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SNY	6957
ENY	866
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Settrington Service Reservoir
High Street
Settrington
North Yorkshire
SE 8664 7058

Archaeological Watching Brief

MAP
May 2002

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Archaeological Watching Brief

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of J N Bentley Limited to fulfil a condition (Planning Reference Number 01/01031/FUL) attached to a planning consent for the erection of a dutch barn over Settrington Service Reservoir.
- 1.2 The Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out during the excavation of the foundation pads associated with the new build in early May, 2002.
- 1.3 The site is situated on the southern boundary of an area of plantation on Beacon Wold. (SE 8664 7058 : Fig. 1). Prior to the current development the site consisted of a fenced off area containing a brick and metal unit (Pl. 1). The interior of the fenced area was relatively flat whereas a slight slope was seen to the east, west north and south. The site stands at 198m AOD.
- 1.4 All work has been funded by J N Bentley Limited.
- 1.5 The maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no. AL 50453A.

2. Archaeological Background

- 2.1 To the east of the site stands Settrington Beacon, a Bronze Age Barrow. Further Prehistoric activity is illustrated by an extant section of earthwork to the south-east of the site and crop mark linears to the south, east and west (Stoertz 1997).
- 2.2 The existing equipment on the site is believed to have been built on a barrow mound.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 A total of ten pads were excavated, each measuring 1m x 1m and cut down to a depth of between 0.47m to 0.7m. All of the foundation pads were excavated by hand.

4. Results

- 4.1 No archaeological deposits were observed. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a sandy clay topsoil (10YR 5/8) which sealed a slightly sandy clay subsoil (7.5Y 5/6) over frost fractured chalk (Pls. 3 & 4).
- 4.2 The areas where Foundation Pads 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9 were excavated (Fig. 2) had been previously disturbed. The new excavations revealed pipework and deposits of concrete.
- 4.3 The majority of the excavations were badly tree rooted resulting from the existing trees used in landscaping the reservoir (Pls. 1 & 2) and from those which had been felled in the past (Pl. 3).
- 4.4 No finds were recovered from any of the excavations and the general nature of the deposits suggested that this area was completely free of archaeological activity.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 No evidence was forthcoming from the excavations to suggest that the service equipment had been constructed either onto or into a round barrow. The actual topography of the site while resembling a low mound may be accounted for by previous landscaping associated with the service reservoir.

6. Bibliography

Stoertz C. 1997 Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds. RCHME.

