

MAP

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE Ltd.

**Westfield Pit Unit
Scarborough Road
Sherburn
North Yorkshire**

**SE 9460 7669
12/01143/FUL
MAP 10.12.2013**

Archaeological Testpits

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Report Prepared By	Report Authorised By
Date: 30/04/2013	Date: 30/04/2013

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Summary

A series of five Archaeological Testpits were excavated under supervision of Archaeological Practice Ltd. at Westfield Pig Unit, Scarborough Road, Sherburn, North Yorkshire (SE 9460 7669) on the 25th April 2013. The work was undertaken to assess the depth of overburden on site and to see if any archaeological features were present after the results of a Geophysical Survey, previously undertaken was inconclusive. The Geophysical Survey and the Archaeological Testpits were undertaken in advance of Planning Permission for the installation of 7 rows of ground mounted solar panels(672 panels in total) providing 150kW peak renewable energy (planning Ref. 12/01143/FUL).

There was between 500mm and 1m of overburden noted in the Testpits. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in any of the Testpits.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of the excavation of five Testpits undertaken on the 25th April 2013 in the area of the Proposed Installation of 7 rows of ground mounted solar panels(672 panels in total) providing 150kW peak renewable energy at Westfield Pig Unit, Scarborough Road, Sherburn, North Yorkshire (Planning Ref. 12/01143/FUL; SE 9460 7669, Figs. 1 & 2).

- 1.2 Previously, a Geophysical Survey had been undertaken with inconclusive results, with nor archaeological anomalies within the area. The Excavation of five Testpits was designed to provide the appropriate level of evaluation to assess the presence of archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, in accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012).
- 1.3 All work was funded by Dodds Ltd.
- 1.4 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 Proposed Development Area is located between the villages of East Heslerton and Sherburn, south of the A64, Malton to Scarborough Road (Fig. 1). Westfield Pig Unit is located east of Westfield Farm. The Propsoed Development Area is a pasture Field north of the Pig Unit (Fig. 2; Pls. 1-3).
- 2.2 The Site of the Proposed Ground Mounted Solar Panels is c. 75m by 50m and stands at heights between 38m AOD - 39m AOD.
- 2.3 The site stands on soils of the Newport 1 soil association, deep well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils. Some sandy soils affected by groundwater. Risk of wind and water erosion over glaciofluvial drift (551d; Mackney et al 1984, 10)

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The sandy soils on which the site is situated, attracted large-scale occupation in the Prehistoric period, with a 'ribbon' of settlements

following the 30m contour along the southern edge of the Vale of Pickering. This 'ladder settlement' stretches from Sherburn, westwards to Heslerton and beyond. Excavation took place in 1985-6 on an area of this prehistoric settlement c. 1km west of Sherburn (Powlesland 1987). The importance of the area as a focus for settlement continued into the Roman period, with Roman coins and sherds being found at an area immediately north of the primary school. Recent enhanced geophysical survey work in the vicinity by the Landscape Research Trust, has identified a wealth of sites of all periods. In particular a trackway, bounded by two ditches 50m apart, has been recognised on an alignment that runs directly through the proposed development area (Dominic Powlesland, pers. comm.). A pit-alignment of probable prehistoric date is believed to pre-date the trackway.

- 4.2 The present village of Sherburn existed as a settlement before the Norman Conquest, the name being recorded as *Scirebur'*, *Sciresburne* and *Schiresburne* in the Domesday Survey; the name means 'bright, clear stream' (Smith ed. 1937). The parish church of St. Hilda doubtless formed a focus of the medieval settlement, which extended southwards towards the present A64 York to Scarborough road. Hayfield has suggested that the regular appearance of the properties in the southern half of the settlement (of which the site forms a part) reflects deliberate periods of expansion in the medieval period (Hayfield 1994). T. C. M. Brewster excavated a major series of medieval stone buildings and yards on the west side of St Hilda Street (c. 400m north-west of the development area – *ibid.*). Brewster also observed three 13th century "kilns" at the front of a property on the west side of the street, almost opposite the entrance to Atlas Ward's; however, whether these were associated with pottery manufacture remains unclear.
- 4.3 An evaluation and subsequent Watching Brief carried out at 18-22 St Hilda Street (immediately north of the proposed development area) revealed medieval pits and boundary features, and undated

(presumably prehistoric or Romano-British) linear features. Finds included a small assemblage of pottery and animal bone, and a background scatter of earlier material, including pottery and flint artefacts (MAP 1995).

