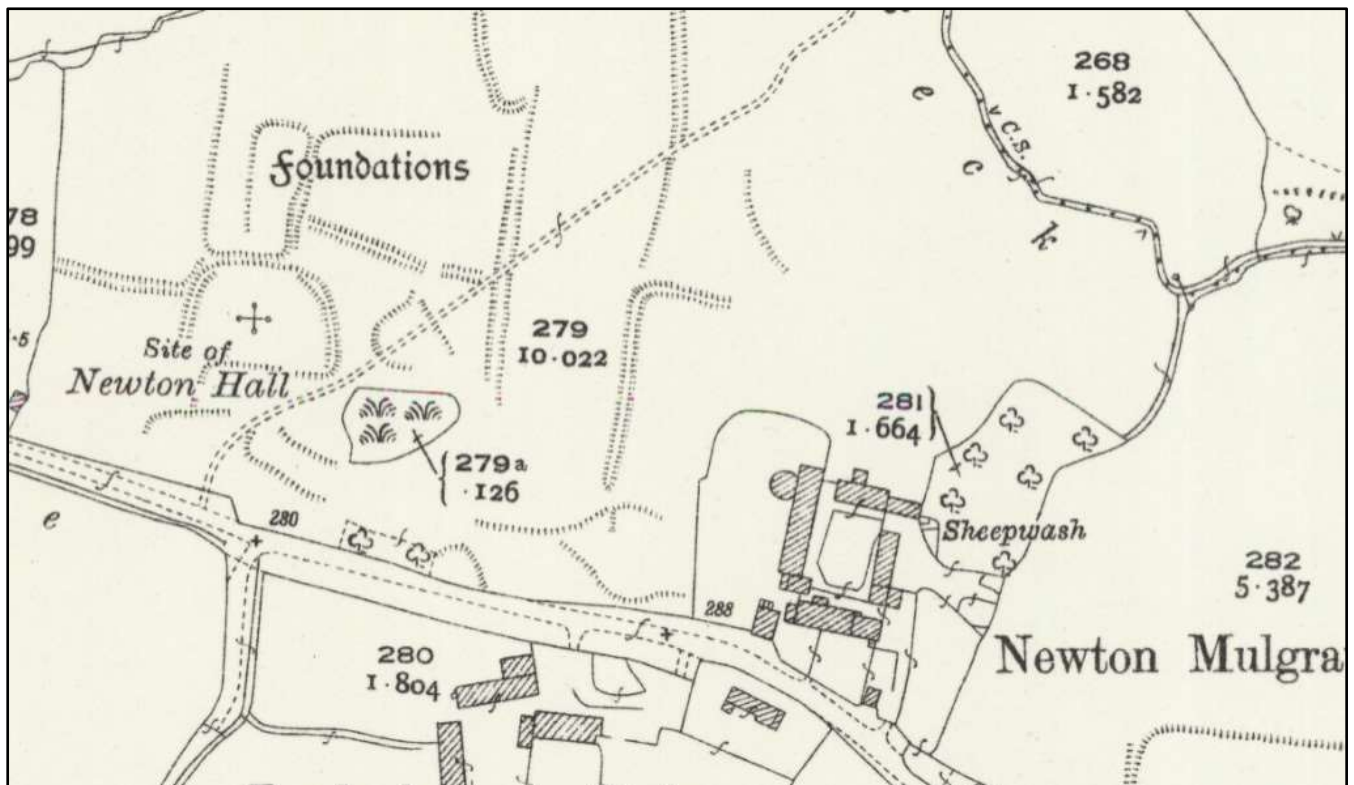


Village Farm, Newton Mulgrave

Animal Livestock Barn

Archaeological Supervision of Posthole Excavation



North East Archaeological Research Limited

on behalf of

Mr Peter Harland, Village Farm

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Checked by: Dr. N. Cookson, November 2018

Summary

Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for the excavation and archaeological monitoring of postholes for a livestock barn at Village Farm, Newton Mulgrave. Thirteen postholes were observed and in each case rubble and concrete associated with consolidation of the ground surface was recorded in the upper layers. Below this a brown clay silt was observed and this was thought to be a former ploughsoil. A compacted sandstone deposit encountered in several of the postholes may have been associated with an earthwork recorded on early Ordnance Survey maps. No artefacts were recovered from the features.