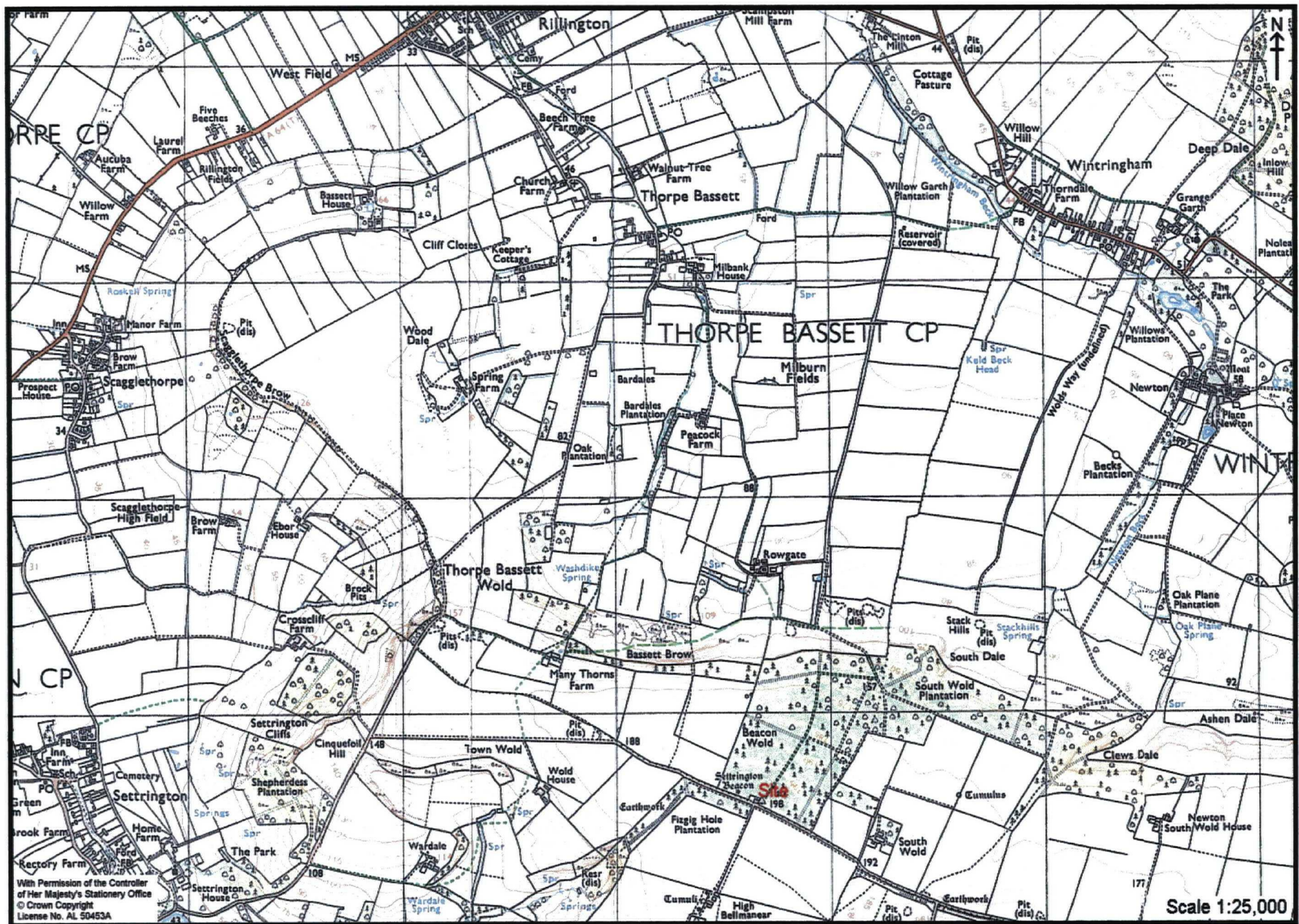


Figure 1. Site Location

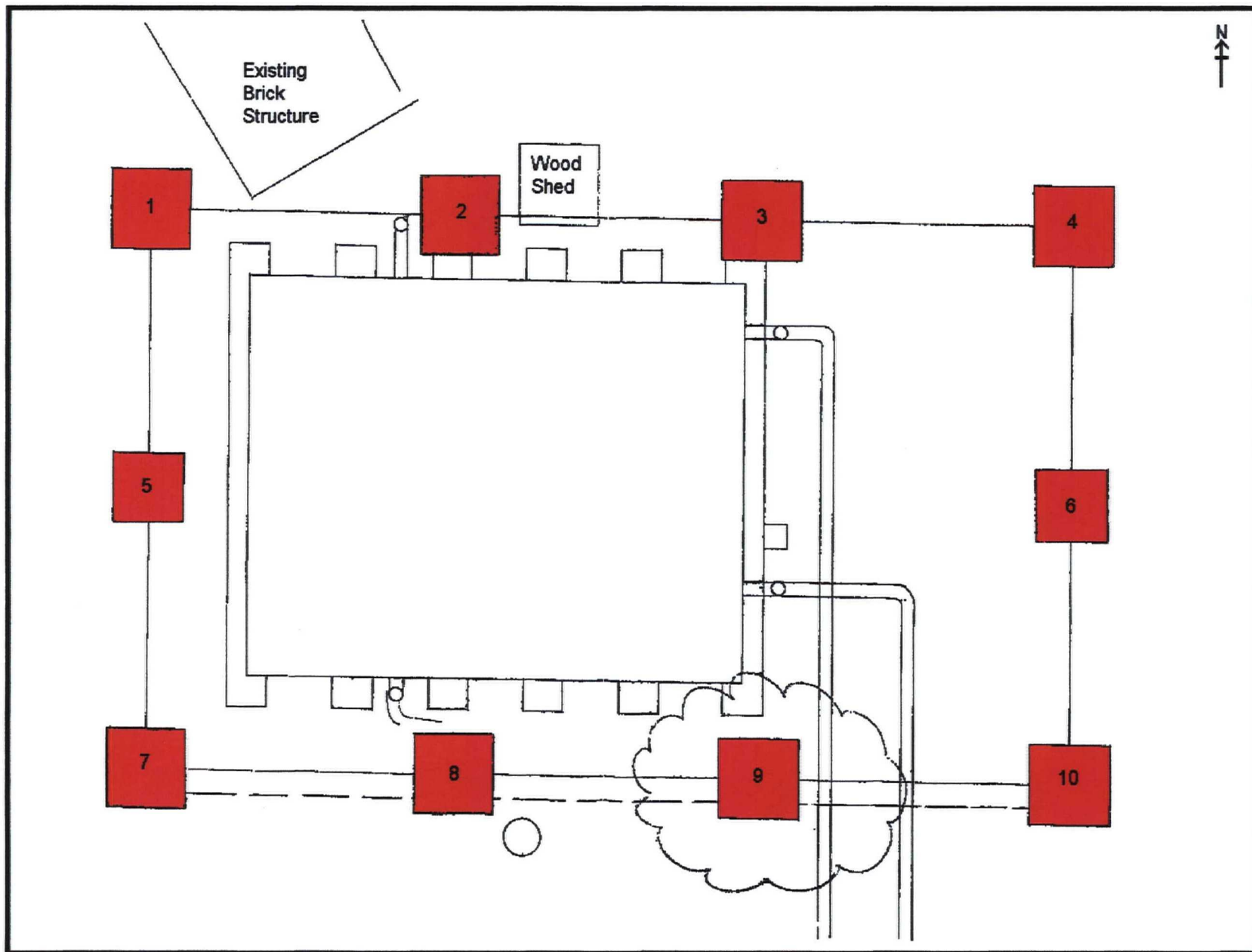


Figure 2. Location of Foundation Pads



Plate 1. View of Site. Facing north.



