



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An archaeological watching brief
on land to the west of Hall Farm,
Newsham, North Yorkshire
(NZ 095 117)

Leon Hunt



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**An archaeological watching brief
On land to the west of Hall Farm,
Newsham, North Yorkshire
(NZ 095 117)**

Leon Hunt

for:

ARM Buildings Ltd

Approved by

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An archaeological watching brief on land to the west of Hall Farm, Newsham, North Yorkshire (NZ 095 117)

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS for ARM Buildings Ltd at Hall Farm, Newsham, North Yorkshire (NZ 095 117) during ground-works associated with the construction of a new piggery on the site, currently agricultural land.

The site lies close to the A66 a former Roman road and other known archaeological features.

Most of the site proved negative for archaeological features. Close to the south-east corner of the site a number of drains, including a stone culvert were revealed, which appeared to have been used to drain a spring in the area, which was disturbed during the ground-works.

No dating evidence for the series of drains was uncovered during the observations, a ceramic drain on the site was likely to date from the 19th century; the stone drain may have been earlier but could not be closely dated.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land to the west of Hall Farm, Newsham, North Yorkshire (NGR: NZ 095 117). University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out the work for ARM Buildings Ltd during ground-works on the site associated with the construction of a new piggery.

The site lies less than a kilometre from the A66, a Roman road (HER ref: **MNY13655**) and around 1km south of finds from prehistoric and Roman date (**H10325 & H1702** etc).

A desk-based assessment carried out by ULAS in advance of the work concluded that there was some potential for archaeological remains to be present within the application area (Hunt 2009).

This watching brief was therefore requested to cover ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions required by Richmondshire District Council.

Condition 8 of the planning permission granted by Richmondshire District Council states:

‘ No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the application and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority’.

A written scheme of investigation in the form of a ‘*Design Specification for archaeological work*’ was submitted and approved prior to the archaeological work being carried out (Appendix).

Site Location, Geology and Topography

The site lies to the north of Newsham, within the District of Richmondshire in North Yorkshire (Figure 1).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 032 (Barnard Castle) shows that the underlying geology is likely to be alluvium overlying till which in turn overlies Alston formation, which are bioclastic limestones, sandstones and mudstones with rare coal measures.

The site lies at approximately 170m OD and falls from west to east, with the highest ground in the south-west corner of the site.

The land consists of an uncultivated rectangular piece of land, covering *c.* 0.52ha at the northern end of a larger field, with a small plantation and trackway to the east. A short watercourse runs along the southern edge of the plantation (Figure 2).