1. Background

1.1 North East Archaeological Research Ltd (NEAR) was engaged by Mr Peter Harland of Village Farm to provide archaeological supervision of the excavation of postholes to support steel uprights for a new animal livestock barn. Thirteen postholes were located within the boundary of the scheduled monument of Newton Mulgrave Medieval Settlement (SM 1016958) which lies immediately to the west of the Farm.

1.2 Planning permission for the work was granted by the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) subject to the submission and approval of a written scheme of investigation for a watching brief and recording of the groundworks (Decision Number NYM/2016/0706/FL).

1.3 A WSI for the work was submitted by NEAR to the NYMNP who granted approval for the mitigation works.

1.4 Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the groundworks was granted by Historic England (reference S00148981).

2. The Site

2.1 The Medieval settlement at Newton Mulgrave is centred on NZ 7877 1562, 2km west of Runswick Bay and immediately adjacent to Village Farm in Newton Mulgrave village (Figures 1 and 2). The farm overlies the eastern limit of the medieval village, in an area formerly occupied by earthworks (see map regression below).

2.2 The bedrock comprises sedimentary mudstone of the Whitby Mudstone Formation formed 174 – 183 million years ago in shallow seas during the Jurassic period. These are overlain by superficial deposits of till, laid down under glacial conditions in the Quaternary period up to 2 million years ago. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).



Figure 1: Location of Village Farm, Newton Mulgrave

3. Historical Background

3.1 In a Heritage Statement written for Village Farm, Sherlock writes that the village of Newton Mulgrave is mentioned in Domesday Book where it is described as a 'waste' and it is written that there were 'three caracutes to the geld and there could be three ploughs'. The term waste or wasted appears many times in the Domesday Book most often describing settlements that had been devastated by the army, although the term was also used to describe manors that did not pay tax. In the 11th century the village is written as *Newtune* and also *Neutone*. Later documents include charters relating to the appropriation of the warren by two tenants and the manor being held by Ralph Bigod in 1514 (Sherlock 2016).

3.2 The site was scheduled as an Ancient Monument in 1964 and survives as two areas of earthworks to the west and east of the village. The earthworks are now medieval ridge and furrow cultivation strips divided into partitions of possible fields. Documentation relating to the monument refers to a building platform measuring 40m x 25m for Newton Hall. This platform is no longer easily visible on the ground. The scheduled area to the east of the farm also has earthworks including a building platform measuring 80m x 40m. A chapel is documented at Newton Mulgrave in the 12th century but the precise location is unknown.