- 4.4 An Archaeological evaluation was carried out in February 2006 in the grounds of the former Pigeon Pie Hotel c. 200m west of the proposed development site. A small circular feature of probable prehistoric date was recorded, covered by c. 0.30m of windblown sand, which was cut by several medieval and post-medieval features (AOC 2006).
- 4.5 In the post-medieval period, the focus of settlement in Sherburn shifted south to the York to Scarborough turnpike road, reflected by the construction of the former Pigeon Pie Hotel and industry such as James Kirk's East Riding Brewery along the Scarborough Road. Manor Farm, south of the site across the A64, has a date-stone of 1856.
- 4.6 In 2007, an Evaluation at Corner House Farm uncovered a wide east-west aligned boundary ditch passed through Trenches 2, 3 and 4, with other linear features being recorded in these trenches, along with pits.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Testpits were to record the depth of overburden and to record and recover any archaeological remains that were affected by the development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 Each Testpit measured 3m by 2m and was stripped using a 360° mechanical excavator to reveal overburden overlying natural sandy gravel deposits.

5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).

5.4 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained on a high resolution digital camera.

6. Results (Fig. 2)

6.1 Testpit 1 was located in the north-east corner of the Site and revealed 200mm of topsoil and 800mm of subsoil over lying natural sand and gravel (Pl. 4). Topsoil was at 38.68m AOD and natural was at 37.68m AOD. No archaeological features, deposit or finds were revealed in this Testpit.

6.2 Testpit 2 was located in the north-west corner of the Site and revealed 200mm of topsoil and 800mm of subsoil over lying natural sand and gravel. Topsoil was at 38.63m AOD and natural was at 37.63m AOD. No archaeological features, deposit or finds were revealed in this Testpit.

6.3 Testpit 3 was located in the centre of the Site and revealed 200mm of topsoil and 800mm of subsoil over lying natural sand and gravel. Topsoil was at 39.04m AOD and natural was at 38.04m AOD. No archaeological features, deposit or finds were revealed in this Testpit.

6.4 Testpit 4 was located in the south-east corner of the Site and revealed 250mm of topsoil and 250mm of subsoil over lying natural sand and gravel. Topsoil was at 39.64m AOD and natural was at 39.14m AOD. No archaeological features, deposit or finds were revealed in this Testpit.

6.4 Testpit 5 was located in the north-east corner of the Site and revealed 200mm of topsoil and 500mm of subsoil over lying natural sand and gravel. Topsoil was at 39.41m AOD and natural was at 38.71m AOD.

No archaeological features, deposit or finds were revealed in this Testpit.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 No archaeological features, deposit or finds were revealed during the excavation of the Testpits. Overburden comprised topsoil and subsoil which was 1m deep in the north and central part of the site and between 500mm-700mm on the southern part of the site.