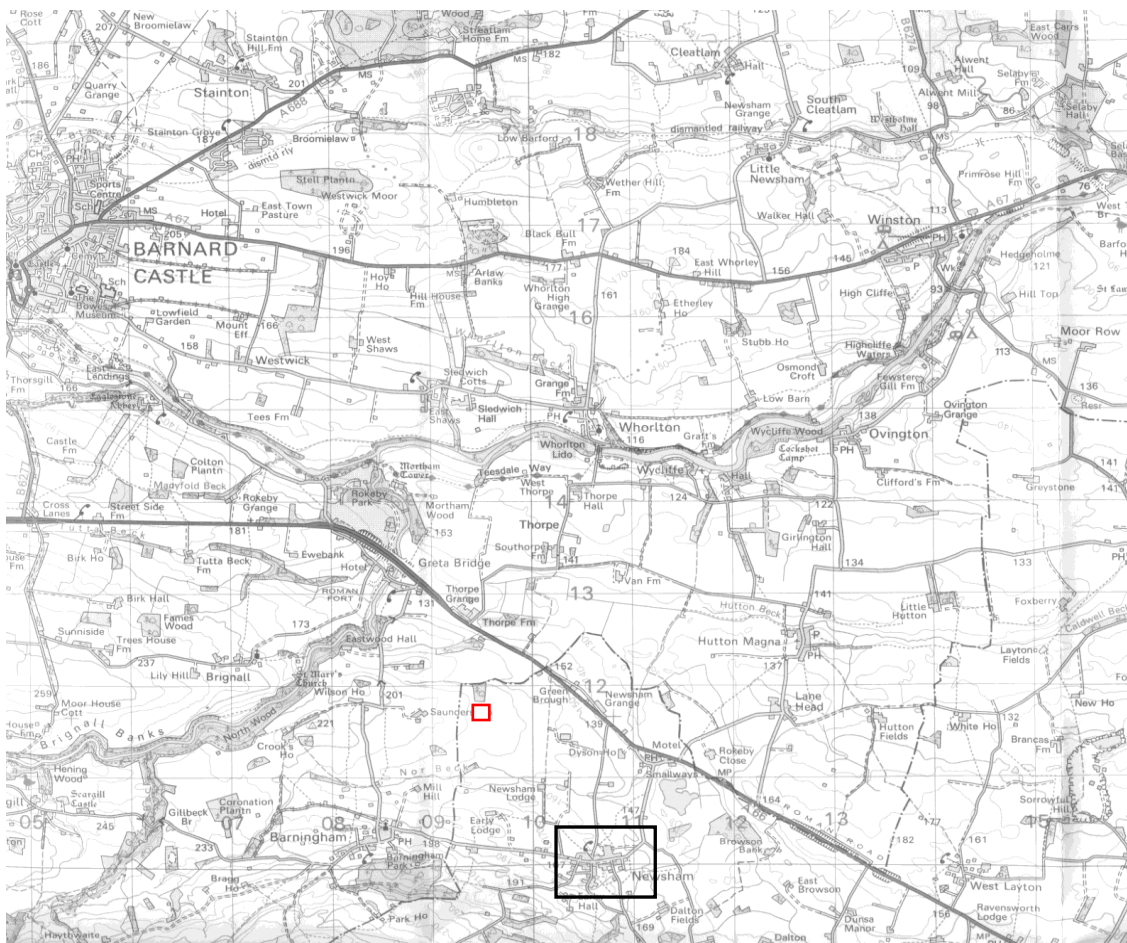


Figure 1: Location plan of Newsham village and proposed development site

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Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified

would be established, in order to assess their significance. Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

The site was stripped by a large tracked excavator down to archaeological levels or the natural sub-stratum, whichever the higher.