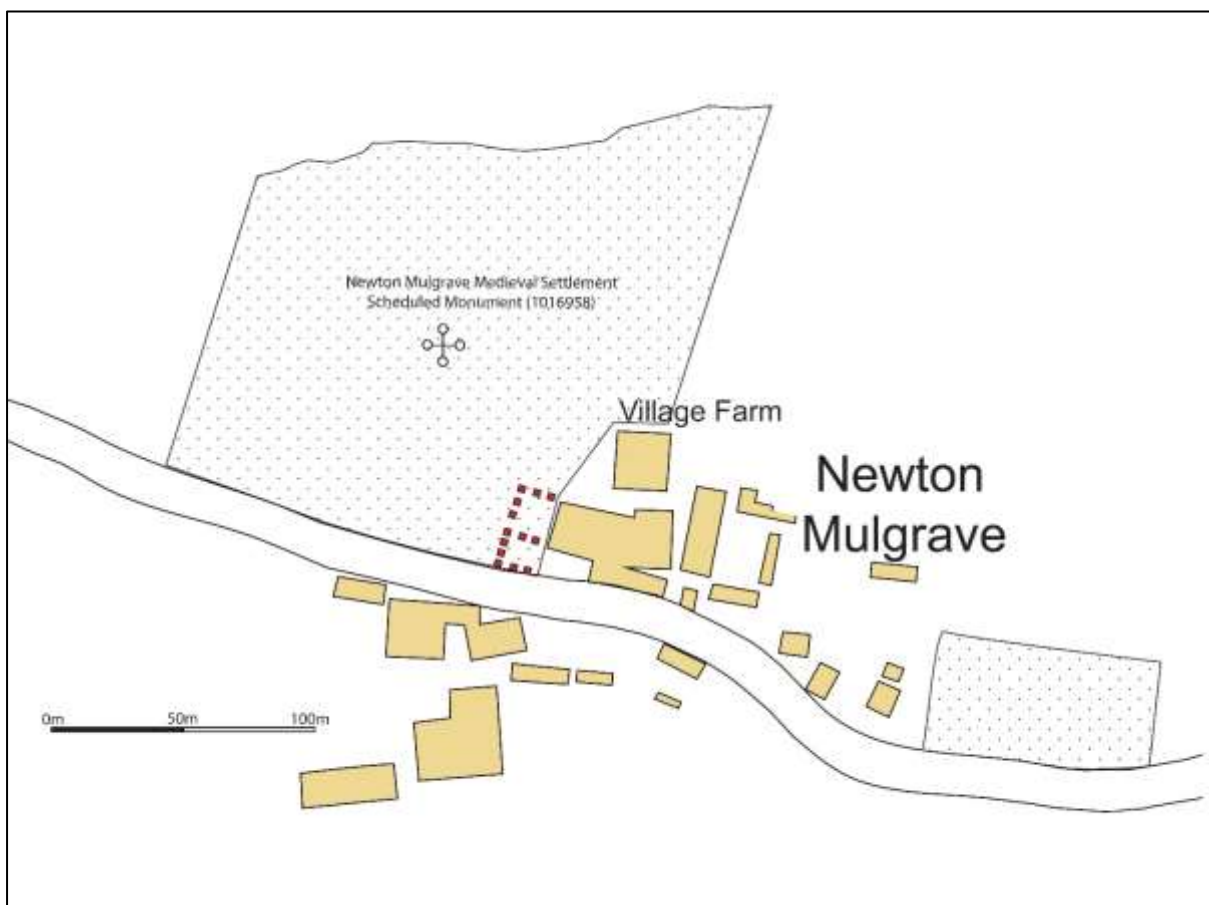


Figure 2: Location of the postholes in relation to the scheduled area (stippled)



Plate 1: Site of the medieval village looking west from the farmyard

4. Map Regression

4.1 Ordnance Survey (OS) 25 inch series maps from the late 19th century onwards show linear and curvilinear earthworks associated with the medieval settlement (Figures 3-6). The schedule description, written in 1964, states that the earthworks survived to a height of 0.5m. However, the coherence of these earthworks diminished so that by 1972 the site was identified as being the site of Newton Hall but no earthworks are shown.



Figure 3: 1894 25 inch OS map



Figure 4: 1915 25 inch OS map



Figure 5: 1928 25 inch map



Figure 6: 1972 1:1000 Map

5. Archaeological Context

5.1 The silage clamp, the surface of the farmyard and of the metalled road and fence posts are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included. As such, monitoring of the postholes which cut through the farmyard required scheduled monument consent.

6. Methodology

6.1 The postholes were dug using a mechanical excavation machine working at all times under the archaeological supervision of the report author.

6.2 Thirteen postholes were excavated within the scheduled area (Figure 7) and the stratigraphy within each one each one was recorded by written description and manual measurement and photographed. Sections of each posthole were drawn using information derived from the text and photographic record (see Appendix I).

