

Land East of no.7 High Bields,
Yapham, East Yorkshire

Watching Brief Report

LS Archaeology



September 2015



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Site:	Land East of 7 High Bields, Yapham, East Yorkshire
Site Codes:	HBV 15
County:	East Yorkshire
NGR:	SE 7897 5219
Planning Application No:	DC/14/02857/PLF
Development:	Erection of a new two storey dwelling, with garage and access road / driveway.
Date of Issue:	09/09/2015
Site Dates:	07/02/ 2015, 15 - 31 / 08 / 2015
Project by:	LS Archaeology Whitwell on the Hill North Yorkshire YO60 7JJ Tel: 07912485125
Client:	Mr. David Medley

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This is a report for an archaeological watching brief at the land to the east of no.7 High Biels, Yapham, East Yorkshire (Figure 1, Figure 2). The field work took place between February and August 2015.
- 1.2 The area monitored under archaeological watching brief, revealed no significant findings.



Figure 1: Site location, picture from Google Earth

2. Introduction

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out between 07 February 2015 and 15, 31 August 2015, by LS Archaeology at the land to the immediate east of No.7 High Biels, Yapham, East Yorkshire (Figure 1). The work consisted of monitoring the excavation of all foundation trenches and any related ground works associated to the erection of a new dwelling.
- 2.2 The investigation was commissioned by Mr. David Medley, in response to an archaeological planning condition placed on his development. The condition was set by Humber Sites and Monuments Record on the behalf of the East Riding of

Yorkshire County Council, in line with the policies set out in *National Planning Policy Framework*, Section 12 'Conservation and enhancing the historic environment' (Dep. of Communities and Local Government, March 12) and with the guidance of the local development policy (Circular 11/95, Model Clause 55).

2.1 It was the opinion of HSMR, archaeology department that *'it is likely that groundwork in this area would encounter previously unknown heritage assets dating to the Prehistoric, Romano-British and Medieval periods'*.