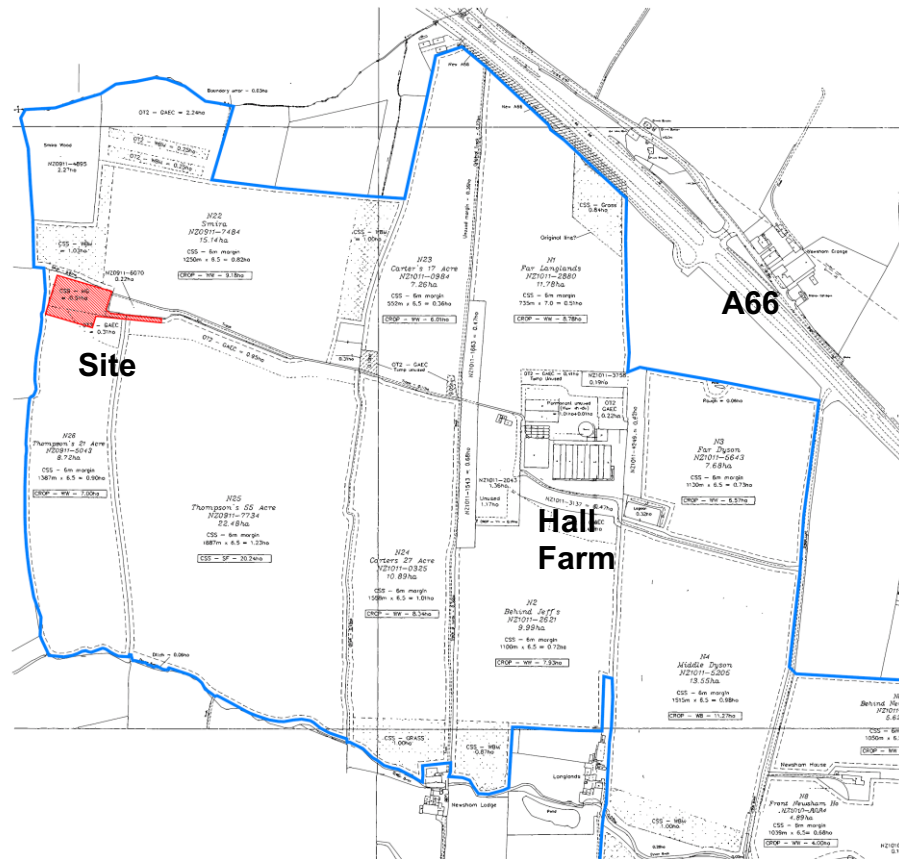


Figure 2: Location map. Provided by Developer

Results

The eastern part of the site had been partially stripped of topsoil prior to the site visit by a large tracked excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket (Plate 1). The topsoil, which consisted of yellow-brown silty-clay, was only around 0.3m thick and lay on top of a natural substratum of yellow and grey clay with patches of sandstone cobbles (Plate 2). Several cobble lined field drains crossed the site, mainly from the higher ground in the south-west towards the east. No other features were observed.

As the work approached the eastern extent of the field, features could be identified below the topsoil. Around 0.35-0.4m of topsoil was removed here (the lowest point of the site), exposing several square and amorphous shaped pits (the largest of which was around 1.6m by 2m) (Plate 3), along with a 1.5m wide linear feature running broadly north-south across the site and visible for around 20m (Plate 4).

As the stripping progressed to the south a stone culvert was revealed alongside a horse-shoe shaped ceramic field drain, both leading into the aforementioned linear feature (Plate 5). As the machine breached the stone culvert the area quickly began to fill with water apparently from a spring just to the south of the culvert.

Further excavation around the culvert showed a sticky area of grey clay and silt embedded with small cobbles with areas of black humic material. The field drains from the other parts of the site also appeared to drain into the linear feature.

The pits to the west of the culvert were around 0.2m deep and contained loose black silt and broken stones.

A sump was excavated to drain the area slightly and the spring continued to discharge water into it. The water drained away to the north-east through the extant undamaged part of the culvert. The linear feature would appear to turn slightly at the north-eastern extent, presumably turning towards the dyke to the north-east of the site.

The ground to the north of this area was not excavated to a depth that exposed the linear feature in this area.