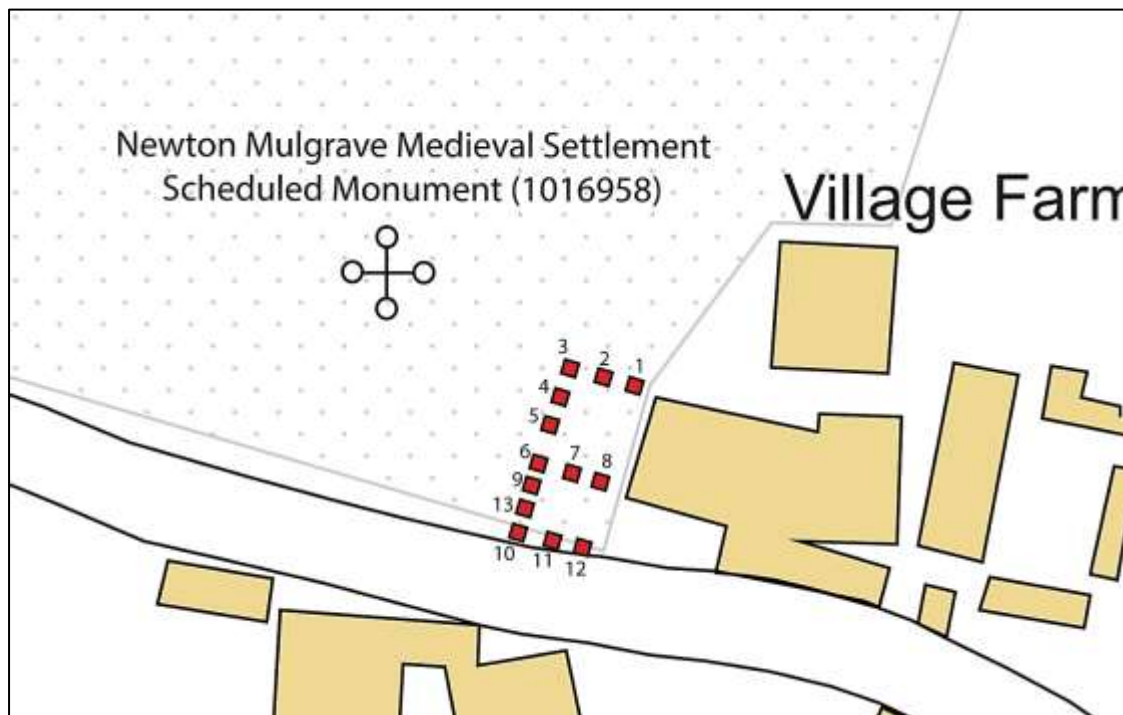


Figure 7: Numerical sequence of the postholes

7. Results

7.1 The postholes were excavated up to a depth of 1000mm and in all instances the upper layers comprised rubble and hard core laid down by the farmer to compensate for the boggy ground conditions which formerly prevailed in the farmyard (pers. Comm. – Mr P. Harland). This was a mixture of ash, asphalt and rubble although on the southern side of the farmyard, in postholes 10 and 11, a distinctive limestone rubble was observed. Six postholes (2-7) displayed a layer of sandstone which sealed a compacted mid brown and dark brown clay/silt which had the appearance of a relict ploughsoil. No artefacts were present.



Plate 2: Examples of the postholes (Posthole 1 top left, Posthole 7 top right, Posthole 11 bottom left, Posthole 2 bottom right)