Plate 2. View of Site. Facing south-west.



Plate 3. Foundation Pad 2. Facing east.

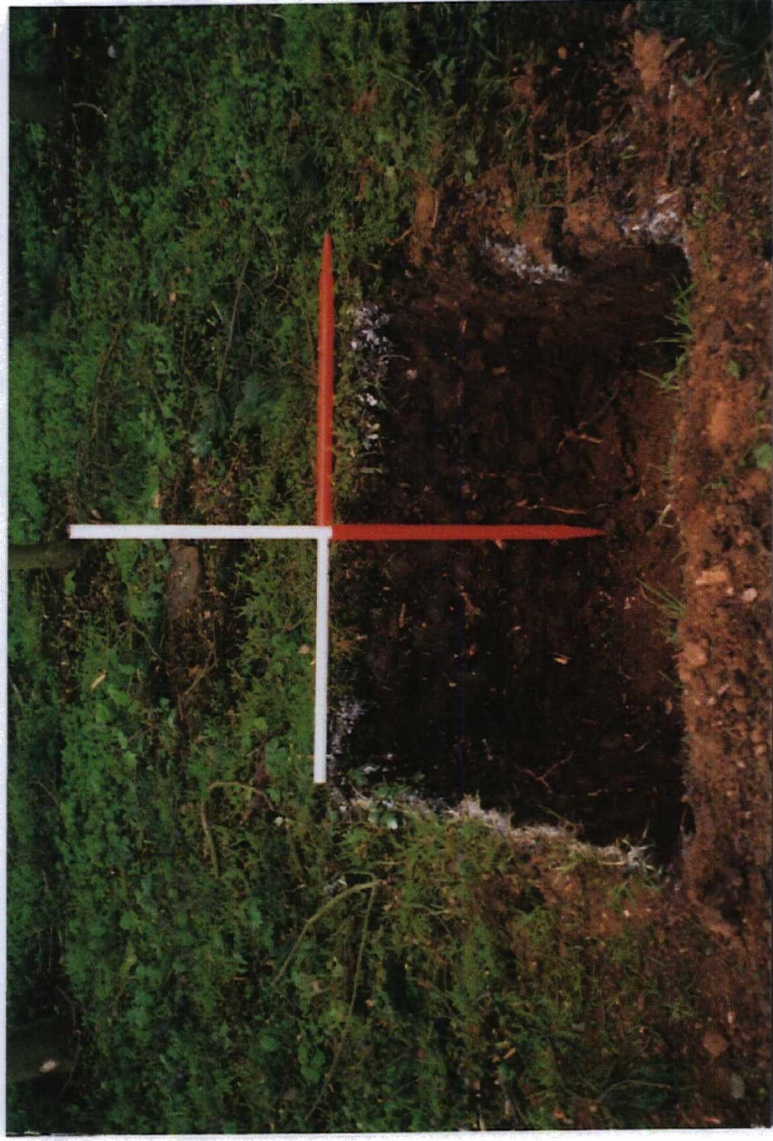


Plate 4. Foundation Pad 8. Facing west.