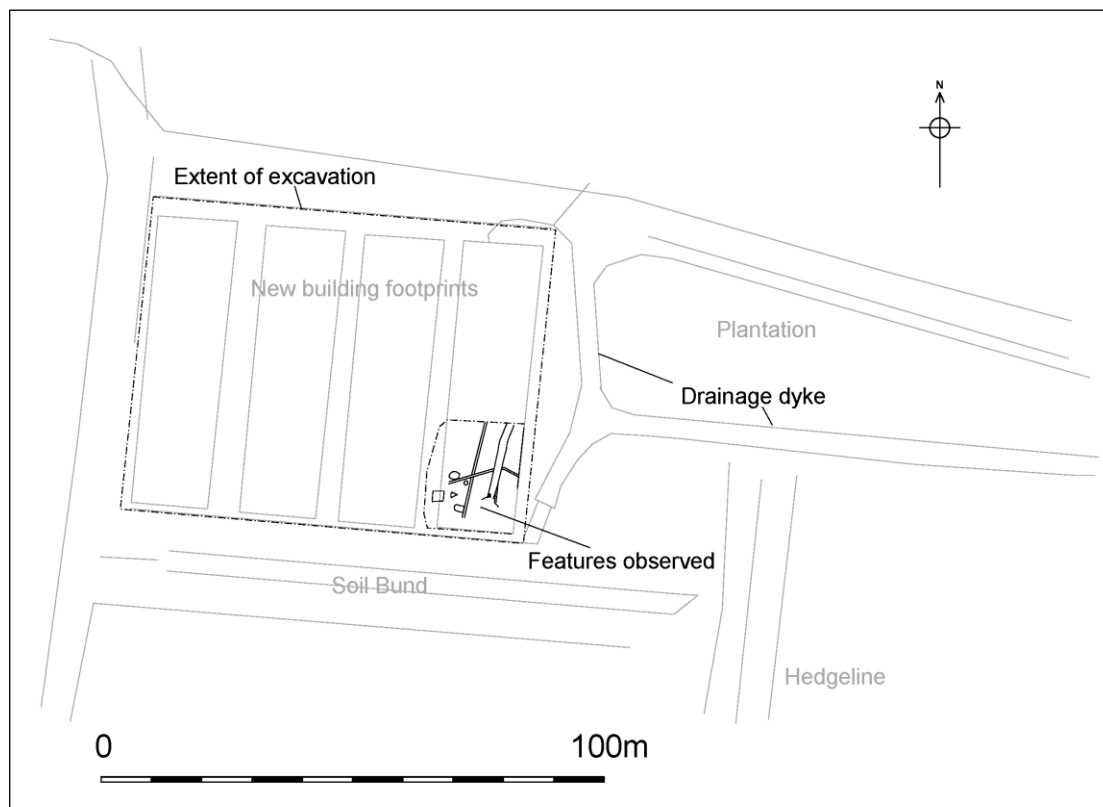


Figure 3: Plan of site and location of features

Conclusion

The area at the south-east corner of the site contained a number of field drains of various dates, which have been employed to drain the area around a natural spring. The stone culvert appears to be the earliest feature as it is constructed simply from local blocks of sandstone. The stone drain flows north into the linear feature, which may have been an earlier dyke excavated to drain the land, or may be contemporary. The linear would appear to head north-east and presumably joins the open dyke to the

north-east of the site. At the time of the visit this dyke was dry but the landowner revealed that the water appears to emerge further up the dyke to the east. Possibly the culvert is damaged and the spring water merely finds the path of least resistance through the natural sub-stratum to drain into the dyke at this point.

The typology of the horseshoe-shaped ceramic drain to the south of the culvert would suggest that it is probably 19th century in date. No dating evidence was found for the stone culvert and therefore this may be from any period from antiquity to more recent times.