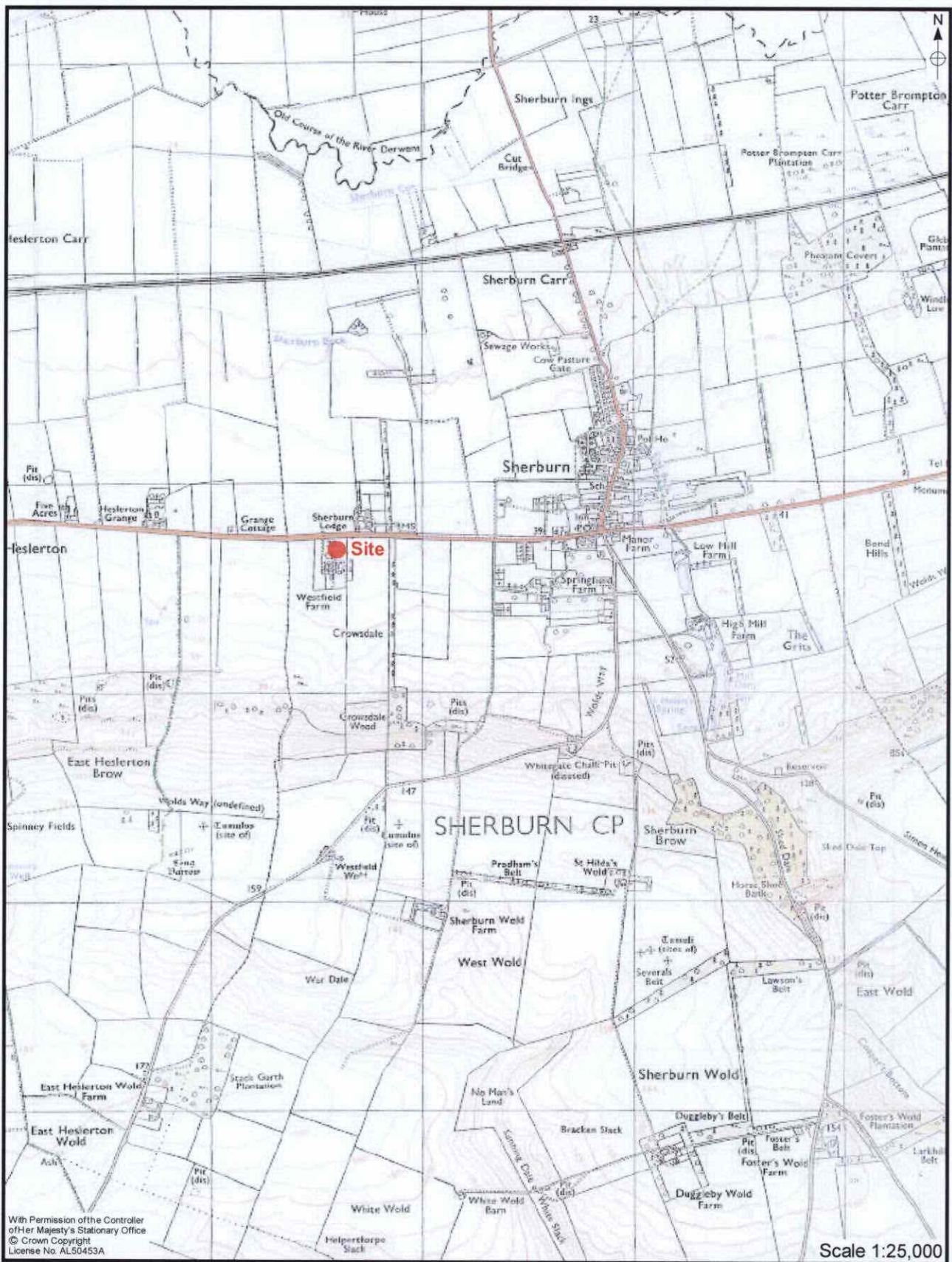


Figure 1. Site Location

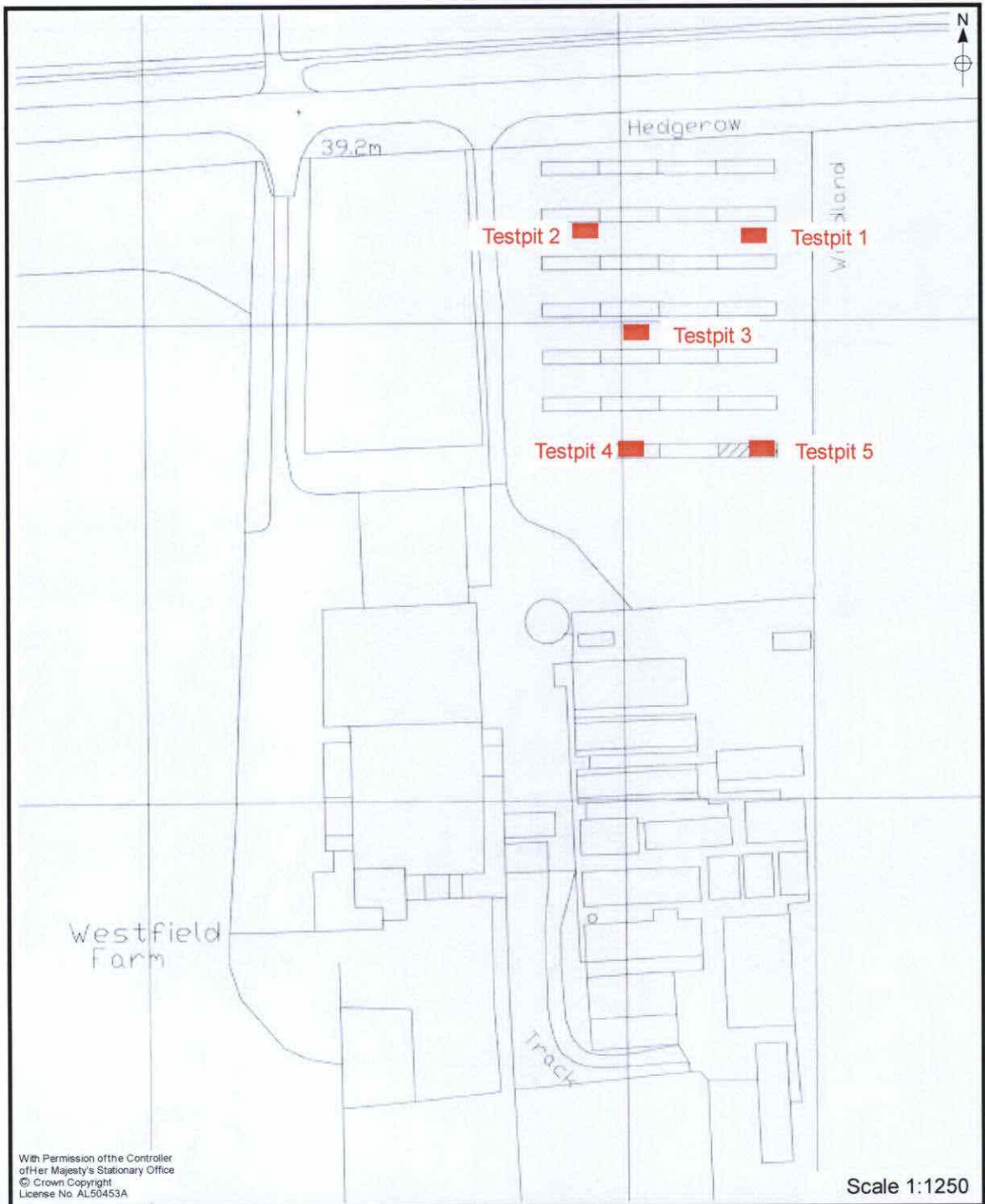


Figure 2. Location of Archaeological Testpits 1 to 5.



Plate 1. View of Site. Facing North.



Plate 2. View of Site. Facing North-east.



Plate 3. View of Site. Facing South.



Plate 4. Testpit 1, Facing West.



Plate 5. Testpit 2. Facing West.



Plate 6. Testpit 3. Facing East.



Plate 7. Testpit 4. Facing East.



Plate 8. Testpit 5. Facing West.