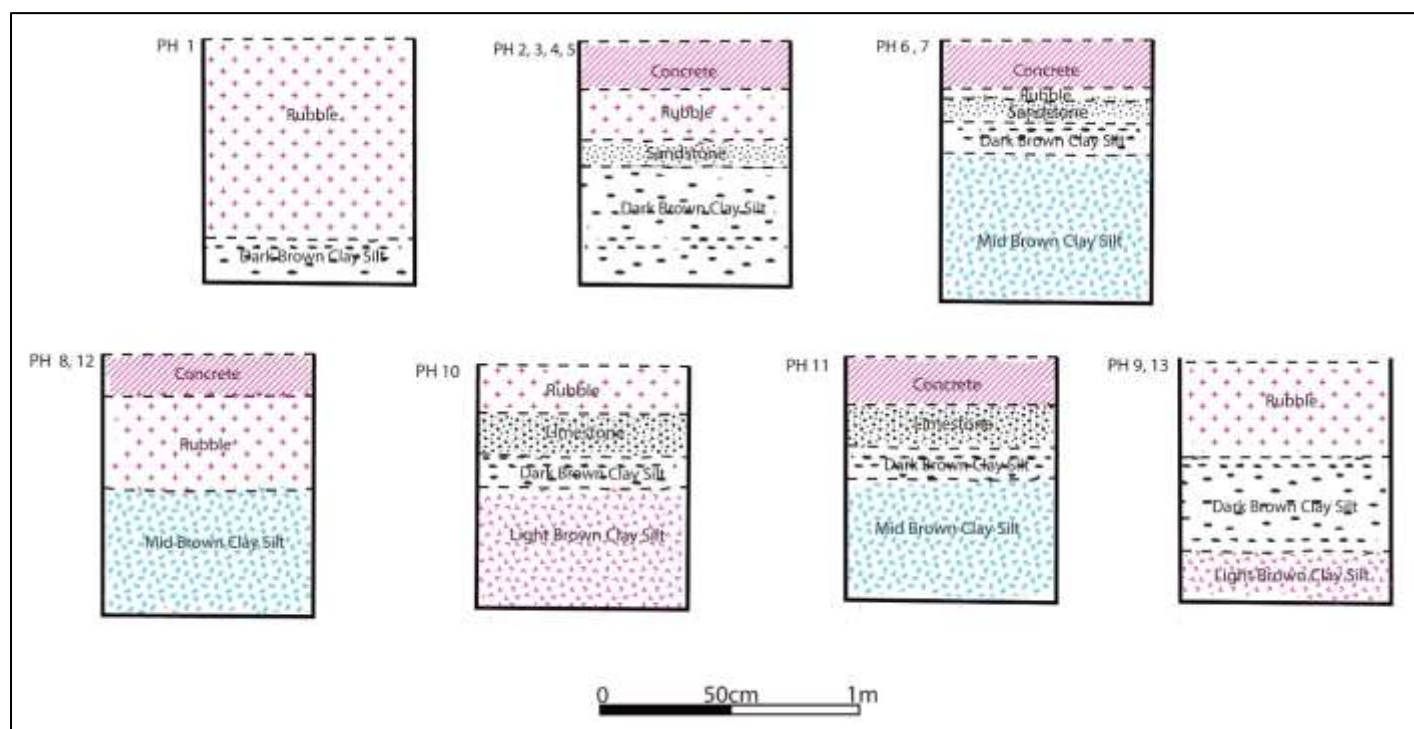
7.2 Monitoring of the livestock barn postholes suggest that horizons associated with the medieval village of Newton Mulgrave survive beneath the farmyard. Evidence for deposits associated with the medieval village was most likely represented by the mid and dark brown clay silt soil which is thought to be a relict ploughsoil. The layer of consolidated sandstone lying above the clay in several postholes may correspond with the location of an inverted L-shaped earthwork shown on the earlier maps. As such it could represent a levelling layer for a building platform.

Reference

Sherlock, S (2016): *Heritage Statement for Village Farm, Newton Mulgrave, North Yorkshire*, NZ 78784 15649

Appendix I

Posthole Sections and Descriptions



Posthole 1:

0-80cm: Mixed rubble
80-100cm: Dark brown clay silt

Postholes 2, 3, 4 & 5

0-20cm: Concrete
20-40cm: Rubble
40-50cm: Compacted brown sandstone
50-100cm: Dark brown clay silt

Postholes 6 & 7

0-20cm: Concrete
20-25cm: Rubble & hardcore
25-35cm: Compacted sandstone
35-45cm: Dark brown clay silt
45-100cm: Mid brown clay silt

Posthole 8 & 12

0-20cm: Concrete
20-50cm: Rubble
50-100cm: Mid brown clay silt

Posthole 10

0-20cm: Rubble
20-40cm: White limestone rubble
40-50cm: Dark brown clay silt
50-100cm: Light brown clay silt

Posthole 11

0-20cm: Concrete
20-40cm: White limestone rubble
40-50cm: Dark brown clay silt
50-100cm: Mid brown clay silt

Posthole 9 & 13

0-40cm: Rubble
40-80cm: Dark brown clay silt
80-100cm: Light brown clay silt