The exposed surfaces were cleaned by shovel, hoe or trowel as appropriate, and all subsequent excavation carried out by hand.
- 4.2 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 4.3 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a high resolution digital camera.

5. Results (Pls. 3-4)

- 5.1 Excavations across the plot boundary and double garage extents revealed a limestone bedrock that was sealed by a greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil which had a maximum depth of 0.25m.
- 5.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed at either the plot boundary or double garage extents.

6. Discussion

- 6.1 Natural deposits were revealed in both the plot boundary extents and double garage. The absence of any archaeological finds, features or deposits could be due to the shallow nature of the ploughsoil or the relatively recent disturbance caused by ploughing.

7. Bibliography

- | | | |
|------------|------|--|
| Corder, P | 1928 | <i>The Roman Pottery at Crambeck, Castle Howard.</i> Roman and Malton District Report 1. |
| Harris R | 2010 | Castle Howard Station History Highlighted. <i>York Press.</i> |
| Smith, A H | 1937 | The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire and York. |

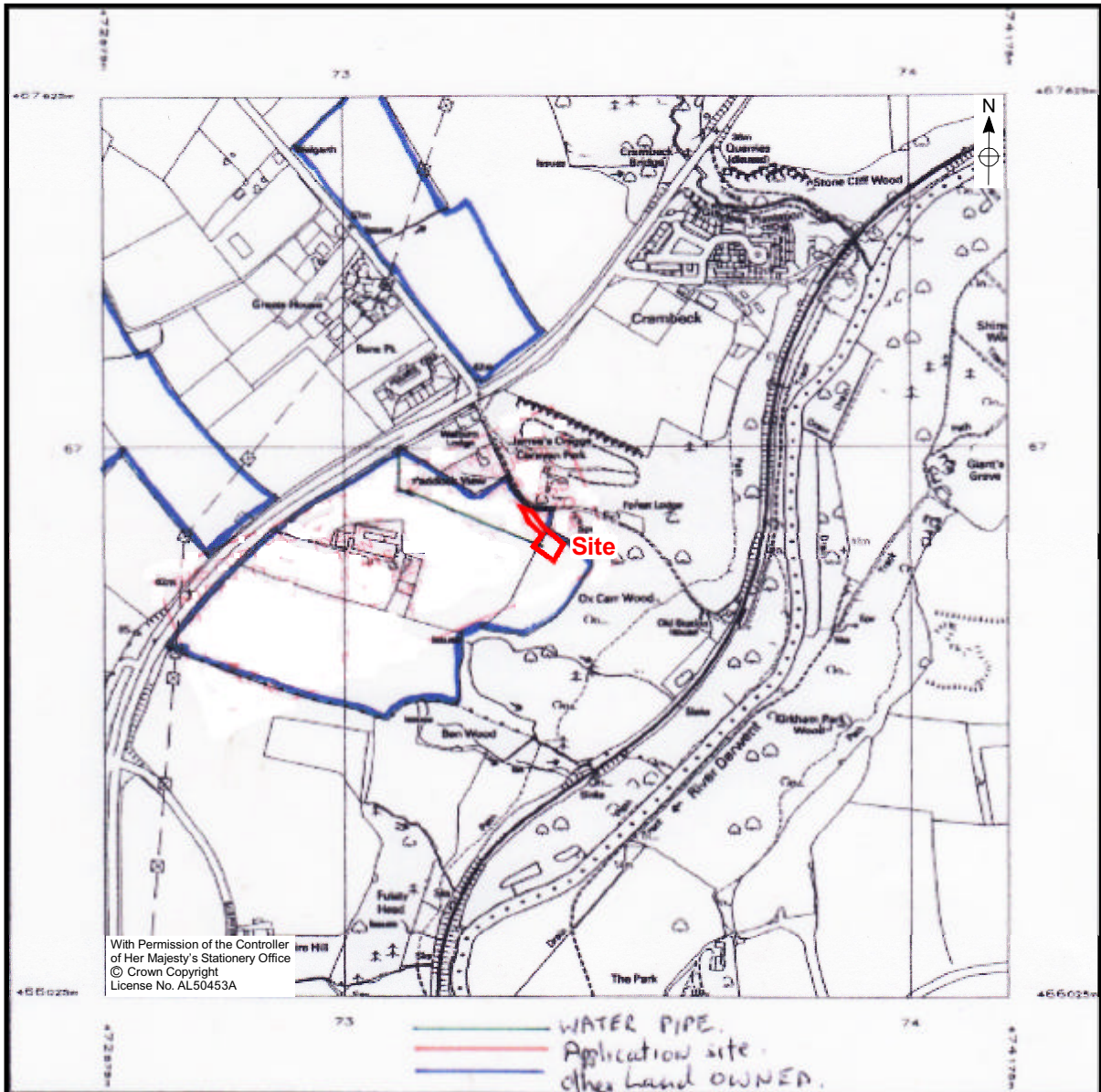


Figure 1. Site Location. Scale 1:10000.



Plate 1. General View of Site. Facing South-east.



Plate 2. Plot Boundary after Topsoil Strip. Facing North-west.



Plate 3. Plot Boundary after Topsoil Strip. Facing South-east.



Plate 4. Garage Boundary after Topsoil Strip. Facing South-west.

MAP

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd

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

11/00505/FUL

Mount Pleasant Farm, Welburn

- 1 The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains which are:
 - a) affected by proposed development only to a limited and clearly defined extent,
 - b) not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or
 - c) of limited importance or potential.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 or obligation. The scheme does **not** comprise a full specification or Bill of Quantities, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. No work on site should commence until the implementation of the scheme is the subject of a standard ICE Conditions of Contract for Archaeological Investigation or similar agreement between the Developer and the Archaeologist.
- 3 The Archaeologist should notify by letter or e-mail the County Archaeology Service (archaeology@northyorks.gov.uk) at least 10 working days in advance of the start of work on site.
- 4 The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) will 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.
- 5 Removal of overburden by machine will 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.

- 8** Heavy plant will 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.
- 9** Upon completion of fieldwork, samples will be processed and evaluated, and all finds identified, assessed, spot-dated, properly stored, and subject to investigative conservation as needed. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist should 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.
- 10** A summary report will be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report should 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 should be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features should be illustrated with conventionally-scaled plans, sections, and photographs. Where few or no finds are made, it may be acceptable to provide the report in the form of a letter with plans attached.
- 11** Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Section (HER), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage. A licence should be granted to the accepting museum and the County Council to use the documentation arising from the work for its statutory functions and to give to third parties as an incidental to those functions.
- 12** Upon completion of the work, the Archaeologist will make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). Submission of data to OASIS does not discharge the planning requirements for the Archaeologist to notify the County Archaeology Service of the details of the work and to provide the Historic Environment Record (HER) with a summary report on the work.
- 13** Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR) information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'. Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. The Archaeologist should inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.
- 14** 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 should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If there is a need to remove human remains, an exhumation licence should be obtained from the Department for Constitutional Affairs (coroners@dca.gsi.gov.uk), or a faculty obtained

where the remains are buried in land consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England.