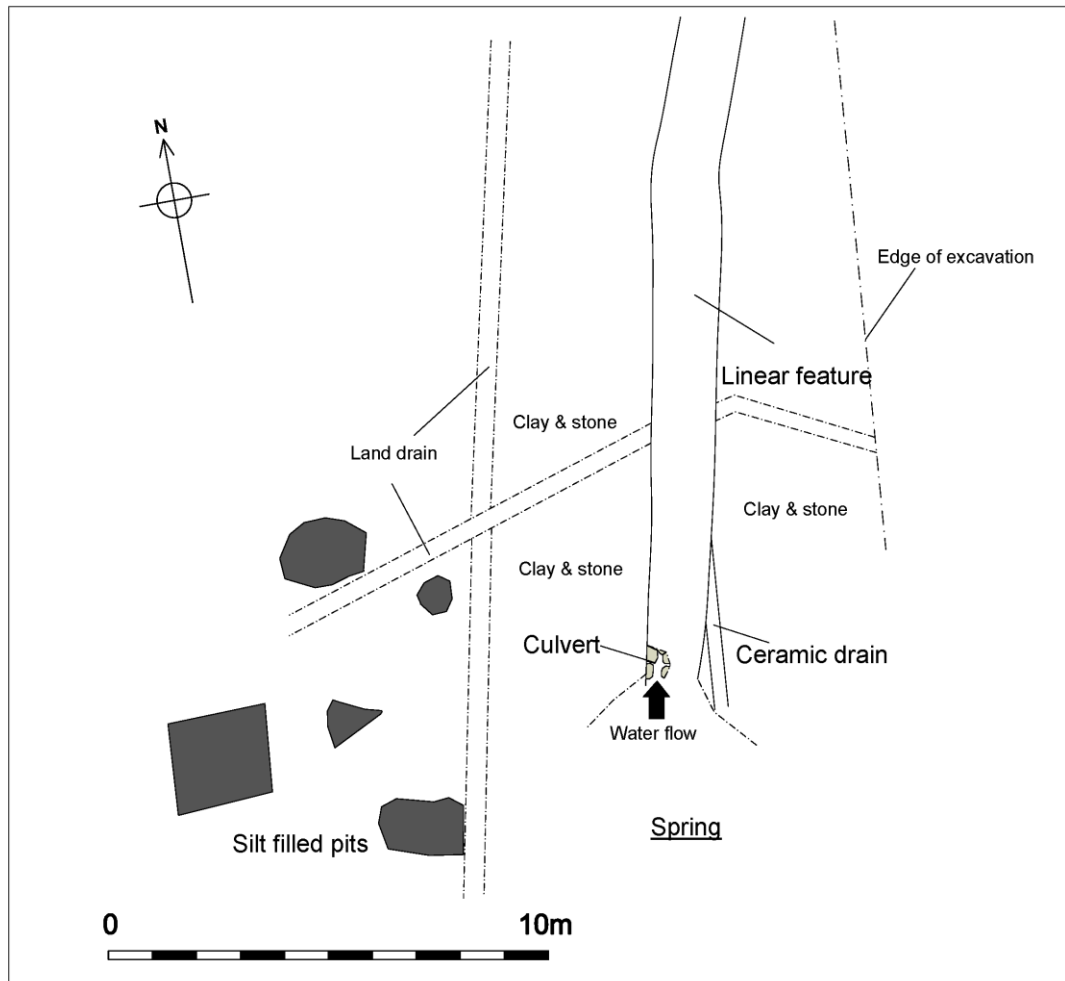


Figure 4: Plan of features observed during the watching brief

The thick clay and humic material around the spring is likely to be formed by the spring forming a pond in this area before it was culverted and allowed to drain.

The dimensions and form of the largest pit would suggest that it has been machine excavated. The black fill was very loose and therefore these features are likely to be modern. They are likely to have been trial holes that have been excavated in order to find the source of the spring. The black humic fill may suggest that they were back-filled using the silt from the aforementioned pond.

After these observations were recorded the eastern part of the site was re-buried as the levels of the land here were of sufficient depth. The higher area to the south-west was to be reduced further to create a level surface for the new buildings.

As the natural substratum had been reached and exposed across the site and had been examined, further visits to the site were deemed unnecessary.

Apart from the series of drains around the area of the spring, no other features were observed during the archaeological watching brief.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank ARM Buildings and landowner Mark Westgarth for their help and co-operation. The author would like to thank the ground-work contractors Dave and Stuart Blakey for their co-operation during the watching brief.

The project manager was Patrick Clay and the author carried out the watching brief.

Archive

An archive for the work will be prepared and will be deposited with a local museum sometime in the future.