2.2 The archaeologist on site was Luigi Signorelli, LS Archaeology.

2.3 The site code allocated for this project is HBY 15. No site archive was produced.

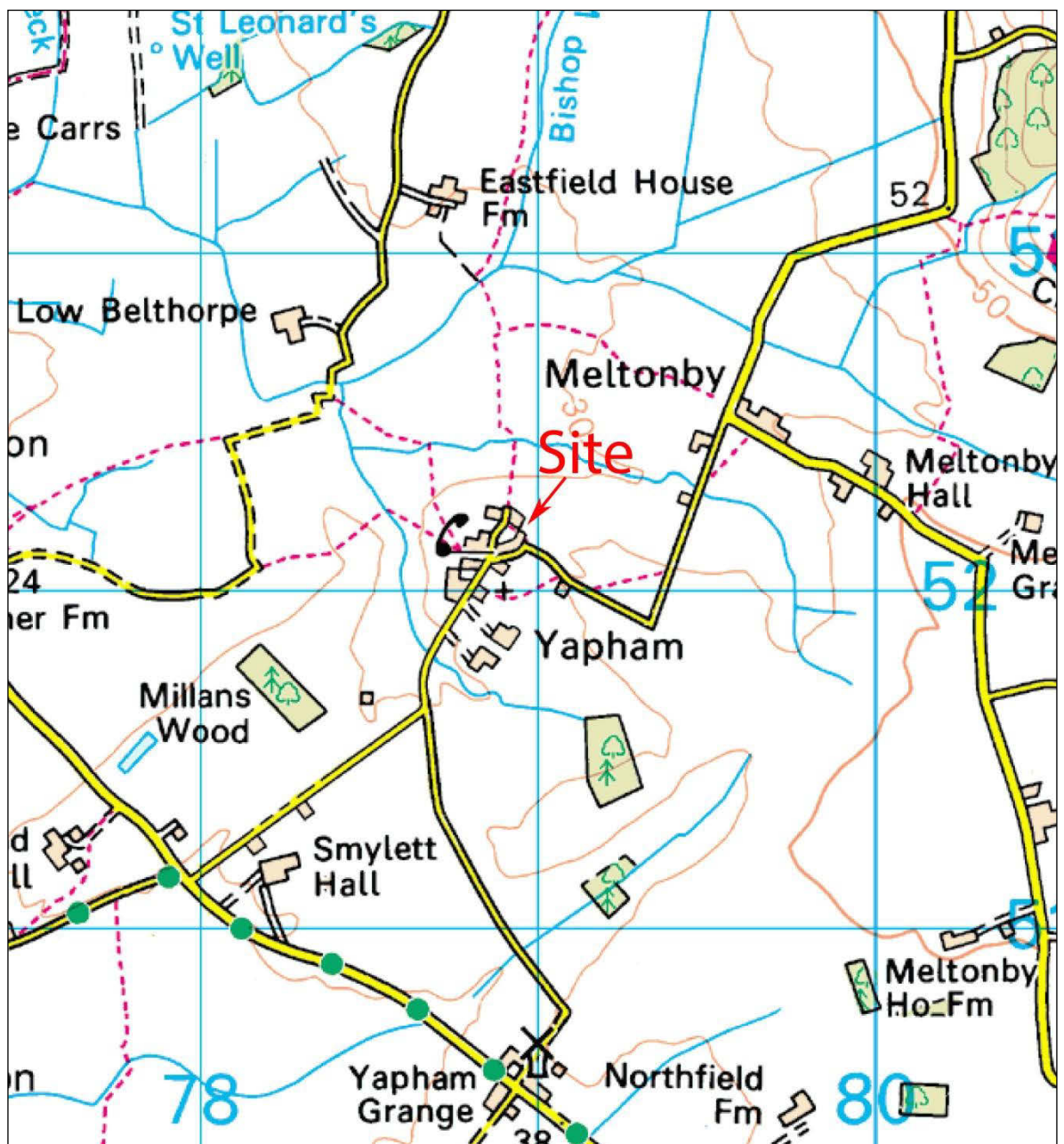


Figure 2: Site location From Street Map

3. Site Description and Topography

- 3.1 An archaeological investigation and recording (watching brief) was undertaken at the land to the east of No.7 High Bields, Yapham, East Yorkshire. The site lies at the northern end of the village, on a site formerly occupied by a farm related dwellings yard and a large pond. The proposed development consists of the erection of a new two storey dwelling, with garage and access road/driveway.



Figure 3: Picture showing the site boundaries (red) over imposed upon the former farm stead ground.

- 3.2 The upper drift geology in this area consists of: West Walton Formation, Amphill Clay and Kimmeridge Clay Formation (undifferentiated) - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. The sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 151 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. These rocks were formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel. (British Geology Survey).

4. The Planning Condition

- 4.1 A standard archaeological condition has been placed on the development by East Riding County Council, Planning and Development Management, on the advice of *Humber Sites and Monuments Records*.

- 4.2 It is likely that ground works in this area would encounter below ground deposits relating to activity dating from the medieval and post medieval periods: whilst there is also the potential for encountering deposits from earlier periods.
- 4.3 The condition states, that *'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the Implication of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details (Circular 11/95, Model Clause 55).*
- 4.4 The request for this condition is in line Policies 128, 129, 131, 135, 136, 139 and 141 set out in National Planning Policy Framework, Section 12 *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* (NPPF 2012).
- 4.5 This document is the said 'Watching Brief report'.

5. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The site of the proposed development lies at the northern end of the medieval hamlet of Yapham, which itself sits within a wider landscape containing heritage assets of prehistoric and Romano-British date. The village is a pre-Conquest settlement with origins in the Saxon period, the name deriving from the Old English meaning *'at the steep places'*; it formed part of the Warter Hundred. At the time of the Domesday Book of 1086, the King held 11 carucates in Yapham, whilst Ulfr and Wulfstan held 10 carucates and 6 bovates. Well preserved earthworks, especially in the southern part of the settlement, demonstrate that the medieval incarnation of the village was once considerably larger than it is today. Outside of the village, the crop marks of a number of rectangular prehistoric and/or Romano-British enclosures have been identified on aerial photographs; one of the enclosures contains a ring ditch and is likely to represent a hut circle.
- 4.2 Just to the west of the application site a previous programme of archaeological investigation identified significant evidence for occupation from the Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval periods. The evidence for medieval activity in the area includes pits, post holes and ditch; along with sherds of West Cowick-type Humberware, Unglazed red earthen ware and glazed red earthen ware pottery. Romano-British activity was shown through the identification of linear features, enclosures and pits, whilst the evidence for Iron Age occupation included a couple of roundhouses; the finds from these periods included Samian ware, grey ware and possibly some color-coated ware pottery.
- 4.3 It is likely therefore, that any ground works in this area would encounter previously unknown heritage assets dating to the prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval periods (the historical background is the one provided within the Humber Sites and Monuments Records letter, compiled by J. Goodyear Archaeology Development Control Officer 2014).

5. Development

5.1 The planned development is for the erection of a two storey house with garage, associated services and access road. The site lies on a plot of land at the northern end of the village, east of 7 High Bields



Figure 4: Site location within Yapham village

6. Aims and Objectives

6.1. Considering that the development lies within an area of high archaeological sensitivity, the key of the watching brief is to understand the impact that the development may have upon any archaeological remains. Specifically the evaluation sought to recover information to establish:

- The character and date of any archaeological deposits
- The presence or absence of any medieval features
- The presence or absence of any evidence of early activity on site

7. Methodology

- 7.1 The program of archaeological observation and recording consisted of the archaeological supervision of all groundwork which included the excavation of the new dwelling foundations and related services, stripping of any topsoil, and associated re-landscape.
- 7.2 The objectives were met by monitoring the landscaping and the excavation for the new dwelling foundations (Figure 7). All the groundwork was conducted under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, in line with the WSI (LS Archaeology 2015), and the whole operation was done by using a mechanical excavator fitted with a back-actor and straight edged ditching blade/bucket.
- 7.3 The ground surface consisted of a mixture of compacted topsoil and modern buildings debris, measuring nearly 0.50m in depth.
- 7.4 The watching brief was carried out between 7th February and 31st August 2015.

8. Results

- 8.1 The site was formerly occupied by several barn type buildings which formed part of a large farmstead, a large car park area used for an agricultural machinery depot and a large pond located within the immediate vicinity of the farm yard (Figure 3).
- 8.2 The footings of the new development mostly impact upon the area formerly occupied by the machinery depot area and the pond. The farm and related farm yard have already been replaced by the new housing development which includes NO. 7 (Figure 4).
- 8.3 The natural ground slopes on a south to southeast direction. In order to create a solid levelled area for the former farm depot, it appears that the top soil was removed and replaced with a surface made of a mixture of rubble, concrete blocks and clay, measuring an average of 0.40m, directly laid above the natural deposit.
- 8.4 All the new foundations measuring 0.70m in width were excavated to an average depth of 1.20m, although, towards the east end of the development the foundations reached a depth of 2.10m. This was needed in order to reach a solid firm ground, since this area was previously the location of the former pond. The stratigraphy at this end of the development mainly consisted of a deep (1.80m) redeposited clay which proved to be contaminated by diesel and similar substances.
- 8.5 Since the ground formerly occupied by the pond proved to be of a high methane content/contamination, a trench running on a north to south direction across the whole site was excavated to a depth of 2.20m whereupon a protective membrane was positioned in order to prevent any further contamination to accumulate below and around the new dwelling.

8.6 No archaeological evidence suggesting early activity within the impacted area was recorded. The only former activity that impacted upon the area related to the new dwelling belongs to the former farmstead and agricultural related operations.

8.7 The stratigraphy at this end of the development mainly consisted of deep (1.80m) redeposited clay which proved to be contaminated by diesel and similar substances.



Figure 5: North West corner of the foundation trenches, showing the contaminated clay deposit related to the pond backfill



Figure 6: New dwelling central area looking south east. The former depot area is clearly demarcated by the layer of redeposited modern material used to create a hard stand surface.