The archive consists of:

An unbound copy of this report (No. 2010-097)

An unbound copy of the Desk based assessment (No. 2009-159)

1 Watching brief recording sheet

1 CD of digital photographs

1 Contact sheet of B&W prints

1 Set of B&W negatives

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Plate 1: The site from the south-west, looking north-east



Plate 2: The site stripped to substratum, with stone filled drains running across site, looking north-east



Plate 3: Work in progress revealing black silt filled pits, looking east



Plate 4: Linear feature, looking south towards spring



Plate 5: Stone lined culvert in situ, looking north



Plate 6: Spring, drains and linear feature, looking north

Appendix: Design Specification for archaeological work

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for archaeological work

Newsham Hall Farm, Newsham, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 095 117)

Planning Ref.No: 10/00008/EA Decision No 1/36/81P/EA

Planning Authority: Richmond District Council

For: Mr Mark Westgarth

1 Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, Planning and the Historic Environment, March 2010), this specification provides a written scheme for an archaeological watching brief, as required by the Planning Authority, of any groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for a new pigery at Newsham Hall Farm, Newsham, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 095 117).

1.2

All archaeological work will adhere to the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

2 Background

2.1 Requirement for archaeological work

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief is required to cover ground disturbance to identify any deposits of archaeological importance. It forms part of a scheme of work to fulfil the planning conditions required by Richmond District Council.

Condition 8 of the planning permission granted by Richmond District Council states:

"No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the application and approved in writing by the Local planning Authority."

Reason for Condition.

"The site is of archaeological interest"

2.2 Archaeological potential

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment has been prepared by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (Hunt 2009). This indicated that the site lies within an area of archaeological importance south of the A66, a Roman road (Historic Environment Record ref (HER) **MNY13655**). Other known archaeological sites in the area include a Bronze Age carved stone (**H10325**), which had been used to cap a Roman cist burial (**H1702**).

3 Aims

3.1 Through archaeological observation of existing overburden stripping and foundation and service trench excavation by the client's contractors:

1. To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
2. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
3. To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
4. To produce an archive and report of any results.

4 Methods

4.1 The project will involve the presence on site of an experienced professional archaeologist during the works specified above. During these groundworks, if any archaeological deposits are seen to be present, the archaeologist will record areas of archaeological interest.

4.2 The archaeologist will co-operate at all times with the contractors on site to ensure the minimum interruption to the work.

4.3 Any archaeological deposits located will be hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Samples of any archaeological deposits located will be hand excavated. Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans will be tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) where appropriate.

4.4 Archaeological deposits will be excavated and recorded as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.5 All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.5 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and only be removed under a Ministry of Justice Licence and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations. The developer, Richmond District Council and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

4.6 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These will ensure that professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for monitoring visits with representatives of the planning authority, as appropriate.

5 Recording Systems

5.1 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

5.2 A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:200 (or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated.

5.3 Some record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

5.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour digital images, as appropriate, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.5 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the watching brief.

5.6 All site records and finds will be kept securely.

6 Report and Archive

6.1 A report on the watching brief will be provided following the groundworks. Following the fieldwork the on-line OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> will be completed.

6.2 Copies will be provided for the client, Historic Environment Record (HER) and planning Authority. The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

6.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in Brown (2008) will be presented to North Yorkshire Council HER and an appropriate registered within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

7 Publication

7.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. A full report will be submitted if the results are of significance.

8 Timetable and Staffing

8.1 The watching brief is scheduled to commence at the inception of the contractors groundworks (currently 19.05.2010). An experienced archaeologist will be present during this work. It is proposed to watch all works, as specified above, with appropriately timed visits during the work in consultation with the contractors.

9 Health and Safety

9.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the FAME Health and Safety Manual (revised 2007) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

10 Insurance

10.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers

Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

11. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

Hunt, L., 2009 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land at Hall Farm, Newsham, North Yorkshire (NZ 095 117)*. ULAS Report 2009-159