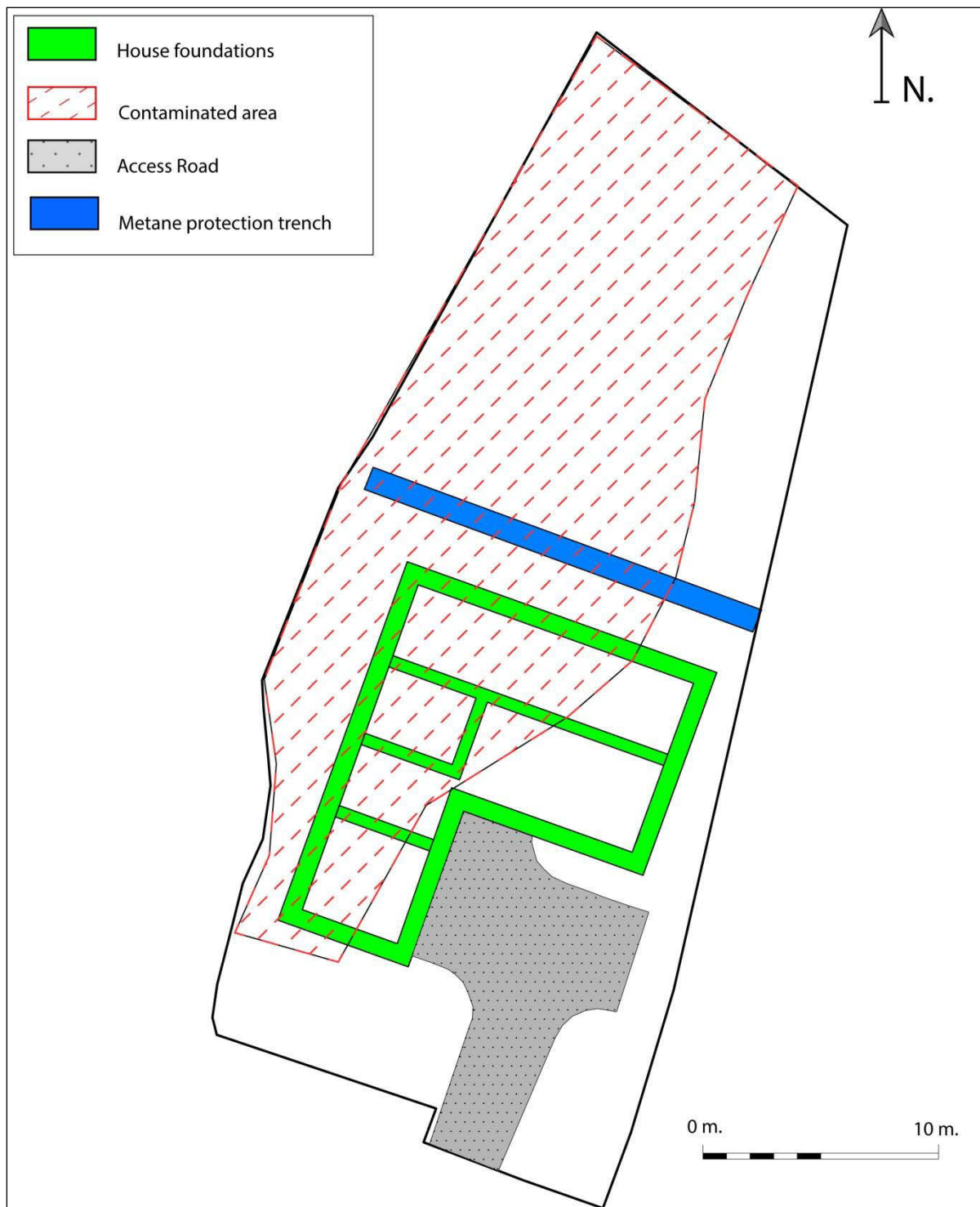


Figure 7: Plan of the new development showing the monitored areas (in green and blue) and an outline of the potential limits of the contaminated area

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 During the archaeological Watching Brief nearly a third of the site surface was evaluated and, it was possible to ascertain that no archaeological deposits of any dates were present within the limits of the evaluated areas, apart from agricultural activity related to the former.

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