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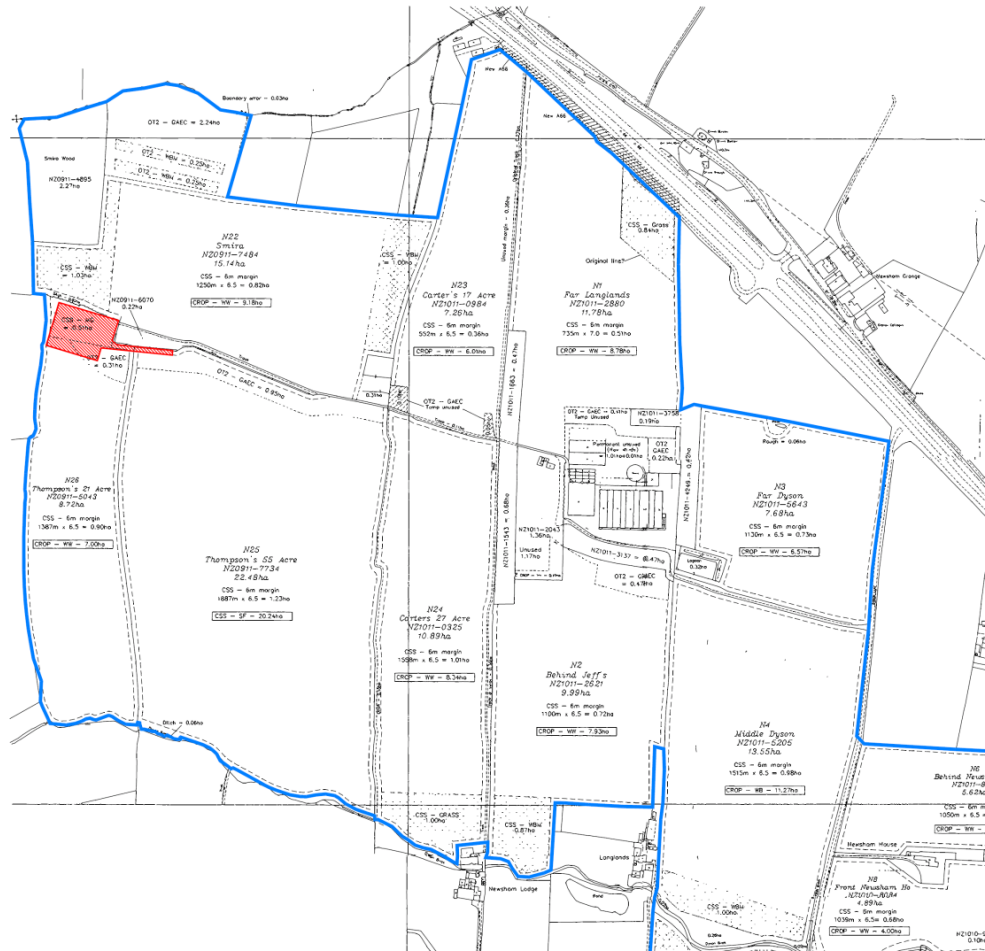


Figure 1 Location Plan



Figure 2 Plan of the proposed development

Appendix

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement

Newsham Hall Farm, Newsham, North Yorkshire (NGR NZ 095 117)

Planning Ref.No: 10/00008/EA Decision No 1/36/81P/EA

Planning Authority: Richmond District Council

For: Mr Mark Westgarth

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for an archaeological watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve observation of groundworks during daylight hours and recording of any underlying archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be c. 0.75 - 1.5m. This will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the contractors on-site Health and Safety policy, the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety manual together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

1.3 HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.
HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.
CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.
CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.
HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 The Health and Safety policy on site will be reassessed during the watching brief

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Contaminants

A risk assessment has been prepared by ENSR (2001a and b) including a soil gas survey. Some hydro-carbon and heavy metal impacted soil was detected with concentrations of arsenic and cyanide. Contaminated soil will be removed from the site.

Precautions. No contact will be made with the areas of contaminated soils. Protective clothing will be worn at all times.

2.2 Working within a building site

Precautions. No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.3 Working with plant.

Precautions. Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.4 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

2.5 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.6 Other risks

Precautions. If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

2.9 No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

Patrick Clay
14.05.2010

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